Press release: Foreign & Commonweath Office Minister meets next generation of leaders at Asia-Europe Foundation summit

During a 2-day visit to Brussels, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific Mark Field has today (18 October) met youth participants from the UK and the 10 ASEAN countries to explore the deep relationship between the UK and South East Asia.

Their session covered a wide range of topics including the youth summit's theme 'Ethical Leadership', EU Exit and the UK's relationship with Asia in areas of close cooperation such as education.

The Minister took part in the event as part of his participation at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit with the Prime Minister, where across 2 days he will meet with leaders and ministers from across Asia, including from China, Thailand, the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, Mark Field said:

These young people will be the leaders of tomorrow, so it's encouraging that events like the Young Leaders' Summit are held right alongside the ASEM Summit where so many leaders are meeting today.

It is incredibly heartening to see the younger generation coming together from across these two great continents, to think not only about how to become leaders themselves, but how to become responsible the leaders we will need to face the challenges of the future.

The ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS3) is taking place for the third year, in conjunction with the 12th ASEM Summit. Its focus was on ethical leadership, with participants analysing the concept of what it means to be a responsible leader.

Further information

- Follow Foreign Office Minister Mark Field @MarkFieldUK
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News story: New inspector for police forces and fire services appointed

Phil Gormley has been appointed to take up the dual roles of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Inspector of Fire & Rescue Authorities in England.

Mr Gormley will oversee inspections primarily in the North of England and will play a key role in carrying out the national inspection of fire and rescue authorities and the annual all-force policing inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Mr Gormley has worked in UK policing and law enforcement for 32 years, including periods as Chief Constable at Norfolk Constabulary and Police Scotland.

He also served as the deputy director-general of the National Crime Agency.

Mr Gormley said:

Policing and public service have been my life's work, so I am delighted to be appointed by Her Majesty.

I look forward to working with colleagues at the Inspectorate and across policing and fire and rescue to continue to improve these vital services.

Mr Gormley was selected following a stringent recruitment process, which followed the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) Code of Practice.

The selection panel was led by an independent chair, Amanda Campbell, CEO of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. It also included a senior civil servant and Sir Thomas Winsor, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Chief Fire and Rescue Inspector for England.

HMICFRS inspectors are then appointed by HM The Queen on the advice of the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister.

Press release: Lewes arsonist jailed following Solicitor General's referral

A man who set fire to his neighbour's front door has been jailed after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred his sentence to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient.

Lee Batchelor, 40, used a bottle of white spirit to start a fire outside his neighbour's flat after growing upset with the noise coming from the property. Fortunately, the building's fire alarm alerted the victim to the incident, and she was able to help her friends escape through the window before putting out the fire.

Batchelor was originally sentenced at Lewes Crown Court in August, where he was given 2 years imprisonment suspended for 2 years. He was also ordered to complete a rehabilitation activity and unpaid work, and pay £500 compensation to the Housing Association. Today, after the Solicitor General's referral, the Court of Appeal increased his sentence to 3 years 2 months immediate imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

"This was a serious act of reckless arson, which could have been lifethreatening for not only those targeted but others living the building. It is important that Batchelor's sentence reflects this."

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