

Press release: Sir Alan Duncan statement on the United Nations International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala



The Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP, Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said:

The UK is disappointed by the Government of Guatemala's decision not to renew the mandate of the United Nations International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) beyond its current end date of September 2019.

CICIG has made a valuable contribution to the fight against corruption and impunity in Guatemala, strengthening the national institutions of Guatemala in the process. The UK, along with the EU and other international partners, has been a strong supporter of CICIG and we value their work and close cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General of Guatemala.

The UK hopes that CICIG is able to carry out its work fully and independently until the conclusion of its mandate.

We remain committed to supporting the rule of law and strong, independent institutions in Guatemala, which are vital for increasing security and prosperity.

Further information

Published 3 September 2018

Press release: HS2 Phase Two Managing Director update

Paul will be leaving to take on the role of Program Director, leading the programme management team, on the \$40 billion Metrolinx program in Toronto, the largest public transit investment in Canadian history. Paul, along with his family, will move to Canada at the end of the year. Paul joined HS2 Ltd in 2015 and has been responsible for working with central government and local stakeholders to plan and develop the route for Phase Two.

HS2 Ltd's CEO, Mark Thurston, said:

Phase Two has come a long way under Paul's leadership. Phase 2a, the section from Birmingham to Crewe, is already in Parliament and is on course to receive Royal Assent next year. Phase 2b, the section from Birmingham to Leeds and from Crewe to Manchester, is well advanced in terms of its preparation for Parliament, particularly how it integrates with the existing network and the plans of Northern Powerhouse Rail. The working draft environmental statement for Phase 2b will be published later this autumn. We are grateful to Paul for the progress he has made with Phase Two and wish him and his family well in their new adventure.

HS2 Ltd's Chairman, Sir Terry Morgan, said:

Phase Two is critical to HS2's goal of changing the economic geography of Britain, by bringing the towns and cities of the Midlands and the North closer together. Paul has played a vital part in moving that concept nearer to reality.

Given its sheer scale and duration, changes of personnel and leadership are inevitable in a project such as HS2, particularly given the global demand for talented and experienced engineers such as Paul, but our focus remains on delivering a railway for the long term future of this country. And that we will do.

Paul Griffiths said:

Seeing HS2 move considerably closer to reality has been a privilege and will always have a special place in my career. HS2 is vital for the future of Britain and I will always be proud to have been part of its development.

Paul will leave HS2 Ltd at the end of December and plans are now in train to

find his successor.

[News story: Implementing our approach to regulating Technical Qualifications](#)

Ofqual has today (3 September 2018) published the outcomes of a policy consultation on our approach to regulating the new Technical Qualifications which will sit within T Levels, including our [analysis](#) of the responses we received and our [decisions](#) on how to take the proposed rules forward.

We have discussed and agreed these decisions with the Department for Education and Institute for Apprenticeships. The government's [Invitation to Tender](#) for the development, delivery and award of the first three T Levels from September 2020, published earlier today, reflects the feedback we received.

We are now launching a further, [technical consultation](#), to give interested parties an opportunity to feed back on the detail of Ofqual's rules, including drafts of the Conditions and Guidance we intend to apply.

Key areas of comment on the policy consultation, and our decisions relating to these, include:

- assessment availability and retakes. Following feedback, we will amend our approach as set out in the consultation to require an awarding organisation to provide a minimum of one assessment series for the Core and the Occupational Specialisms; with the option for an additional assessment series, if appropriate.
- results and certification. Taking account of responses received, we will dis-apply our Conditions, meaning awarding organisations will not be required to issue certificates for the Technical Qualifications. Instead, certification will be for the overall T Level. However, a statement of achievement will be implemented for students who do not successfully pass all elements of the T Level, to ensure students are not disadvantaged and that their achievements are recognised.
- setting and marking assessments. Based on feedback received, we will require that the core knowledge and understanding elements are assessed by an examination and marked by the awarding organisation. We would also expect these to be marked by the respective awarding organisation. However, in exceptional circumstances, our rules will allow for centre marking of core skills assessments and Occupational Specialism assessments. We have published further guidance on this today.
- 'working towards' grade. We consulted on setting a requirement for Occupational Specialisms to have a 'Working Towards' grade below Pass. We have taken on board the points raised by respondents. As there is felt to be limited value in this grade, we will not proceed with this

proposal.

- Other proposals, including our approach on grading, reviews of marking and accreditation, will be adopted largely as outlined in the consultation. These are described more fully in the decisions document.

Sally Collier, Chief Regulator, said:

Our decisions, along with the government's Invitation to Tender, mark a significant milestone in the delivery of T Levels. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Institute for Apprenticeships and Department for Education on this important initiative.

The documents we have published today set out the next stage in how Ofqual will play its part in the development and delivery of high quality, reliable and comparable Technical Qualifications which both learners and employers can trust. The responses we received to our policy consultation will help ensure these qualifications, and the T Levels of which they are part, are valid and robust, and meet the demands of the work place. We have used the consultation feedback to support our draft Conditions and Guidance, which we have set out for further consultation, and we look forward to hearing stakeholders' views.

We are holding three events to support our technical consultation, aimed at awarding organisations interested in developing Technical Qualifications, or other bodies which may have an interest in becoming recognised awarding organisations to develop Technical Qualifications in the future. You can book your place by clicking on the links below. Please note, places are limited.

- 11 September 2018, 10.30am to 4.00pm, Holiday Inn, Regent's Park, [London](#)
- 13 September 2018, 10.30am to 4.00pm, The Midland Hotel, [Manchester](#)
- 19 September 2018, 1.00pm to 2.00pm, [Webinar](#)

Notes for editors

- The Institute for Apprenticeships has overarching responsibility for the T Level programme. Ofqual will regulate the Technical Qualification component. An [exchange of letters](#) between the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP and Sally Collier regarding Ofqual's regulation of Technical Qualifications within T Levels has also been published today.
- The policy consultation ran for 4 weeks between 10 July and 6 August.

- There were 53 responses to the consultation. Additional feedback was received from people participating in 3 consultation events (98 attended) and a webinar (42 attended live).
- The technical consultation will run for 8 weeks until 28 October 2018.

Notice: ANNOUNCEMENT OF DETERMINATION OF LIKLEY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

We intend to undertake an environmental assessment and prepare an environmental report in respect of the strategy.

Email FCERMstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk to get a copy from Amanda McDonnell, National Environmental Assessment Service.

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