

[Press release: G7 leaders: statement on chemical weapons use in Syria](#)

We, the G7 Leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union, are united in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons in the April 7 attack in Eastern Ghouta, Syria.

We fully support all efforts made by the United States, the United Kingdom and France to degrade the Assad regime's ability to use chemical weapons and to deter any future use, demonstrated by their action taken on April 13. This response was limited, proportionate and necessary – and taken only after exhausting every possible diplomatic option to uphold the international norm against the use of chemical weapons.

Use of chemical weapons is a breach of the [Chemical Weapons Convention](#) and constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The repeated and morally reprehensible use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime in the past has been confirmed by independent international investigators. We condemn this deliberate strategy of terrorizing local populations and forcing them into submission. Syria's possession of chemical weapons and their means of delivery are illegal under [UN Security Council Resolution 2118](#) and the Chemical Weapons Convention. We stand together against impunity for those who develop or use these weapons, anywhere, anytime, under any circumstances.

We remain committed to a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Syria. We commend and support UN Special Envoy de Mistura's efforts towards an inclusive and credible political transition in accordance with [UN Security Council Resolution 2254](#) and the [Geneva Communiqué](#).

[Press release: Devolved Brexit legislation referred to the Supreme Court](#)

The UK Government's senior Law Officers, the Attorney General and the Advocate General for Scotland, are referring EU exit legislation passed in the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales to the Supreme Court.

They are asking for a ruling on whether this legislation is constitutional, and properly within devolved legislative powers. The legal power to refer devolved legislation to the Supreme Court for a ruling on its

constitutionality – as set out in the Devolution Acts – is exercisable by the Law Officers in the public interest.

Announcing the decision, the Attorney General, Jeremy Wright QC MP said:

This legislation risks creating serious legal uncertainty for individuals and businesses as we leave the EU. This reference is a protective measure which we are taking in the public interest. The Government very much hopes this issue will be resolved without the need to continue with this litigation

The two Bills – the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill, and the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill – passed through the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly on 21 March this year.

The reference is made to the UK Supreme Court under powers conferred by the Scotland Act 1998 and the Government of Wales Act 2006, which provide the Law Officers with discretion to ask the Supreme Court to consider whether legislation passed by the devolved legislatures is within their respective legislative competence. These powers allow the Law Officers to fulfil their unique constitutional duties to uphold the rule of law and the boundaries of the devolution settlements.

The European Union (Wales) Bill and the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill cover very similar ground to the EU(Withdrawal)Bill currently before Parliament but with significant differences in terms of the EU law that is retained and the processes by which it can be amended. To leave these pieces of legislation on the statute book would create very significant legal uncertainty as to how the law would operate.

[News story: National Museums Liverpool Trustee Extensions](#)

Andrew McCluskey

Andrew is a founding member, lead singer and songwriter in the successful musical group Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark. He has achieved 60 global gold and platinum album and single awards and has three Ivor Novello Award nominations. The group's music has been featured on several major film soundtrack recordings including Pretty in Pink and Waltz with Bashir. Andrew has performed with The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in Liverpool and at the Liverpool Night as part of the 2010 Shanghai Expo. OMD continue to

play live at major global music festivals and concerts, recently headlining the UK/Mexican Dual Year festival in Guadalajara. His song Enola Gay was selected to feature in the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics. In February 2015 the band performed at the Dresden Peace Prize awards on the 70th anniversary of the bombing of that city where Andy delivered a speech outlining how music had helped to heal the wounds of history and build bonds of tolerance and understanding. Andrew is a frequent contributor to, and reviewer for, BBC Radio 4 Front Row Programme and regular interviewee and commentator for television documentaries, books, and radio programmes on musical history and culture.

Philip Price

Philip is a leading figure within the North West investment community. He is an owner director of Dow Schofield Watts, a prominent corporate finance advisory business in the North of England. For over 20 years Philip has provided specialist corporate finance advice to growing businesses across a broad range of clients and sectors. He has advised both private and public organisations on an array of transactions including significant fundraising, corporate mergers and acquisitions together with the delivery of key strategic guidance; this extends to the management and development of investments held under an associated private equity fund, PHD Equity Partners. Philip is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) having trained and qualified as a chartered accountant with KPMG in Liverpool. He worked across KPMG's Liverpool and Manchester offices for 10 years prior to joining Dow Schofield Watts. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment. Philip has been based in Liverpool since 1990 when he came to study at John Moores University. He now lives in the Woolton area of Liverpool with his wife and three young children.

The roles are not remunerated. This appointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Andrew and Philip have declared no such activity.

[Statement to Parliament: Greenhouse gases from international shipping](#)

On 13 April 2018 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) agreed a comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from international shipping. The United Kingdom, led by the Department for

Transport, played a leading role in the negotiations, pushing for an ambitious and credible outcome that would enable shipping to play its part in meeting the Paris Agreement temperature goals.

The strategy is a major milestone for the shipping industry, which is now the first global sector to have set an absolute emissions reduction target.

The strategy includes:

- a commitment to phase out GHGs from international shipping as soon as possible during this century
- a target of at least 50% reduction, and an aim for 100% reduction, in total GHG emissions from shipping by 2050
- a target of at least a 40% improvement in carbon intensity of ships by 2030, pursuing efforts towards 70% in 2050
- a list of possible short-, mid- and long term emission reduction measures with a commitment to develop a work-plan for implementation to deliver emission reductions before 2023

The UK was at the forefront of a coalition of high ambition countries working with other member states, industry and non-governmental organisations to agree ambitious quantified emission reduction targets for the sector.

Countries will now, through the IMO, commence work on implementing the strategy. The UK, through the Department for Transport will continue to work with other IMO member states, industry and Civil Society to establish what practical and technical steps need to be taken to deliver the emission reduction targets. A revised version of the strategy is due to be adopted in 2023.

Press release: UK is making sure one million girls across the Commonwealth get a quality education

School girl Desderia in Tanzania. Picture: Eliza Powell/Camfed

Almost one million vulnerable and marginalised girls in developing countries across the Commonwealth will receive the life-changing education they need to become the thinkers and leaders of the future, the Prime Minister announced today (Tuesday 17th April).

130 million girls around the world are missing out on school, and in Sub-Saharan Africa fewer than 1 in 20 poor, rural girls are on track to complete secondary school.

DFID's Girls Education Challenge will make sure 920,000 girls continue their education through primary, secondary school and training, so they can fulfil their potential to play a transformational role in their communities, economies and political institutions.

Today's announcement will also give a further 53,000 adolescent girls in developing countries across the Commonwealth, who have never attended or dropped out of school due to poverty, motherhood, disability or conflict, a second chance to learn through catch-up classes and vital skills training.

DFID is also launching a new research partnership with the Malala Fund and the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) to help governments better harness their own resources to break down barriers to education for the most marginalised girls.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

Girls across the Commonwealth have huge potential to be the world's next generation of problem-solvers, innovators and leaders.

But too many girls are still missing out on school. That's why the UK is working with our Commonwealth partners to make sure that every girl receives the life-changing quality education they need to achieve their full potential.

Getting girls into school, and then into good employment, allows them to play a transformational role lifting their communities out of poverty, growing their economies and shaping the future of their countries.

The Girls Education Challenge is making it easier and safer for girls to get to school, training and equipping good quality teaching staff, and working with communities and families to raise awareness of the vital importance of educating girls.

Through its new Policy Lab, the UK is also sharing its world-class education expertise, to support the Commonwealth to work together to deliver for girls.

Notes to editors

DFID is committing £212 million to provide almost one million vulnerable and marginalised girls in developing countries across the Commonwealth with 12 years of quality education so that they can fulfil their potential. The second phase of DFID's Girls Education Challenge (£212 million) will:

- Ensure 920,000 girls in Commonwealth countries transition through primary and secondary school and training so that they can get good jobs, support themselves and their families, and play a role in the growth of their countries.
- Give 53,000 highly marginalised adolescent girls in Commonwealth countries, who have never attended or dropped out of school as a result

of poverty, early marriage and pregnancy, disability or conflict, a second chance to learn literacy, numeracy and other vital life skills.

- Launch a new Policy Lab to bring the UK's world-class expertise to work in partnership with other countries and help Commonwealth countries deliver for girls – supporting developing countries to ultimately become self-sufficient and provide quality education. This will begin with a pilot of five countries.

DFID is also launching a new research partnership with the Malala Fund and the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) to help governments better harness their own resources to break down barriers to education for the most marginalised girls so they can progress through primary and secondary education.

Through the first phase of the Girls' Education Challenge (GEC I) UK aid:

- Supported over a million marginalised girls to get a quality education. Through the second phase of the GEC we will support the vast majority of these girls to continue with their learning through secondary school and training to give them the opportunity to complete a full 12 years of education.
- Benefitted many more girls and communities through 37 different projects in 18 countries across Africa and Asia, many operating in conflict and crisis settings

This is just one part of DFID's education work. In 2015-2017 DFID supported 7.1 million children to gain a decent education. This included at least 3.3 million girls.