

News story: Secretary of State expresses sympathy to Ruddy family

Earlier this evening, Mr Brokenshire commented:

This will be a desperately sad time for Mr Ruddy's family and loved ones. I would like to express my sympathy as steps are now taken to bring Seamus home.

My thoughts remain with all those families who are still awaiting the recovery of the remains of their loved ones.

Anyone with information that might help locate the other 'Disappeared' should get in contact – in strict confidence – with the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains.

News story: Looking ahead to the London Somalia Conference 2017

On 11 May 2017, the UK will host a major international conference in London, to support the progress that Somalia has made over the last 5 years.

Ahead of the London Somalia Conference, regional experts Ambassador David Concar and Special Representative Nick Kay share their thoughts on progress in Somalia and the country's future:

[Ambassador David Concar](#)

- Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa Nick Kay explains why it's important to keep Somalia on the international agenda

[Special Representative Nick Cave](#)

News story: Refocusing Public Health England

The Health Improvement directorate will be made up of the following teams:

- Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco
- Diet and Obesity
- Health Equity and Mental Health
- Healthy People
- Screening and Quality Assurance
- Knowledge and Intelligence
- National Disease Registration
- Research, Translation and Innovation

Creating a Health Improvement directorate allows PHE to closer align surveillance, data, evidence and research capability with policy expertise.

Speech: Op-ed by Lord Mayor of City of London on his visit to Tunisia

Tunisia may be the smallest country in North Africa, but I think it has a big role to play in the region's economic development. Tunisia is an important partner for the United Kingdom in North Africa, and I am in Tunis this week to reaffirm the strong bilateral economic links that bind our two countries, as well as explore new ways that we can work more closely together.

As the Lord Mayor of the City of London I travel the world as the UK's financial and professional services ambassador looking for ways that the City of London, the world's leading financial centre, can develop closer links with our international partners.

When I began my year in office, visiting the dynamic, growing economies of North Africa was a key goal for me, as I believe that there are many opportunities for mutually beneficial growth and development. This is the second visit to Tunisia by a Lord Mayor in three years, highlighting the importance we place on further developing the already strong links between the UK and Tunisia.

Ahead of my arrival I heard great things about the Tunisian government's ambition to develop Tunis into a regional centre of excellence in financial services, and I fully support this ambition as I have seen first-hand how a burgeoning financial centre can bring prosperity to an entire generation. When I meet with government representatives I will certainly be discussing

with them how the City of London can best support the development of Tunisia's financial sector.

I have also heard a great deal about the ambition in Tunisia to develop your capital city into a world-leading technical and digital hub. London is one of the world's leading centres for financial technology, or fintech, development, with more people working in the sector than in Silicon Valley. Mobile banking will be the future of banking, and as the world's leading financial centre we are looking forward, and working to usher in this new era of financial inclusion. I believe we can work very closely together in the digital and mobile payments sector.

Another exciting area of global growth in the financial services sector is the area of Islamic Finance. Islamic Finance has developed into an important new financial market, with the global Islamic Finance sector estimated to have assets worth around USD\$2 trillion, a figure which is expected to grow at around 20% a year over the next decade. The UK is the western world's leader in Islamic Finance education, with over 70 institutions offering Islamic Finance courses, and 22 universities offering degrees specialising in Islamic Finance. As an educator I firmly believe that these courses will foster the next generation of finance professionals who will cement London's position as the western hub for Islamic Finance.

As a teacher by background I know that education is the best way to spur economic growth, and because of that I will be exploring ways we can expand the training we provide in the City of London to Tunisian stock brokers, providing valuable qualifications that allow them to work abroad. The goal however must be to have a strong domestic financial services offer so that talented Tunisians can train abroad, but return to the prospect of quality jobs at home. It is because of that goal that I am offering a Mansion House scholarship to a promising young Tunisian who is looking to study in the UK for a business related degree. I'm here in Tunisia because we in the City believe in the potential for growth in the Islamic Finance and fin-tech sectors in Tunis, with both a domestic and regional orientation. I think that this will attract investment and international business to Tunisia, and will help in the wider development of Tunis as an international financial centre, which we strongly support.

As we start the process of leaving the European Union it is now more important than ever that we deepen our business relationships across the world with valued partners such as Tunisia. The United Kingdom has always been a global trading nation, epitomised most strongly by the City of London, the world's leading financial centre. I believe that with support from the City's unique cluster of services Tunisia can see an era of strong growth that will benefit all Tunisians and I look forward to seeing Tunisia's continued development over the years to come.

Speech: PM meeting with NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg: 10 May 2017

Welcome to Downing Street, it's very good to have the opportunity to talk again in advance of the leaders' meeting at the end of this month. I really wanted to confirm, and reaffirm, the commitment that the UK has to NATO. We see it as the bedrock of UK security and we are pleased to be playing the role that we are in the alliance.

At the moment we have a number of commitments – nearly 1,000 troops in Estonia and Poland and the RAF Typhoons in the Black Sea as part of that project there. We very much consider it important here in the UK that we spend 2% of our GDP on defence and also meet the 20% on equipment commitment as well.

And obviously as we look ahead to the leaders' discussions, there will be a number of issues, including encouraging others to play their role in terms of the support for NATO. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to talk to you about these and other issues that are on the agenda.

Thank you so much Prime Minister, thank you for welcoming me back to Downing Street. I am really looking forward to discussing with you our preparations for the upcoming meeting of NATO leaders in Brussels on May 25. There are two topics on the agenda – burden sharing and fighting terrorism, and the UK is leading by example on both these fronts.

When it comes to burden sharing, you spend 2% of GDP on defence, I welcome that very much and hope your allies are starting to increase also their resonance in defence. But you also contribute in many other ways. You are now leading our multi-national battalion in Estonia. You are the lead nation for our high readiness force and you are in the skies through the Royal Air Force in the Black Sea region, providing policing.

So when it comes to burden sharing and contributing to our shared security, you are really a lead nation and I thank you for that. Also when it comes to fighting terrorism, I very much appreciate the contributions from the UK. You have been in Afghanistan for many, many years together with NATO allies.

We will address our presence in Afghanistan at the leaders' meeting but we will also address what more NATO can do to step up its efforts to fight international terrorism, including providing support to the counter-Isil coalition. And I strongly believe that the best thing you can do to fight against terrorism is to train local forces, enabling them to stabilise their own country and to fight terrorism themselves.

So there are many important issues on the agenda and we are looking forward to welcoming you to Brussels. So thank you.