

[ERA/OPI/2017-7 – Opinion of the European Union Agency for Railways to the European Commission regarding a possible revision of INF TSI – rail fastening systems](#)

ERA/OPI/2017-7 – Opinion of the European Union Agency for Railways to the European Commission regarding a possible revision of INF TSI – rail fastening systems Reference: ERA/OPI/2017-7 Publication Date : 27/02/2018 Published by: Corporate Management and Evaluation Document Types: Opinion Related TSI: Keywords: RISC/EC Consideration:

□The Opinion was presented to the Railway Interoperability and Safety Committee (RISC) at its meeting 81 (January 2017).

Description: The Opinion is proposing a revision of the wording of point 5.3.2(b) of the INF TSI, concerning performances and specifications of the Interoperability Constituents “rail fastening systems”, in order to improve legal certainty and avoid diverging interpretations.

Related documents:

[News story: Applications now open](#)

We are pleased to announce that the Civil Service Fast Track Apprenticeship is now open for applications.

You'll need to complete an online application form. This will take about 20 minutes to complete and you can save your progress as you go.

The next stage will be the online tests, these are made up of 3 sections:

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- Situational judgement questionnaire (untimed, takes around 20-30 minutes to complete)
- Competency questionnaire (untimed, takes around 20-30 minutes to complete).

If you are successful at this stage you will be invited to attend the Fast Track Assessment Centre for a half-day event that will feature:

- a group task
- a written task

- a strengths-based interview.

Good luck with your applications, we look forward to meeting you soon.

Applications now open

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[Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Burma in May 2018](#)

Mr Dan Chugg has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Burma in succession to Mr Andrew Patrick who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Chugg will take up his appointment in May 2018.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg

Married to: Alison Chugg

Children: Two

2015 – present FC0, Head, Counter-Daesh Communications Department, Communication Directorate

2014 – 2015 FC0, Head, ISIL Taskforce and Iraq Department, Middle East and North Africa Directorate

2010 – 2014 Beijing, Counsellor (Political)

2007 – 2010 New Delhi, First Secretary (Press and Communications)

2005 – 2007 FC0, Press Officer later Deputy Head of Press Office

2001 – 2005 Hong Kong, Vice-Consul (Political)

1999 – 2001 Full time language training (Chinese)

1998 – 1999 FC0, Desk Officer, Hungary and Slovak Republic, Central European Department

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020 7008 3100

[Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Sudan in April 2018](#)

Mr Irfan Siddiq OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Sudan in succession to Mr Michael Aron who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Siddiq will take up his appointment in April 2018.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Irfan Siddiq

Married to: Penélope Siddiq

Children: Two

2017 – 2018 Plan International, International Advocacy Director
(secondment)

2016 – 2017 FC0, Head, Secondment Unit

2013 – 2016 Baku, Her Majesty's Ambassador

2011 – 2013 FC0, Head, Arab Partnership Department

2010 – 2011 Baghdad, Deputy Head of Mission

2007 – 2010 Damascus, Deputy Head of Mission

2005 – 2007 FC0, Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary

2004 – 2005 Washington, secondment to US State Department as Political Officer

2003 – 2004 Baghdad, Political Officer, Coalition Provisional Authority

2002 – 2003 Cairo, Second Secretary (Political/Press)

2000 – 2002 Full time language training (Arabic)

2000 – 2000 FCO, Desk Officer, Middle East Peace Process Section

1999 – 2000 New Delhi, Second Secretary (Economic/Commercial)

1998 –1999 FCO, Desk Officer, NATO

1998 Joined FCO

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[Press release: Holiday firm to pay £8,500 after being caught burning waste](#)

A Lincolnshire holiday park company has been ordered to pay over £8,500 after illegally burning waste on one of their sites.

Seaside Leisure Parks Ltd, which operates five parks across the county, was convicted for burning a waste pile consisting of mattresses, sofas, and plastic chairs among other things on 4 July 2017. The Environment Agency (EA), which brought this case against Seaside Leisure, also found evidence of previous waste fires on site.

When EA staff attended the fire in July 2017, they observed acrid smoke from the fire blowing across the caravan site – with the nearest caravan being only 25 meters away.

The Fire and Rescue Service had to attend to put out the fire. Following this incident, the company did not take the appropriate action to remove the waste for another month, instead leaving the waste and fire residues on site. By not paying for legal disposal of the waste, Seaside Leisure Parks Ltd avoided costs of approximately £2,000. The company had previously been warned for the same type of offending in two letters from the EA in 2010. At interview, the company admitted that the waste costs formed a considerable part of their running costs.

Seaside Leisure Parks Ltd was convicted at Lincoln magistrates' Court, and ordered to pay a £5,000 fine as well as £3,496.50 in costs and a victim surcharge of £170.

Commenting, EA Enforcement team leader Mark Rumble said:

Businesses have a legal duty to dispose of their waste correctly. This duty is in place to protect communities and the environment from pollution.

By burning waste illegally on site, Seaside Leisure Parks Ltd put people and wildlife at risk in the interest of financial gain. We hope this verdict demonstrates to other businesses the importance of complying with environmental laws. We will take action against those who do not comply.