

UK summons Iranian Chargé d’Affaires following worsening crackdowns on protests

Press release

The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office has summoned Iran’s Chargé d’Affaires in the UK over the Iranian authorities worsening crackdown on protests.



The Foreign Secretary instructed the FCDO to summon Mehdi Hosseini Matin, Iran’s most senior diplomat in the UK, over the Iranian authorities’ violent crackdown on protests following the death of Mahsa Amini.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said:

The violence levelled at protestors in Iran by the security forces is truly shocking.

Today we have made our view clear to the Iranian authorities – instead of blaming external actors for the unrest, they should take responsibility for their actions and listen to the concerns of their people.

We will continue to work with our partners to hold the Iranian authorities to account for their flagrant human rights violations.

Vijay Rangarajan, Director General for the Middle East, held the meeting with Matin and reiterated the UK’s call for a full and transparent investigation into death of Mahsa Amini.

He urged the Iranian authorities to respect the right to peaceful assembly, exercise restraint and release unfairly detained protesters, and outlined the UK’s concern at reports of live ammunition being used at Sharif University.

Over eight million households to receive second Cost of Living Payment from 8 November

Aberavon 11,600 12,100 Aberconwy 7,100 6,800 Aberdeen North 13,300 9,300
Aberdeen South 7,700 5,800 Airdrie and Shotts 13,400 13,300 Aldershot 10,500
6,800 Aldridge-Brownhills 8,300 8,300 Altrincham and Sale West 7,000 6,600
Alyn and Deeside 9,200 8,400 Amber Valley 10,700 10,200 Angus 11,000 9,100
Arfon 7,600 6,100 Argyll and Bute 9,600 9,400 Arundel and South Downs 6,700
6,800 Ashfield 14,300 13,700 Ashford 13,200 10,800 Ashton-under-Lyne 16,100
11,100 Aylesbury 10,300 8,000 Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock 14,100 12,700 Banbury
10,900 8,800 Banff and Buchan 9,500 8,500 Barking 24,900 10,700 Barnsley
Central 13,800 12,000 Barnsley East 14,700 13,700 Barrow and Furness 10,300
10,700 Basildon and Billericay 11,300 8,100 Basingstoke 10,300 7,900
Bassetlaw 12,800 12,000 Bath 8,000 6,400 Batley and Spen 16,200 10,100
Battersea 11,700 5,800 Beaconsfield 6,300 5,700 Beckenham 6,000 5,100 Bedford
15,000 9,100 Belfast East 14,600 14,900 Belfast North 26,600 24,000 Belfast
South 13,900 13,500 Belfast West 27,100 24,700 Bermondsey and Old Southwark
22,100 10,400 Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk 10,600 8,800
Berwick-upon-Tweed 7,600 7,600 Bethnal Green and Bow 26,000 11,100 Beverley
and Holderness 9,000 9,200 Bexhill and Battle 10,500 10,400 Bexleyheath and
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10,700 Birmingham, Selly Oak 15,400 10,000 Birmingham, Yardley 23,400 12,700
Bishop Auckland 13,400 12,000 Blackburn 22,600 13,100 Blackley and Broughton
28,800 14,900 Blackpool North and Cleveleys 14,900 12,600 Blackpool South
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Mid Kent 9,700 8,500 Feltham and Heston 21,200 9,700 Fermanagh and South
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and Sunderland West 14,900 12,700 Watford 12,300 7,800 Waveney 14,500 12,900
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£60 million fund to boost investment and access to sport and culture in the West Midlands

News story

Birmingham 2022 funding has been secured to continue the legacy of the Games by driving inward investment and boosting access to sport and culture in the region



The UK government will invest around £60 million of underspend from the Birmingham 2022 budget in the West Midlands to enhance the legacy of the brilliant Commonwealth Games hosted earlier this year. The fund will aim to increase access to sport and culture, boost the West Midlands's reputation as a world-class host for major events and drive inward investment and tourism.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will work with the West Midlands Combined Authority and Birmingham City Council to capitalise on the success of the Games and help more people engage with sport and culture in the region.

The funding will also be allocated to boost inward business investment and

tourism and help drive further economic growth in the West Midlands.

The Commonwealth Games was backed by £778 million of public funding, providing the West Midlands with a refurbished athletics stadium in Perry Barr and a brand-new aquatics centre in Smethwick. Alongside these world-class venues, the £60 million investment will support the region's ambition to host future major events.

This investment builds on existing legacy programmes already being rolled out. In partnership with DCMS, Sport England will continue to boost access to sport through a Birmingham 2022 kit giveaway. 16,000 items from basketballs to bibs will be gifted to West Midlands community groups in the coming months.

Birmingham 2022 was the fairest, greenest and fastest Commonwealth Games ever, delivered in four and a half years, rather than the seven that normally happens for a Games, and committed to a carbon neutral legacy. As well as having the biggest ever para-sport programme, the Games also awarded women with more medals than men. Birmingham 2022's 11 days of sport was complemented by a 6-month cultural festival and the first ever Games-accredited business and tourism programme.

Birmingham 2022 was the best-selling Commonwealth Games to be held in the UK with over 1.5 million tickets sold, and the most watched Games on the BBC's digital platforms with 57.1 million streams.

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[Opening of the Legal Year](#)

News story

Susanna McGibbon, Treasury Solicitor attended the service at Westminster Abbey



Today marked the Opening of the Legal Year with a Service at Westminster Abbey, conducted by the Dean of Westminster.

The ancient tradition dates to the Middle Ages and the religious practice of judges praying for guidance at the start of the legal term. The modern service, which dates to 1897 includes hymns, anthems and a lesson read by the Lord Chancellor, who holds a reception breakfast following the ceremony at the Houses of Parliament. The Lord Chancellor is an ancient office of state, and the office holder heads the Ministry of Justice as the Secretary of State for Justice.

Over 700 guests are invited, including senior members of the judiciary, King's Counsel, overseas judges, and the Law Officers of the Crown.

Susanna McGibbon attended the ceremony in her role as Treasury Solicitor, Permanent Secretary of the Government Legal Department and His Majesty's Procurator General. Susanna reflects:

"I was honoured to attend the Service to mark the Opening of the Legal Year at Westminster Abbey today. It was an opportunity to meet colleagues from across the legal profession and to reflect on the legal year ahead of us."

Published 3 October 2022

[An update on Additional Rate tax](#)

News story

The Chancellor confirmed an update to plans for the Additional Rate tax on the morning of 3 October 2022.



From supporting British business to lowering the tax burden for the lowest paid, our Growth Plan sets out a new approach to build a more prosperous economy.

However, it is clear that the abolition of the 45p tax rate has become a distraction from our overriding mission to tackle the challenges facing our country.

As a result, I'm announcing we are not proceeding with the abolition of the 45p tax rate. We get it, and we have listened.

This will allow us to focus on delivering the major parts of our growth package.

First, our Energy Price Guarantee, which will support households and businesses with their energy bills.

Second, cutting taxes to put money back in the pockets of hard-working people and grow our economy.

Third, driving supply side reforms – including accelerating major infrastructure projects – to get Britain moving.

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