

# Commission seeks new trustees at Sikh Channel charity

Press release

The Charity Commission is seeking to appoint new trustees to the Sikh Channel Community Broadcasting Company Limited.



The Charity Commission is seeking to appoint new trustees to the [Sikh Channel Community Broadcasting Company Limited](#) (charity number 1136163).

The charity was established to advance the religious and charitable work of the Sikh religion and community. This work includes broadcasting via the Sikh Channel. The charity is subject to an [ongoing statutory inquiry](#).

To progress its inquiry and address the misconduct and/or mismanagement in the charity's administration, the Commission is seeking to appoint additional trustees to the charity.

The Commission is inviting applications particularly from those with experience in broadcasting, finance, and/or charity fundraising and governance. As the charity is based in Birmingham and exists to advance the Sikh faith, the Commission is also interested to hear from those in or close to Birmingham and familiar with the Sikh faith.

The Commission appointed an Interim Manager to take over the management and administration of the charity to the exclusion of its trustees in March this year. The trustees of the charity challenged this decision and on 31 July 2020 the [charity tribunal](#) quashed the Commission's appointment of the Interim Manager. The Commission's intention is therefore to pursue the alternative approach of appointing new trustees.

Applicants should submit a cover letter and CV to [sikhchanneltrustees@charitycommission.gov.uk](mailto:sikhchanneltrustees@charitycommission.gov.uk) by 16 October 2020.

The Commission's inquiry continues.

**Ends.**

**Notes to editors:**

- The Commission would encourage anyone interested in applying to read its [Trustee Welcome Pack](#), which explain being a charity trustee entails and includes links to key guidance for charity trustees.

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## [Maxine Mayhew appointed to Low Carbon Contracts Company and Electricity Settlements Company](#)

News story

Maxine Mayhew has been appointed Senior Independent Director of arm's length bodies, Low Carbon Contracts Company and Electricity Settlements Company.



Maxine Mayhew has been appointed as Senior Independent Director of the Low Carbon Contracts Company (LCCC) and the Electricity Settlements Company (ESC).

Dr Maxine Mayhew is MD Natural Resources for Costain, the smart infrastructure solutions company, where she is responsible for the profit and loss (P&L) delivery and continued development of the energy, water and defence markets along with the delivery of the consultancy capability for the group. Previously she was Group Commercial Director at Northumbrian Water Limited where she was responsible for supply chain and marketing functions as well as leading the sourcing, negotiation and delivery of high value commercial contracts and the group energy strategy development and deployment.

Maxine completed a PhD in 1998 and has held a variety of roles in the water industry. During recent years Maxine has focused on commercial leadership and strategy development and implementation and she has held director roles which have covered all aspects of the industry from operations and engineering, through to support services including health, safety, risk, security, procurement and marketing.

She is also an independent member of the Cranfield University Council and a Non-Executive Director at Karbon Homes.

This appointment has been made in accordance with guidance issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The LCCC and ESC are arm's length bodies established by the government in 2014 to deliver Contracts for Difference (CfD) and the Capacity Market (CM) schemes. The schemes are designed to incentivise the investment required to transform our electricity infrastructure to deliver clean and reliable electricity supplies, whilst minimising costs to customers.

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## **Environment Secretary speech on biodiversity: 24 September 2020**

I would like to thank Minister Huang and Vice-Minister Luo for hosting this important discussion.

I am pleased to speak to you on behalf of the UK about how we can increase the pace of action to help nature recover.

When we destroy nature, we undermine our very foundations. That is why the UK Government is committed to building back better and greener as we recover from the Coronavirus pandemic.

The scale of biodiversity loss is clear.

By the time I finish speaking, the world will have lost forever forest land equivalent to 150 football pitches.

Reports published this month show that populations of animals have declined by two thirds in my lifetime.

So we need to work together to stem the tide of loss. And all of us can make a difference. At next year's conferences in Kunming and Glasgow, we have the opportunity to bring the world together to commit to reversing biodiversity loss, and to make protecting and conserving nature part of

tackling climate change and poverty too.

I am pleased that Minister Huang has agreed with my colleague Alok Sharma, the UN climate COP President Designate, that our two countries should work together as incoming presidents for ambitious, integrated outcomes at both summits.

One of the ways we have committed to doing this is by making 'nature' a major theme of the climate COP in Glasgow.

We are determined to secure international action to tackle biodiversity loss, and will channel finance into the nature-based solutions that could provide a third of the cost-effective climate change mitigation we need – while helping people adapt to become more resilient. We are committed to the adoption of an ambitious post 2020 global biodiversity framework at COP-15, and the UK Government is asking other governments to bring ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC.

And the UK welcomes China's announcement this week on achieving carbon neutrality before 2060 and enhancing its own NDC – so we look forward to hearing more and to working together. Action for nature must also be ambitious.

And we must also put our words into action – and in this area the UK is keen to play its part, both at home and around the world.

We have been working with other nations to create a bold 'Leaders' Pledge for Nature' which commits countries to take ten urgent actions to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030.

And I look forward to working with countries around the world to make good on the Pledge's commitments. The UK will be spending more of our International Climate Finance on nature – and we encourage others to do the same.

We are committed to ocean health, and we will establish a £500 million Blue Planet Fund. The ocean supports the livelihoods of one in every ten people, including some of the poorest and most vulnerable worldwide.

So a quarter of our waters are protected, and we are on course to protect an area the size of India around the UK Overseas Territories.

30 countries have already signed up to a UK-led Global Ocean Alliance of countries committed to protecting at least 30% of the ocean in Marine Protected Areas by 2030.

On land, forests are home to 80% of biodiversity. Yet the scale of global deforestation makes it a leading cause of global emissions.

Through the Just Rural Transition, we are helping communities around the world shift towards sustainability. And in the UK, we are replacing destructive agricultural subsidies with a system that rewards environmental stewardship – and encouraging other countries to do similarly.

In the UK, we are also setting environmental targets to accelerate action to improve the state of UK nature and help us make progress towards our commitment to reach net zero by 2050.

And we are committed to shrinking our environmental footprint beyond our shores.

So we are consulting on legislation requiring larger businesses operating in the UK to carry out due diligence on forest risk commodities in their supply chains, to show that they were produced in line with local laws.

And I commend China for taking steps to exclude illegal forest products from its supply chains. In conclusion, at COP26, we want to convene a global government-to-government initiative on sustainable land-use and trade in forest and agricultural commodities between producer and consumer countries.

The first regional events will be held in October and it would be great if China participates.

We encourage every nation to put nature at the core of their recoveries now and to agree an ambitious post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework underpinned by robust implementation and accountability mechanisms.

The UK and China have key roles to play in making 2021 the turning point in our relationship with the natural world – for the sake of every generation to come.

And I hope you will all join us.

Thank you.

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## **Change of British High Commissioner to Malawi: David Beer**

Press release

Mr David Beer has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of Malawi.



Mr David Beer has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of Malawi in succession to Ms Holly Tett, who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Beer will take up his appointment during October 2020.

## Curriculum vitae

Full name: David Beer

Married to: Severine Flores

Dates	Roles
2018 to present	Department for International Development (DFID, now Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office), Country Director for Malawi
2015 to 2018	Advisor to UK Executive Directors at the IMF and World Bank
2012 to 2015	DFID, Economic Development Team Leader for Ghana
2010 to 2012	DFID, Head of Office, Burundi
2008 to 2010	DFID, Humanitarian and Recovery Programme Manager for Sudan
2004 to 2008	DFID, Various roles including; International Development Committee Inquiry lead, Iraq; Policy analyst on Occupied Palestinian Territory; EU co-ordinator Western Balkans Team; and Programme Officer, Corporate Strategy Group
2000 to 2005	Various Non-Governmental Organisation roles including: Tearfund Desk Officer for Rwanda, Burundi and Madagascar; Medair Humanitarian Programme Manager, North-East Uganda; Medair Logistics Co-ordinator, Democratic Republic of Congo; and Youth With a Mission Construction Manager, Uganda

## Further information

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## UN Human Rights Council 45: Interactive Dialogue with the Fact Finding mission on Venezuela

Thank you, Madam President.

We welcome the High Commissioner's recent update on the human rights situation in Venezuela and thank her for her work. We commend the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) for its report and support a renewal of its mandate.

The IFFM's report concerns us greatly. It describes extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and torture. The IFFM reports that it has reasonable grounds to believe that senior figures in the Venezuelan regime ordered or contributed to the commission of crimes it documents. Such gross human rights violations are completely unacceptable.

The political, human rights and humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate and the rule of law has been further weakened. At a time when the COVID pandemic and its consequences demand urgent attention, the regime in Venezuela is continuing its attacks on the political opposition; stifling media freedom; and threatening and intimidating journalists, human rights defenders and many others. We welcome the recent release of some political prisoners and urge that all those still held be released immediately and unconditionally.

We urge and expect Venezuela to promote and protect human rights, to prevent further serious abuses, and to comply fully with its obligations as an HRC member.

What tools does civil society need to support your work in the next phase of your mandate?

Thank you.