

Speech: PM speech at DrugFam reception

Good afternoon everybody and it's a great pleasure to welcome you all here to Downing Street today. And, as you have heard, we are all here to recognise and celebrate the work that [DrugFam](#) has done over the last 11 years – years of real achievement and I've not only seen the charity grow over those years but also the impact the charity has made. But, I think we can say that the past year has been exceptional even for DrugFam.

This year:

- you have received the Queen Award for Voluntary Service – the highest honour a charity can receive
- you held a major service of celebration and hope at Westminster Abbey – which I am very sorry I was not able to attend,
- and of course Elizabeth received her MBE from Her Majesty the Queen – an honour which was richly deserved

As you've just heard, I have known Elizabeth for well over a decade and she is, of course, a constituent of mine. I remember coming to your home, Elizabeth, and hearing you tell the story of Simon and Nicholas and, sadly, the loss of Nicholas. I think I had tears in my eyes as well as you, as you were telling that story. I've heard Elizabeth speak at events subsequently and I've seen the impact it has on people, when they hear that story, that tragic story, that brings home to people so clearly the impact that drugs can have not just on the individuals but on their whole family as well. What you've built here following the loss of Nick is something of huge value, improving the day to day life of others.

I was proud to serve as a patron of DrugFam before I was appointed Home Secretary. The work you do makes a huge difference. You ensure that families, friends and partners affected by a loved one's addiction get the support they need.

Because when families have to face addiction, they really do need that support. And I think that was one of the elements is that, often for families, it is very difficult to know where to turn, to know what to do for the best. Sometimes, through love, families take steps that they think are the right ones but sadly sometimes are not. And it is for those feelings of helplessness, of shame, of isolation and fear that DrugFam exists today to show people there is someone to help, there is someone there to turn to.

And what has really enabled DrugFam to do that has been the dedication and commitment of all its volunteers, and I am delighted that so many of you are here tonight. Without your generosity and the gift of time which you give to DrugFam nothing it has achieved would have been possible.

So I want to say a huge thank you to all of the staff, trustees, volunteers, patrons, ambassadors, donors, friends and supporters of DrugFam for everything you do. Including Sarah Cooper and her team, who I just met, who

fundraise and deliver the fantastic Summer Ball on an annual basis.

DrugFam volunteers gave over 7,000 hours of their time last year – manning the helpline, volunteering in support groups, and helping with fundraising and governance.

But what is particularly striking is that half of the volunteers have previously accessed DrugFam support themselves – so DrugFam was there for you, and now you are there for other people. You are doing wonderful work and it is hugely appreciated.

We know that we face a huge challenge as a country in overcoming addiction. The Government's Drugs Strategy seeks to protect the most vulnerable, and I'm pleased to say the Home Office minister Victoria Atkins is here at the reception tonight, and to help those with drug dependency to recover and turn their lives around. But no one knows better than the people in this room just how difficult that can be.

There are no quick solutions or easy answers. And for those affected by the addiction of a loved one, the impact can be immense and can last a lifetime. That's why DrugFam's work is so essential – providing long-term support and advice at every stage.

So, Elizabeth, you can be justifiably proud of what you established all those years ago. From your personal tragedy has come a strong charity that is doing so much good in helping the lives of others. But thank you to all those that have joined Elizabeth along the way, some of you who through your own personal tragedy have come to give DrugFam the support it needs to be able to help others. You have achieved a tremendous amount in these last eleven years – and there is so much to celebrate and I am very pleased we have been able to invite you here today to do just that. With the support of everyone here in this room, and many who are not, I am sure that you will go on to achieve even more and help even more people in the future. Thank you.

[News story: PM meeting with Prime Minister Yildirim: 27 November 2017](#)

The Prime Minister welcomed Prime Minister Yildirim of Turkey to Downing Street for a bilateral meeting earlier today.

The leaders agreed on the importance of the UK-Turkey relationship and continuing efforts to deepen our cooperation.

They discussed the shared challenge we face from terrorism and the ongoing work to further enhance our already strong partnership to tackle the threat this poses to both of our countries.

They also discussed regional threats, including the importance of finding a political solution in Syria through the UN led Geneva process and ensuring a peace process that creates a stable and secure Syria inclusive of all communities. On Iraq, they welcomed progress towards defeating Daesh, and the importance of preventing fleeing Daesh fighters taking root in other countries.

On economic cooperation, they welcomed progress in recent months, including the first joint trade working group meeting earlier this month, and discussed how to enhance and improve bilateral trade ties even further, including by linking up UK and Turkish companies in high technology sectors, and the continued partnership in the defence industry.

Prime Minister May acknowledged the progress made with the recent release of Amnesty workers, and the importance of upholding human rights and the rule of law.

[News story: Ian Baulch-Jones has been appointed as non-executive director at DVSA](#)

Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling, has appointed Ian Baulch-Jones as a new non-executive director to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

Ian will take up the post on 28 November 2017 for 2 years.

Ian is an award-winning senior leader, having held positions with National Grid, Deutsche Bank, E.ON, MORGAN EST plc, ITNET UK Ltd (now part of the Serco Group of Companies).

Ian brings to the board an in-depth knowledge of IT and business transformation.

Bridget Rosewell OBE, Chair of DVSA, said:

I am delighted that Ian Baulch-Jones is to join the board of the DVSA and I very much look forward to working with him.

His knowledge and experience will be of great benefit to the board, and the agency, helping people stay safe on Britain's roads.

The appointment process for non-executive directors has been run in accordance with the [Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments](#)

guidelines. All appointments are made on merit on a personal basis, and political activity and affiliations play no part in the selection process.

[Press release: International Trade Secretary announces new roles to boost trade around the globe](#)

The Secretary of State for International Trade, Dr Liam Fox, has this week announced that the Department for International Trade (DIT) will recruit for a new team of Her Britannic Majesty's Trade Commissioners (HMTCs) to represent the UK in key markets across the world.

The HM Trade Commissioners, one of the government's manifesto commitments, will play a vital role as the UK leaves the European Union and takes its place as a global champion of free trade in charge of its own independent trade policy. The HM Trade Commissioners will head the global operations of DIT, leading on export promotion, inward and outward direct investment, and trade policy overseas on behalf of the UK government.

The 9 geographical areas that the HM Trade Commissioners will cover are:

- Africa
- Asia-Pacific
- China
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia Network (EECAN)
- Europe
- Latin America
- Middle East
- North America
- South America

The HM Trade Commissioners will be senior Civil Service appointments. It is anticipated that appointments will be confirmed during the first half of 2018.

International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox, said:

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity to represent the UK in key markets around the world. We will be seeking the brightest and the best, from both the public and private sectors to use their extensive regional and in-country knowledge, together with their business and government expertise to help build a global Britain.

The new HM Trade Commissioners will be providing a clear vision and

direction to my Department's global operations. That will require providing intelligence on the ground, deciding what tailored action is required in their region, and playing a vital role in our future global trading relationships.

Press release: Karen Pierce appointed as Britain's new Ambassador to the UN

Karen is the first woman appointed to this role, and is uniquely suited for the position having previously served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, and more recently as the Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva.

The current Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Matthew Rycroft, has been in the post since 2015 and will handover in January 2018 when he returns to London to take up his new role as Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development.

On being announced as the new Ambassador to the United Nations, Karen Pierce said:

The UK has long been a strong supporter of the UN and its role at the heart of the global rules-based international system at a time when it is coming under challenge. Through our role as a permanent member of the Security Council and position as the UN's third largest donor, the UK will continue to work with others to tackle the pressing security, stability, development and prosperity challenges of today.

Our security and economic interests depend to a large extent on a strong and effective United Nations. I am honoured to be appointed as the UK's Ambassador and to head the UK cross-government effort at the UN. I undertake to ensure we are an active force in New York for progress and partnership.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

Britain has a proud history of working for positive change through the United Nations, not least in addressing the problems in Libya and Syria. I know Karen has the diplomatic skills, energy and patience to continue this vital work, and I congratulate her on her

appointment.

Notes to editors

Karen Pierce's full career history can be found [here](#).