

## [News story: Defence Secretary hosts first meeting in UK with Secretary Mattis](#)

Both have just returned from NATO and counter-Daesh Ministerial meetings in Brussels, where the alliance agreed to adapt its command structure to better reflect the security environment, announcing the establishment of two new headquarters: an Atlantic Command and a Logistics Command.

NATO is the cornerstone of UK and US defence and both nations have been leading calls for NATO to adapt to future threats. The meeting in London focussed on three themes: current threats, capability and shared prosperity.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

“From fighting in the trenches of the Great War to countering Russian aggression and tackling Daesh today, the UK has been America’s closest partner for a century. Today our countries are cooperating on everything from operations and intelligence to innovation and this meeting is an opportunity to continue strengthening our special relationship.”

Despite being close to defeat in Iraq and Syria, Daesh remains a concern for the UK and US and the British Defence Secretary reaffirmed his support to the US-led coalition. The pair also discussed the increasing assertiveness from the Kremlin, as the UK stands side by side with US and NATO allies, leading the enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup in Estonia and contributing soldiers to the US-led Battlegroup in Poland.

Amongst only six NATO countries meeting the commitment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence, the UK and US are investing heavily in next generation technology, including the F-35 aircraft. US F-35s will fly from the HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier in 2021, demonstrating the close relationship between the two countries.

The defence trading relationship between the UK and US is worth £3 billion a year and as the UK looks beyond Brexit, both countries hope to strengthen that relationship too.

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## [News story: Tate Trustee appointment](#)

Roland Rudd is a passionate supporter of the arts and led the Tate’s Corporate Advisory Group for ten years. He was previously a board member of the Royal Opera House.

He is Chairman of Finsbury, a global communications consultancy. Before founding Finsbury, he was a financial journalist at the Financial Times, the Sunday Correspondent and the Times.

He is also Chairman of Governors of Millfield School, Chairman of Open Britain, a trustee of Speakers for Schools, trustee of the Bayreuth Festival, and an Ambassador for the 'Made by Dyslexia' campaign.

The role is not remunerated and this appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Roland Rudd has declared that he has made recordable donations to Tessa Jowell, and made donations and held office in relation to Britain Stronger in Europe. Details can be obtained from the Electoral Commission website.

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## **[News story: GRECO: UK successfully completes 4th round compliance procedure](#)**

The Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) publishes its second fourth round compliance report on the United Kingdom.

The Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO), today (10 November 2017) published its [second fourth round compliance report on the United Kingdom](#).

The report, adopted by GRECO plenary in March 2017, reviews implementation of the United Kingdom's recommendations in respect of corruption prevention among Members of Parliament, Judges and Prosecutors. It concludes that, of the 8 recommendations issued to the UK in 2012\*, 7 have now been implemented and one partially implemented. The report commends the authorities of the United Kingdom for the substantial measures taken in order to implement the recommendations and terminates the fourth round compliance procedure in respect of the United Kingdom, making the United Kingdom the first country to conclude the GRECO fourth round.

\*The recommendations were adopted by the GRECO Plenary on 19 October 2012 and published on 6 March 2013.

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## Press release: Director banned for 11 years after trying to deceive the court

On 12 September 2017 the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted a disqualification undertaking from Mr Costel Titu, former director of Titus Services 4 UK Ltd (Titus), for making false representations to the Court and the company's liquidator. Mr Titu's disqualification commenced on 3 October 2017 and will end on 2 October 2028.

Mr Titu attempted to undermine the validity of the appointment of Ms F Qureshi as Creditors' Voluntary Liquidator by falsely claiming that he was not a director or shareholder at the time of the liquidator's appointment.

This was in an attempt to stop recovery proceedings issued by the liquidator against Mr Titu and another, relating to various payments made by Titus to them and for cash withdrawals. The total amount claimed by the liquidator was £156,875.

Mr Titu attempted to undermine the validity of the liquidator's appointment by falsely stating that he had no authority to appoint her as liquidator with the intended consequence of stopping the liquidator from pursuing him for amounts recoverable to the company.

On 5 May 2017, a final hearing in respect of the liquidator's action was heard at Companies Court which found in favour of the liquidator and considered that the transaction complained of was a sham and that Mr Titu had attempted to mislead the liquidator and the Court into believing that he was not the sole director of Titus.

On 14 July 2016 notice of termination of Mr Titu's directorship of Titus was filed at Companies House, with an effective date of 18 August 2014. The company has been in liquidation since 22 October 2014.

Anthony Hannon, Official Receiver in the Public Interest Unit, said:

The Insolvency Service will look closely at any evidence of misconduct and take appropriate action where directors have attempted to mislead insolvency professionals and the Court, as has happened in this case.

Titus Services 4 UK Ltd (CR0 No. 06217488) was incorporated on 18 April 2007.

Mr Titu is of Dagenham, and his date of birth is February 1974.

On 22 October 2014 Ms F Qureshi of Parker Getty Business Rescue and Recovery was appointed as Creditors' Voluntary Liquidator of Titus.

On 23 January 2017, the liquidator of Titus sought the assistance of the Official Receiver to see if the Share Purchase Agreement and directors' resignation were genuine.

On 5 May 2017 the Official Receiver's staff attended the final hearing of the Validity Application and decided that given that Mr Titu had made false representations to the Court and the Liquidator that it was in the public interest to carry out an investigation into this matter for disqualification purposes.

On 4 July 2017 the Insolvency Service wrote to Mr Titu stating that it was their intention to commence disqualification proceedings against him.

On 26 July 2017 solicitors for the Insolvency Service filed an application under S7(2) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 seeking permission to commence out of time disqualification proceedings.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/corporate-insolvency-effect-of-a-disqualification-order>

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

BEIS' mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy that works for all, in particular by creating the conditions for business success and promoting an open global economy. The Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team contributes to this aim by taking action to deter fraud and to regulate the market. They investigate and prosecute a range of offences, primarily relating to personal or company insolvencies.

The agency also authorises and regulates the insolvency profession, assesses

and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

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## **Press release: Will the Solicitor General find Goldilocks guilty?**

The Solicitor General Robert Buckland QC MP will join BPP University Law School Students to help school children in Wimbledon today to decide whether Goldilocks is guilty of burgling the Three Bears.

Pupils at Bishop Gilpin primary school will take part in a mock trial of Goldilocks where they will decide whether Goldilocks should be found guilty and sent to prison for burglary and criminal damage.

The Streetlaw session, designed by BPP's Pro Bono Centre, is aligned to the National Curriculum and explains the criminal trial process through the well-known fairytale, helping children learn about the legal system, courts and the people who appear in them in an interesting and enjoyable way.

The Solicitor General said:

Teaching children about their legal rights and responsibilities means they have a greater understanding of what they can and can't do.

Public legal education helps raise confidence and skills and provides a legal foundation that stays with people throughout their lives.

These sessions not only have a practical and a beneficial effect upon our legal system but on young people's lives. I'm looking forward to an enjoyable session.

Streetlaw is a national, public legal education project that is delivered by law students in universities across England and Wales. Students deliver interactive and engaging legal workshops that aim to educate community groups and school children about the law as it relates to them.

Victoria Speed, Director of Pro Bono at BPP University Law School, said:

Streetlaw is one of around thirty BPP pro bono projects delivering free legal advice and legal education across the country.

At BPP, we educate the next generation of lawyers. Our projects aim to improve access to justice and legal awareness in our communities.

At the same time, engaging in pro bono work really helps prepare students for practice as the real life experiences are invaluable.

“We hope to embed a sense of social responsibility in our students that stays with them throughout their careers.”

The Solicitor General will also visit the City of London University which has an extensive pro bono programme. He will meet law students who have been giving free legal advice – with guidance from qualified lawyers – to members of the public including victims of domestic violence

As part of the National Centre for Domestic Violence programme students are given full training to interview the clients over the phone and then fill in the necessary forms on line that would allow injunctions to be issued.

The Solicitor will also meet students taking part in the Centre for Criminal Appeals project which involves them reviewing miscarriage of justice cases and helping prepare them for submission to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.