

Press release: Foreign Secretary in Brussels for talks with EU Foreign Ministers

We are going to be talking about sanctions against those who have been involved in a series of chemical weapons attacks in Syria and I'm very pleased to say that this is one of the things that the UK government has been talking about for many months. There's been a series of chemical weapon attacks, the latest of which was the barbaric attack in Khan Shaykhun on April 4. What the Foreign Affairs Council will be agreeing today is that 16 named individuals will be sanctioned, their movements will be restricted, their assets will be frozen. They are military technical personnel, which shows the resolve of the UK and the rest of our friends in Europe in dealing with those who are responsible for chemical weapons attacks.

We will be also discussing the continuing crisis in North Korea. On the Testing of the ICBM that we saw recently, we remain absolutely determined to try to get the North Koreans to see sense and to continue to put pressure on the regime in Pyongyang. We think the best way to do that is to put pressure on the Chinese. We are seeing some progress there but a lot more to be done.

News story: Fine of £26,677 imposed for fisheries offences

On 7 July 2017 JJR Fishing Limited, owner of the fishing vessel Golden Sceptre PD50 and its master, James West, pleaded guilty to 2 breaches of the Fisheries Act 1981 at North Tyneside Magistrates' Court.

The court heard that in January 2017 the vessel was boarded by officers from the Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel HMS Severn which was carrying out fisheries enforcement duties in the area. During the inspection it was identified that the vessel was not transmitting on its Automatic Identification System (AIS), contrary to Section 30(1) of the Fisheries Act 1981 as read with article 10 of Council regulation (EC) No. 1224/2009. When questioned about this by the officers Mr West, who is also a director of JJR Fishing Limited, replied that he had turned the system off in order that other vessels would not be able to see where he was fishing.

The court also heard that Mr West had failed to comply with the obligation to submit a fishing vessel logbook, in that he had not submitted any fishing activity reports for two days' worth of fishing activity.

The vessel owner, JJR Fishing Limited was ordered to pay a fine of £15,750 together with an additional fine based on the value of the catch of £2,250, with a victim surcharge of £120 and court costs of £1,500.

The vessel master James West was fined £5,250 together with an additional fine based on the value of the catch of £1,250, with a victim surcharge of £120 and court costs of £437.

A spokesman for the MMO said:

“The court in this case considered these offences to be serious in nature and imposed significant penalties, which recognises the scale of offending that took place in failing to submit logbook information and failing to transmit AIS. Failing to comply with regulations which apply to commercial sea fishing carries with it the risk of fines of this magnitude.”

“In these cases the MMO will always take the appropriate action including prosecution to ensure offenders do not profit from such illegal activity and to protect fish stocks for the wider fishing industry and future generations.”

[News story: Minister Burt visits Iraq to underline UK support](#)

During his visit Mr Burt congratulated Iraqi leaders for the professionalism of the Iraqi Security Forces and the courage of the Iraqi people.

He met with Iraqi leaders including President Masum, Prime Minister Abadi and Foreign Minister Jaafari. Mr Burt also met with Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Lise Grande, as well as key international partners and UK military personnel.

Mr Burt emphasised that the collapse of Daesh in Mosul represents a major step forward in the global fight against international terrorism. He also stressed the importance of following up the military success with stabilisation and humanitarian assistance in liberated areas, progress on a lasting political solution, and efforts to rebuild the local economy.

Commenting on his trip, Minister Burt said:

Visiting Iraq was an important opportunity for me to congratulate personally Iraqi leaders, their security forces, and all Iraqis, on their victory in Mosul.

It is vital that the international community stands by Iraq as it begins the painstaking task of rebuilding and reconciling so that

families can return home safely. And I'm proud that the UK, as part of the Global Coalition will continue to play a leading role in providing military, humanitarian and stabilisation support to the government of Iraq. I was pleased to thank some of our Armed Forces directly for their contribution.

We will also continue to work closely with Iraq and our international partners to promote reconciliation and economic development, to foster long-term peace and stability.

Further information

News story: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Appoints David Blyth to the Board of the Theatres Trust

The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP has appointed David Blyth to the Theatres Trust Board for a three year term from 1 July 2017.

David Blyth has been involved in theatre and arts entertainment management for over thirty five years in both the commercialised and subsidised sectors. In 1987 David joined the management team of the local authority run Fairfield Hall Arts Complex in Croydon and over the next five years was Head of Operations. He joined The Ambassadors Woking as General Manager in 1992 and became Head of Operations for the Company in March 1997, while retaining the role of Chief Executive of the Ambassadors Woking. In February 2000 he joined the board of ATG as Operations Director. He subsequently relinquished the role as Chief Executive of Woking in September 2006 to concentrate on the expanded position of Operations and Buildings Development Director. In March 2011 he was appointed as Ambassador's Property Director, with responsibility for their portfolio of 39 venues across the UK, America and Australia. David retired from Ambassador Theatre Group in 2015. Since his retirement David has become the Chairman of the Marina Theatre Trust in Lowestoft.

Theatres Trust Trustees is not remunerated. These appointments have been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. It is a requirement of the Code that political activity by those appointed is declared. David Blyth has declared that he has not carried out any political activity.

News story: Culture Secretary appoints new Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) Trustee

Sue Wilkinson MBE has been appointed as a Trustee of HRP for three years from 1 August 2017.

Sue is Chief Executive of the Reading Agency. Before this she was Director of UK Academic and Government Alliances at Elsevier. She has held a number of prominent roles within the arts and education. Sue read history at Clare College Cambridge, trained as a teacher and did a post-graduate course in museum education at the University of Leicester. As Director of Policy at the MLA she created the groundbreaking quality and impact framework, Inspiring Learning for All, which is now used in museums, archives and libraries all over the world. While at MLA she worked with public libraries and their partners to deliver a wide range of programmes, and with local museums to establish, and secure funding for the Renaissance in the Regions programme. She was awarded an MBE for services to museum education in 2014. Sue is also a trustee of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The role is not remunerated. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for 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. Sue has declared no such political activity.