

# SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOUNCES THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Press release

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Right Honourable Chris Heaton-Harris MP, has announced the re-appointment of Deirdre Toner as Chair of the Civil Service Commissioners.



This appointment is for a further term of five years ending on 31 May 2028.

## **Biography**

Deirdre Toner's background is in Senior Leadership as Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director positions in the voluntary and public sector, focusing on mental health and community development. A graduate of public policy and later human rights law, Deirdre has over 30 years of experience of leading organisations, and 20 years of board and chair experience in the public sector in health and justice. Deirdre is currently a member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

## **Terms of Appointment**

- The position receives remuneration of £16,000 per annum for Chairing Civil Service Commissioner meetings and participation in Commissioner's business as required by the Civil Service Commissioners (NI) Order.
- The position is not pensionable.

## **Political Activity**

All appointments are made on merit and with regards to the statutory requirements. Political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a

requirement for appointees' political activity in defined categories to be made public.

Mrs Toner has declared that she has not been politically active in the last five years.

## **Regulation**

Appointments to the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland are not regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

## **Statutory Requirements**

Appointments to the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland are made under the provisions of section 36 (1) of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973.

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# **SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOUNCES THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF NIO LEAD NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

News story

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Right Honourable Chris Heaton-Harris MP, has announced the re-appointment of Leslie Philpott as Lead Non-Executive Director for the Northern Ireland Office.



This appointment is for a further term of three years ending on 30 September 2026.

## **Biography**

Leslie Philpott is a Chartered Accountant with a background in public finance and leadership at senior executive levels. He is a former Chief Executive of the Office for Nuclear Regulation and had previously held senior roles in Health and Safety Executive. His portfolio of non-executive experience includes membership of the NEBOSH Board, Mid-Cheshire NHS Trust, Benenden Healthcare Society and Board of the Government Actuary's Department.

## **Terms of Appointment**

- The position is a part-time appointment for a duration of three years.
- The position attracts a fixed remuneration of £12,500 per annum for a commitment of approximately 20 days per year.
- The position is not pensionable.

## **Regulation**

This appointment is not regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

## **Political Activity**

Non-Executive Directors to departmental boards are appointed on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity in defined categories to be made public.

Mr Philpott has declared that he has not been politically active in the last five years.

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## **[Making Women's Leadership and Participation in Peace and Humanitarian Processes a Norm](#)**

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to address today's meeting. I would like to pay thanks to our fellow co-hosts, especially the German Mission for hosting us here, and to our esteemed panel of experts for joining us today.

The United Kingdom firmly believes that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and humanitarian processes is crucial to

effectiveness. Women's participation in decision-making, peace operations and humanitarian interventions is not only a moral imperative, but it also improves the quality of policymaking and interventions. That is why peacekeeping, humanitarian action and women's leadership are central to the UK's new National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security.

Driven by this belief, we have consistently supported the UN's Senior Women Talent Pipeline and the Elsie Initiative to improve the gender balance in UN Peace Operations. We are proud to have committed \$7.4mil to Elsie since its inception.

Women's involvement in peace processes and political transitions is also an imperative for lasting peace. It is vital for UN peace operations to support women's participation in such contexts: such as in Mali's political transition and ongoing peace agreement implementation, and in the DRC through the Nairobi process and the government's new DDR process.

In humanitarian crises, the UK works closely with our partners to support women's leadership on the frontline of responses. Women's meaningful participation and leadership in humanitarian action not only improves outcomes for women and girls, but also strengthens the impact of the entire humanitarian response.

But endemic violence against women and rollbacks on gender equality are major barriers. We see this in contexts around the world, but it is particularly the case in Afghanistan today. We must continue to press the Taliban to ensure women's full inclusion and promote their rights, including to education.

The benefits of women's participation are clear. So let's act to build more effective humanitarian interventions and stronger, more resilient peace process, with women involved at every stage. I look forward to today's discussion and hearing from our panel. Thank you.

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## [Marine licence issued for Virgin Orbit satellite launch project.](#)

News story

The Marine Management Organisation has issued a marine licence for first UK space launch from Cornwall.



The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has issued a marine licence to the Virgin Orbit satellite launch project.

Virgin Orbit proposes to conduct a maximum of one launch in 2022 and approximately two launches per year over the next 8 years (January 2023-December 2030).

The licence issued by MMO covers the 2022 launch, the first of its kind in the UK. As there is material to be deposited into the sea that will be loaded in the UK, the activity requires a marine licence from MMO, as required by The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The decision is a result of close collaboration between MMO and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and follows public consultations which were carried out earlier this year.

Trudi Wakelin, Director of Licensing, Marine Planning and Global Marine at the Marine Management Organisation said:

As the independent marine manager and regulator for England's seas, it's important that we review any potential environmental impacts before issuing marine licences.

On this occasion, we have worked with primary advisers, interested parties and members of the public during the consultation period to ensure any potential impacts were considered and appropriately assessed.

This enabled MMO to issue the marine licence to the Virgin Orbit project, in preparation for their planned launch later this year.

Copies of the Marine Licence application and associated information may be viewed online in the [MMO public register](#). Case reference MLA/2022/00134. Additional information is also available from MMO's [selected cases page for this marine licence](#).

## Statement on the Chief of the Defence Staff's call with the Russian Chief of the General Staff

Press release

A statement on the Chief of the Defence Staff's call with the Russian Chief of the General Staff, General of the Army Valery Vasilyevich Gerasimov.



At the request of the Russian Ministry of Defence, the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, spoke with his Russian counterpart, General of the Army Valery Vasilyevich Gerasimov, this afternoon.

The Chief of the Defence Staff rejected Russia's allegations that Ukraine is planning actions to escalate the conflict, and he restated the UK's enduring support for Ukraine.

The military leaders both agreed on the importance of maintaining open channels of communication between the UK and Russia to manage the risk of miscalculation and to facilitate de-escalation.

The conversation followed the Defence Secretary's call with his Russian counterpart yesterday and a call between the Foreign Ministers of France, the UK, and the USA last night.