

National elections as the path to a stable Libya

- UK underscores “there is no place for foreign fighters and mercenaries in Libya”, and calls for urgent adherence to ceasefire
- UK affirms support for the Libyan decision to hold elections later this year and welcomes progress made in political talks

Mr President, let me start by yet again thanking acting SRSG Stephanie Williams for her leadership of UNSMIL. Stephanie, I want to thank you for your dedication to the Libyan people and to achieving peace. And I want to, through you, thank all of those working in UNSMIL.

And let me also take this opportunity to welcome the appointment of Ján Kubiš as the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Libya and Ray Zenenga as UNSMIL Coordinator. We are delighted that they will be bringing their formidable experience and expertise to bear at this critical time for Libya, building on Stephanie’s excellent work.

Mr President,

The UK welcomes the progress made by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum in recent weeks with the agreement on a selection mechanism for a new interim executive authority being of particular importance. We urge the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and all Libyans to make the most of this opportunity to appoint a new unified, inclusive government. I think we all recognise how crucial this period is, and that we must give our full support to UNSMIL, making sure that everything we do clearly contributes to Stephanie’s and then Ján’s efforts to help Libyans work together towards a new government, and successful national elections on 24 December of this year. Ensuring that the High National Electoral Commission receives the correct support to facilitate these elections should be a priority for the interim executive.

Mr President,

I’d like to underline the importance of the Libyan Joint Military Commission’s work on the ceasefire and wider security issues. We support the Commission’s 24 January statement reaffirming its commitment to the ceasefire and again calling for the withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries, noting with disappointment that the 23 January deadline passed without any sign of progress. Foreign military interference remains a blight on Libya, and a brake on progress. Let us be clear. There is no place for foreign fighters and mercenaries in Libya, whether those working for the Russian Wagner Group, the thousands of fighters from Syria, or any other external actor infringing Libyan sovereignty, failing to implement the 23 October Ceasefire Agreement, and breaching the United Nations Arms Embargo. It is crucial that all actors, Libyan and international, take all necessary measures to accelerate the implementation of the ceasefire, prioritising the opening of the Coastal Road between Abu Grein and Sirte, and the immediate

repatriation of all foreign fighters and mercenaries.

We welcome the Secretary-General's interim report on UN-led ceasefire monitoring and support his proposal rapidly to deploy an advance team to Tripoli, reflecting clear appetite from the Joint Military Commission. We look forward to hearing from the advance team how UNSMIL's mandate might be amended to further support implementation of the 23 October Ceasefire Agreement.

Mr President,

We remain deeply concerned by the economic situation in Libya and noted the Secretary-General's sobering warning in his report that the "Libyan economy is at a precipice". We welcome recent meetings by the Central Bank Board of Governors and the ongoing talks on budget unification. These are important steps to building united, inclusive economic institutions which serve all of Libya's people. But there is a long way to go and delivering a unified budget needs a unified government. This is urgent work and we welcome UNSMIL's commitment to driving it forward.

Mr President,

The Libyans have taken important steps over the last few weeks and months towards putting in place a new, unified transitional executive. They want to re-establish their sovereignty, to choose their own future through successful, national elections. There are still many steps to go, but the direction in which Libyans want to go is clear. We, the international community, and the United Nations, must do all we can to support them on this path towards peace and security. We must live up to the promises that we made one year ago in the Berlin Conference and that we endorsed as a Council in Resolution 2510.

Ensuring the UN is fit for purpose in 2021 and beyond

Mr President, Secretary General, thank you for joining us today and for outlining your priorities for the year ahead. The UK was honoured to host your first virtual visit of 2021. The visit marked how far the UN has come since those first meetings in London 75 years ago. We hope to welcome you in person soon.

Secretary General, in its 75th anniversary year, the UN faces a pivotal moment. As you said, a transition from annus horribilis to a year of hope and opportunity. Your ten challenges are clear. I will comment on three.

On COVID-19, we need to agree a pathway out of this crisis and build a more

resilient and responsive pandemic preparedness system for the future. The UK is committed to working with you in your call for the urgent funding needed to ensure COVAX reaches its targets for 2021, and vaccines reach all who need them.

Second, on climate, we have, as you say, to drive up ambition across all climate and environmental issues. As incoming COP26 President, we are committed to working with all partners to secure a balanced, negotiated package that keeps the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach and delivers for the most vulnerable.

Third, both COVID and climate increase the risk of conflict and its humanitarian impacts, which you set out: famine, migration, sexual violence and many more. The UK will use our Security Council Presidency next month to focus on conflict and hunger. We need to be better, as you said, at anticipating crises, and we must acknowledge that humanitarian crises require political solutions. The UK will continue to be a committed humanitarian donor and calls on others to step up at this time of great need.

In order to achieve our objectives we need to continue your ambitious reform agenda. We need a UN that is inclusive and fit for purpose. The UK is committed to working closely with you and the membership to get us there. Finally, Secretary General, may I thank you for the leadership you have shown during your tenure, particularly this past year. As my Prime Minister has already said, the UK fully supports your decision to run for a second term.

Secretary General, my question is on climate finance. Increasing the quantity and predictability of climate finance is a priority for the UK's COP26 Presidency. We are calling on all donor countries to commit to increased post-2020 finance commitments to achieve and surpass the \$100 billion goal, which is critical for developing countries. But as your recent report made clear, we are some way off meeting the \$100 billion commitment. What steps must the international community take now to ensure we meet this commitment in 2021?

Thank you.

Movement Assistance Scheme: **ministerial direction**

Defra Permanent Secretary Tamara Finkelstein has written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Rt Hon George Eustice MP who in return issued a ministerial direction.

The letters relate to the Movement Assistance Scheme.

Expert and Advisory Panel appointed for the Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid

The Expert and Advisory Panel, appointed by the Lord Chancellor, will provide support by testing and challenging the review's emerging findings and recommendations.

Sir Christopher, who was appointed by the Lord Chancellor on 21 December 2020 will chair monthly meetings of the expert and advisory panel, beginning in February. Sir Christopher will submit his recommendations to the Lord Chancellor later this year and it is intended that the report will be published by the end of this year alongside the government's response.

The review will consider the criminal legal aid system in its entirety, specifically it seeks to ensure that it:

- provides high quality legal advice and representation
- is provided through a diverse set of practitioners
- is appropriately funded
- is responsive to user needs both now and in the future.
- contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System
- is transparent
- is resilient
- is delivered in a way that provides value for money to the taxpayer

This is the latest step in the Criminal Legal Aid Review, which has already led to up to £51 million per year for the sector. It forms part of wider work to ensure criminal defence remains an attractive career for practitioners now and in the future.

The Lord Chancellor, Robert Buckland QC MP, said:

I am grateful to Sir Christopher Bellamy and his esteemed panel for undertaking this vital piece of work which will play a crucial role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the criminal legal aid market.

Chair of the Review, Sir Christopher Bellamy, said:

I look forward to undertaking my role as the chair and am very grateful to the panel members who have agreed to advise me on the analysis, findings and any proposed recommendations of the review.

Having a panel of experts with a range of backgrounds, skills and legal experience is vital in ensuring a thorough review of the criminal legal aid system

Expert and Advisory Panel

The Expert and Advisory Panel will be composed of senior figures and experts with a variety of backgrounds and expertise relevant to the review. The appointed panel members are:

- Sir Christopher Bellamy QC – Panel Chair
- Professor Sue Arrowsmith QC
- Richard Atkinson
- Kate Aubrey Johnson
- Professor Chris Bones
- Dr Natalie Byrom
- Jo Cecil
- Anita Charlesworth CBE
- Professor Dame Hazel Genn DBE, QC (Hon), FBA, LL.D
- The Right Honourable Baroness Hallett DBE
- Neil Hawes QC
- Dr Vicky Kemp
- Professor Stephen Mayson
- Margaret Obi
- Crispin Passmore
- Professor Neil Rickman
- Bill Waddington
- Dr Kevin Wong

Notes to editors

A short profile of each panel member below:

Sir Christopher Bellamy QC (Chair):

Sir Christopher is a former judge with a wealth of legal experience. He has recently stepped down as Chairman of Linklaters global competition practice and joined Monckton Chambers to focus on mediation and arbitration. Sir Christopher will lead a dedicated review team within Government and will have close oversight of the work to ensure it meets these terms of reference and delivers robust, evidence-based recommendations.

Professor Sue Arrowsmith QC:

Sue Arrowsmith is Professor Emerita of Law at the University of Nottingham, where she was formerly Director of the Public Procurement Research Group and leader of the EU Asia Link project to establish procurement research centres globally. She was appointed Queen's Counsel (honoris causa) in 2019 and in 2007 received the CIPS Swinbank Medal for thought innovation in purchasing and supply. She is currently a member of the Government's Thematic Trade Advisory Group on procurement and also served on its recent Procurement

Transformation Advisory Panel (2019-2020). She has served on expert reform committees of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport (2018-2019), World Bank (2012-2016) and UNCITRAL (2004-2012) and from 1994-2012 was on the European Commission's Independent Advisory Committee on procurement. From 1998-2012 she was non-executive Director of Achilles Information Ltd. She is currently working on books on allocation of rights and grants under EU law, foundations of EU procurement, Covid-19 procurement, and sport governance. She is also Editor of the international Public Procurement Law Review, which she founded in 1992.

Richard Atkinson:

Richard Atkinson is a very experienced criminal law practitioner, he is a solicitor with higher rights of audience. He has specialised in criminal law for over 25 years and has been a duty solicitor since 1991. He is a member of the Law Society's Council (2016- present) and is a past Chair of its Criminal Law Committee (2011-14 & 2017-20) and is the Past President of the Kent Law Society (2018-19). He is a member of the National Disclosure Forum, the PACE Review Board, and the National Implementation Team for Transforming Summary Justice and Better case Management. Richard was a member the reference group for Sir Bill Jeffrey's Review into Independent Criminal Advocacy (2014) and a member of the Review group of Sir Brian Leveson's Review of Efficiency in Criminal Proceedings (2015). He was a winner of the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year special award 2020.

Kate Aubrey Johnson:

Kate Aubrey Johnson is a child rights and youth justice specialist barrister and mediator at Garden Court Chambers and is recognised for her expertise in youth justice. She chairs the Ministry of Justice Youth Justice Working Group on Quality of Advocacy and recently worked with Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth to provide guidance to the Judicial College on sentencing children for the Crown Court Compendium. She established the Youth Justice Legal Centre, a national organisation which provides expert legal advice, guidance and training on children's rights in the criminal justice system. She also sits on a number of Advisory Boards and is currently helping to devise a national youth advocacy course with the ICCA. She is co-author of the leading textbook Youth Justice Law and Practice (LAG, 2019) and is consultant editor for Halsbury's Laws on criminal procedure involving children.

Professor Chris Bones:

Chris Bones is Chair of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, now in his second term of office he is the only non-lawyer to lead one of the larger legal professional bodies in England and Wales. He is Dean Emeritus of Henley Business School, Professor Emeritus at Alliance Manchester Business School, an Honorary Professor at the University of Exeter and a previous winner of the UK's Management Book of the Year Prize for his analysis of the contribution of private and public sector leadership to the financial crisis in 2008 – The Cult of the Leader (2011). Before moving to business education, he had an international career as a senior executive at Diageo and Cadbury

Schweppes. He is co-founder and Chairman of the e-commerce consultancy Good Growth and currently a Non-Executive Director of the Royal Devon & Exeter Foundation Trust. He is co-author of two book on e-commerce: Leading Digital Strategy (2015) and Optimizing Digital Strategy (2019).

Dr Natalie Byrom:

Dr Natalie Byrom is Director of Research at The Legal Education Foundation where she leads work on their Smarter Justice programme including the development of a new research centre- the UK Access to Justice Lab. From 2018-2020 she was seconded to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service as Expert Advisor on Open Data. Her final report to government sets out a series of recommendations for the ways in which the data architecture underpinning the courts and tribunals system should be developed to ensure that reformed justice system processes uphold access to justice. She is part of the BBC Expert Women Network and her writing has been featured in the national and legal press.

Jo Cecil:

Jo Cecil was called to the Bar in 2005 and practices from Garden Court Chambers. She has a mixed serious crime and public law practice, encompassing civil litigation in the civil liberties sphere, including inquiries. She is ranked as a leading junior in crime and civil liberties and human rights. In 2019 she was awarded Legal Aid Barrister of the Year. In 2018 she was awarded the Rising Star in Youth Justice Award by the Youth Justice Legal Centre and shortlisted by Legal 500 for Crime Junior of the Year. She is Chair of the CBA Remuneration Committee. Jo has a particular specialism in children and criminal justice and is a Trustee of Just for Kids Law, the Standing Committee for Youth Justice and formerly ROLE UK. She is a lead facilitator for the Advocacy and the Vulnerable and sits on the Ministry of Justice's Working Group on Youth Advocacy. She was also appointed as an independent commissioner on the 'Bach' Access to Justice Commission, is the Secretary of the Bar Human Rights Committee and is appointed as a Recorder in crime and family.

Anita Charlesworth CBE:

Anita Charlesworth is the Director of Research and the REAL Centre (Research and Economic Analysis for the Long term) at the Health Foundation, and Honorary Professor in the College of Social Sciences at the Health Services Management Centre (HSMC) at the University of Birmingham. She previously worked as Chief Economist at the Nuffield Trust (2010–14), as Chief Analyst and Chief Scientific Advisor at DCMS (2007–10), Director of Public Spending at the Treasury (1998–2007), as an Economic Advisor at the Department of Health and for SmithKline Beecham pharmaceuticals. She was specialist advisor to the House of Lords' Select Committee on the long-term sustainability of the NHS in 2016/17 and was recently appointed as an expert adviser for the Health and Social Care Select Committee. She has an MSc in Health Economics from the University of York. She is a Trustee for Tommy's, the baby charity, and also a Trustee for the Office of Health Economics. She was awarded a CBE in The Queen's 2017 Birthday Honours List for Services to

Economics and Health Policy.

Professor Dame Hazel Genn DBE, QC (Hon), FBA, LLD:

Dame Hazel Genn is Professor of Socio-Legal Studies in the Faculty of Laws at UCL. She was Dean of the Faculty 2008-2017 and is currently UCL Vice Provost International & Advancement. She is an expert on access to justice – author of *Paths to Justice: What People Do and Think About Going to Law* (1999) a seminal empirical study of public access to justice, which has since been replicated in 27 jurisdictions around the world. Her work has had a global influence on policymakers in relation to the provision of legal aid and the social and health effects of unmet legal need. In 2013, she founded the UCL Centre for Access to Justice, which delivers free social welfare legal advice to low income and vulnerable people in East London. She has been appointed to the Judicial Appointments Commission (2006-2011) and the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2003-7. In recognition of her contribution to the justice system, she was appointed CBE in 2000 and DBE in 2006. In 2006, she was appointed Queen's Counsel *Honoris Causa* and in 2008, she was elected Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn.

The Right Honourable Baroness Hallett DBE:

Baroness Hallett was called to the Bar 1972. In 1989 she became a QC and a Recorder of the Crown Court. She specialised in criminal work both prosecuting and defending. She was elected Chairman of the Bar Council for England and Wales in 1998. In 1999 she was appointed to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court and in 2005 she was appointed to the Court of Appeal. She was also made a Privy Councillor in 2005. She was elevated to the position of Vice President of Court of Appeal Criminal Division in 2013. In October 2019 she retired from the bench and was made a Cross Bench Life Peer.

Neil Hawes QC:

Neil Hawes Q.C. was called to the Bar in 1989 (Inner Temple) and appointed a Queen's Counsel in 2010. He is Head of Chambers at Crucible Law, a member of the Bar Council and Co-Chair of the Bar Council Remuneration Committee dealing with criminal legal aid fees. He specialises in business related criminal and regulatory work usually prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office and Financial Conduct Authority and has appeared in a number of high-profile cases including: Tom Hayes (Libor), BA/Virgin (airline price fixing), Goldshield Ltd & Others (pharmaceuticals), XYZ and Guralp Systems (both bribery prosecutions following Deferred Prosecution Agreements). Nominated for Crime Q.C. of the Year in 2019 he has consistently been recommended in legal directories for his business crime and corporate investigations work (Band 1). He also has extensive experience acting in serious organised crime cases and has represented numerous individuals charged with murder. He is a former Trustee and Chair of Governors at a state school.

Dr Vicky Kemp:

Vicky Kemp is a Principal Research Fellow in the School of Law and Co-Director of the Criminal Justice Research Centre, University of Nottingham.

She is also a member of the International Legal Aid Group. Throughout her career, she has been involved in criminal legal aid, acting as a policy adviser in the former Legal Aid Board and, subsequently, as a principal researcher in the Legal Services Research Centre, the independent research unit of the Legal Services Commission. Having published extensively, her research interests are on legal aid and access to justice, particularly for vulnerable people drawn into the criminal justice system. She is currently working on a Nuffield funded research project to examine the impact of legal safeguards on the detention and questioning of young suspects, which includes developing digital resources to provide child-friendly information on suspects' legal rights.

Professor Stephen Mayson:

Stephen Mayson is currently an honorary professor in the Faculty of Laws at UCL. He is also an emeritus professor at the University of Law and was previously Director of the Legal Services Policy Institute. He was called to the Bar in 1977 by Lincoln's Inn, where he is now a Bencher and chair of its Regulatory Panel. As well as more than 35 years' experience of advising law offices of all sizes around the world on matters of strategy, ownership, governance and finance, he has also served as a non-executive director and chair of a number of law firms and law-related businesses. In 2014-15, he chaired the cross-regulator review of the Legal Services Act 2007, which resulted in the submission to the Ministry of Justice of options for legislative change. In July 2018, the Centre for Ethics & Law at UCL announced that he would be carrying out an independent review of legal services regulation in England & Wales, and his final report and recommendations were submitted to the Lord Chancellor and published in June 2020.

Margaret Obi:

Margaret Obi is a solicitor and former partner in a leading criminal defence practice. She has extensive experience of a wide range of criminal allegations including murder, complex fraud and grave sexual offences and was a supervisor for Very High Cost Case legal aid work. In 2014 she became an independent legal adviser. She advises various international organisations, Legal 500 firms and undertakes independent reviews on behalf of large companies, banks, and other financial institutions under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, National Crime Agency, Financial Conduct Authority and Competition and Markets Authority. She also advises international legal teams defending allegations of war crimes in the International Criminal Court and intergovernmental disputes in the International Court of Justice. She is an independent reviewer, legal assessor, and Chair for various statutory bodies. She is a former member of the Law Society's Criminal Law Committee (2006-2015) and is the author of two practitioner books on prison law. In 2018 she was appointed as a Deputy High Court Judge.

Crispin Passmore:

Crispin Passmore is the founder and principle of Passmore Consulting where he works with a select group of high-profile legal businesses and law firms in

the UK and US, offering strategic and regulatory advice to Boards, CEOs and General Counsel. He also works with regulators around the world that are modernising or reforming their regulatory approach. He is a non-executive Council member and Chair of the Audit at the General Dental Council which regulates the UK's dental professions. His non-executive portfolio also includes Citizen Housing where again he Chairs the Audit & Risk Committee. Previously, Crispin was Executive Director at the Solicitors Regulation Authority where he led the regulatory reform programme. Prior to that Crispin helped set up the Legal Services Board as the deputy to the CEO. Crispin's deep and broad knowledge of the legal market has been built over more than 25 years in the legal market in a number of roles including running the UK's largest Law Centre and as Executive Director at the Legal Services Commission.

Professor Neil Rickman:

Neil Rickman is a Professor of Economics at the University of Surrey. He has also held posts at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Pembroke College, Oxford and a visiting position at Erasmus University Law School, Rotterdam. He is the author of a number of articles, chapters and reports on various aspects of the economics of the legal system and has also acted as an advisor to the Clementi Review, the Ministry of Justice (and its predecessors), the Legal Services Commission, the Law Society, several committees of the Civil Justice Council (including those established to advise on the setting of Guideline Hourly Rates in 2013/4 and 2020/21) and the Department of Health. In 2002/3, he was responsible (with Paul Fenn) for advising on the setting of Fixed Recoverable Costs for RTA Claims, the forerunner of the subsequent Jackson reforms.

Bill Waddington:

Bill Waddington is currently a Consultant Solicitor specialising in Criminal, Road Traffic and Regulatory law. He was, until January 2020 the Managing Director of Williamsons Solicitors based in Hull, where he remains as a Consultant. He qualified as a Solicitor in 1980 and has spent 40 years at the coal face specialising in legal aid work and as a Departmental head , equity partner , then Managing Director . He is a former Chair of the CLSA (2012-2015 and 2017 -2020) and is still an active member of the Committee. He is also a Law Society Council member and a member of the Law Society's Criminal Law Committee. In 2015, he was nominated for and won the prestigious Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Award. He was a member of the Bach Commission and has appeared before the Justice Select Committee on two occasions and has also appeared before the All Party Parliamentary Group.

Dr Kevin Wong:

Kevin Wong has over twenty-five years' experience in the criminal justice sector as a researcher, practitioner, policy advisor, trainer and commissioner. He is currently Reader in Community Justice and Associate Director of the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU) at Manchester Metropolitan University, leading PERU's criminal justice research and evaluation work. Prior to this, he held senior leading roles as: The Deputy

Director then Acting Director of the Hallam Centre for Community Justice Sheffield Hallam University: and in the voluntary sector as Assistant Director for Nacro, one of the largest social justice charities in the UK. He is Co-Editor of the British Journal of Community Justice and a member of the Advisory Panel on Probation Learning. He is the chair of the board of trustees of the Criminal Justice Alliance, a membership organisation with over 160 agencies operating across all aspects of the criminal justice system. He is a trustee of the Manchester charity Back on Track which provides employment and training support for people with complex needs. Prior to working in criminal justice, he was a practitioner and developed standards and shaped policy in the community legal advice sector.

Travel bans extended as United Arab Emirates, Burundi and Rwanda added to red list to prevent spread of new variant

- entry to the UK is banned for visitors arriving from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Burundi and Rwanda from 29 January 2021 at 1pm – British, Irish and third-country nationals with residence rights in the UK will be allowed to enter
- from 4am on Friday morning all arrivals who have, in the 10 days before their arrival in the UK, been in these destinations, and their households, will have to self-isolate immediately, and will not be eligible to use Test to Release
- move is in response to new evidence showing the likely spread of a coronavirus variant first identified in South Africa

The government has taken the urgent decision to ban travel to the UK from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Burundi and Rwanda to prevent the spread of the new variant originally identified in South Africa into the UK.

From 1pm on Friday 29 January, passengers who have been in or transited through the United Arab Emirates, Burundi and Rwanda in the last 10 days will no longer be granted access to the UK.

This does not include British and Irish nationals, or third-country nationals with residence rights in the UK, who will be able to enter the UK but are required to [self-isolate](#) for 10 days at home, along with their household. Passengers returning from these countries cannot be released from self-isolation through Test to Release.

There will also be a flight ban on direct passenger flights from the UAE.

The decision to ban travel from these destinations follows the discovery of a new coronavirus variant first identified in South Africa, that may have spread to other countries, including the UAE, Burundi and Rwanda.

Any exemptions usually in place will not apply, including for business travel.

British nationals currently in the UAE should make use of the commercial options available if they wish to return to the UK. Indirect commercial routes that will enable British and Irish nationals and residents to return to the UK continue to operate.

British nationals should check [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office \(FCDO\) travel advice](#) and follow local guidance. The FCDO will continue to offer tailored consular assistance to British nationals in country in need of advice on a 24/7 basis.

Today's (28 January 2021) action follows new measures announced by the government yesterday to minimise travel across international borders and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, including managed isolation in hotels and the need to declare a reason for travel. More details on these measures will be set out next week.