

Self Assessment deadline: less than a month to go

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PM call with Prime Minister Modi: 5 January 2020

News story

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to Prime Minister Modi.



The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Modi this morning, to express his regret that he will be unable to visit India later this month as planned.

In light of the national lockdown announced last night, and the speed at which the new coronavirus variant is spreading, the Prime Minister said that it was important for him to remain in the UK so he can focus on the domestic response to the virus.

The leaders underlined their shared commitment to the bilateral relationship,

and to continuing to build on the close collaboration between our countries – including in response to the pandemic.

The Prime Minister said that he hopes to be able to visit India in the first half of 2021, and ahead of the UK's G7 Summit that Prime Minister Modi is due to attend as a guest.

Published 5 January 2021

[GAD's role in the Balance Sheet Review Report](#)

News story

Initiatives supported by GAD are in a report into a project to improve public finances. The Balance Sheet Review identified opportunities for reforms.



Initiatives supported by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) featured in the government's [The Balance Sheet Review Report: Improving public sector balance sheet management](#) (BSR).

This publication is the culmination of a project set up to improve public finances. The BSR, which began in 2017, identified opportunities for reforms and improvements in the government's management of assets and liabilities. Examples of this included:

- setting out a public sector balance sheet framework
- improving risk management across the government's contingent liabilities and publishing the [Government as insurer of last resort](#) report

- unlocking value from [intellectual property](#) and other intangible assets in the public sector
- improving transparency around major asset sales and publishing guidance

Although the BSR has concluded, the government will continue to focus on improving balance sheet management.

GAD's contributions

The BSR includes several projects with which GAD has been closely involved such as the:

- risk protection arrangement for Academies
- [airline insolvency review](#) – the BSR found there was an opportunity to learn from the Review findings and review compensation arrangements involving ATOL
- [The Trade Credit Reinsurance Scheme](#), which was setup to ensure that trade credit insurance coverage and credit limits are maintained during the coronavirus pandemic – GAD modelled the costs of different scheme options to inform policy design
- clinical negligence claims – GAD works with [NHS Resolution](#) which deals with medical negligence compensation claims in England
- pooling Local Government Pension Scheme investments – GAD provided expert input to the initiative

Government Actuary Martin Clarke said: “GAD has worked closely with HM Treasury and others throughout the course of the BSR. It was very pleasing for us to be referenced in several places in the report demonstrating the range of government policy initiatives that actuaries are able to support.

“The review has set out balance sheet management policies and has noted that the work will continue in key areas going forward.”

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Change of British High Commissioner to India: Alex Ellis

Press release

Mr Alex Ellis CMG has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of India.



Mr Alex Ellis CMG has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of India in succession to Sir Philip Barton KCMG OBE. Mr Ellis will take up his appointment during January 2021.

Full name: Alexander Ellis

Married to: Teresa Adegas

Children: One son

Dates	Role
2020 to present	Cabinet Office, Deputy National Security Adviser
2017 to 2019	Department for Exiting the European Union, Director General
2013 to 2017	Brasilia, Her Majesty's Ambassador
2011 to 2013	FCO, Director of Strategy
2007 to 2010	Lisbon, Her Majesty's Ambassador
2005 to 2007	Adviser to the President of the European Commission
1990 to 2005	Postings to Lisbon, Madrid and to EU. British Government negotiation team on euro, EU Budget framework, Treaty of the EU and EU Enlargement; worked on South Africa's transition to multi party democracy.

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Aggressive trading practices lands health supplements boss with ban

Phillip Pass (59), from Chorley, Lancashire, incorporated Young Forever Limited in June 2018 and the company sold vitamins and healthcare supplements.

The Insolvency Service, however, conducted confidential investigations into the health supplements company after receiving complaints about Young Forever's trading practices.

Investigators found that the company was cold calling vulnerable or elderly members of the public using call centres based in India. Victims said sales staff would call repeatedly and made claims they were linked to the government or the NHS.

Young Forever also applied excessive mark ups of over 1000% and failed to keep suitable accounting records of the business.

Following the winding up of the company in February 2019, the Official Receiver conducted further investigations into the conduct of Phillip Pass as director of Young Forever.

Enquiries uncovered that while Phillip Pass incorporated the company, he allowed all sales activities to be controlled by an overseas call centre, claiming he had no knowledge of what they were doing.

Bank statements showed that in just over a year between June 2018 and September 2019, Young Forever made sales worth more than £147,000.

On 7 December 2012, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Phillip Pass, after he did not dispute that he had caused Young Forever to trade with a lack of commercial probity and use improper sales techniques.

Effective from 28 December 2020, Philip Pass is banned for 9 years from directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Rob Clarke, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

Phillip Pass's company took advantage of elderly and vulnerable people with their excessive cold calls and illegitimate orders. Phillip Pass claimed he did not have a day to day role but this was not a suitable defence as company directors are ultimately responsible for ensuring their business is operated with commercial honesty and decency.

Nine years is a substantial disqualification and this ban means

Phillip Pass has now been removed from being in control of any other businesses for a lengthy period.

Phillip Pass is from Brinscall in Chorley and his date of birth is May 1964.

Young Forever Limited (Company number: 11438575) was incorporated on 28 June 2018 with a serviced office address of Office 4, 219 Kensington High Street, London, W8 6BD. The company was wound up on 19 December 2019.

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 restrictions](#).

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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: