

# Lord Stewart of Dirleton QC sworn in as Advocate General for Scotland

News story

Lord Stewart of Dirleton QC was sworn in as Advocate General for Scotland at ceremonies in Parliament House, Edinburgh on Friday 4 December 2020.



Swearing-in ceremony at Parliament House. Credit: STV

Lord Stewart presented his Royal Warrant of Appointment, first to a bench of three Court of Session judges led by Lord Carloway, the Lord President, in the First Division courtroom and then to three High Court judges, again chaired by Lord Carloway, in Court Three.

Lord Carloway administered the Oath of Allegiance and the Official Oath and, after Lord Stewart had signed the official parchment, invited the Advocate General to take his seat at the table within the Bar of the Court, joining the Solicitor General for Scotland, Alison Di Rollo.

Lord Carloway, the Lord President, pointed out that while several new Senators of the College of Justice had been welcomed to the Bench under Covid conditions, Lord Stewart was the first Law Officer to “take the oath in this strange, but as now appears finite, era of physical distancing.”

Lord Carloway also said: “Lord Stewart’s transition from law to government reminds us that these two spheres of public life are not mutually exclusive. As the UK Government continues with the complex process of leaving the European Union and, in conjunction with Scottish Ministers, guides the recovery from the worst public health crisis in living memory, it is vital that it has access to authoritative legal advice on Scots law.

“That is something, with the benefit of a long career as a member of the Faculty of Advocates, that Lord Stewart is well equipped to provide.”

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## Home Secretary attends security conference in Bahrain

Home Secretary Priti Patel was joined by Chief of Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter, at the international defence and security conference, which attracts senior Ministers from across the world.

Across the 3 days, the conference focused on a range of topics from global governance in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic to building new security partnerships in the Middle East.

The UK is a major international player in the region and has long-standing security relationships across the Gulf. The government is investing in and working closely with partners to counter terrorism and promote stability, which has a direct impact on the safety of the British public at home.

Following the conference, the Home Secretary met senior Bahrain government ministers and regional counterparts.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

It was a pleasure to visit Bahrain, a country with which the UK's close and important relationship has flourished for more than 200 years.

I am committed to supporting Bahrain as it continues to make important reforms, and both our nations will work closely together to promote peace and security in the Gulf region and across the world.

On 6 December, the Home Secretary met her counterpart, Minister of Interior Affairs Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa. She reiterated the UK's support for Bahrain's security and police reform, and welcomed both nations' commitment to working closely on a number of joint security and counter-terrorism issues.

The Home Secretary also met Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa, Bahraini Minister of Justice, to discuss the initiatives being implemented in the country's justice system and areas where the UK might be able to provide support.

Following that meeting, the Home Secretary also had a bilateral with Foreign Minister Dr Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani in which she welcomed the Kingdom's efforts promoting security and stability in the region, and set out how the UK's new points-based immigration system will benefit the citizens of Bahrain looking to live, work or study in the UK.

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## Latest ESFA senior staff moves, December 2020

News story

An update from Eileen Milner, ESFA chief executive, on senior staff moves in the agency



Eileen Milner, ESFA chief executive said:

Following a competitive recruitment process, ESFA's interim Director of Professional and Technical Education [Sue Lovelock](#) has been appointed to the post on a permanent basis. Sue has been acting Director since November 2019, following Jennifer Coupland becoming the chief executive of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

Sue has been responsible for leading the Professional and Technical Education Directorate during the challenging period of COVID-19. This has included overseeing the successful launch of the very first T Level delivery in September 2020. Sue has a wealth of experience in delivering government programmes and will lead the work of the directorate through the challenging but critical next stages of continuing T Level rollout and complex qualifications reform.

I know Sue is hugely committed to building on what has been achieved and I congratulate her on her appointment.

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## The principal contractor for the Grenfell Tower site: an update

Our existing contract with the on-site contractor for Grenfell Tower will expire in June 2021. We need to re-procure the contract due to government rules and guidance on spending public money. It is a standard process and is part of the government's role in keeping the site safe.

From 8 December, we are inviting potential companies to bid to carry out some of the [safety and day-to-day maintenance works](#) on the Grenfell Tower site. We know that this will be of interest to some of the community. In this update, we explain how we'll approach this, as well as the ways you can be involved if you would like to be.

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## Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Greece: Matthew Lodge

Press release

Mr Matthew Lodge has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic in succession to Ms Kate Smith CMG.



Mr Matthew Lodge has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic in succession to Ms Kate Smith CMG. Mr Lodge will take up his appointment during summer 2021.

Full name: Matthew James Lodge

Married to: Alexia Arnaoutoglou-Ipeiroti

Children: two

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>2017 to present</b>	Paris, Minister and also United Kingdom Permanent Delegate to UNESCO
<b>2014 to 2017</b>	Kuwait, Her Majesty's Ambassador
<b>2010 to 2013</b>	Helsinki, Her Majesty's Ambassador
<b>2008 to 2010</b>	FCO, Head of Afghanistan Group, South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate
<b>2007</b>	Baghdad, Deputy Head of Mission
<b>2004 to 2006</b>	FCO, Private Secretary to the Permanent Under Secretary
<b>2003 to 2004</b>	FCO, Head of Greece and Cyprus Section, EU External Directorate
<b>2001 to 2003</b>	Brussels, Second Secretary – Political/Military, UK Permanent Representation to the EU
<b>2001</b>	Paris, Second Secretary – Press and Public Affairs
<b>1998 to 2000</b>	Athens, Second Secretary – Political/EU/Press and Public Affairs
<b>1996 to 1997</b>	FCO, Desk Officer – Bosnia Section, Eastern Adriatic Department

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