

## **News story: Minister Ellwood statement on death sentences in Gaza**

I strongly condemn the three death sentences carried out in Gaza on 25 May. This decision reflects a worrying trend of increasing use of the death penalty in Gaza.

It is the long-standing position of the UK to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances. We have repeatedly called for the de facto authorities in Gaza to respect the Palestinian Authority's moratorium on implementation of the death penalty.

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## **News story: Fast Track applications closed**

The Civil Service Fast Track Apprenticeship window is closed, our next window will open in Spring 2018.

If you would like us to contact you closer to the time to give you the exact date of when you can apply, please register your interest by emailing [fasttrack.events@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fasttrack.events@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk) and we will add you to our list and contact you closer to the time.

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## **News story: Apply to register a trade mark**

As part of our ongoing work to improve our digital services, we are implementing changes to the Apply to register a trade mark service.

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Apply to register a trade mark will function the same but with improvements to the look and style of the service.

If you have a draft application saved in progress (saved for later), then you

must submit it by 14 June 2017. Following this date, any draft applications saved on the current version of this service will no longer be available.

The change will take effect on 15 June 2017 and the first screen will resemble the following;

We would welcome further [feedback](#) to continue to improve this service going forward.

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## **[News story: Searching for a trade mark](#)**

As part of our ongoing work to improve our digital services, we are implementing changes to the current trade mark search service.

There are three trade mark search services:

- search by number
- search by owner
- search by word, phrase and/or image

The three search options will function the same but with changes to the look and style of the service, in particular the search by word, phrase and/or image.

Tabs have been introduced to categorise content, however based on customer feedback, you can also 'display content without tabs'.

The change will take effect on 31 May 2017.

We would welcome further [feedback](#) to continue to improve this service going forward.

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## **[Press release: New panel member appointed to Undercover Policing Inquiry](#)**

The Home Secretary has appointed Mr Justice Mitting as a panel member on the Undercover Policing Inquiry with a view to him taking over as chairman.

Sir Christopher Pitchford announced in February that he would not be able to complete the work of the Inquiry himself due to ill health.

After seeking the advice of the Lord Chief Justice and consulting Sir Christopher on suitable replacements, Sir John Mitting has been chosen by the Home Secretary to join the Inquiry as a panel member. He will provide support to Sir Christopher with a view to succeeding him as chairman.

Sir John Mitting has been a High Court judge in England and Wales since 2001. He served as the chairman of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission from 2007 to 2012.