

Veterans, service leavers and Forces-friendly employers descend on Silverstone for the annual Mission Motorsport National Transition Event

The event, now in its 3rd year, is centred on helping those who have left or are leaving the armed forces to successfully transition to a rewarding civilian career.

The event facilitates a forum enabling attendees to network with employers, sharing insights and best practice ideas to ensure a positive transition experience. In addition service leavers and veterans benefitted from LinkedIn, CV and interview workshops. Capping it all off was the opportunity to take part in passenger rides around the Silverstone circuit. Some of the famous faces taking to the circuit included Sir Chris Hoy, Jodi Kidd and Ben Collins (BBC's Top Gear former Stig).

Steve Lees, Jaguar Land Rover's Armed Forces Engagement Programme Manager, National Deputy Chairman of the Gold Award Association and the lead for Mission Automotive said:

The 2022 National Transition Event built upon the success of the event held in 2020, enabling forces-friendly companies to engage with service leavers, veterans and military spouses or partners exploring employment opportunities beyond service. In the Automotive Hall alone there were over 3,000 jobs companies are looking to fill.

Not only were employers able to meet individuals looking for employment, but also able to engage with other employers and speak to their veteran employees, sharing best practice and gaining insight as to how Armed Forces engagement can add value to their organisations.

Forces-Friendly employers attending the event included Gold Employer Recognition Scheme Award holders such as Jaguar Land Rover, X Forces, Recruit for Spouses, BAE Systems, FDM Group and Black Country Chamber of Commerce. In addition two organisations, Lila Connect UK and MSS ltd, took the opportunity to pledge their support to the Armed Forces by signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

This year the event also hosted the launch of Mission Renewable, mirroring the positive impact and success Mission Motorsport has achieved within the motoring industry, Mission Renewable is aiming to make the renewable industry

a destination of choice for service leavers, veterans and military spouses.

Speaking about the opportunities within the Renewable sector, RenewableUK's Deputy Chief Executive Melanie Onn said:

The number of jobs in the offshore wind industry alone is set to rise by over 40,000 in the next four years alone; this includes a range of team leadership roles and opportunities for people to use their valuable experience to learn new skills, so we're urging women and men with a military background to join us to build the energy system of the future. This will help us to reduce consumers bills faster while taking practical action against climate change.

Related links

[Learn more about the Mission Renewable initiative visit](#) [Find out more about Mission Motorsport](#) [Sign the Armed Forces Covenant](#)

[UK hits key Russian oligarchs with sanctions worth up to £10 billion](#)

- the Government announces UK has today sanctioned Eugene Tenenbaum and David Davidovich
- action against Roman Abramovich's longstanding business associates will freeze assets estimated to be worth up to £10 billion
- the measures, combined with others announced to date, cut key revenue sources for Putin's war machine

The UK has today sanctioned Eugene Tenenbaum and David Davidovich, bringing the total number of oligarchs, family members and associates sanctioned to 106 since February.

Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss announced the government will freeze assets connected with the pair estimated to total up to £10 billion, the largest asset freeze action in UK history.

This will prevent these assets from being repatriated to Russia and used to fund Putin's war machine.

In addition a travel ban has been placed on Davidovich.

These sanctions have been co-ordinated with action taken by the Jersey authorities earlier this week to impose a formal freezing order on assets suspected to be connected to Abramovich himself, valued in excess of £5 billion.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

We are tightening the ratchet on Putin's war machine and targeting the circle of people closest to the Kremlin. We will keep going with sanctions until Putin fails in Ukraine. Nothing and no one is off the table.

Eugene Tenenbaum has described himself as one of Abramovich's closest business associates. Corporate filings show that Tenenbaum took control of Evrington Investments Limited, an Abramovich-linked investment company, on 24 February immediately following Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. Tenenbaum, who is a director at Chelsea Football Club, is subject to an asset freeze.

David Davidovich has been described by Forbes as "Abramovich's much lower profile right hand man", and took over Evrington Investments from Tenenbaum in March 2022. He is subject to an asset freeze and travel ban.

Sanctions imposed by the UK and its international partners are having deep and damaging consequences for Putin's ability to wage war. Analysis shows Russia is heading for the deepest recession since the collapse of the Soviet Union with £275 billion – 60% of Russian foreign currency reserves – currently frozen.

Asset freeze

An asset freeze prevents any UK citizen, or any business in the UK, from dealing with any funds or economic resources which are owned, held or controlled by the designated person. UK financial sanctions apply to all persons within the territory and territorial sea of the UK and to all UK persons, wherever they are in the world. It also prevents funds or economic resources being provided to or for the benefit of the designated person.

Travel ban

A travel ban means that the designated person must be refused leave to enter or to remain in the United Kingdom, providing the individual is an excluded person under section 8B of the Immigration Act 1971.

Transport sanctions

Recently introduced powers make it a criminal offence for any Russian aircraft to fly or land in the UK, and give the government powers to remove aircraft belonging to designated Russian individuals and entities from the UK aircraft register, even if the sanctioned individual is not on board. Russian ships are also banned from UK ports.

Individuals sanctioned

- Eugene Tenenbaum, a Director at Chelsea Football Club and has described

himself as one of Abramovich's closest business associates. Corporate filings show that Tenenbaum took control of Evrington Investments Limited, an Abramovich linked investment company, on 24 February following the Russian invasion. Tenenbaum is subject to an asset freeze

- David Davidovich, described by Forbes as "Abramovich's much lower profile right hand man". Davidovich took over Evrington Investments from Tenenbaum in March 2022. Davidovich is subject to a travel ban and asset freeze

[Forestry Commission takes robust action to combat spread of tree disease](#)



Image of resinous cankers on a tree branch. Credit: Forest Research.

The Forestry Commission is urging woodland managers, landowners and the forestry industry to remain vigilant following further findings of *Phythophthora pluvialis* in areas across England.

The UK Chief Plant Health Officer has confirmed findings in the parts of the country following extensive surveillance activities by the Forestry Commission and other parts of the UK Plant Health Service.

Phythophthora pluvialis is a fungus-like pathogen known to affect a variety of tree species, including western hemlock, Douglas fir, tanoak and several pine species (in particular radiata pine). It is reported to cause needle cast (where needles turn brown and fall off), shoot dieback, and lesions on the stem, branches, and roots.

Phythophthora pluvialis has been detected on mature western hemlock and Douglas-fir trees at the affected sites, and has been confirmed as the direct

cause of the observed symptoms.

Forestry Commission, Forest Research and the Animal and Plant Health Agency are continuing to conduct further surveillance and diagnostic analysis to understand more about the pathogen and ensure that any required control measures are swiftly undertaken to stop its spread. This includes extensive ground and aerial surveillance as part of a UK-wide survey, and comprehensive research and modelling to explore factors such as climatic and potential species susceptibility and to help inform the management response. The introduction and extensions of demarcated areas help to prevent the accidental movement of tree pathogens.

Nicola Spence, the UK's Chief Plant Health Officer, said:

We are taking robust and swift action against the findings of *Phytophthora pluvialis* at these sites, as part of our well-established biosecurity protocol for tree pests and diseases.

I urge all sectors to support efforts to tackle this pathogen by checking the health of western hemlock and Douglas-fir trees. [Key symptoms](#) to look out for are lesions on the stem, branch or roots. Any sightings should be reported to the Forestry Commission via its [TreeAlert online portal](#).

The Forestry Commission is urging woodland managers, landowners and the forestry industry to remain vigilant following further findings of *Phytophthora pluvialis*.

New measures in response to these findings include:

For behind-the-scenes insight into the ongoing science, surveillance and eradication efforts controlling the spread of *Phytophthora pluvialis*, [read this blog](#).

Further information on [tree pests and diseases, and how to identify them, is available here](#).

Woodland managers are asked to [report any suspect trees via TreeAlert](#).

Published 25 February 2022

Last updated 9 June 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 9 June 2022

Updated the section 'New plant health requirements introduced to combat further spread of the tree pathogen *Phytophthora pluvialis*'

2. 14 April 2022

The Forestry Commission is urging woodland managers, landowners and the forestry industry to remain vigilant following further findings of *Phytophthora pluvialis*.

3. 25 February 2022

First published.

[UN Afghanistan pledging summit: chairs statement, 14 April 2022](#)

News story

The chairs of the UN Afghanistan pledging summit have written a statement on the outcome of the conference, which was co-hosted by the UK, Germany and Qatar.



Statement by the chairs of the UN Afghanistan pledging summit, co-hosted by the UK, Germany and Qatar.

Today 31 March 2022, we the co-hosts from OCHA, Germany, Qatar and the United Kingdom led the Afghanistan pledging conference for 2022. We were joined by the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres, 38 Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as well as distinguished representatives from 115 countries, organisations and International Financial Institutions.

This year the UN launched its largest ever humanitarian appeal recognising the unprecedented scale of the crisis in Afghanistan. More than 24.4 million people require humanitarian assistance to survive. Food security levels have plunged at a rate not seen elsewhere in such a short period, with half the population facing acute hunger, including 9 million people in emergency food insecurity – the highest number globally. Malnutrition is on the rise, and livelihoods have been destroyed. In response, today the

international community confirmed its support for the people of Afghanistan at this critical time.

Whilst we have seen a reduction in armed conflict across the country, its legacy still impacts the Afghan population with an estimated 6 million people remaining internally displaced, and the continued risk posed across the country by unexploded ordnance.

The Afghan people deserve to live in dignity, peace and security, reflecting the last two decades of their political, economic and social achievements, in particular for women and girls.

We, the co-hosts paid tribute to the tireless efforts of humanitarian aid agencies and workers in Afghanistan who have remained steadfast during these challenging times, delivering critical humanitarian aid through a difficult winter period.

We expressed our gratitude to the distinguished representatives of Afghanistan's civil society, who discussed the humanitarian situation on the ground, with a particular focus on women and children, for their tireless and courageous efforts in supporting the Afghan people.

Today's conference showcased the spirit of global solidarity and our enduring commitment to the people of Afghanistan:

- pledges of \$2.4bn in support of the continued humanitarian response
- in addition, announcements were made by International Financial Institutions, including initiatives of \$405m from the Asian Development Bank in support of basic services and agreement by the World Bank Board to make available \$1.2bn from Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
- there has also been generous support from Afghanistan's neighbours who provide vital in-kind assistance including food supplies, energy and infrastructure, and support for large numbers of refugees who have fled Afghanistan

We, the co-hosts committed to ensuring that humanitarian aid in 2022 is tailored to ensure that the distinct needs of women and girls are addressed in our support

The co-hosts expressed their appreciation to Martin Griffiths for his engagement with the Taliban to seek reassurance of their commitment to humanitarian principles and to continue to respect and facilitate the delivery of independent humanitarian assistance.

The co-hosts expressed their deep concern and disappointment at the Taliban's decision to restrict access to secondary education for girls, despite earlier commitments to do so. They reaffirmed the right to education for all Afghans, including girls, and called on the Taliban to respect the right to education for all, and adhere to their commitments to reopen schools for all female students. The co-hosts also underscored the importance of the international community engaging in constructive dialogue with the Taliban to make progress on this and other important issues.

[ENDS]

Published 14 April 2022

[New Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England announced](#)

News story

The Department of Health and Social Care has confirmed that Dr Thomas Waite has been appointed as Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England



Dr Thomas Waite will support Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Professor Chris Whitty as the deputy CMO (DCMO) leading on health protection, replacing Professor Jonathan Van-Tam who stepped down on 31 March 2022. His role will cover emergency response and preparedness, infectious diseases, vaccines and

therapeutics.

Dr Waite graduated in Medicine from Cardiff University and holds postgraduate qualifications in public health, medical toxicology and medical education. After his medical and public health training, he held posts in global health, infectious disease and environmental health protection. More recently he was Director of the UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme and helped establish the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team, leading their first overseas deployment to Ethiopia.

Dr Waite helped create and lead the Joint Biosecurity Centre which provided evidence-based, objective analysis to inform local and national decision-making in response to COVID and has been interim DCMO since May 2021.

Dr Thomas Waite said:

I am delighted to be appointed as the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Health Protection. I am looking forward to the opportunity of working with teams throughout the country to develop our preparedness for health hazards and emergencies and to protect the health of the public.

Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, said:

Dr Waite has an excellent track record of delivery. His wealth of experience in epidemiology and emergency preparedness will benefit the government's ongoing public health responses as well as help us to prepare for future events.

The CMO acts as the UK government's principal medical adviser, and the professional head of all directors of public health in local government and the medical profession in government.

The CMO is an independent position at permanent secretary level, supported by 3 DCMOs. The role provides public health and clinical advice to ministers in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and across government.

Published 14 April 2022