

Security and Policing 2022

News story

Countries, territories and organisations invited by UK Defence and Security Exports (UKDSE) on behalf of the Home Office, to attend the Security and Policing 2022 event.



UK Defence &
Security Exports

Countries, territories and organisations invited by Department for International Trade UKDSE to attend Security and Policing 2022 include:

- Algeria
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Bahrain
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Colombia
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan

- Kenya
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- NATO
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Saudi Arabia
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- UAE
- Ukraine
- UN
- USA

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Four new members appointed to Homes England's Board

The Secretary of State has announced four new non-executive directors to join the Board of Homes England, the Government's housing and regeneration agency.

All four members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board and will strengthen its capability and resilience. They will play an important role in helping the agency to build much needed new homes and regenerate places and communities across the country.

Housing Secretary Rt Hon Michael Gove MP said:

Our Levelling Up White Paper sets out our plan to spread opportunity throughout the country and regenerating our towns and cities is an essential part of this.

Homes England have been given a hugely important role in this work – spearheading the transformation of towns and cities across the country to create vibrant and thriving communities on previously derelict sites.

Strengthening the leadership at Homes England is an important step on our mission to deliver these ambitious projects and I warmly welcome these new appointments.

Peter Freeman CBE, the Chair of the Homes England Board, said of the appointments:

With a renewed focus on regeneration for Homes England, it is an incredibly exciting time to be joining the agency and I am thrilled that Patricia, Lesley-Ann, Ian and Mark have been appointed to the Board.

Their diverse range of skills, passion and experience from across the country will be vital in guiding the agency as it continues to deliver on the government's housing and regeneration ambitions. As the country moves beyond recent challenges and looks towards levelling up, Homes England's role has never been so important.

Building a sense of place and community is at the heart of what Homes England does through its broad range of activity. I welcome the opportunity to work with all four new Board members as Homes England continues to evolve into an even stronger delivery institution.

Pat Ritchie CBE is the former Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council and Chair of the Government Property Agency.

Pat Ritchie CBE said of her appointment:

I am delighted to be joining the Homes England Board as it renews its focus on regeneration. I look forward to helping to create innovative partnerships with local places to drive housing and economic growth as part of government's commitment to levelling up the country.

Lesley-Ann Nash is a non-executive director at Workspace Group Plc.

Lesley-Ann Nash said of her appointment:

Housing is significant challenge facing the country and has the potential to create important social benefits. I am looking forward to contributing to the work of the Board and the agency.

Mark Henderson is the CEO of Home Group housing association and founder of Homes for the North.

Mark Henderson said of his appointment:

I am really looking forward to joining the Homes England Board and to working with the agency to deliver well designed and, importantly, more affordable homes for communities across the whole country.

Lord Ian Austin was MP for Dudley North from 2005 until 2019. During this time, Lord Austin served as the Minister for Housing and Planning and Minister for the West Midlands. In 2020, he was appointed to the House of Lords as Lord Austin of Dudley.

Lord Austin said of his appointment:

I am very pleased to be supporting Homes England's crucial work in supporting the government's levelling up agenda and delivering transformative regeneration projects that are so important to providing better quality and more sustainable homes for communities around the country.

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About Homes England

Homes England is the Government's housing and regeneration agency. We have the appetite, influence, expertise and resources to drive positive market change.

Homes England welcomes partners who share our ambition to challenge the traditional norms and build better homes faster. For more information visit our home page or follow us on Twitter @HomesEngland.

About the New Board Members

Pat Ritchie CBE

Pat is an experienced senior leader in economic development, housing, and property.

She was Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council for over eight years, where she notably secured the multi-million-pound investment deal to bring Legal & General to Newcastle's flagship 'Helix' development and led on negotiations to secure a devolution deal for the North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority where she was the first head of paid service. Pat led the city's response to the pandemic and oversaw the Newcastle Covid Recovery Plan including an ambitious £50m plan to transform the city centre.

Pat was appointed to Chair of the Government Property Agency in January 2020. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the National Leadership Centre and a member of Newcastle University Council. She is a former Chief Executive of the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England) and former Deputy Chief Executive of the One North East Regional Development Agency.

Pat was awarded her CBE in January 2021 for services to Local Government and public service reform.

Lesley-Ann Nash, MBA, FCMA

Lesley-Ann spent two decades in investment banking, building and leading structured interbank businesses. She was a managing director of Morgan Stanley but left to offer her financial skills to government. She spent seven years in the Cabinet Office leading a range of commercial programmes which positively impacted both public and private sectors as well as citizens nationally.

On leaving Government, Lesley-Ann has embarked on a non-executive director career. She has been appointed to the boards of St James's Place plc (FTSE 100) and Workspace Group plc (FTSE 250). She also sits on the board of the business campaigning group, London First.

Lesley-Ann is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and holds an MBA from CASS business school.

Mark Henderson

Mark is Chief Executive of Home Group, with 55,000 homes under management across Scotland and England and one of the largest providers of supported housing, working with 26,000 vulnerable people in nearly 500 services. Home Group is also one of the largest developers of housing in the UK with a turnover of some £430 million per annum. It was voted the UK's best Landlord and best Housing Association in 2014 and 2016.

Mark is currently a director and trustee of Whiteley Village Trust. He previously ran his own business before joining Home Group, before that had worked with the RDA as Operations Director and a variety of regeneration and economic development jobs across the country in local government, most recently as Chief Executive of one of the largest County Councils in the country. He was also a former Board Member for the National Housing Federation and former Chair of Homes for the North.

Lord Austin of Dudley

Lord Austin has spent a large part of his career working to meet housing needs by tackling homelessness, improving the provision of housing and addressing problems of affordability.

Lord Austin spent a significant time of his career serving his local area of Dudley where he served on Dudley Council before becoming the MP for Dudley North in 2005. During this time, Lord Austin served as the Minister for Housing and Planning and Minister for the West Midlands. In 2020, he was appointed to the House of Lords as Lord Austin of Dudley.

Lord Austin also serves as a member of the Corporation of Dudley College.

Scammers targeting Self Assessment customers, HMRC warns

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is warning Self Assessment customers to be on their guard following the Self Assessment deadline after more than 570,000 scams were reported to HMRC in the last year.

At this time of year, Self Assessment customers are at increased risk of falling victim to scams, even if they don't mention Self Assessment. They can be taken in by scam texts, emails or calls either offering a 'refund' or demanding unpaid tax, thinking that they are genuine HMRC communications referring to their Self Assessment return. In the 12 months to January 2022, nearly 220,000 scams reported to HMRC offered bogus tax rebates.

Criminals target unsuspecting Self Assessment customers to try and steal

money or personal information. They use phone calls, texts and emails to try and dupe citizens, and often mimic government messages to make them appear authentic. In January 2022, phone scams rose to 3,995 compared to 425 reported in April 2020.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, said:

If someone contacts you saying they're from HMRC, wanting you to transfer money or give personal information, be on your guard.

Never let yourself be rushed, and if you're in any doubt then check our 'HMRC scams' advice on GOV.UK.

HMRC gave customers an extra month to submit a completed tax return and if customers filed by 28 February 2022, they would avoid a late filing penalty. More than 11.3 million customers filed their Self Assessment tax return by 28 February, with more than one million of those taking advantage of the extra time by filing in February.

Customers have until 1 April to pay their outstanding tax bill or set up a Time to Pay arrangement to avoid receiving a late payment penalty. Interest has been applied to all outstanding balances since 1 February.

Customers can now make Self Assessment payments quickly and securely through the [HMRC app](#). Customers choosing to make secure Self Assessment payments through the HMRC app can either connect to their bank to make their payments or pay by Direct Debit, personal debit card or corporate/commercial credit/debit card.

A full list of the payment methods customers can use to [pay their Self Assessment tax bill](#) is available on GOV.UK.

HMRC has a dedicated team working on cyber and phone crimes. They use innovative technologies to prevent misleading and malicious communications from ever reaching the customer. Since 2017, these technical controls have prevented 500 million emails from reaching HMRC's customers. More recently, new controls have prevented 90% of the most convincing SMS messages from reaching the public and controls have been applied to prevent spoofing of most HMRC helpline numbers.

HMRC is also reminding Self Assessment customers to double check websites and online forms before using them to complete their 2020 to 2021 tax return. People can be taken in by misleading websites designed to make them pay for help in submitting tax returns or charging to connect them to HMRC phone lines. Customers who are in any doubt about whether a website is genuine should visit GOV.UK for more [information about Self Assessment](#) and use the free signposted tax return forms.

The Self Assessment deadline for 2020 to 2021 tax returns was 31 January 2022.

The free [HMRC app](#) is available on either the App Store for iOS or the Google Play Store for Android. Customers will need their Government Gateway user ID and password to sign into their account for the first time.

In the last 12 months (to January 2022) HMRC has:

- responded to 572,423 referrals of suspicious contact from the public. More than 219,740 of these offered bogus tax rebates
- worked with the telecoms industry and Ofcom to remove more than 920 phone numbers being used to commit HMRC-related phone scams
- responded to 267,671 reports of phone scams in total. In April 2020 HMRC received reports of only 425 phone scams. In January 2022 this had risen to 3,995
- reported more than 6,160 malicious web pages for takedown
- detected 463 COVID-19-related financial scams since March 2020, most by text message
- asked Internet Service Providers to take down 443 COVID-19-related scam web pages

[Horizon Europe guarantee: open letters to the UK research and development sector](#)

On 15 March 2022, the government announced an extension to the support provided to Horizon Europe applicants launched in November 2021. This ensures that eligible successful UK applicants for grant awards will continue to be guaranteed funding as negotiations with the European Union continue.

The March 2022 open letter to the UK research and development (R&D) sector from the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation accompanies the announcement of an extension to the guarantee to provide a financial safety net for successful UK applicants to Horizon Europe, while the government continues to push to formalise our association as soon as possible.

The guarantee will now be in place for awards expected to be signed by the end of December 2022 while efforts continue to associate to Horizon Europe, as both the UK and the EU agreed under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) last year. Continued delays have led to uncertainty for researchers, businesses and innovators based in the UK and their consortia partners across Europe.

The funding will continue to be delivered through UK Research and Innovation, and details regarding the scope and terms of the extension to the guarantee will be made available on their website shortly:

In the 30 November 2021 letter, the Minister first set out the UK's commitment to association and his priorities for supporting the sector in all scenarios – including where association proves not possible.

Advice for fans travelling to Belgrade, Serbia for the UEFA Europa League match

World news story

Advice for fans travelling to Belgrade, Serbia for the UEFA Europa League match



Red Star v Rangers

Date: Thursday 17th March

Venue: Stadium Rajko Mitić (Red Star) – Belgrade

Kick off time: 18.45 (local time)

Passports, Visas and Insurance

- You do not need a visa to travel to Serbia; however, you should ensure that your passport is valid for the duration of your stay.
- Remember to take out travel insurance, even if you are only going for one night – it could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties. Please note that your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is not valid in Serbia.
- You do not have to carry your passport on your person while in Serbia but you should carry a copy if the authorities ask to see ID.
- If you lose your passport, you will need to apply for an Emergency Travel Document online. All information [here](#).

Getting to the stadium

The address for the stadium is Ljutice Bogdana 1a, 11000 Belgrade. For further information about the stadium, please visit [this link](#). Entry for away supporters is via Bulevar Oslobođenja street.

At the match

Advice for when you are at the match:

- Access to the stadium might be slow; there will be ticket checks; body searches will take place at the entrance to the turnstiles
- Glass or plastic bottles, cans, coins, poles, lighters, flares and pyrotechnics, video cameras are not permitted inside the stadium.
- Alcohol is banned within the stadium and 1km surrounding the stadium, 3 hours before and 3 hours after the match.

Tips

As in any other city beware of pickpockets and bag snatchers at airports, railway stations, around the town centre and when using public transport. Only carry what you need and leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposits. There is the potential for protests in Belgrade and other towns and cities. Protests can lead to significant disruption, including to public transport. Keep up to date with local developments and avoid any large crowds and demonstrations.

British Embassy address

Consular Section

British Embassy

Resavska 46

11000 Belgrade

Serbia

Telephone +381 11 306 0900 (also for out of hours emergencies)

Office hours: 0800-1630 Monday to Thursday and 0800-1300 Fridays

Emergency services numbers

- The police can be contacted on 192, ambulance 194 and the fire brigade on 193.

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