

# PM call with President Vucic of Serbia: 4 March 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to President Vucic of Serbia about the situation in Ukraine.



Today the Prime Minister spoke to President Vucic of Serbia about the situation in Ukraine.

Both the Prime Minister and President Vucic reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine's territorial integrity, and the Prime Minister praised Serbia's decision to condemn Putin's war in the historic United Nations General Assembly vote earlier this week.

The UK would continue to support Serbia's efforts to promote stability in the wider region, the Prime Minister added.

The leaders agreed to continue to work together on a range of issues, including across the energy sector.

President Vucic thanked the Prime Minister for the UK's leading role during this time of crisis.

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## Applications for care and supervision

# orders for children move online

Every local authority across England and Wales is now using the Family Public Law service online to apply for a court order to safeguard the welfare of children.

Launched in 2020 as part of our reform programme, using the online service, MyHMCTS, allows local authorities, courts and legal representatives to access the court information they need at any time and from any location. It makes court proceedings relating to children quicker and more efficient, giving families greater certainty.

Adam Lennon, Deputy Director, Family commented:

COVID-19 has shown the importance of MyHMCTS in providing a modern, flexible service that meets the needs of busy local authority teams. We have already processed almost 6,000 applications through the new system and we know that instant access to documents means cases can progress quicker, leading to more timely decisions for children.

We're really pleased with the way the service has been adopted. We've worked closely with local authorities across England to understand the way they work and listened to their challenges. We used that information to plan a phased approach to introducing the service across the country at a pace that meets their needs.

## **Benefits of using the service**

The service was developed in partnership with local authority legal teams. It provides the flexibility they need to progress cases and allows them to document every stage, improving transparency.

Legal professionals can upload documentation directly to the court file. This means all parties can view reports and court bundles, which contain all the information relevant to the application, and collaborate on draft orders at the hearing to begin the process of deciding the future of the child. Orders can be approved faster as a result, giving more time for parties to comply with directions and providing families with greater certainty.

Existing court proceedings relating to children are also more efficient. Judges receive automatic notifications when applications are received so they can begin assessing information sooner.

## **The future of the service**

As we continue to improve the service, this year local authorities will be able to make placement applications to request a child be placed with a named person. We'll give local authorities the option to select the court they want

to issue applications to, so that they can choose the most appropriate court for their circumstance.

Later this year, local authorities will be able to issue standalone applications for secure accommodation for young people, applications for child assessment and applications to withhold contact with a child in care.

Solicitors will be able to issue standalone applications for discharge of care and applications for supervision or contact with a child in care. This will mean that they can apply in the same way as care proceedings and will not need to make paper applications at the local court.

For more information, you can contact [publiclawandadoption@justice.gov.uk](mailto:publiclawandadoption@justice.gov.uk).

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## [UK visa applications in Vienna for Ukrainian nationals](#)

World news story

Guidance for Ukrainian nationals who want to apply for a UK visa in Vienna



British nationals and people settled in the UK can bring extended family members to the UK.

This means that people in the UK with parents, grandparents, adult children and siblings from Ukraine will be welcomed to the UK, subject to security checks.

See [UK visa support for Ukrainian nationals](#) for details of how and where to apply.

Please note, the British Embassy in Vienna, Austria, has no role in visa applications.

## [Ramsgate man has sentence for domestic abuse increased following referral to the Court of Appeal](#)

News story

Adam Fleming has sentence for grievous bodily harm increased after his case was referred under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.



A Ramsgate man guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to do so has had his sentence increased after his case was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP.

Adam Fleming, 27, inflicted life-changing injuries on his ex-partner after he severely beat her in the home they shared. His attack left the victim with a traumatic brain injury, meaning she now requires full nursing care and has to use a wheelchair.

On 7 December 2021, Fleming was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment with an extended licence period of 4 years.

Following the sentencing, the Solicitor General referred Fleming's sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme.

On 03 March 2022 the Court of Appeal found his original sentence to be unduly lenient and increased it to 17 years and 6 months' imprisonment plus 4 years on licence.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP said:

Adam Fleming's savage attack has left his former partner with life-

changing injuries, and she will never be able to live independently again as a result. No sentence can rectify the appalling damage done by Fleming, but the increased sentence shows that cowardly domestic abusers can expect to go to prison for a long time.

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## [Mental health issues in the workplace](#)

Press release

The Traffic Commissioner for the East of England made comments on mental health issues facing drivers in a recent public inquiry.



In a recent case, whilst the Traffic Commissioner for the East of England, Richard Turfitt, found William Morris of Linline Transport to have lost his good repute, he took account of some wider health issues, facing the industry.

The operator and Transport Manager had encountered mental health challenges for some time, made worse by the challenging conditions of the pandemic. Like many operators and drivers contributing to the national effort, he continued to work as a 'key worker' during the first lock down. The uncertainty of the pandemic and the lack of understanding about how the virus was transmitted, coupled with issues around container haulage, further impacted on his health.

The commissioner acknowledged that the availability and health of professional drivers is rightly a matter of national concern, given the reliance placed on the transport industries. It is important to recognise the additional pressures placed on drivers. HSE's publicly available guidance defines stress as 'the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressures or other types of demand placed on them'. It recognised that those suffering from stress may not be best placed to make decisions about any necessary

control measures.

The commissioner said “Drivers must feel able to report issues with their health and to talk about their problems. Driving can be a solitary job, placing drivers at even greater risk. Goods vehicles are essential for delivering products, upon which our economy and society rely, but those vehicles are useless without qualified and healthy drivers. As a society, we must not lose sight of the importance of the driver and that driver’s welfare; that includes their mental health. That challenge needs to be recognised across what frustratingly continues to be a male-dominated industry, and where evidence tells us that it may be harder to challenge societal expectations and gender stereotypes.”

Further details can be found [here](#).

For advice and guidance on mental health, visit [Every Mind Matters](#).

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