Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK)

Change of UK Special Envoy to Syria

2017-10-23

Dr Martin Longden

has been appointed as the UK's Special Envoy to Syria in succession to Mr Gareth Bayley who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment.

Dr Longden will take up his appointment at the end of October 2017 and combine the new role with his current role as Head of Near East Department. Prior to his current role, he was Deputy Ambassador, British Embassy Kabul.

Speaking on the appointment, Dr Longden said:

I look forward to representing the UK to drive forward a holistic approach to Syria and the region, while maintaining strong links with the Syrian opposition.

The only lasting solution is a political transition that can protect the rights of all Syrians, unite the country and end the conflict. The UK will continue to play a key role in the international efforts to bring peace to all Syrians.

Minister for the Middle East Alistair Burt said:

The UK is working tirelessly to bring a peaceful solution to the Syria conflict. There can be no military solution to this tragedy, and neither Syria nor the region can be properly stabilised until we see a genuine transition to a new government in Damascus.

Martin's extensive diplomatic experience will ensure he is well prepared to continue our efforts towards a political solution in Syria.

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