

Male blood donor turned away for refusing to say if he was pregnant

Scottish GP who declined to answer 'bonkers' question denied right to go ahead with procedure

By Daniel Sanderson
SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

A MALE GP has been prevented from donating blood to the Scottish NHS after he refused to confirm whether or not he was pregnant. Steffen McAn-

drew, who works in Prestwick, South Ayrshire, said he had been turned away from a blood donation centre in nearby Ayr after he refused to answer the "bonkers" question.

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) claimed the question had been introduced a year ago for "donor safety" with everyone expected to confirm if they are pregnant or had been recently, regardless of their sex.

The service said that it was updating the wording on its form, following a backlash, but still plans to have male

donors respond to a question about whether or not they are pregnant.

Dr McAndrew said he had been a regular blood donor before the pandemic, and booked an appointment to donate at Belmont Academy on Tuesday for the first time since Covid struck. However, a nurse told him he would be unable to go ahead with the donation after he declined to answer the question on pregnancy which he suspected was included to "placate and pacify the gender brigade".

Some transgender activists say it is



Dr Steffen McAndrew was told that he could not donate blood as he had not confirmed whether or not he was pregnant

possible for men to become pregnant, as they believe trans men, who were born female, are literally men. However, Dr McAndrew said he was a man and "therefore I cannot be pregnant".

Dr McAndrew told *The Herald*: "I can't believe they would refuse a donation from a man based on the fact I refused to say if I was pregnant."

"I can also understand those who have suggested, 'just tick the box', to enable a donation. However it is the principle of the matter. To say it is bonkers is an understatement. I have a nagging feeling that it is political correctness gone too far, trying to placate and pacify the gender brigade."

"I am hugely supportive of the blood transfusion service. They are vital to the day-to-day operation of the NHS. But I really think they are shooting themselves in the foot with this."

"It's a fundamental problem in the NHS, and society, that common sense has been lost, obliterated."

The Daily Telegraph disclosed last year that an internal report for NHS Scotland had called for "a general move away from gendered healthcare" to appease transgender patients.

Experts have raised fears that what activists see as "inclusive language" in the NHS is dehumanising and could confuse those who do not speak good English.

Following complaints, the SNBTS said it planned to change the wording on its form, with potential blood donors told to tick "no" to the pregnancy question if it is "not applicable".

An SNBTS spokesman said that the question "is asked for donor safety", adding: "We appreciate that for many donors (including some female donors such as post menopausal donors) this question will not be relevant."

"Following donor feedback, we are planning to update the wording of the question to 'Are you pregnant, or have you been pregnant in the last six months?' (If not applicable, please tick no)"

"This is likely to be implemented at the next donor health check update due in summer 2023."



Deep distress Enormous waves pounded the coast at Cape Cornwall on Wednesday as Storm Noa lashed Britain with heavy rain and winds of up to 96mph, downing trees and power lines and reportedly leaving hundreds in a blackout. Yesterday, a body was recovered close to the Palace Pier in Brighton after reports that a swimmer had been swept out to sea. *Weather: Page 29*

Don't fret if your garden is wilting in the weather – Monty's is, too

By Ayomilekan Adegunwa

KEEN gardeners who found last year's flowers were late to bloom or only grew to half their usual height would be forgiven for thinking they had lost their green thumb, but it turns out that even Monty Don had trouble in his garden.

The horticulturalist has revealed he is set to swap the gingers, cannas and

dahlias at Longmeadow, Herts, which is familiar to *Gardener's World* viewers, for "truly hardy" plants that can better weather the changing conditions.

The broadcaster and writer said the drought, mildness and extreme heat of the past 12 months saw a 50C difference between the hottest and coldest times of the year, which made conditions "unworkable" for many of his plants.

Speaking about the changing climate, the 67-year-old told the BBC *Gardeners World Magazine*: "It began not with drought and heat of last summer, but the drought and extreme mildness of the preceding winter."

"Then came last summer's heat and drought. The results were unexpected seemingly erratic."

"Sunflowers grew to half their size

and floriferousness, the bananas did not grow at all."

"Our dahlias flowered up to six weeks later than normal, as did the gingers – and then only half heartedly."

When filming finished in November, the garden was packed up like usual. The flowers were dug up, potted, and stored in sheds and greenhouses, to keep away the winter rain, as well as the

winter cold. However, last year the cold came much harder than anticipated, and dropped as low as -14C at Longmeadow.

He said the effects of climate change and the lurch between temperature extremes calls for a degree of watering in the summer that is "socially and practically undesirable – even if we did have our own unlimited supply in the middle

of a drought, which we did not". He added that it means the plants he had before are no longer a practical option, and his garden will look "very different" next year. He plans on introducing a "new palette of perennial plants that are truly hardy", including some tree dahlias and ensete, adding that he is excited by the change and sees it as "more of an opportunity than a loss".

Seabird numbers drop after offshore wind farms erected

By Joe Pinkstone
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

POPULATIONS of a diving seabird plummeted by more than 90 per cent after offshore wind farms were built, a study has found.

Data from German scientists looked at the number of red-throated loons in the North Sea before and after the installation of five offshore wind farms.

Numbers of the bird were found to be up 94 per cent lower within 1km of the wind turbines, on average, after they were built. The impact was felt further afield too, with an average decline of 52 per cent in the bird numbers up to 10km from the turbines.

Wind turbines in the North Sea are seen as a key way to generate enough renewable electricity to allow for the phasing out of fossil fuels and to help reach net zero ambitions.

The study focused on five wind farms in the North Sea which are close to the coast of Denmark and Germany. One farm, called Butendiek, saw a 99 per cent decline in numbers of the birds.

The scientists, led by Kiel University, wrote: "In all cases, the wind farms created a kind of halo around these constructions, with low to very low abundances of loons."

The red-throated loon, also known as the red-throated diver, is the smallest

and lightest of the UK's diving birds. Previous studies have found wind farms can affect other species, but no other seabird has been found to be so deleteriously impacted by offshore wind farms, the authors claim.

In the study, the scientists wrote: "Although renewable energies will be needed to provide a large share of our energy demands in the future, it is necessary to minimise the costs in terms of

94pc

The amount by which numbers of red-throated loons dropped within 1km of wind turbines after they were built

less-adaptable species, to avoid amplifying the biodiversity crisis."

Aly McCluskie, senior conservation scientist at RSPB, told *The Daily Telegraph* that it is "vital that as we rapidly grow renewables as part of the imperative need to tackle climate change, we also ensure that we take action to protect and recover our marine environment by avoiding the most important places for wildlife and restoring nature to our seas at scale".

The research was published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.



Small fortune A 2ft-tall bronze maquette of Sir Winston Churchill, much loved by him and his wife, has sold for £260,000. It was made by his friend, Oscar Nemon.

Legal obstacle may torpedo Dambuster migrant camp plan

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

A COUNCIL has pulled off a planning coup that could thwart the Home Office's proposals to turn the Dambusters' former base into a migrant camp.

RAF Scampton – the former home to the Dambusters' squadron and the Red Arrows – was yesterday given extra legal protection from the asylum seekers' scheme by being included in a new local regeneration plan.

West Lindsey district council believes it could provide the legal ammunition it needs to shoot down the Home Office's proposal to turn the former RAF base into a camp for 1,700 asylum seekers.

The site has been designated an "opportunity area" under the new local plan for central Lincolnshire, which is largely because the council has negotiated a £300million deal with developers to preserve the historic base as an operational aviation and aerospace hub and a new national heritage site.

It means that the Home Office could be found to be in breach of planning rules if it goes ahead with its asylum camp.

The council has already begun legal action by sending a pre-action letter to the Home Office ahead of seeking a judicial review of the asylum scheme.



ZACHARY CULPIN/BNPS

V for very small A 2ft maquette of Sir Winston Churchill made by his friend Oscar Nemon is on sale at Duke's Auctioneers in Dorchester, Dorset, next month. The bronze, listed for £100,000, was the basis for a sculpture in the House of Commons

Reliance grows on overseas doctors as GPs burn out

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Almost half of specialist doctors in England and Wales were born outside the UK, new figures revealed yesterday.

Analysis of census data by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that 47.5 per cent of specialist medical practitioners, such as oncologists and cardiologists, were born abroad.

The largest foreign-born proportion came from the Middle East and Asia, at 26.3 per cent of specialists, followed by 8.5 per cent from Africa.

Two in five (40.6 per cent) of GPs were born outside the UK, the figures showed, with 21.8 per cent born in the Middle East and Asia and 9 per cent in Africa. One in six nurses in England and Wales (18.1 per cent) were born abroad, with the figure rising to 26.9 per cent for mental health nurses, the ONS said. One in 11 paramedics were also born outside the UK.

Chaand Nagpaul, a former British Medical Association council chairman, told The Times: "These figures highlight how doctors qualifying from abroad are an absolutely integral part of the NHS. We need to embrace the diverse workforce we have."

"Many of these doctors are highly trained and have knowledge and experience from outside the UK. It allows for more diverse care in an increasingly diverse population."

Overall data found that of all people aged 16 years and over in England and Wales, 55.9 per cent of those born in the UK were in employment on the day of the census in 2021.

That compared with 70.8 per cent of those born in the EU and 58 per cent among those born in non-EU countries. The ONS said the younger average age of those born outside the UK was a factor. Within the EU-born population, Romania and Bulgaria had

the highest percentage in employment, at 80.4 per cent.

It comes as a report found GPs in the UK are under "extreme strain" and have the highest stress levels compared with doctors in nine other high-income countries. The study, by the Health Foundation charity, found UK GPs also had lower job satisfaction than those in France, Germany, the US, Canada, Sweden, Holland, Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand.

Just a decade earlier UK GPs were among the most satisfied of any country, the report said. The study analysed data from a survey of 9,526 GPs across ten high-income countries, including 1,010 in the UK, carried out by the Commonwealth Fund.

It found most GPs in all countries were dealing with higher workloads than before the Covid pandemic, and "many have experienced greater stress and signs of emotional distress".

However, GPs working in the UK reported higher levels of emotional distress and bigger rises in workload than GPs in nearly all other countries. Many were considering leaving the profession altogether, the report said. Seventy-one per cent of UK GPs said they found their job extremely or very stressful, the highest of the ten countries surveyed.

Hugh Alderwick, director of policy at the Health Foundation, said: "The NHS is not the only health system under pressure, but the experience of GPs in the UK should ring alarm bells for the government. General practice is the foundation of the NHS, yet GPs are telling us loud and clear that these foundations are creaking."

"The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on UK GPs, combined with longer-run challenges including staff gaps and rising workload. GPs are stressed out and burnt out — and many are considering leaving their jobs."

Funding model doesn't let us help NHS, say pharmacists

Kat Lay Health Editor
Georgia Lambert

Pharmacists are increasingly likely to choose private work over NHS schemes because of outdated funding arrangements, The Times Health Commission has heard.

Ministers have been keen to promote community pharmacies as an alternative source of care, potentially taking pressure off GP surgeries.

However, Ade Williams, a fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, told The Times Health Commission — a year-long inquiry into health and social care in the UK — that such a shift was not possible at scale under current rules. Williams, the director and superintendent pharmacist of the M J Williams Pharmacy Group, said NHS funding for pharmacies currently relied on them dispensing drugs, rather than providing other healthcare services.

"The fundamental bedrock of our problems is that community pharmacy has responded to the funding," he said. "So the funding model says that you are funded more to dispense. So most people dispense."

He added: "The NHS has never really fully appreciated the skills and offer of

pharmacists, broadly speaking. I think that there is now convergence towards looking at a more private-funded model of care."

In recent weeks, large pharmaceutical chains such as Lloyds and Boots have announced plans to set up private services to supply prescription-only weight loss drugs such as Wegovy.

Looking to the future, Williams said that there was a "generational shift" and young pharmacists, with a wider skillset and clinical expertise, were interested in innovation and areas such as biotech. "The NHS model doesn't seem to be able to keep up with that," he added.

Williams's pharmacy group has spearheaded initiatives such as blood pressure checks in pubs. "One of the reasons has driven me to innovate... is that you can't wait for the NHS to do this," he said. "So we will do this and we will partner with private health organisations, we will go out into the community and deliver population health management, we will showcase what is done, but then to fund it, we need then to almost create private pathways."

"That is the tragedy of it, that we could be the most valuable NHS asset in our community."



UK Government

Help for Households

In the time it takes you to read this, you could...

Turn your



flow temperature down to 60°



off lights and



you're not

using, replace an old



for a new

energy-saving



or keep warmth in

by closing all of your



at night

They all add up and could save you hundreds of pounds on your energy bill



Scan for more energy-saving tips or visit [gov.uk/saveenergy](https://www.gov.uk/saveenergy)

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you

have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task. For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	YOUR ANSWERS
7	SQUARE IT	+37	50% OF THIS	-25
÷6	+48	÷3	-12	
342	-166	7/8 OF THIS	+76	20% OF THIS
REVERSE THE DIGITS	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	+248	3/8 OF THIS	
145	INCREASE BY 80%	+183	÷12	-23
SQUARE IT	+146	7/9 OF THIS	+275	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
EUROMILLIONS
1 9 20 29 32 2 3
THUNDERBALL
1 10 14 19 39 4

MONDAY, MARCH 20
SET FOR LIFE 3 24 30 35 44 9
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
LOTTERY 13 22 39 46 54 59 58
THUNDERBALL 19 20 25 28 31 14

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
2 10 34 46 50 3
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
1 7 14 15 27 11

The society benefiting from all draws in the month ending March 31, 2023, is SNE Health CIC T/A H/L Northeast & Cumbria

EXPRESS TRAVEL

Kenya Grand Safari

DEPARTS MAY 2023 - NOVEMBER 2024

SAVE UP TO 10%*

9 DAYS NOW FROM £3,321 PER PERSON



Enjoy unforgettable close-up encounters with wildlife, the scenic wonders of the forested highlands and the teeming plains of the Maasai Mara. Discover for yourself what is arguably East Africa's greatest natural wonderland as you visit a quartet of protected national parks and reserves.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS & INCLUSIONS

- Six game drives in search of the Big Five
- A visit to a Maasai village
- Explore the most iconic national park in Kenya
- Spend a night in Nairobi – Kenya's engaging capital
- Journey through the Rift Valley to Lake Nakuru National Park – a giraffe and rhino sanctuary
- Visit historic Nyahururu – formerly 'Thompson Falls'
- Six nights' full-board accommodation in game lodges
- One nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at a five-star hotel in Nairobi
- Return flights to Nairobi
- Fully escorted by friendly, experienced drivers and safari guides

CALL US ON 0333 344 0035 OR VISIT EXC.NEWMARKETHOLIDAYS.CO.UK



TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Single supplements apply. Standard landline charges apply. These holidays are organised and operated by Newmarket Holidays Ltd. ABTA V7812. ATOL protected 2325. Calls cost 13p p/min from a BT landline. For customer services call 0330 160 7912. Prices correct at time of going to press. *Save up to 10% offer applies to new bookings made by 2nd May 2023. Exclusions apply and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Prices shown include discount and are based on two people sharing a twin room. Subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time.



PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Monday:
Is the Government right to press on with the Rwanda plan?

YES: 98%
NO: 2%

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR A PHOTO?

If you have a story:
020 8612 7077
or email:
expressnews@reachplc.com

If you have a photo:
020 8612 7171
or email:
expresspix@express.co.uk

For general inquiries:
020 8612 7000
WWW.EXPRESS.CO.UK
FOR GREAT READER OFFERS

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

	9	7				5	6	
6	8						4	7
5			3	7	6			9
		8	7		5	9		
		5				8		
		2	4		3	7		
8			9	3	2			1
1	2						5	8
	3	4				6	9	

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurry. For today's solution call: **09071 812 571** (Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge) For extra clues call: **09013 225 602** (Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge) **MORE PUZZLES - PULLOUT YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

6	2	1	5	9	7	4	8	3
7	5	4	1	8	3	6	2	9
9	8	3	2	6	4	5	1	7
8	1	7	3	2	5	9	4	6
4	9	6	7	1	8	3	5	2
2	3	5	6	4	9	8	7	1
1	7	9	8	5	6	2	3	4
3	6	8	4	7	2	1	9	5
5	4	2	9	3	1	7	6	8

Picture: BNPS

Man of steel...the bronze forerunner of Winston's full-size Commons statue



Six-figure sum for 2ft statue Churchill adored

THIS Sir Winston Churchill statue – loved by the wartime PM and his wife – may sell for a six-figure sum.

The 2ft tall bronze maquette is by sculptor Oscar Nemon, a confidant of the Second World War leader.

A one-off, it was the basis of the lifesize figure unveiled by Winston's widow Lady Clementine in 1969, four years after he died. She said of the Croatian refugee artist's work: "It represents to me my husband as I see him and as I think of him."

The statue is being sold by the family of late businessman Sir Edward du Cann. He bought it from

By **James Podesta**

fellow Tory MP Sir John Langford-Holt, who had obtained it from the sculptor. The lot includes a letter from Nemon saying the statue is "the first cast in bronze of the scale model of the statue of Sir Winston Churchill...unveiled in the Members Lobby of the House of Commons".

The April 5 auction is being run by Duke's, of Dorchester, Dorset. A spokesman said: "According to Nemon, Churchill was not an easy subject and he could be 'bellicose'. [They] developed a great rapport."

News

Police station displays poster classing rape as non-emergency

By Jack Hardy CRIME CORRESPONDENT
A POLICE force has faced a backlash over a poster saying that rape and sexual assault were "non-emergency" crimes that could be reported online.

Kent Police stuck the A4 printout on the window of the front door of a station in Maidstone, which placed the crimes alongside offences such as antisocial

behaviour. The poster said the force's website could also be used to send "compliments" and make "general inquiries".

A picture of the poster was shared online and led to accusations that Kent Police was underestimating the seriousness of rape and sexual assaults. A Twitter user who posted the picture of the sign said: "How can you downplay such

a horrific and violent crime? I get it's hard to prove, but going about it like this ain't the way."

Kent Police claimed the sign had been placed in the window by a member of staff at the front desk, but it had since been replaced.

The force did not specify how long the sign had been on display in the window. A spokesman said: "Kent Police

has been running a campaign called Click B4 U Call, aimed at encouraging people, where appropriate, to use the online reporting system rather than the 101 telephone number to free up contact handlers.

"The poster in question was put up by a member of police staff at the front counter in Maidstone police station but has since been removed and replaced

by a poster clarifying our advice about how best to report crimes to us."

Det Ch Supt Emma Banks, the force's head of protecting vulnerable people, said: "We urge anyone to call us on 999 if there is a crime in progress or if someone is in immediate danger. Doing so can make the difference between arresting a suspect at the scene and in some cases saving a life. We also sup-

port victims in reporting offences in a number of other ways, often for crimes which are not in progress and which may have happened in the past. This can be done online, or through means including text messaging services.

"Kent Police takes the investigation of domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault extremely seriously and we support victims to come forward."

Tory rebels in bid to ensure migrants can be removed

MPs prepare amendments to small boats Bill that would enable UK courts to ignore EU judgments

By Charles Hymas HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

TORY backbenchers will try to toughen the Government's new illegal immigration laws by giving UK courts the power to ignore rulings by Strasbourg judges.

The rebel MPs are preparing to lay amendments today designed to ensure plans to detain and remove migrants within weeks of arriving in the UK illegally can go ahead, irrespective of any judgments from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

Ministers believe the Illegal Migration Bill does comply with the European Convention on Human Rights and other international laws but have admitted that there is a more than 50 per cent chance it could be ruled as being in breach by the courts.

If the legislation was ruled as non-compliant, the amendments would instruct the courts to ignore any rulings from the ECHR, effectively giving priority to the Government's Bill over European judges.

It is understood the amendments are being backed by as many as 40 Conservative MPs representing a broad range of different groups in the party. They are due to be considered next week when the Bill comes before the Commons for its committee stage.

There is also sympathy among some within the Government who believe that the European courts should not be allowed to undermine ministers' attempts to end the Channel crossings.

One of the leading MPs behind the move, Danny Kruger, Boris Johnson's former political secretary, said: "The public won't forgive us if we fail again."

"They expect us to fix illegal immigration – even if the European Court tries to stop us. This Bill is our last chance to make sure that safe and legal routes are the only way to claim asylum in the UK."

The Bill places a legal duty on the

Home Secretary to remove migrants who arrive in the UK back to their home country or to a third country such as Rwanda where they can claim asylum.

The amendments would also empower the Government to ignore Strasbourg injunctions, such as the one that blocked the first deportation flight to Rwanda last June.

The explanatory notes for the amendments state: "The provisions of the Bill should operate notwithstanding any judgments, interim measures or other decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, or any other international court or tribunal, or any other international law obligation."

The move comes as the Refugee Council warned that the Government would have to find accommodation for up to 193,000 migrants whose asylum claims were deemed inadmissible over the next three years but whom they could not remove from the UK.

This would be equivalent to requiring 1,493 hotels, compared with the 450 being used to house 51,000. The council's analysis suggested this would land the Government with a bill of more than £9 billion a year.

Enver Solomon, its chief executive, said: "This draconian legislation stains our country's reputation for fairness in the face of adversity. All the evidence shows that the vast majority of those who come here by so-called irregular routes are refugees escaping bombs and bullets, violence and persecution."

A Home Office source said: "The Bill will have a massive deterrent effect on small boat crossings on the Channel. People simply won't make the journey from northern France for thousands of pounds if they believe they are going to be detained and swiftly removed."

The Red Arrows could be forced out of their base by plans to turn the Dambusters' former home into a migrant camp, council leaders have warned. The RAF's elite aerial display team could have to find a new home because it would no longer be allowed to fly over the Dambusters' old base at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, if there were 1,500 migrants living there, say West Lindsey district council chiefs.



Sir Mark Rowley, Commissioner of the Met, said the findings of the review were 'heartbreaking' and 'deeply upsetting'

Scotland Yard chief vows to lead reform of 'broken' force

Continued from Page 1

leader, urged the Government to accept the findings in full, saying it was vital if reform was to be achieved.

Lady Casey expressed disappointment that the Met had not accepted the term, but said she would judge the force on its actions in the coming weeks and months.

Baroness Lawrence, the mother of Stephen, accused the Met of being "rotten to the core" and said little had changed in the Met since her son's murder in 1993.

Lady Casey's review, which was published yesterday, accused the Met of being "broken" and said the force had lost the trust and consent of the people it was supposed to protect.

It was commissioned following the kidnap, rape and murder of Sarah Everard, by serving Met officer Wayne Couzens. Examples of bullying, racism, misogyny and homophobia that were documented in the 363-page review laid bare the scale of the crisis in Britain's biggest force.

Sir Mark described the findings as "disturbing", "upsetting" and "heart-breaking", adding: "To be part of an organisation that has let individuals down so badly is deeply upsetting. And that's where part of my own motivation comes from."

"Because we have to right this wrong. We have to deal with these cultural problems. And the vast majority of my colleagues are up for this."

But Ken Marsh, the head of the Metropolitan Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, warned that the report would further dishearten those whose morale was already at rock bottom.

He said: "We absolutely accept the findings but we have to be a little bit careful here. Are we saying every Met Police officer is racist and homophobic? That is quite dangerous."

He said: "Met colleagues are on their knees. We have a broken force, they are just leaving in their droves. Without police you don't have society. You have a lawless society."

Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister and a father-of-two, conceded that trust in the Met had been "hugely damaged".

"Ultimately I want both my daughters to grow up in a society in which not only do they have real trust in the police, it's just fundamentally safe," he said.

Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, described the publication of the review as "one of the darkest days in the history of the Met".

"It's in all of our interests to make sure that the police service changes, root and branch," he added.

'Going forward' is the new full stop on our 'journey' to a greener Army

Sketch



By Tim Stanley

Do you remember Annabel Goldie? Used to run the Scottish Tories; pearls, a mop of wild hair, sounded like a headmistress. Turns out she's now in the Lords and a minister for defence, deploying her hockey sticks charm at a committee

inquiry into the greening of the Armed Forces. She's the perfect choice. The Baroness's hair could provide refuge for a nest of starlings.

The Government wants to hit net zero carbon emissions by 2050, a goal the military takes "very, very seriously", she said, with the " caveat that we exist to protect the nation".

Squaring this circle triggered the greatest onslaught of bureaucratic gibberish ever heard in a country where "going forward" is the new full stop. Sat next to Annabel was James Clare, director of levelling up, the

Union, climate change and sustainability, a list of fantasy titles to rival Idi Amin's claim to be a doctor of philosophy and the Queen of England. His present mission is to cut pollution in the Armed Forces. "Quite a lot of work to date," he explained, "has been about understanding where we are now", opening the door to "broader, holistic work to truly understand where we need to go to".

Tobias Ellwood, chairman of the committee, interrupted him to note that he had recently visited RAF Marham and was invited to go around

the base on electric scooters. But, as Ellwood noted, the fuel they saved by not using a car "wouldn't even match what would be required to get an F-35 [jet] out of a hanger".

Ah, said Clare, but in future, jets will use hybrid green fuel. By 2050, the real question will be "is there enough supply of that fuel and will the price ... come down so that we can actually use [it]?"

Yikes. These planes are going to be very green indeed if we can't get the fuel to fly them. Music to the ears of Greenpeace but also to Russia or China, which not only aren't eco-

friendly countries they're not very friendly at all.

"We are on a journey," said the Baroness, "a journey where we probably have more unanswered questions than we have answers to our questions." But "the pace of our activity has really intensified... Our potential to accelerate our pace is becoming obvious".

"Can you quantify that," asked Derek Twigg MP. Can you give any examples of what you've actually done?!

"Structure", she said, "I... asked my officials about the structure because I

wanted to be clear that I understood how this all worked."

"We're on the start of a journey," Clare repeated, making one suspect both he and the Baroness were quoting from a poster on the wall of their office (something with a mountain on it). When did this journey start?, asked Twigg. About 20 years ago, came the reply. So, the journey is proceeding very slowly? Well, said Clare, think of it as "a foundation stone that we're building on to move forward."

In a moment of silence, I think I heard a tweet in Baroness Goldie's hair.

Overcrowded prisons mean dangerous driver goes free

By Charles Hymas HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

A DANGEROUS driver who was under the influence of drugs when he led police on a high speed chase has been spared jail because of prison overcrowding.

A judge told Bobbie-Lee Beany, 23, who also had no licence and false plates on his van, that he would have been immediately sent to jail if it was not for the accommodation crisis in prisons.

The case came as Britain's chief judicial adviser on sentencing told judges and magistrates they should consider sparing criminals from jail because of overcrowding.

Lord Justice William Davis, chairman of the sentencing council, said community service orders should be considered as alternatives because sending offenders to overcrowded prisons could hinder rehabilitation efforts.

It follows a court of appeal judgment in which a man who threw boiling water on the face of a prison officer in a serious assault was spared a six-month sentence due to the prisons crisis.

Beany's driving last year was

described in court as "exceptionally dangerous" and "no more than simple luck" that there was no injury or even death. He drove off after being stopped near Bluewater shopping centre in Greenhithe, Kent, shortly before midnight in April 22 last year, drove on the wrong side of the road, hit speeds of up to 100mph, swerved erratically and undertook other drivers.

He was finally cornered and caught on a housing estate after police put up a helicopter to track and find him. Tests shows he was over the legal limit for cocaine and benzoylecgonine, its breakdown by-product.

The labourer later pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, two offences of drug-driving, possessing cannabis, fraudulent use of a registration mark, and driving without a licence and without insurance.

Imposing a 14-month jail term suspended for 18 months and a two-year driving ban on Monday, Judge Robert Lazarus told Beany that despite his guilty plea and remorse, he "ticked all the boxes" in respect of aggravating factors. "This was exceptionally dangerous driving indeed," he said.



Little big man A 1969 2ft bronze statue of Sir Winston Churchill is up for sale for £100,000 at Duke's Auctioneers.

Cut jail terms for killers of abusive partners, says KC

By Charles Hymas

FEMALE victims of coercive control should have shorter sentences if they kill their abusive partners, a government review has recommended.

The study for the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) said courts should take account of coercive control as a potential "mitigating" factor in domestic homicide. It also said judges should consider the lower culpability for a killing if the perpetrator was a victim of coercive control.

They are among a series of recommendations being considered by the Government under the review by Clare Wade KC, the defence barrister for Sally Challen, the first woman to have her conviction for murdering her husband quashed under coercive control laws.

Last week the Government confirmed it would increase sentences for killers who subjected victims to domestic abuse to at least 25 years in jail. However, ministers resisted calls from women's groups to change the rules for victims of domestic abuse who kill their partners. The review also recommended infidelity should not be a mitigating factor in domestic homicide.

Hill turns down chance of second term as DPP

By Jack Hardy CRIME CORRESPONDENT

MAX HILL KC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has announced he is stepping down after five years in the role.

As head of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), he will leave when his appointment ends in October, after he decided not to seek a second term.

During his tenure, the CPS has battled to improve catastrophically low prosecution rates of defendants accused of sexual offences which fuelled accusations that rape had effectively been decriminalised.

Mr Hill was challenged about the issue as he announced his decision to leave on BBC Radio 4's *Law in Action* and said the CPS had seen "really significant change over the last two years".

He said: "Rape remains a horrifying, devastating crime. It has required in my time here... a whole-system, end-to-end approach to improve what we are doing because you can only achieve a conviction and therefore sentence if you operate together."

Mr Hill previously served as the independent reviewer of terrorism laws.