



Rt Hon. Dame Diana Johnson MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 August 2022

Appointment of Graeme Biggar CBE as the Director General of the National Crime Agency

I wrote to the Committee in October 2021 following the retirement of Dame Lynne Owens to inform the Committee of my appointment of Graeme Biggar CBE as interim Director General of the National Crime Agency (NCA). Following a fair and open competition, with a strong field of candidates representing policing and national security, I have decided to appoint Graeme Biggar CBE substantively as the Director General of the NCA.

The Director General NCA leads the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime, protecting the public by disrupting and bringing to justice those criminals and groups who pose the highest risk to the UK. Through the relentless pursuit of criminality, the NCA is protecting the UK from threats such as illegal migration, drugs and firearms trafficking, fraud and money laundering, child sexual abuse, modern slavery and human trafficking and cyber crime.

Since taking on the role of interim Director General, Mr Biggar has provided strong leadership and vision for the NCA, including ensuring that the Agency moved at pace to put in place a new team to tackle kleptocrats following Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. During this time the NCA has delivered more disruptions and targeted an increasing proportion of those criminals causing the most harm. In the past year the NCA safeguarded nearly 1,300 children in the UK from sexual abuse and 79 offenders were sentenced. Decisive action prevented people smugglers from obtaining the boats needed to attempt perilous trips across the Channel, and against criminal hauliers, resulting in the arrest of 244 offenders outside of the UK. The Agency increased disruptions against modern slavery, protecting over 900 people. Nearly 250 tonnes of Class A drugs were seized worldwide, and NCA operations dismantled eight global networks facilitating the supply of illegal firearms. The Agency has increased disruptions of fraud, including working with international partners to facilitate the recovery of proceeds of fraud for repatriation to victims across the world. More than £358 million of criminal assets were frozen or seized and, by leading the implementation of a cross-law enforcement ransomware threat group, the Agency protected the UK economy from losses of at least £600 million.

Mr Biggar has shown that he is more than capable of effectively exercising operational powers and of being a suitable person to exercise those powers as required by the Crime and Courts Act 2013. Between 2019 and 2021 Mr Biggar was the Director General for the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) at the NCA and between 2016 and 2019 Director for National Security at the Home Office. Prior to this Mr Biggar was Chief of Staff to the Defence Secretary and has held senior positions in the Ministry of Defence and other Government Departments.

I am confident that Mr Biggar will continue the drive to cut crime, to adapt to criminal modernisation, to target threats before they reach the UK working with international partners and to strengthen the connectivity of the system to respond to serious and organised crime and national security threats. He has an outstanding track record of delivery, a wealth of experience and the right vision for the future of the Agency.

In accordance with the Act, I have consulted with the Devolved Administrations in making this decision. I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "with our joint wishes" followed by a stylized signature that looks like "P. Patel".

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP