

Dan O'Mahoney

12 August 2020

## CLANDESTINE CHANNEL THREAT COMMANDER



Congratulations on your appointment.

As you are aware, your role is a very important one and you will be required to work very closely with both me and the Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts in carrying out your duties. That is why I wanted to set out our expectations and the authority you have vested in you to help you succeed.

As you are already aware, your key objective will be to **make small boat crossings of the Channel unviable and prevent other forms of high-risk clandestine entry into the UK**. In particular, you will be responsible for oversight and delivery of the operational elements of strands 1-3 of the Home Office's Small Boats Strategy, namely to:

- **Significantly reduce the number of migrants in Northern France intent on reaching the UK;**
- **Completely undermine the organised criminals facilitating many of the crossings, disrupting, arresting and prosecuting at every turn, including working with the French authorities to prevent embarkations; and**
- **Routinely intercept migrants in the Channel and return them immediately to France.**

You will be part of Immigration Enforcement, line managed by Name but should expect to work directly to me as Home Secretary. You will be required to work with and task a wide range of partners, including all parts of the border, immigration and citizenship system (including Immigration Enforcement and Border Force), the National Crime Agency (NCA), national policing, other Government Departments and agencies, as well as French counterparts.

Your key responsibilities will be to:

- **Provide leadership across, and tasking and coordination to, relevant Home Office commands on land and at sea** – agreeing relevant threat priorities, capability requirements and tactical deployment. This includes intelligence, Immigration Enforcement, and Border Force maritime assets earmarked by Ministers for small boats activity, coordinating closely with the police, NCA, Joint Maritime Security Centre (JMSC) and other agencies.
- **Provide whole system leadership**, working in partnership with other agencies and departments such as the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport – to galvanise the whole-of-Government effort, making full use of HMG's wider maritime, military and national security capabilities as appropriate.
- **Spearhead senior-level operational engagement with French counterparts on land and at sea**, supporting tactical planning and deployments, coordinating operations, and identifying creative opportunities for joint working.
- **Act as the public face of the Home Office response to Small Boats**, engaging proactively with a full range of stakeholders on both sides of the Channel, including port authorities, local MPs, and the media.
- **Focus on dismantling organised crime groups that facilitate Small Boat crossings and other high-risk clandestine methodologies**, including refrigerated vehicles and containers, working closely with NCA. This will involve engagement with maritime and law enforcement counterparts in other near-border countries, particularly with France, Belgium and the Netherlands.
- **Be responsible for the direct tasking and co-ordination of all Home Office operational capabilities dedicated to tackling Small Boats and other forms of clandestine entry**. This includes: IE's clandestine intelligence, investigations, and operations personnel; and Border Force maritime assets in the Channel assigned to small boats activity – currently one cutter and two Coastal Patrol Vessels (CPVs) (though operational accountability will continue to rest with vessel commanders).
- **Act as the overall Home Office lead for engagement on small boats issues with other maritime agencies**, including JMSC and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA); and NCA and other law enforcement and national security agencies.
- **Lead on operational cooperation, engagement and joint working with French authorities (and other near border partners including Belgium and the Netherlands)**, working closely with relevant Home Office policy areas.

A team will be established to support you in this role and to ensure that you are able to provide the Minister and I with the briefings, situational reports and data needed to evidence the progress you are making. You will also be responsible for ensuring a 24/7 coordinated and comprehensive operational response to small boats. Should you consider it necessary, I will support you in securing members for your team by way of secondments from partner agencies, to aid you in delivering your core objectives.

For the purposes of your role you will be appointed as an Immigration Officer under the Immigration Act 1971.

I will expect the Directors General of Immigration Enforcement, Border Force and UK Visas and Immigration to prioritise and provide you with the full operational resource you need, particularly on high risk "red days" in order to carry out your duties to process, de-brief and investigate, where relevant, those who arrive in the UK, before handing off to the relevant Home Office or other law enforcement partner system. You will have tasking and commissioning authority to pull together the assets and people you need to perform your role. I will similarly make clear to the Director General of the NCA and the Secretaries of State for Defence and Transport that, whilst acknowledging their operational independence, their operational resources and relevant agencies should also work closely with you in pursuance of the Government's objective to eradicate small boat crossings of the Channel, utilising the established mechanisms for doing so. This will include access to reciprocal tasking, the scope of which will be agreed separately.

You will be able to direct Home Office assets and personnel approved by Ministers for use on the small boat issue, including from Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and UKVI. You will also be responsible for directing the deployment of any UK Home Office resources operating in France as part of our efforts here, including those deployed in the CCIC and Joint Intelligence Cell and any future deployments.

Your relationship with Border Force's maritime assets will be crucial for one of the three key small boats objectives. You will be able to direct Border Force assets approved by Ministers for use on the small boats issue. You will also take overall responsibility for Safety of Life at Sea and the health and safety of the Cutter Crews while they are deployed on small boats activity.

I will expect you and your team to submit regular reports and I will ensure that you have regular bilaterals with the Minister and me. We stand ready to provide you with whatever support you need, at any time, to make a success of this role.

I look forward to working very closely with you on eradicating this vile trade that compromises the UK's border security, puts lives at risk and allows organised crime to profit and flourish.

*All are very test roles to you in this important and significant role. Together we can drive significant change in area and go after the criminals who are causing a much worse.*

Personal Data

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP