



THE CABINET OFFICE
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From the Cabinet Secretary

Sir Simon McDonald KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1


19 June 2020

Dear Simon,

You announced today that you will retire from the Diplomatic Service next spring, and stand down this autumn after five years as the Head of that Service and as Permanent Secretary of the FCO.

I thank you for your outstanding contribution to the UK's public life over the past four decades. You have served with distinction in the most senior positions in the Diplomatic Service, including as the Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Adviser, HM Ambassador to Germany, during which you oversaw an historic State Visit, and as the FCO's Permanent Secretary. As you explained in today's message to the Diplomatic Service, you will be the last to hold that office, as your successor will be the first Permanent Secretary of the new Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. I know that he or she can count on your wisdom and passion for the refreshed global mission in preparing to forge a new department from the best of the cultures of the FCO and DfID.

You have been and remain an outstanding colleague and friend. Our country is stronger for your service. On behalf of the entire public service and the country, I wish you and your family well for the future.

Yours sincerely

MARK SEDWILL