

TEABREAK



British
Consulate-General
Amsterdam



John Cameron-Webb, British Consul for the Netherlands

News crumbs, tips and snippets from
the British Consulate-General Amsterdam

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The Consular team in Amsterdam are putting together a wide reaching **Crime Prevention campaign** to remind travellers how important it is to safeguard their passports and valuables abroad.

In 2014, Amsterdam issued **1187 Emergency Travel documents** and the survey carried out by the Consulate showed the majority of these are visitors to Amsterdam on long weekends.

British Consul John Cameron-Webb has held preliminary talks with I-Amsterdam, Schiphol Communications Manager and Police Press Spokesperson to find the best ways to remind visitors to take extra care when they visit this wonderful city.



British Embassy Fire

Early on the morning of Tuesday 21st April, a **fire was discovered at the British Embassy in the Hague**. The local emergency services responded very quickly and were swiftly able to extinguish the fire. The second floor of the new wing of the building is seriously damaged, but many other parts of the building are relatively unscathed. The Embassy activated its contingency plans and staff were soon working from the Ambassador's residence and other fallback locations, including the Consulate-General in Amsterdam. Foreign and Commonwealth Office specialists from London visited the next day to assess the damage and start to plan the recovery of the building. **Ambassador Sir Geoffrey Adams** and staff are all grateful the fantastic support we are enjoying from our hosts, and the many messages and offers of support they have received. The mission is now running from a number of alternative locations until staff can re-occupy the main Embassy building. In the meantime, we are all adhering to the motto: **"Keep Calm and Carry On"**.

"Know Before You Go" - staying safe and healthy abroad

The FCO's website contains comprehensive travel advice information to help travellers prepare for their journeys. It is supported by over 500 partners in the UK and the UK Travel Industry. We know that a very large number of people visit the travel advice pages, which helps them enjoy trouble-free journeys. We also run a **"Know Before You Go"** campaign, which provides useful tips to help you prepare your journey. Now that we are approaching the summer holiday period, feel free to browse the information on: www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo

"New Way of Delivering Consular Services"

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Consular Directorate are constantly looking at ways of to improve how we support British Nationals abroad. A recent meeting of Consular Managers in the Ambassador's Residence in the Hague set out ways to do this. For example, increasing crime prevention awareness campaigns, wider use of social media, and looking into ways we can use partners to ensure a wide-ranging support base for our nationals.

