

not necessarily and will not pass automatically to the Prince of Wales.

The Commonwealth statement said: "At their last summit in Malta [in 2015], Commonwealth heads of government directed the secretary general to form the group. Today members are discussing their scope of work and the areas of governance they will examine over the coming months."

"The process is open and the high-level group reports to the heads. The issue of succession of the head of the Commonwealth is not part of the group's mandate."

The high-level group is chaired by Aote Tong, who was president of Kiribati from 2003 to 2016. Other members include Lord Howell, the former British energy secretary, Louise Fréchette, the former United Nations deputy secretary general, Robert Hill, a former Australian defence minister, Dame Billie Miller, former deputy prime minister of Barbados, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, former Nigerian minister of finance, and George Vella,

The Foreign Office did not comment.

## Owner jailed for 10 years after bull terrier kills neighbour

**Frances Perraudin**  
*North of England reporter*

A man whose bull terrier attacked and killed his neighbour has been jailed for 10 years.

Aaron Joseph, 30, was found guilty of owning the dog which killed David Ellum, 52, in August 2016 while it was dangerously out of control.

The female crossbreed bull terrier attacked Ellum outside his flat in

Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, as he tried to defend his own pet, a Yorkshire terrier. He suffered serious injuries and died 12 hours later at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Neighbours told the court they heard Ellum scream for help as the dog mauled him. One said they had grabbed a knife to try an stab the animal, but it only released Ellum after a police officer sprayed it with a fire extinguisher.

The jury was told that the dog had



## The Commonwealth is made up of 53 countries

● Head of state ● Symbolic figurehead

There are 15 governments outside the UK where Queen Elizabeth II is also the head of state ...



... 10 are in the Americas and Caribbean ...

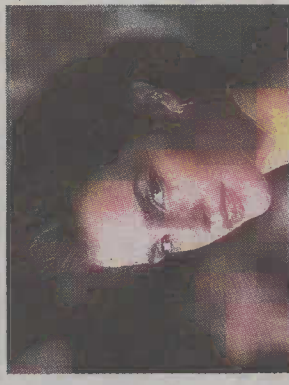
... and five are in Asia and Oceania

nifer Smith, added that the scale and magnitude of the sexual harassment crisis in the industry, which began with allegations against the US producer Harvey Weinstein in October, had been galvanising. "This is about resetting the tone of the industry, it is about cultural shift. It is the beginning rather than the end," she said.

Amanda Nevill, BFI chief executive, called the guidance "clear and simple". She added: "It is an important step in becoming the industry I believe we all truly aspire to be: fair, open and offering opportunity to everyone." Organisations and individuals applying to the BFI for public money will have to abide by the principles, which will be reviewed every six months.

Margot James, the creative industries minister, said: "Everyone has the right to feel safe at work and people can only thrive when they operate in a respectful and tolerant environment."

Caroline Waters, the deputy chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, added: "It is wonderful that we have this guidance for the industry that the BFI and other leading bodies will continue to evolve to create safer and more inclusive working environments for everyone."



▲ Emma Watson is among the actors and film executives who have given their support to the BFI principles

his offence were "nothing short of horrendous".

"On 15 August 2016, Mr David Ellum met his death in the most appalling manner," she said. "He came out of his own front door and on his doorstep, he was attacked and mauled to death by your dog, Alex."

"Because of your arrogance, this dog, which should have been carefully and strictly controlled, was kept in circumstances whereby she was able to escape and attack Mr Ellum."

"You did things and failed to do things which in my judgment were not minimal, they were the root cause of this death. You could have muzzled Alex. That one simple act ... would have prevented this tragedy."

attacked people before and was the subject of an order requiring it to be muzzled and kept on a lead in public. Joseph ignored all of the terms of the order.

Police had seized the dog in June 2016 following complaints from the public, but it was established that the animal was not a pit bull terrier, a breed banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act, and it was returned just eight days before it killed Ellum.

An investigation was launched by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), into the decision by West Yorkshire police to return the dog to its owner.

Sentencing Joseph yesterday, Judge Sally Cahill said the circumstances of

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