

## **Captain Simon P Kelly Royal Navy**

Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Simon was educated at the Royal Grammar School Newcastle and graduated in European Studies from the University of Leicester. Following two years working in industry he joined the Royal Navy in 1998 as a Warfare Officer.

As a junior officer he qualified as a Bridge Watch-keeping Officer, Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Officer and Principal Warfare Officer and saw service on operations across the world in destroyers, frigates and on exchange with the French Navy.

He has had the privilege of being selected three times for command. Between 2012 and 2015 he was Commanding Officer of five different Hunt and Sandown Class Mine Hunting Vessels, twice deploying on Op KIPION in the Gulf. He subsequently commanded HMS WESTMINSTER, a Type 23 Anti-submarine Warfare Frigate, undertaking duties as the UK Fleet Ready Escort and Towed Array Patrol Ship, with significant periods on operations in the North Atlantic and the Arctic.

Staff appointments include Chief of Staff to the First Mine Counter Measures Squadron, which included two deployments to the Gulf, for which he was awarded a Chief of Joint Operations Commendation; an assignment to UK Strategic Command, where he established a team to provide Operational Assurance for the Joint Expeditionary Force Head Quarters and a return to Op KIPION as the lead planner for the UK Maritime Component Commander based in Bahrain. Most recently he was the Fleet Operations Officer responsible for the delivery of Royal Naval global operations.

Simon is a graduate of the Advanced Command and Staff Course (MA Defence Studies, Kings College London) and a Younger Brother of Trinity House. He is married to Samantha, an officer in the Royal Air Force and enjoys a range of outdoor sports, including open water swimming and cycling.