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October - December 2022 British Edition



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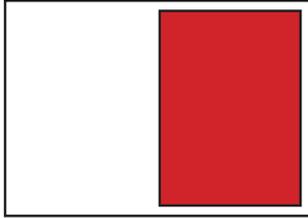
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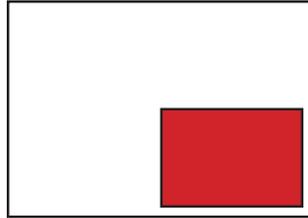
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ISSN 1744-6996



Frost sparkling in the bright Winter light



News Roundup

Summary of the main news and sports events over the last three months

By Paul G Bazeley for Government World

October News Review

Midway through October, Prime Minister Liz Truss dismissed Kwasi Kwarteng as Chancellor of the Exchequer after his mini budget in September had caused market turbulence for the UK economy. A few days



later, Home Secretary Suella Braverman resigned, and a controversial bill to end fracking in the UK led to mounting criticism and calls for resignation. On the 20th October, Liz Truss announced she intended

to resign as Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader, making her the shortest-running Prime Minister in UK history. Miss Truss was succeeded by Rishi Sunak, who was unopposed and quickly brought in as Tory party leader and Prime Minister.

An explosion partially collapsed the Crimean Bridge. Russian President Vladimir Putin formally accused Ukraine of the explosion and claimed it was 'an act of terrorism'. There were retaliations from Russia as it launched missile strikes on largely civilian areas. From the middle of the month, Russia began to carry out strikes on water and electrical systems in Ukraine.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) revealed that the UK economy shrank by approximately 0.3% in August, citing the cost-of-living crisis affecting various industries. Later in the month, the ONS announced that inflation rose to 10.1%

The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Svante Pääbo, a Swedish geneticist. He was awarded the prize for "his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution".

Alain Aspect from France, John F. Clauser from the US and Anton Zeilinger





from Austria were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their achievements in quantum mechanics, in particular their experiments with entangled photons.

The trio of scientists Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry after their click chemistry and biorthogonal chemistry work.

French author Annie Ernaux won the Nobel Prize for Literature for her “courage and clinical acuity” writing that is largely autobiographical.

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Russian human rights society Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organisation The Centre for Civil Liberties and Belarusian

activist Ales Bialiatski. The entrepreneur and owner of Tesla, Elon Musk, acquired Twitter for \$44bn dollars. He immediately fired some of the higher-paid employees, including CEO Parag Agrawal.



October Sports Review

French footballer Karim Benzema won the Ballon d’Or after winning the 21-22 La Liga and Champions League title with Real Madrid and the UEFA Nations League with France.

Max Verstappen, the Red Bull driver, won the Japanese Grand Prix to claim the Formula One World Championships. His second world title in consecutive seasons. While Audi confirmed it would participate in Formula One races from 2026.

Yalemzurf Yehualaw from Ethiopia became the youngest woman ever to win the London Marathon. Amos Kipruto from Kenya won the men’s marathon race.



November News Review

It was revealed that the inflation on groceries reached 14.7% in the UK in October, with 27% of households saying they were struggling financially. Later in the month, inflation reached a record 11.1%, which pressured the Bank of England to raise interest rates.

Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, delivered the delayed Autumn statement, which featured measures to try and stabilise the economy. Measures included raising

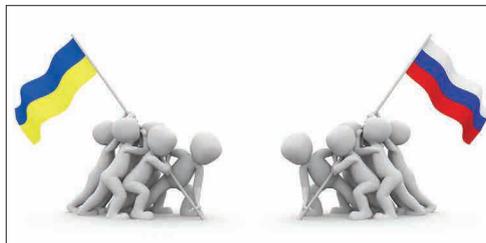
the national living wage, increasing pension and welfare payments in line with inflation, capping social sector rent increases to 7% until 2024 and introducing a higher rate 'windfall tax' on energy firms' profits.

Following the cost-of-living crisis and rising inflation, the UK Royal College of Nursing announced its first strike in the union's 106-year history.



Russian missile strikes caused significant power outages in Kyiv, Ukraine. In addition, a missile, initially said to be Russian, landed in Poland territory, killing two people. The event

led Polish leaders to hold an emergency meeting. However, it was later believed that the missile was more likely to be a Ukrainian defensive missile.



The United Kingdom Supreme Court unanimously denied the Scottish Government the right to hold a second independence referendum without approval from the British Government.



After record numbers of migrants crossed the English Channel, a revised border control agreement between France and England was made. The agreement increased the number of officers patrolling the French coast and would see British Police Officers working with the French authorities.

The UK government ordered departments to remove and refrain from installing CCTV systems manufactured under Chinese national intelligence law at buildings classed as 'sensitive' due to security concerns.

According to the United Nations, the world's population surpassed eight billion on the 15th November 2022.

Qatar announced that alcohol would not be allowed in World Cup host stadiums two days before the FIFA World Cup was due to begin.



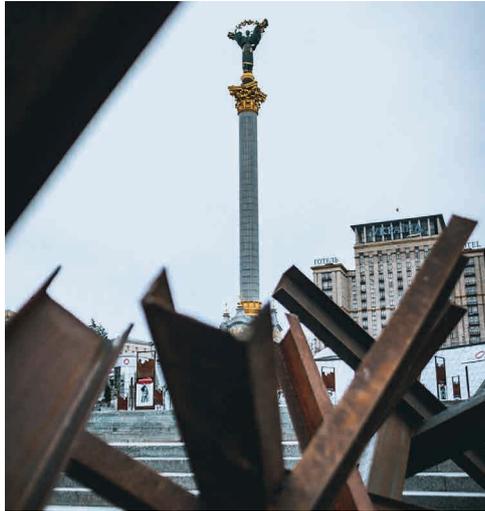
November Sports Review

The FIFA World Cup began in Qatar, with Ecuador beating the hosts 2-0 in the opening match. As a result, Qatar became the first host nation country in World Cup history to lose its opening match.

The Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score in five FIFA Men's World Cup tournaments.



operation in Ukraine.



The Royal College of Nursing went ahead with its strike over a dispute with a pay increase and the UK government. It was the largest strike action in the history of



the National Health Service. Royal Mail workers also began a wave of strikes over a pay dispute, with over 100,000 workers walking out in the build-up to Christmas. Later in the month, Ambulance workers and Border Force staff go on strike over disputes over pay and the cost of living crisis.

The UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities approved the first new coal mine for 30 years in Cumbria, England. It was stated that it should create 2,000 jobs directly and indirectly and operate for 50 years.



The Bank of England raised the baseline interest rate from 3% to 3.5%. It is the highest-level interest rate in 14 years.

December News Review

On the last day of the month, Putin ordered an extensive missile and drone strike on Kyiv, Ukraine, and announced his intent to continue increasing the military and diplomatic focus on the country's special

Four children died after falling through ice on the frozen Babbs Mill Lake in the West Midlands as cold weather swept across the UK.



An Instagram post on Lionel Messi's account where he is pictured with the World Cup trophy became the most liked photo on the platform after receiving over 56 million likes.

The Brazilian footballer Pelé died at the age of 82. Many consider him to be the greatest footballer of all time.

December Sports Review

Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties after a 3-3 draw to claim the FIFA World Cup Title. It was Argentina's third World Cup title, and the victory saw Lionel Messi win a World Cup to cement his status as one of the greatest footballers of all time.

Vast former industrial sites set to be one of UK's largest urban nature reserves

October

From: Natural England and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

- The Flashes of Wigan and Leigh set to become one of the biggest urban nature reserves with new declaration
- 738-hectare green beacon close to major urban areas will provide access to nature for over 300,000 local people
- Nationally important habitat will help protect rare willow tits, bitterns and water voles

A former industrial wasteland which is now a nationally important site for rare wildlife such as willow tit and bittern is set to become one of England's largest urban nature reserves.

The Flashes of Wigan and Leigh - a 738-hectare area of species-rich wetland, meadows and woodlands - will today (3 October) join England's network of

National Nature Reserves.

The designation, which will be the first in the Greater Manchester area, recognises the incredible transformation of the Flashes over the last 100 years. Lakes formed as a result of mining subsidence became home to wildlife like the 'booming bittern' as natural recolonisation and large-scale reclamation works healed the scars of industry.

The former industrial landscape is declared not only for its importance in protecting wildlife and natural capital but for its recreational value to the community. It is hoped the site, which is home to a variety of pursuits from fishing to cycling, nature walks and birdwatching, will provide new opportunities for sustainable tourism and visits from local residents and those further afield.

The new protected reserve will create an oasis for nature, with Wigan also now recognised as one of the greenest urban boroughs in the United Kingdom. The mosaic of shallow open water and wetland habitats (swamp, reedbed, tall herb fen, wet marshy grassland and wet woodland) supports a rich diversity of birds and other species. This includes over 52 pairs of willow tit, accounting for approximately 2% of England's population, as well as the heron-like bittern, water voles and great crested newts.

Natural England Chief Executive, Marian Spain said:

“National Nature Reserves help reconnect people with our natural world, providing much needed opportunities to explore our incredible landscape for our health and wellbeing.

A healthy natural environment and economic growth go hand in hand. By working together to build strong partnerships such as those we see here in the Flashes of Wigan and Leigh, we can provide space for rare species and provide vital greenspace. That will make Wigan and Leigh great places to live and great places to do business in, so helping to attract inward investment.

The unique wetlands in Wigan and Leigh were forged by nature reclaiming former industrial land. Today's designation demonstrates how it is possible to reverse the decline in nature.”

Nature underpins the British economy with our natural capital estimated in 2019 to be worth £1.2 trillion. The site will benefit over 300,000 people who live locally to the area, making sure communities and young people have accessible outdoor space for health, recreation, and wellbeing.

Working in partnership with communities has been key to realising this new National Nature Reserve. Declared by Natural England with Wigan Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Forestry



England, the NNR brings together a total of 13 sites, including Wigan Flashes, Amberswood, Three Sisters, and Bickershaw Country Park. It also includes Viridor woodland, planted by Forestry England just over 20 years ago.

National Nature Reserves were established to protect some of the most important habitats for vulnerable species, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. They create vital opportunities for the public, schools, and specialist interest groups to experience wildlife first-hand and to learn more about nature conservation

This year is the 70th anniversary of the creation of England's first nature reserve - highlighting a long history of restoring nature and helping to bring green space and wildlife to everyone.

There are now 220 National Nature Reserve sites, spanning a total of more than 103,000 hectares. These nature hotspots are key to efforts to restore nature across England, and will play a key role in the nation's nature recovery network in line with the Government's key target to halt the decline in wildlife populations by 2030.

Offenders to face mandatory testing to cut drug-fuelled crime

October



From: Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service

- new enhanced tests will detect more drugs to tackle substance abuse and cut crime
- offenders who fail tests face being recalled to prison

Thousands of offenders will face compulsory drug testing after release from prison to help keep them clean and cut drug-fuelled crime.

From today (3 October 2022), offenders supervised in probation hostels, known as Approved Premises, will be randomly tested for 14 different types of drugs as part of a £1.2 million initiative to reduce reoffending.

Offenders whose drug habits are directly linked to their crimes, such as heroin addicts, will be legally required to take

a urine test up to once a week to prevent their addiction from spiralling into further crimes. All other offenders will be tested at least twice whilst being supervised in Approved Premises.

New enhanced tests will also make it easier to spot a range of drugs including heroin, cocaine and synthetic substances like Spice, with around 30,000 tests being carried out each year.

Those who test positive will be



required to undergo intensive drug treatment or face being recalled to prison.

These changes were first introduced as a Private Members Bill by Rob Butler MP, who recently became Prisons and Probation Minister.

Rob Butler, Prisons and Probation Minister, said:

“I’ve seen first-hand how drug addiction is too often at the heart of criminal activity and I have campaigned to change that.

This mandatory testing will act as a deterrent to anyone tempted to abuse drugs again, help cut crime and make our communities safer.”

Illegal drug use costs the taxpayer nearly £22 billion each year, including NHS, prison and police costs. Clamping down on drug use will help break the cycle of crime which addiction causes.

This type of testing has been successfully rolled out in dozens of Approved Premises in England and will now be expanded across the whole estate by spring 2023.

‘Ian’, an offender currently housed in an Approved Premise, said:

“Before I got clean from drugs, my life was chaotic, and I would do anything to get my next hit.

Regular testing in Approved Premises will reduce drug deaths and give people



something to focus on and work towards.

At first, I was worried about being tested for fear of being recalled to prison but it was an incentive for me to stay clean, rebuild broken trust with family and loved ones and start applying for jobs so I can look for my own place.”

The initiative represents one of the largest expansions of drug testing in the Probation Service and supports the government’s wider 10-year Drugs Strategy which is backed by £900 million of extra investment.

As part of this, the government is investing £120 million to roll out three pilot substance misuse problem-solving courts in the community to make offenders face their addictions. The investment will help establish 18 new drug recovery wings ensuring prisoners tackle their addiction head-on or face tough consequences – including further time in jail where necessary.

Approved Premises are used by the Probation Service to closely supervise and support offenders after their release from prison.



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Teenagers could be missing out on a stash of cash

October

From: HM Revenue & Customs

Tens of thousands of teenagers in the UK who have not yet claimed their matured Child Trust Funds savings could have thousands of pounds waiting for them, reminds HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Child Trust Funds are long-term savings accounts set up for every child born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011. To encourage future saving and start the account, the government

provided an initial deposit of at least £250.

The savings accounts mature when the child turns 18 years old. Eligible teenagers, who are aged 18 or over and have yet to access their Child Trust Fund account, could have savings waiting for them worth an average of £2,100.

If teenagers or their parents and guardians already know who their Child Trust Fund provider is, they can contact them directly. This might be a bank, building society or other savings provider.

Many eligible teenagers who have yet to claim their savings might be starting university, apprenticeships or their first job. The lump-sum amount could offer a financial boost at a time when they need it most.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Second Permanent Secretary and Deputy Chief

Executive, said:

“Teenagers could have a pot of money waiting for them worth thousands of pounds and not even realise it. We want to help you access your savings and the money you’re entitled to.

To find out more search ‘Child Trust Fund’ on GOV.UK.”

An estimated 6.3 million Child Trust Fund accounts were set up throughout the duration of the scheme, containing about £9 billion. If a parent or guardian was not able to set up an account for their child, HMRC opened a savings account on the child’s behalf.

Teenagers aged 16 or over can take control of their own Child Trust Fund if they wish, although the funds can only be withdrawn once they turn 18 years old.



First launch from the UK

October

Where children have a Child Trust Fund, families can still pay in up to £9,000 a year tax-free. The account matures once the child turns 18 years old and no further money can be deposited. They can either withdraw the funds from the matured Child Trust Fund account or reinvest it into another savings account.

Until the child withdraws or transfers the money, it stays in an account that no-one else has access to.

The Child Trust Fund scheme closed in January 2011 and was replaced with Junior Individual Savings Accounts (ISA).

More information about Child Trust Funds.

The government is offering help for households. Check GOV.UK to find out what cost of living support you could be eligible for.



From: UK Space Agency

The first ever orbital satellite launch from the UK is happening soon, marking a new era in the UK's space history.

Launches are part of the UK's commercial spaceflight programme, meeting goals set out in the government's National Space Strategy.

All launches are subject to receiving a licence from the Civil Aviation Authority

How the launch will work

The first launch will take place from Spaceport Cornwall in the south-west of England. It will be what is known as a 'horizontal launch'.

A specially modified Boeing 747 from Virgin Orbit called Cosmic Girl, with a rocket attached under its wing, will

take off from a runway. In flight, the LauncherOne rocket will launch from the wing, taking multiple small satellites into orbit.

The plane will then return to the Spaceport, able to launch more satellites in future.

Spaceport Cornwall is situated at Newquay Airport, near the coast of Cornwall. The 747 will fly out over the sea and launch its rocket far away from populated areas.

Why launch from the UK

The UK has a growing space sector, which employs 47,000 people. UK space companies have a strong track record in satellite manufacturing, spacecraft design and data applications. In fact, Glasgow builds more satellites than anywhere outside

the United States. Soon we'll be able to launch them from the UK too. The UK is also located relatively far north, which means it's perfect for launching satellites into polar and Sun-synchronous orbits, which go over the north and south poles. These orbits are ideal for satellites that monitor the Earth and provide telecommunications.

With a long coastline and many islands, the UK offers a range of suitable locations for launching rockets safely out over the sea – away from settlements and people.

What are we launching

Several small satellites will be launched into orbit on the first UK launch.

The satellites will do many different things, including improving navigation and communications.

Several of the satellites have been built in the UK, including a research satellite from RHEA Group, which was built by Open Cosmos in Oxfordshire.

The first Welsh satellite will also be on the launch, from Cardiff-based Space Forge. It will test the process of using the unique microgravity environment of space

to manufacture special materials that are much more difficult to make on Earth. **What benefits will it bring**

Launch services are worth a potential £3.8 billion to the UK economy over the next decade.

UK spaceports will need new skills, supply chains and supporting services, creating high-skilled jobs and opportunities across the country. For example, Spaceport Cornwall and the Centre for Space Technologies expect to create 150 jobs.

Through initiatives such as our LogoLiftOff! and Nanosat Design competitions, the UK Space Agency is also harnessing launch as a platform to



encourage young people to pursue STEM subjects in order to help grow the UK's future space talent pipeline.

Safety and the environment

Safety, security and protection of the environment are top priorities for the UK government.

We have progressive regulations for launch which make it safe for the public and protect the environment, while allowing new technologies to be used as they are developed.

The government is very careful about the impact launches have on the environment and won't allow launches to happen before a detailed assessment of their environmental effects has been done.

Rocket launches do release some CO2 and other by-products, but they take place infrequently and the satellites being launched bring significant benefits.

Half of the data we need to monitor climate change can only come from satellites – so it's vital to get them into space.

UK rocket manufacturers are also working to make rocket launches better for the environment, including turning unrecyclable plastic waste and even beeswax into rocket fuel!

How to get involved in the launch

There are lots of ways you can take part in the launch.

You can:

- come along to our event at the Science Museum in London on 15 and 16 October 2022 to see a full-scale replica of the LauncherOne rocket!
- check out educational resources from Spaceport Cornwall.
- watch the launch live via a Virgin Orbit livestream (more info to come closer to launch)

After first launch

There are several other spaceports currently planned or under construction in the UK. These are in England, Scotland and Wales.

UK and US meet to make positive progress on data and tech

October

From: Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, and The Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP

- New annual dialogue established as part of landmark tech partnership
- UK and US make significant progress towards a data adequacy agreement to benefit businesses and boost digital trade

Today UK Digital Secretary Michelle Donelan and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo paved the way for a new data adequacy agreement in the coming weeks as they met to discuss a range of digital issues.

Currently organisations transferring personal data from the UK to the US have to use costly and time-consuming transfer tools, such as international data transfer agreements, which slow down data flows and create administrative burdens.

Data adequacy agreements allow personal data to be transferred freely from the UK to countries with high protection standards. New deals with other countries will unlock more growth and allow us to share crucial information, such as life-saving research and manufacturing details across our borders.

Reducing barriers to data flows makes it easier for businesses to trade and grow in international markets and brings benefits for consumers such as better access to higher-quality products and lower prices. Exports of British data-enabled services to the US, like finance and computer services, were estimated to be worth more than £69 billion in 2020 and are set to grow once expensive and time-consuming transfer mechanisms are removed.

The UK Digital Secretary and US

Secretary of Commerce discussed the UK's adequacy assessment of the new US Data Privacy Framework, a framework to securely send UK data to organisations in America. They discussed some of the robust protections that will be in place for UK data under a potential agreement and agreed to conclude the adequacy work in the weeks ahead.

The Digital Secretary welcomed the publication of the Executive Order, signed by President Biden this afternoon, which strengthens the safeguards and establishes new redress routes for UK

data processed by US authorities.

The ministers also committed to a new official dialogue, led by DCMS and FCDO and the US Departments of Commerce and State, to build on the landmark tech agreement between the two countries announced in 2021. The annual meeting will bring together senior officials from across both governments to progress shared tech priorities and deliver joint initiatives. The first meeting will focus on data, critical and emerging technologies, and resilient digital infrastructure.

UK Digital Secretary Michelle Donelan said:

“The United States shares our democratic values, digital priorities and commitment to high standards of data privacy.

Data and tech are creating new opportunities for growth and connection between our two countries, including between our world-leading tech industries.

I look forward to working together to bring these benefits to people on both sides of the Atlantic.”

US Secretary of Commerce Gina

Raimondo said:

“Today’s announcement affirms our shared commitment to promoting responsible innovation and digital policies, while also supporting growth and opportunity. This partnership reflects our deepening cooperation on bilateral data and tech issues, as well as our commitment to closer engagement and global leadership as these issues continue to evolve. I look forward to working closely with Secretary Donelan as we continue looking for ways to balance the needs of privacy and responsible data use while removing barriers for critical business needs.”

Following their meeting, the Digital Secretary and Secretary of Commerce met with senior leaders from industry, academia, and civil society - including Meta, IBM and the London Stock Exchange - who welcomed the positive progress between the UK and US.

Julian David, CEO of techUK, said on today’s announcement:

“Today’s progress on UK-US data sharing will be welcomed by businesses across the UK. An



agreement will provide business with the legal certainty and confidence needed to access new markets and create opportunities for innovation. This will enable the UK to leverage its world-leading industries such as financial services and tech to drive wider economic growth on all sides of the Atlantic.”

Duncan Edwards, CEO BritishAmerican Business, said:

“Business has been clear that it needs an open, safe and legally secure environment for transatlantic data flows. A new, bilateral agreement should provide businesses with more certainty to make data-related investment decisions and remove legal uncertainty and burdensome administration from their

day-to-day business activities. Further UK-US cooperation in this area is a welcome step towards strengthening the transatlantic partnership and will help create a more consistent set of international data transfer rules.”

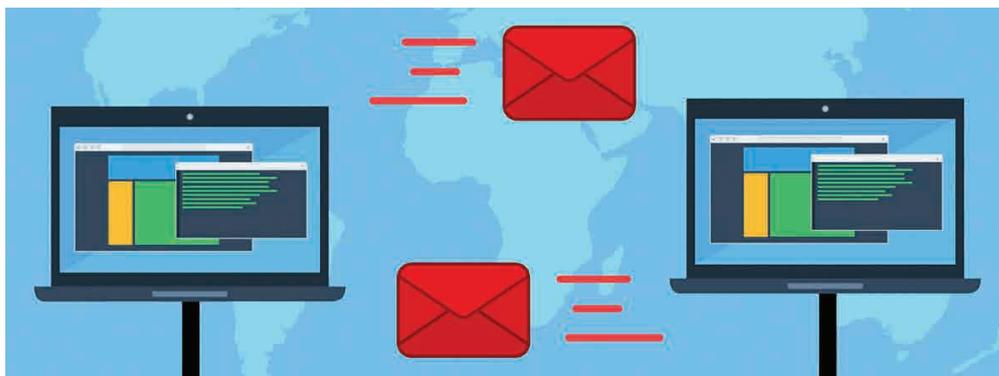
Vivienne Artz OBE, Chair of the Data Committee, International Regulatory Strategy Group, said:

“In a world fragmented by increasing data localisation measures, it is all the more important to continue to build meaningful, outcome focussed data transfer bridges, to support business and individual engagement in our inter-connected and global world. A UK-US data partnership is a fundamental building block supporting the strong economic and social ties between these two nations.”

Zahra Bahrololoumi, CEO Salesforce UK and Ireland, said:

“As our reliance on digital tools and services grow, cross-border data flows will be key to driving productivity and economic growth. At Salesforce we welcome today’s commitment to strengthening the trusted exchange of information, ideas and technologies. Removing barriers and complexity of data management will spur innovation and improve productivity, helping businesses to better serve their customers, reduce costs and create new opportunities in the digital economy. It also puts the UK in a strong position to build on its status as a global hub for the free and responsible flow of data.”

This summer the UK announced its first independent adequacy decision in principle with the Republic of Korea, one of Britain’s priority countries for a data deal after leaving the EU. Data enabled service exports to the UK’s top six priority partners (Australia, Colombia, Dubai International Finance Centre, Republic of Korea, Singapore and the USA) are already worth more than £80 billion.



Pay It Forward: Investing in A Green Future

October

From: Environment Agency and Sir James Bevan

We don't need to look back very far to see that we are now living with the very real impacts of the climate emergency. Here in the UK, this summer we experienced our highest ever recorded temperatures as the Met Office confirmed that England had its joint hottest summer on record.

Internationally, the reality is even bleaker: we saw wildfires raging across Europe; China experienced its worst heatwave in decades; and devastating floods in Pakistan ripped through communities



killing 1500 people and displacing millions.

That 2015-2021 were the planet's seven warmest consecutive years on record should tell us all that we need to know about our climate: that this is our new reality and that it's time to start paying serious attention.

We also know what's caused it. We can be in no doubt that the great advances in industry and technology since the industrial revolution have improved our lives immeasurably. However – as many have rightly pointed out – our reliance on greenhouse gas emitting technology has caused the climate to change to the point that we risk destroying the natural systems on which we all rely.

This has further led some to claim that capitalism is the enemy of the climate. That's a highly contested point, and debating it isn't going to get us very far. But what no-one can seriously dispute is

that to accelerate the adoption of the innovation and technology required to address the climate emergency then unlocking massive private sector investment in a green future is essential.

Today I want to talk about why I think the private sector is the most powerful tool we have to meet the challenges of climate change. And that's good news because tackling the climate crisis is not only the right thing for the planet, but also crucial for any business that wants to survive and thrive.

The solution: mitigation and adaptation

So, let's continue on a positive note: we are seeing action. Internationally, last year's COP26, the UN climate conference in Glasgow, saw significant pledges as countries came

together to boost climate cooperation; commitments to stop deforestation; and a plan agreed by more than 100 countries to cut 30% of methane emissions by 2030. We can and should continue to expect governments to push this agenda forward, and at COP27 in Egypt next month we can expect further focus on how the public sector can commit to further unlocking the opportunities that green finance present.

At national level, in the UK we became the first major economy to make a legal commitment to achieving net zero emissions. This will mean getting to the point where we will be taking as much carbon out of the atmosphere as we are putting into it, and therefore are no longer contributing to climate change. Green technologies such as carbon capture and storage will have a key part to play here. And the new government has been clear that business investment and growth will be central pillars as we seek to reboot the UK economy.

As individuals we all have a part to play through our everyday choices: how we travel, what we eat, and how we spend and invest our money. That is a crucial opportunity for business, as consumers increasingly view their spending choices through a climate lens.

But there is another side to the climate coin – adaptation – because we are already living with the impacts of climate change. Adaptation is how we change the way we live in this reality: how we build, how we travel, how we work. Successful adaptation will only be possible through continued action by business, and through investment in the innovation and technology that this new reality requires.

Smart business: the role of the private sector

Looking back over the evolution of capitalism – from the UK as the “workshop of the world”, through the digital revolution, to the fourth industrial revolution – what we know is that

successful business innovates. Smart business adapts and it disrupts; and businesses that fail to innovate will eventually fail.

And when it comes to the climate emergency, business is stepping up to the plate. In August I visited O.C.O Technology in the southwest of England to see the company’s technique that turns hazardous waste – which would have otherwise been sent to landfill – into a non-hazardous resource for use in construction materials. This process is net carbon negative – and production in one year is the equivalent of planting more than half-a-million trees.



Likewise, earlier this year Tata Chemicals opened the UK's largest, and first industrial scale, carbon capture and usage plant located in Cheshire. Here, carbon dioxide captured from the combined heat and power plant is used in the production of sodium bicarbonate.

Meanwhile Gigastack are leading a project in the Humber to develop technology to produce green hydrogen, using renewable energy from one of Europe's largest wind farms.

All of these businesses are expected to capture significant levels of carbon dioxide, through technologies that make sense not just for the environment but for business – innovating for green growth and adapting to support the fight against climate change.

Pay it forward: the opportunity

So why should businesses be doing this? I could just tell you that it's the right thing to do. Because it is. But the truth is there are lots of reasons – I'll draw your attention to three.

Reason one: risk. How and what businesses invest in is critical in influencing the impacts of climate on

a global scale and helping businesses manage future risks. Example: in the UK we have felt the impact of climate change over the last few summers, through extreme flood and extreme heat events – data systems failed, railways buckled and the underground flooded. These events are going to become more common. Businesses must consider climate change as a risk to business continuity and climate resilience as a prudent investment in the good management of future risk.

Reason two: reputation. How businesses address these risks matters for their reputation. Businesses which can demonstrate a knowledge of climate risks



and have a plan to mitigate them will appeal to shareholders, investors and the public. They will also attract talent: in a tight labour market where everyone is competing for the top talent, tackling the climate emergency is one of the biggest draws for young people. And the highest performing staff are increasingly driven by purpose.

Reason three: reward. It will make more money. That's because adopting innovative, climate-resilient technologies and approaches mean greater efficiency; attractive, climate-smart products and processes mean greater demand; and greater resilience attracts investment and enhanced shareholder value.

And there's a further reason right now why we should be encouraging all companies to invest in the kind of technology on show at this conference and a greener future: it's the way to secure the growth, jobs and prosperity we all want.

The role of Green Finance

In 2019 the UK government set out its plans to green the financial system

and make the most of the opportunity of the transition to a net zero, resilient economy, through the objectives outlined in its Green Finance Strategy.

And last year the government also published a Roadmap to Sustainable Investing, which set out a path to sustainable disclosures reporting. Consistent, defined disclosures will help provide a level playing field in environmental reporting and the information required to support decision making for businesses and investors. And so are vital to ensuring long term growth.

What is the Environment Agency doing on Green Finance?

The Environment Agency is a key player in this work on Green Finance.

We are working directly with government and business to advise on the frameworks and policies to support the transition to sustainable investment. Example: our scientific and technical expertise is being used to provide clear definitions to be included in businesses' sustainable disclosures reporting. This means businesses can be confident of a level playing field, consumers can be confident that green really is green – and

that those that are doing the right thing benefit from their investment.

We are also taking action on the ground. The Environment Agency and Defra have collaborated on the £10 million Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund which has provided grants up to £100,000 to environmental groups, local authorities and businesses to help them develop nature projects that can attract private investment. These projects will help the private sector understand, invest in, and scale up activities that deliver better resilience to climate shocks in the years to come.

There is a simple reason why the Environment Agency is doing this: we have placed tackling the climate emergency at the heart of everything we do. We are working directly with the sectors we regulate to advise industry on how to decarbonise, reduce environmental risks and implement new technologies. We are helping businesses consider the future impacts of climate change on their operations to support the innovation which will drive economic growth.

Governments, businesses, NGOs cannot do this alone. We hope that by contributing to this work, in the future we

will have a strong framework for how businesses, government and NGOs can work together to address the challenges of climate.

Conclusion

I remain what is these days becoming quite unfashionable: a climate



optimist. This is because we are seeing change all over the world in how people think and act on climate. Whether that is on the international stage; through commitments made by individual governments; businesses investing in low carbon solutions; or the decisions we all take as individuals – because the climate is everyone’s business.

But it is the private sector that is the most important actor of all because it has the pace, power, resources and ability to innovate that are unmatched by other sectors. What businesses invest in can be a driving force in the fight against climate change and of a strong economy. By tackling the climate emergency, smart businesses are doing well by doing good.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was famous for her strong commitment to the free market. She is perhaps less remembered today for another strong stance she took. She was the first major world leader to call, at the UN in 1989, for action to tackle climate change. And she saw no contradiction between the capitalism she believed in so strongly and saving the planet. On the contrary, she made a powerful argument that only business and the free market could do that.

In that landmark speech in 1989, Mrs Thatcher said this:

“As well as the science, we need to get the economics right. That means first we must have continued economic growth in order to generate the wealth required to pay for the protection of the environment. But it must be growth which does not plunder the planet today and leave our children to deal with the consequences tomorrow.”

She was equally clear that the private sector is central to the solution: “It is industry which will develop safe alternative chemicals for refrigerators and air-conditioning. It is industry which will devise bio-degradable plastics. It is industry which will find the means to treat pollutants and make nuclear waste safe.”

More than thirty years after that landmark speech, we have made massive strides in recognising and starting to tackle the climate emergency. But the role of the private sector in doing so remains as critical now as it was then. As they say in Silicon Valley, the best way to predict the future is to invent it. I encourage all of you, and other businesses around the world, to invent the green and prosperous future we all want.

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UK boosts Ukraine's cyber defences with £6 million support package

November

From: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP

The UK's Ukraine Cyber Programme is utilising world-leading expertise to protect Ukraine's critical national infrastructure and vital public services from cyber attacks.

- UK's Ukraine Cyber Programme is protecting the Ukrainian Government and its critical national infrastructure from malicious cyber attacks.
- Partnership with industry is preventing Russian malign actors from accessing vital networks and providing forensic capabilities to the Ukrainian authorities.
- An initial £6.35 million package was mobilised in response to an increasing tempo of Russian cyber activity in the days following the invasion of Ukraine.

A £6.35 million support package from the UK Government is protecting Ukraine's critical national infrastructure and vital public services from cyber attacks, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly has revealed.

The UK's Ukraine Cyber Programme was mobilised shortly after Putin's invasion in February to protect against increased Russian cyber attacks. The programme has not been made public until now to protect its operational security.



Utilising the expertise of world-leading cyber security providers, the UK's Ukraine Cyber Programme has to date:

- 1 - Provided incident response support to Government of Ukraine entities, protecting them against destructive cyber attacks, including malware such as Industroyer2. This is preventing malicious actors from accessing vital information relevant to the war effort.
- 2 - Limited attacker access to vital networks and supported Ukraine to harden their critical infrastructure against future attacks.
- 3 - Delivered frontline cyber security hardware and software including: firewalls to prevent attacks taking hold; DDoS protection to ensure Ukrainian citizens can continue to

access vital information; and forensic capabilities to enable Ukrainian analysts to fully understand system compromises.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said:

“Russia’s attack on Ukraine is not limited to its horrific land invasion. It has also persistently attempted to invade Ukraine’s cyberspace, threatening critical information, services and infrastructure.



The UK’s support to Ukraine is not limited to military aid – we are drawing on Britain’s world-leading expertise to support Ukraine’s cyber defences. Together, we will ensure that the Kremlin is defeated in every sphere: on land, in the air and in cyber space.”

Lindy Cameron, CEO of the National Cyber Security Centre, said:

“The NCSC is proud to have played a part in supporting Ukraine’s cyber defenders. They have mounted an impressive defence against Russian aggression in cyberspace, just as they have done on the physical battlefield.

The threat remains real and the UK’s support package is undoubtedly bolstering Ukraine’s defences further.”

Russian actors have a long history of hostile and destabilising activity against Ukraine, including:

- Shutting off part of Ukraine’s electricity grid in December 2015, leaving 230,000 people without power for up to 6 hours.
- Destructive cyber attacks in 2017 targeting Ukraine’s finance and energy sectors and government services, leading

to knock-on effects on other European partners.

- Kyiv metro and Odessa airport disrupted by ransomware that encrypted hard drives.
- Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks on 15-16 February 2022, which the UK’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) judge were the work of Russia’s GRU military intelligence agency.
- A series of cyber attacks since the invasion, including against commercial operators such as Viasat in March which had a serious impact on access to internet and other services across both Ukraine and other parts of Europe.

The tempo of Russian cyber attacks against Ukraine increased significantly following its illegal invasion in February 2022, seeking to undermine Ukraine’s sovereignty and strategic advantage in the war.

The UK’s support is strengthening Ukraine’s cyber defences and improving collective long-term cyber resilience.

Schools need more specialist help for primary age children with additional needs

November

From: Ofsted

Primary-age children are referred to alternative provision when schools are unable to manage their physically or verbally violent behaviour, with negative effects on other children and staff. Around 7,000 primary-age children in England are currently known to be in AP. While this is a small proportion of all primary pupils, the number has risen by over a quarter in the last 5 years.

To understand this increase, Ofsted research explored the role that AP plays in the education system and the reasons primary-age children are referred there in the first place. It also looked at the challenges schools and APs face in supporting young children with additional needs, and how they work together to re-integrate them into mainstream education where possible.

Ofsted's study, published today, found that most primary-age pupils only stayed in AP for a few weeks or months, and usually attended part time. However, some children with additional needs stay in AP for years while they wait for a special school place, and AP staff may be unable to meet their needs fully in the meantime. This absence of appropriate teaching and specialist support could have long-term consequences for these vulnerable children.

Primary school staff told Ofsted that the strain on specialist services nationally - exacerbated by the pandemic - has made it more difficult to support pupils with special educational needs. Limited access to professional help, such as speech and language therapists or educational psychology services, could be leading to more AP referrals and potentially more permanent exclusions.

Study participants also told Ofsted:

- Children were referred to an AP when their schools' support strategies had not worked - either because of a lack of training, funding or facilities. Support strategies also became ineffective when relationships between parents and school staff broke down. In these cases, an AP referral was sometimes used as a 'circuit breaker' to repair relationships, with the AP acting as a mediator



between the school and parents, while supporting the child.

- School staff believed pupils' violent behaviour often stemmed from difficult home lives or undiagnosed SEND. A large majority of children in the study had social, emotional and /or health needs. This aligns with national statistics on pupils referred to AP.

- Staff had high expectations for pupils' progress and outcomes, and most were expected to return to school. For other children, schools and APs worked together to identify the right future setting, such as a special school.

- Schools saw outreach work by APs to be important for the early identification of children's needs, preventing an



escalation in behaviour and helping retain pupils in mainstream education. However, AP staff said that funding arrangements affect the amount of outreach work they can do.

- Some APs had specialist teams on site, so that pupils' needs could be understood and addressed quickly. APs may also extend help to families, because some parents of children in AP have their own emotional, cognitive or learning needs.

- All parents involved in the research said their child's behaviour and academic work had improved since joining an AP, but some were unsure whether AP could substantially 'change' their child's behaviour or lead to them have a happy and full life after leaving AP.

His Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, said:

"It seems shocking that primary age children, as young as five, could be taken out of school for violent behaviour. But, as our study shows, AP can be a positive choice for these children and play a transformative role in their young lives.

But limited access to external services, and lengthy waiting times for a special school place, mean some vulnerable

children languish for years in APs that cannot provide the specialist support they need. And the consequences for these children may last well into their adult lives."

Today's report states that a high-quality curriculum and high-quality teaching are crucial in preventing pupils' needs from developing or worsening. Teachers would also benefit from improved access to appropriate external services, and opportunities to develop the right knowledge and skills. This could allow more mainstream schools to support pupils with additional needs, avoiding an AP referral or exclusion.



Flood Action Week: Households urged to prepare in 2022 year of extremes

November

From: Environment Agency and Rebecca Pow MP

Communities are being urged to prepare for flooding this winter with the Environment Agency warning of “ignoring the danger at your own peril”.

Amid increased extreme weather events brought on by the climate emergency, the Environment Agency is launching an awareness campaign - Flood Action Week - to encourage those who live in areas at risk of flooding to act now to protect their home, possessions and family.

This year alone, the UK experienced its highest ever recorded temperatures, as the Met Office confirmed that England had its joint hottest summer on record with much of the country still struggling with drought.

Looking ahead to this winter, although the Met Office says the chance of wet

and windy weather increases as we go through the season, unexpected flooding could occur at any time and communities are being warned not to be complacent following this summer’s dry weather.

Since 1998 we have seen six of the ten wettest years on record and this year for the first time ever saw three named storms in one week.

One of the key messages coming from

COP27, which gets underway in Egypt this week, is that we must plan and prepare for increasingly extreme events.

As we have seen across the globe, the effects of climate change are becoming clearer, with wildfires raging across Europe; China experiencing its worst heatwave in decades; and devastating floods in Pakistan ripping through communities killing more than



1500 people and displacing millions.

This Flood Action Week (7 November – 13 November) the Environment Agency is urging people to take three simple steps:

Caroline Douglass, Executive Director of Flooding at the Environment Agency, said:

“Climate change is happening now. We’re seeing more extreme weather - in this year alone with three named storms in a week, record-breaking temperatures and drought declared across large parts of the country.

“That is why it is vital that people take the necessary preparations as early as possible to prepare for the worst. Our recent investment programme has better protected 314,000 homes from flooding and we’re investing millions into keeping communities safe, but we can’t stop all flooding.

The message is clear - households risk ignoring the danger of flooding at their own peril. Anyone can go online to check if they are at risk, sign up for Environment Agency warnings, and, most importantly, know what you need to do if flooding hits.”

Floods Minister Rebecca Pow said:

“I know how devastating flooding can be - the loss of your home, the financial stress, and the destruction of irreplaceable, sentimental belongings all place unbelievable strain on those affected.

Simple steps such as checking your flood risk online and signing up for flood warnings can make all the difference in terms of preparing yourself for what may come.

We are committed to pressing ahead with our record £5.2 billion investment in flood and coastal defences between 2021 and 2027 to ensure more communities are even better prepared for future flooding events.”

This year’s Flood Action Week comes as the Environment Agency has now expanded its flood warning service to reach almost 50,000 new properties at risk of flooding and hopes to exceed its target to provide new warning capability for 62,000 properties at risk of flooding by this winter. It brings the number of properties registered with the service to 1.6 million.

With over 250 mobile pumps and 5,000 trained staff across the country, the Environment Agency is ready to take action wherever it is needed this winter. The construction and repair



of flood defences has also continued throughout the year as part of the record £5.2 billion government investment in flood and coastal defences.

These preparations have already helped to protect communities from flooding. During the storms earlier this year, despite some 400 properties sadly flooding, around 35,000 were protected by Environment Agency schemes.

Will Lang from the Met Office said:

“Winters in the UK usually include a wide variety of weather, and this winter looks to be no exception.

Although we expect to see high pressure dominating our weather through much of the early winter, which increases the potential for cold spells, we could still see wet and windy weather at times.

The risk of unsettled weather increases as we head into 2023 with wet, windy, and mild spells a real possibility.”

At least one in six people in England are at risk from flooding from rivers and the sea, with many more at risk from surface water flooding.

However nearly two in three households at risk of flooding don't believe it will

happen to them, according to analysis produced by the Environment Agency earlier this year.

And despite the research showing that almost two thirds of people (60%) have taken at least one action to prepare for flooding, as many as 1.5 million households, who are at risk, are yet to prepare.

Those at risk are encouraged to follow the advice to ‘Prepare. Act. Survive’, specifically:

- If there is an initial flood alert – prepare by packing medicines and insurance and other important documents and visit the flood warning information service
- If there is a subsequent confirmed flood warning – act by moving family, pets and belongings to safety. Turn off gas, water and electricity
- If there is a severe flood warning – survive immediate danger by following the advice of emergency services or calling 999 if needed

With just 30cm of flowing water being enough to float a car, drivers are also being warned not to attempt to drive through flood water and take extra

precautions in wet weather.

Tony Rich, from The AA said:

“It's vital for drivers to be aware of the risks of driving in floodwater and during heavy rain. Roads can quickly become flooded, making your intended route impassable, so allow plenty of time for journeys. It's also important to leave more space than normal between you and the car in front to allow for greater stopping distances.

Drivers should take extra care where roads dip, especially under bridges as these are most likely to flood first. Flood water can be deceptively deep and can easily cause damage to your vehicle's bodywork or worse – the engine, often resulting in hefty repair bills.

Flood water can also mask other hazards in the road, such as displaced drain covers and potholes, so if in doubt turn around and find another route. Doing this may add time to your journey, but as it only takes 30cm of flowing water to float a car – it's better to be safe than sorry.”

Government ministers visit spaceport ahead of first UK launch

November

From: UK Space Agency

Science Minister, George Freeman, and Transport Technology Minister, Jesse Norman, joined representatives from the UK Space Agency to meet those behind the mission and saw Virgin Orbit's LauncherOne rocket and its carrier aircraft, Cosmic Girl – which will launch from Spaceport Cornwall – up close.

Ministers also toured the spaceport's new Space Systems Integration Facility, the first of its kind at a spaceport in the UK, where the satellites have been integrated into the rocket ready for launch. Spaceport Cornwall will deliver 150 direct jobs and 240 indirect jobs by 2030.

Science Minister George Freeman said:

“The first ever satellite launch from UK soil, here at Spaceport Cornwall, will be a giant leap for our fast-growing

commercial satellite and space sector. This is one of our most innovative industries, generating new opportunities in Cornwall and beyond, with high-growth companies such as Space Forge, Surrey Satellites, Astroscale, Inmarsat, Open Cosmos, and the thriving Scottish space cluster.



By establishing the UK as the leading European base to launch small satellites, we can build on our existing strengths in areas such as space manufacturing, in-flight manufacturing, satellite and debris retrieval, and launch licensing insurance and finance, to create jobs across the country, grow the economy and attract international investment.”

Transport Technology Minister Jesse Norman said:

“We have one of the most advanced space sectors in the world, and the first commercial space launch from the UK will be a landmark moment both for the country and for our transport sector.”

The mission, which has been named ‘Start Me Up’ in tribute to the iconic British band, the Rolling Stones,

will be the first orbital launch from the UK, meeting a key ambition of the Government's National Space Strategy, as well as being the first commercial launch from Europe and the first international launch from Virgin Orbit.

Both Cosmic Girl – an adapted Boeing 747 – and LauncherOne arrived separately in Cornwall last month, and the rocket is now in place under the wing of the aircraft.

Ian Annett, Deputy CEO at the UK Space Agency, said:

“We are at the dawn of a new era for space launch in the UK and about to achieve the goal of putting satellites into orbit in 2022. This is an immensely proud moment for the UK Space Agency and all those who have worked so hard to make this ambition a reality.

Establishing orbital launch capabilities in the UK is already bringing new growth through investment and jobs into Cornwall and other communities across the UK, inspiring a new generation of space professionals whether in science, engineering, law and other disciplines.”

Melissa Thorpe, Head of Spaceport

Cornwall, said:

“It's been phenomenal to welcome so many supporters of the UK space sector here to Spaceport Cornwall ahead of our first launch.

My team and I loved showing the world how much work and how much international collaboration is going into making this world-first a reality. This marks just the beginning of a global movement with Space For Good at its core.”

Dan Hart, CEO Virgin Orbit, said:

“We're honoured to be part of this historic mission to open up the UK's first international spaceport in Cornwall. With this mission we break new ground across the commercial space sector and important allied collaboration in space. Our company is here to serve our customers and their ambitions. Virgin Orbit is up and running and working to obtain final approvals to move forward.”

The UK Government's National Space Strategy sets out how the UK will become the first country in Europe to launch satellites into orbit in 2022. Spaceport Cornwall is one of seven spaceport sites being developed across the UK which will

help unleash a wave of innovation and create hundreds of new jobs across the country. All UK launches are subject to receiving a licence from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Councillor Louis Gardner, Cornwall Council portfolio holder for economy, said:

“We're delighted that ministers were able to visit Spaceport Cornwall as we gear up for the UK's first ever satellite launch.

This is an incredibly exciting time, not only for the Spaceport and those directly involved in “Start Me Up” but for Cornwall as a whole, and I'd like to pay tribute to all those involved for their hard work and dedication in getting us to this point.

We have a long and storied history of engineering excellence in Cornwall, and the potential benefits that Spaceport Cornwall brings to our economy have never been clearer. From new jobs and new investment to inspiring the next generation of tech pioneers and space professionals, this promises to be yet another red letter day in our shared history.”

Government drive to help over 50s re-join the jobs market

November

From: Department for Work and Pensions

- Network of dedicated 50PLUS: Champions now in place across England, Scotland and Wales
- Builds on £22 million funding boost secured to support older workers

Dozens of 50 PLUS Champions tasked with helping older workers into work are now in place across England, Scotland and Wales, the Minister for Employment confirmed today.

Each area has specialised, local staff dedicated to this helping over 50's into work. They are working directly with Jobcentres and employers to remove any barriers that are keeping older workers out of the jobs market. Results of this partnership work are already being seen with leading employers like McDonald's working with the Jobcentre in Scunthorpe to fill vacancies.

50 PLUS Champions assist Work Coaches to change employer attitudes about hiring over 50s as well as matching jobseekers with opportunities that suit their skills.

Minister for Employment, Guy Opperman MP, said:

“Older workers are a huge asset to our country and our economy. I want to support them to get into work.

An age-inclusive workforce makes business sense too. Our 50 PLUS Champions will work with leading employers across the country to connect job-ready people with the vast number of opportunities out there.”

DWP is also supporting older jobseekers, with the introduction of the Jobcentre Mid-Life MOT service which supports people to take stock and make plans for their work, wealth and well-being into the

future.

Jobcentres deliver a specialised offer for those 50 and over, identifying and overcoming obstacles holding them back from the labour market. Support includes modernising CVs or developing new skills through specialist programmes with new



employers and a new approach. There are also individual businesses which partner up with Jobcentres to create sector-based work academies. These SWAPs last up to six weeks and offer pre-employment training, work experience with an employer in the industry and, at the end of the programme, an opportunity to apply for a job interview in the sector or seek help with the application process.

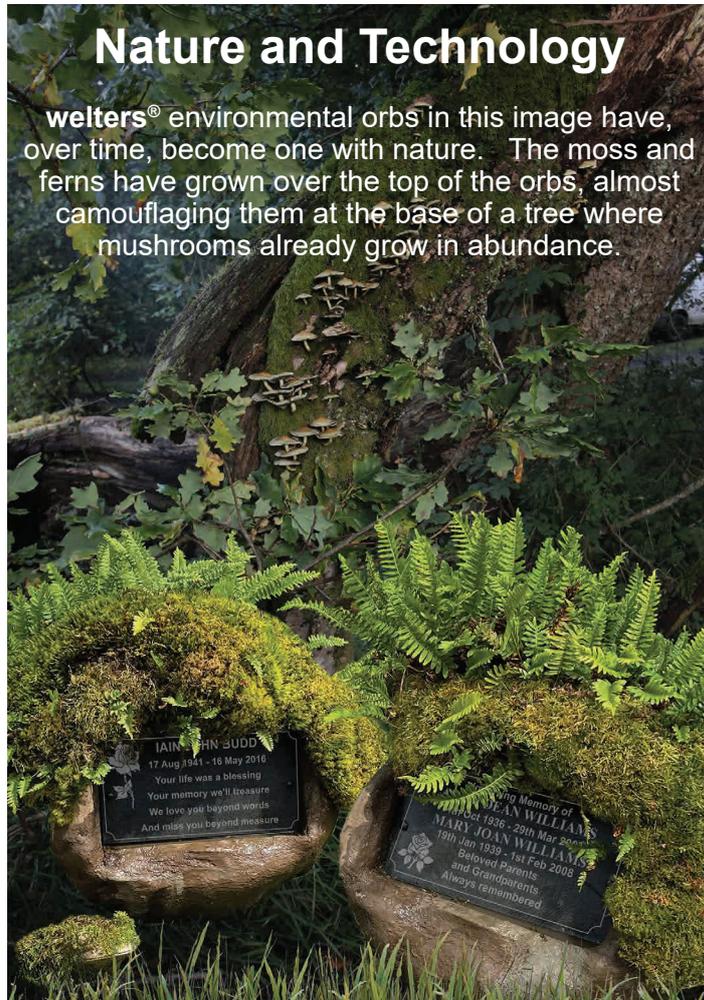
To mark National Older Workers Week, DWP is organising a number of events and jobs fairs across the country, including job fairs at Hackney Jobcentre Plus and in Birmingham & Solihull at Kings Norton Jobcentre Plus on 22 November, as well as the 'Let's Go Retro' jobs fair in South Manchester on 25 Novembers, all specifically targeted at jobseekers over 50.

- National Older Workers Week takes place from 21 to 25 November 2022
- Founded by Working Wise, the awareness week is now in its second year
- Working Wise will host a series of events during National Older Workers Week, including an online session for employers on how they can create an age-inclusive workplace



Nature and Technology

welters® environmental orbs in this image have, over time, become one with nature. The moss and ferns have grown over the top of the orbs, almost camouflaging them at the base of a tree where mushrooms already grow in abundance.



One in two motor trade workers suffering with mental health and wellbeing

December

From: the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE)

Motor trade organisations have joined forces with the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Working Minds campaign to tackle work-related stress in the motor repair trade ahead of Christmas.

Ben, a charity that supports people who work or have worked in the automotive industry, has revealed one in two workers in the automotive sector have struggled with their mental health and wellbeing in the past 12 months, while 50% of those involved in the industry are likely to have been dealing with stress, worry or anxiety, low mood or depression. Ben has also seen a 190% rise in people using their benefits counselling service and accessing their financial guidance.

HSE, together with Working Minds campaign partners Ben, the National Body Repair Association (NBRA),

the commercial Vehicle Body Repair Association (VBRA) and the Independent Garage Association (IGA) are promoting how to prevent work-related stress and support good mental health across the sector.

During the winter months, Ben sees an increase in enquiries and cases as many people tend to spend more time indoors and have less interaction with others, negatively impacting their emotional wellbeing. The charity says enquiries also come from people who are suffering with financial issues as they see an increase in their bills, which can also lead to poor mental health.

Ellen Plumer, Head of Outreach, Health and Wellbeing at Ben, said: "Each year thousands of people come to Ben with mental health issues as their primary concern. From results of latest survey of those in the automotive industry, one in two workers have struggled in the past 12

months. Stress is the most common issue, followed by anxiety and poor sleep.

"Work life balance and high workload are the biggest drivers of workplace stress. If it's not addressed and goes on for a long period of time, it can turn into an issue. We know there is a strong link between money worries and mental health.

"If you're struggling with money, then you're likely to be stressed and anxious. It's really important for employers to understand that all areas of a person's life impacts health and wellbeing. Work is a big part of life so it's important to make people feel like they matter, are heard and feel supported."

The latest figures from HSE show there were an estimated 914,000 cases due to work-related stress,

depression, or anxiety for workers in Great Britain in 2021/22. That's an 11% rise from the 822,000 cases in 2020/21. An estimated 17 million working days were also lost to work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2021/22, which covers more than half of all working days lost due to work-related ill health across the same period.

Research from the regulator has also found that those who work in motor vehicle repairs, the wholesale and retail trade, had a significantly higher workplace injury rate in 2021/22 compared to most industries. HSE's Working Minds campaign was launched last year and is aimed specifically at supporting small businesses by providing employers and workers with easy to implement advice and tools to help them

recognise and respond to the signs and causes of stress and support good mental health in the workplace. The law requires all employers to protect workers from stress at work by doing a risk assessment and acting on it.

There is an economic benefit to employers supporting staff's mental health. Figures from a Deloitte report show employers can see a return of £5.30 on average for every £1 invested in mental health, while the total annual cost of poor mental health to employers has increased now by 25% since 2019, costing UK bosses up to £56 billion a year.

Liz Goodwill, Head of the Work Related Stress and Mental Health Policy Team at HSE, said: "We're calling on employers in

the automotive industry to ensure that recognising and responding to the signs of stress becomes as routine, as managing workplace safety. Bosses in the automotive industry should hold regular catch-ups with workers and their teams."

"Working Minds helps employers to follow 5 simple steps based on risk assessment. They are to Reach out and have conversations, Recognise the signs and causes of stress, Respond to any risks you've identified, Reflect on actions you've agreed and taken, and make it Routine. It needs to become the norm to talk about stress and how people are feeling and coping at work."

Guidance, risk assessment templates and talking toolkits to help employers spot the signs of work-related stress and prevent issues before they become a problem, can be found through HSE's Working Minds campaign: <https://workright.campaign.gov.uk/campaigns/working-minds/>

To find out more information about Ben and to access their services visit: <https://ben.org.uk/> or call their helpline on 08081 311 333.



Tens of thousands protected from homelessness thanks to £654 million funding boost

December

From: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Felicity Buchan MP, and The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP

- £654 million funding package will see councils target support at those who need it the most including vulnerable families and people at risk of rough sleeping
- £24 million to help provide temporary accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their children



- Part of a wider £2 billion package of support to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping over the next 3 years

Tens of thousands of vulnerable people will be protected from homelessness by a £654 million funding package government announced today, (23 December 2022).

All councils in England will receive their share of funding from the Homelessness Prevention Grant to provide vital support to those who need it the most in their local areas over the next 2 years.

The money will be used to provide temporary accommodation for families, help individuals at risk of becoming homeless pay deposits for new homes and mediate with landlords to avoid evictions.

£24 million of the funding will help councils support homeless domestic abuse victims, ensuring no one has to

stay with their abuser for fear of not having a roof over their head.

Today's funding follows a £50 million top up to the grant for this year, announced last month, and forms part of the government's wider £2 billion package of support to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, outlined earlier this year.

Councils have a statutory duty to ensure no family is left without a roof over their heads and today's funding announcement will help them to carry out this duty.

The Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, said:

"The government is determined to end rough sleeping and tackle homelessness because for too many people, the opportunity to celebrate Christmas in a warm and safe environment is beyond reach.

We know that words alone are not enough. That is why government is investing £2 billion over the next 3 years to give some of the most vulnerable people a roof over their heads, along with targeted support to rebuild their lives.

Today's announcement will provide vital support to families who are at risk of rough sleeping, including by providing temporary accommodation and helping with deposits."

Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Felicity Buchan, said:

"Everyone should have a safe and secure home. This government is determined to prevent homelessness and to get vulnerable families and individuals the support they need.

Whether it's emergency housing, support

to pay a deposit, or mediation to prevent eviction, today's package will provide help to those who need it the most at the discretion of those who know them best."

Councillor Alex Dale, Leader of North East Derbyshire District Council, said:

"We are really proud of the services the Homelessness Prevention Grant allows us to fund.

Homelessness is something that can affect anyone, especially during these challenging times, and that's why we use the grant to serve as many local residents as we can."

Since the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2018, over 500,000 households have had their homelessness successfully prevented or relieved.

Councils can use the money flexibly based on their knowledge of the local area and the local housing market. Many councils use the funding to offer mediation services for landlords and tenants to prevent evictions or implement special programmes to identify root causes of homelessness.

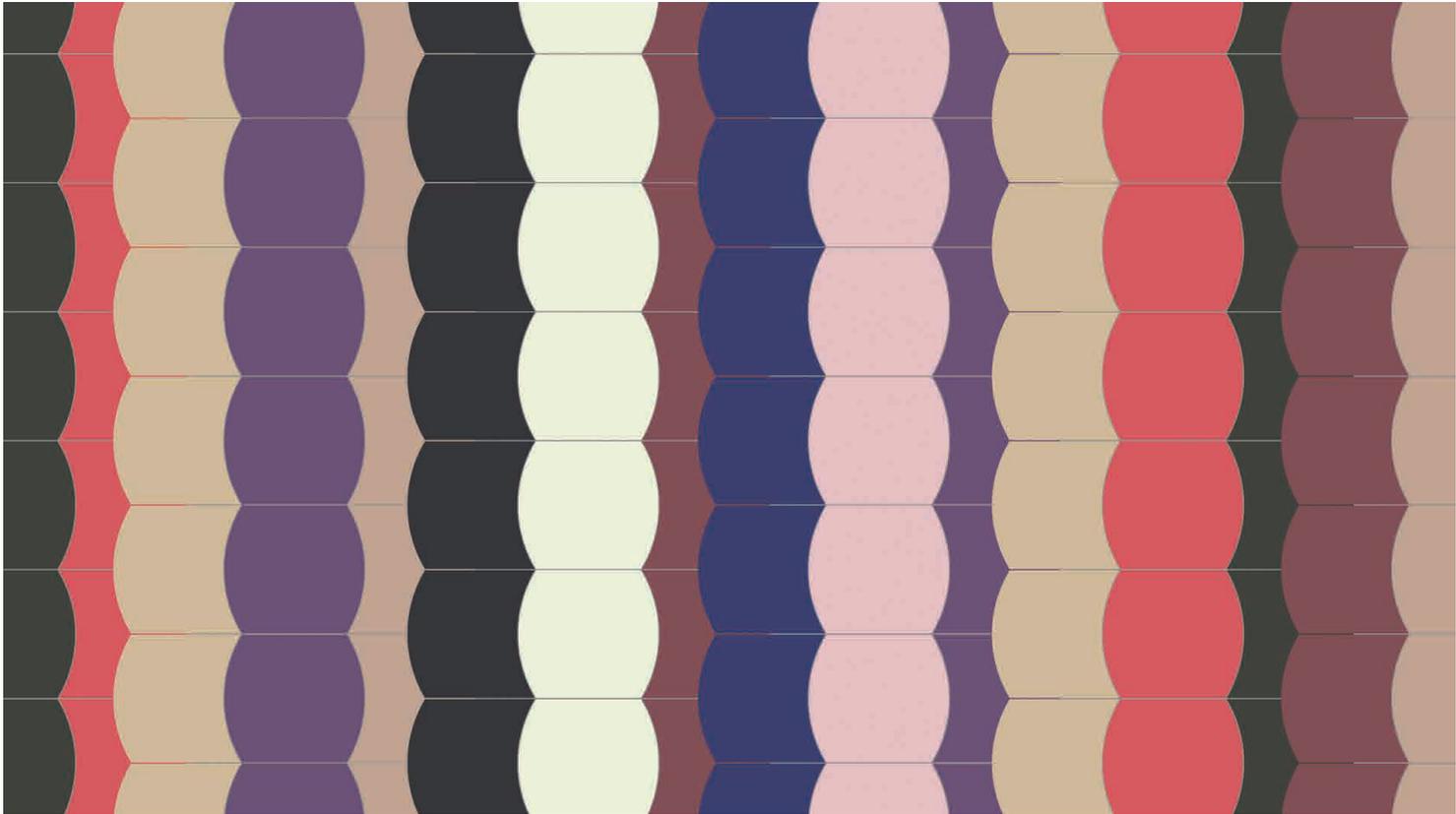
Pathways of Chesterfield, for example, provides a range of services that help break down the barriers that have led someone to homelessness and give them tools to move forward.

Julian, a beneficiary of Pathways said:

"This support will also get me into fulltime work now that I have a place of my own. It was a comforting experience. Until you've been in this position it's hard to put into words. As Pathways housed me, it's been a massive positive impact on my mental health."

To make sure distribution of funding reflects current pressures and demand in areas across England, the department consulted councils and other interested stakeholders on amending the funding arrangements for the grant earlier this year. Today's allocations reflect this new formula.





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Number of defibrillators to be increased with new funding

December

From: Department of Health and Social Care, Helen Whately MP, and The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP

- £1 million fund will increase defibrillators in the community by an estimated 1,000
- Organisations will be invited to bid to place defibrillators in areas most in need
- Successful bidders will be asked to match funding, potentially doubling the number of new defibrillators

The public will have faster access to life-saving defibrillators as the government announces a new £1 million fund to increase the number of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in communities most in need - providing an estimated 1,000 new defibrillators in community spaces across England.

The Department of Health and Social Care will invest the funding through an independent partner in the new year who will manage grant applications from bidding organisations. Those selected will be asked to match the funding they

receive fully or partially, potentially doubling the number of new defibrillators created by the fund.

Applicants will also be asked to demonstrate that defibrillators will be placed in areas where they are most needed, such as places with high footfall, vulnerable people, rural areas, or due to the nature of activity at the site.

Examples could include town halls, community centres, local shops, post offices and local parks, to ensure that defibrillators are evenly spread throughout communities and easily accessible if someone is experiencing an unexpected cardiac arrest.

The independent partner managing the fund will be announced in due course and will work with the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that new defibrillators in the community are accessible on a 24/7 basis and are equally accessible across England to all social groups.

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Steve Barclay, said:

“I’ve heard extraordinary stories of ordinary people being kept alive thanks to the swift use of a defibrillator on the football pitch, at the gym or in their local community.

We must make sure these life-saving devices are more accessible, with our new £1 million fund expected to place around 1,000 new defibrillators in communities across England.”

Minister of State for Care, Helen Whately, said:

“We want people to have the best chance of survival from cardiac arrest, and public access to defibrillators is critical to achieving this.

This fund will help us make sure there are more of these incredible devices in our communities and we save more lives.”

Dr Charmaine Griffiths, chief executive at the British Heart Foundation said:

“For every minute without CPR or defibrillation, a person’s chances of survival from an out of hospital cardiac arrest decreases by 10%, so we welcome this move to improve access to defibrillators in communities across England.

We urge anyone who looks after a defibrillator in their community, workplace or sports club to ensure that it is registered on The Circuit so that the ambulance services will know where it is in an emergency.”

NHS national medical director Professor Sir Stephen Powis said:

“It is essential that people are equipped with the knowledge, skills and equipment they need to be able to save a life, and access to a defibrillator, along with initial recognition of symptoms, early CPR and post resuscitation care can mean the difference between life and death for a person who is going into cardiac arrest.

The NHS is proud to be working with local community partners to champion the importance of learning how to recognise and respond to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest - including working with St John Ambulance to recruit a national network of community advocates to encourage more people to learn CPR and lifesaving skills.”

The funding is part of the government’s commitment to support the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease and improving access to emergency treatment across England.

Organisations and individuals that acquire defibrillators, or already own them, are urged to register them on The Circuit, a national defibrillator database for ambulance services to quickly identify the nearest device.

Background information

The selected partner for the Automated External Defibrillators Fund will be announced in due course.

The Automated External Defibrillators Fund is non-recurring, meaning the Department of Health and Social Care will provide funding for the purchase of defibrillators, but upkeep will be funded by organisations or individuals who receive them.

The Circuit was set up by the NHS, British Heart Foundation (BHF), the Resuscitation Council UK, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives.

State-funded schools in England that do not already have a defibrillator will receive one from the Department for Education over the course of this and next year: Every school will have a life-saving defibrillator by 2022 to 2023.



World-first satellite to measure Earth's water levels launches

December

From: UK Space Agency

A UK-backed mission, which will observe huge swathes of ocean and surface water in unprecedented detail, has launched into space.

The international Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite took off from Vandenberg in California on 16 December.

SWOT will use a revolutionary radar instrument, named KaRIn, to survey at least 90% of the Earth's surface, measuring and monitoring changes in the ocean, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and wetlands, to produce data that will help improve our understanding of climate change, as well as predict and mitigate flood risks around the world.

SWOT is a satellite jointly developed by NASA and the French space agency, CNES, in partnership with the Canadian

Space Agency (CSA) and UK Space Agency.

The UK Space Agency has provided UK technology company Honeywell with £12.2 million to develop KaRIn's Ka Band duplexer, which routes vital radar signals around the satellite at a frequency never reached before.

UK scientists are also supporting the international effort to assess and exploit SWOT data over areas with very high tidal ranges and fast currents. The UK Space Agency partnered with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), between them investing £375,000 in the SWOT-UK science research project that will focus on SWOT data covering the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary area.

Science Minister George Freeman said:

"Water is fast becoming a major geopolitical resource: with climate change

causing droughts and floods and global interest in water temperature and flows.

The UK government has just committed £314 million to participate in European Earth observation missions, giving us access to crucial data about our natural world and how we can tackle climate change.

It's fantastic to see industry and universities from across the UK collaborate on a global mission that will mark a step-change in our ability to map, monitor and respond to ocean and surface water.

Our space sector thrives on building relationships with our international counterparts and this mission has the UK at its heart with our friends in the US, France, Canada and NASA."

UK Space Agency CEO Dr Paul Bate

said:

“SWOT will revolutionise our understanding of our planet’s surface water and how its patterns are changing, giving us vital information to improve how we manage one of humanity’s most precious resources.

This is an important mission for the UK to be involved in, both in terms of building the radar instrument and in directly receiving and analysing Earth observation data for the UK.

I look forward to seeing the data that the satellite returns on the Bristol Channel



and Severn Estuary.”

The SWOT-UK project is led by the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) with the University of Bristol and Bangor University to evaluate the SWOT data over British waters. The Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary will be observed once a day during a three-month period in April to June 2023 to provide unprecedented information from space on water level changes in this dynamic coastal environment.

Professor Christine Gommenginger, Principal Scientist in Satellite Oceanography at NOC, has more than 20 years’ experience in measuring sea level with altimetry and co-leads SWOT-UK.

Prof. Christine Gommenginger said:

“For the first time, SWOT will produce detailed images of water levels that will help understand the complex processes that connect water levels over the ocean and inland waters.

One objective of SWOT-UK is to demonstrate how satellite Earth observation data can be used with in situ instruments and numerical models to answer important questions for science and society.”

Paul Bates CBE FRS, Professor of Hydrology at the University of Bristol, was part of the team that originally pitched the SWOT concept to NASA 20 years ago, and his team contributed flood hydraulic models during the mission design phase.

Prof. Paul Bates said:

“SWOT will transform our ability to track freshwater on planet Earth and currents in the ocean. For the first time, we will be able to track flood waves moving down river systems and see the rise and fall of water levels in millions of lakes and wetlands worldwide.

We will not only be able to use these data to make new scientific discoveries, but also to help populations worldwide better manage water hazards and resources.”

Bangor University led the deployment of sensors, called acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCP), to measure tidal flows in the Bristol Channel, and the RiverRay instrument, which will take similar measurements in the River Severn by travelling across the channel on a small boat. Simon Neill, Professor in Physical

Oceanography at Bangor University, said:

“The ADCP is a device that uses sound waves to measure the speed and direction of currents throughout the water column, providing an understanding of how water in rivers and oceans moves.

The data collected from these devices will enable us to develop a full understanding of the Bristol Channel and to directly compare with the data collected by SWOT.”

Built in the UK, Honeywell’s Ka Band duplexer is a vital part of the KaRIn altimeter on the SWOT satellite, routing radar signals around the satellite and transmitting at a power of 1,500W – a level never seen in this kind of device – allowing KaRIn to measure water levels to better than 2 cm height accuracy at a spatial resolution of 1 km from an orbit height of 891 km above the Earth.

Craig Molford, Senior Director for Space Payloads at Honeywell, said:

“The SWOT duplexer was undoubtedly one of the most challenging and complex radio frequency (RF) duplexers ever produced by Honeywell – and we’ve produced a lot of them. It used an unprecedented number

of ferrite switches, couplers, and electronics boards to enable the level of performance, accuracy, and ruggedness this amazing platform requires.

Talented Honeywell engineering and manufacturing teams in the UK drew on decades of experience in (RF) technologies for spacecraft to develop the SWOT duplexer.”

The Plymouth Marine Laboratory will also work with the Ocean University of China to analyse the data returned and identify and track eddies, looking specifically at how the Mid Atlantic Ridge impacts their progression across the South Atlantic and how this affects the north-south transport of heat by the ocean.

Dr Graham Quartly, NCEO Remote

Sensing Oceanographer at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, said:

“The mission will give us valuable insight into the flow of warm salty water within the Atlantic and improve our understanding of factors affecting sea level rise. This will help us improve models of predicted future changes, so that society can be better prepared.”

The UK recently committed £315 million to future Earth observation and climate missions and programmes, including TRUTHS and Aeolus-2, through the European Space Agency, and a further £65 million to national programmes that will strengthen skills and capabilities in this important area.



Government proposes extending licensing hours for the Coronation

December

From: Home Office

Pub licensing hours are set to be extended under proposals being published by government today (Monday 19 December) to mark His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen



Consort's Coronation, providing an opportunity for our communities to come together and celebrate this historic moment, and support our hospitality industry.

The consultation will propose extending licensing hours from 11pm to 1am from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 May in pubs, clubs and bars in England and Wales.

The Home Secretary, under Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003, can make an order relaxing licensing hours to mark occasions of “exceptional national significance”, and the Coronation is an occasion which will see our country united in celebration across the Bank Holiday weekend.

The Home Secretary Suella Braverman said:

“His Majesty the King's Coronation will be a historic moment that will see our great

nation and the entire Commonwealth joined together in celebration.

Our country, and in particular our hospitality industry, has faced many challenges in recent years and the King's Coronation is an opportunity to give a boost to our local businesses, and celebrate with our local communities.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend we can raise a glass to our new monarch, and with our friends and families wish him a long and successful reign.”

The extension of licensing hours for the Coronation will be subject to public consultation, and follows the government's announcement of an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8 May, with public events and local community celebrations being planned across the country to mark the historic occasion.



Acknowledgements

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the following sources:

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