

News story: GC and Queen's University Belfast chart life of Monier-Williams

Awarded a Military Cross for his work combating chemical warfare in the first World War, Gordon Wickham Monier-Williams went on to make comprehensive contributions to improvements in public health via analytical chemistry.

Monier-Williams is a well known name in the history of food safety in the UK, owing to his eponymous method for the determination of sulphites in food. Sulphites are very useful additives but can cause severe, even life threatening asthmatic reactions in sensitive subjects. Thus their detection and control is vital. The method Monier-Williams published in 1927 remains the reference method for their determination in food.

But Monier-Williams did much more – the breadth of his investigations in food chemistry and toxicology was wide including:

- metallic contaminants in food – aluminium, Al, Arsenic, As, Lead, Pb, and antimony, Sb, including from glazes and enamels used in cooking utensils
- additives such as preservatives and colours
- foreign matter, e.g. glass, in food
- chemical reactions ('blowing') in canned food
- the detection of added water in milk
- natural and artificial bleaching of flour

Aside from food he studied the eradication of bed-bugs, and presciently, the use of alcohol as a fuel.

Dr Michael Walker from the Government Chemist said:

Having applied his method in the lab many times it was fascinating to find out more about Monier-Williams' life and work, especially in the trenches. This was an unexpected resonance with our [colleagues' work](#) identifying previously unknown remains of soldiers from WW I.

Professor Duncan Thorburn Burns, from Queen's University Belfast, said:

Gordon Wickham Monier-Williams is well known to analytical chemists for his eponymous method and it was a pleasure to unveil his contributions to the improvement in both quality and purity of

foodstuffs.

[Read the full extent of his influential work](#) in the open access [Journal of the Association of Public Analysts](#).

A [scan](#) of Monier-Williams' 1927 report on the determination of sulphite is also available.

To know more about the work of the Government Chemist please contact

Press release: Multi-million pound fund to help tackle the disability employment gap launched

A £4.2 million challenge fund to support people with mental health or musculoskeletal conditions to stay in work has been launched by the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton, and the Minister for Mental Health and Inequalities, Jackie Doyle-Price.

The fund is the latest in a range of government measures that are part of a 10-year strategy which aims to see 1 million more disabled people in work by 2027.

The challenge fund, run by Rocket Science on behalf of the government, is aimed at testing new approaches to help people experiencing mental ill health or musculoskeletal issues to remain in employment.

They might be at risk of losing employment because of the effects of their condition, or may already be temporarily off work through ill health.

Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work Sarah Newton, said:

We know there is a gap between disabled people who want to work and those who have the opportunity to do so.

With 78% of people acquiring their disability or health condition during their adult life, it's crucial that we support disabled people who want to work to stay in or return to employment.

The joint initiative between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health and Social Care will fund projects that help people to stay in work by:

- increasing their ability to self-manage their conditions
- helping people access advice and support about what sort of work they might be capable of doing

Minister for Mental Health and Inequalities Jackie Doyle-Price, said:

For too long if you had a disability or serious mental health issue the world of work was off limits, potentially affecting the lives of millions of people across the country.

This fund will help people overcome the barriers that so many still face when trying to get into and progress in the workplace.

Other areas to be tested will include new approaches to help employers and employees develop workplace solutions, and developing ways of working that facilitate greater participation of those with mental health or musculoskeletal conditions.

Applications are welcome from organisations in any sector, including employers, charities, social enterprises, local authorities, health bodies and others, with applications from smaller organisations particularly welcome.

Visit the [Challenge Fund website](#) for information on how to apply.

The challenge fund is open for applications until 5pm on 17 August 2018.

Share your thoughts about the fund on social media using #WHChallengeFund and #WorkandHealth.

Follow DWP on:

[Statement to Parliament: Creating a transparent and inclusive future trade policy](#)

Introduction

Mr Speaker, in October of last year my Department published a White Paper, Preparing for our future UK trade policy, in which we set out the Government's commitment to the transparency and inclusiveness in our future trading arrangements.

The Paper also set out our intention to boost our trade relationships with

old friends and new allies, expanding access to markets across the globe.

Today I can set out the role of Parliament, the Devolved Administrations, the public, business and civil society, and how the government intends to engage with these groups, as we embark on our new international trade agreements to benefit the whole of the UK and ensure we meet our commitments to an inclusive and transparent trade policy.

A transparent and inclusive future trade policy

Mr Speaker, scrutiny of our future trade arrangements is vitally important as we take powers back from the EU into UK law, and begin negotiating our own new free trade agreements.

I would like, at this stage, to make a distinction between our FTAs with new partners, to which this statement relates, and continuity trade agreements – those being legislated for in the Trade Bill tomorrow and to which the Customs Bill powers being debated today will also apply.

With this distinction in mind, for our new FTA's, we will now put in place a structured approach to engagement to provide clarity on how stakeholders can feed into this vital work that will help shape the trading future of our country.

To ensure that our new agreements and our future trade policy work for the whole of the UK, it is my strongly held view that Parliament, the devolved administrations, local government, business, trade unions, civil society, and the public from every part of the UK must have the opportunity to engage and contribute.

On Parliament specifically, Mr Speaker, the Government is committed to providing Parliament with the ability to inform and scrutinise new trade agreements in a timely and appropriate manner. I want to set out how this will be achieved.

We will ensure that Parliamentarians are given the opportunity to consider the level of ambition of the Government's approach to negotiations and the potential implications of any agreements. We will explore the correct process to do this, which could take the form of a general debate;

In addition, the Government will keep both Houses updated on the progress of negotiations through statements and updates to the International Trade Committee as the negotiations progress. This will include timely analysis at appropriate points to support decision-making. Of course, as in any negotiation, a certain level of confidentiality will be necessary to help ensure the best outcome for the UK, and these updates will be given with that in mind;

At the end of a negotiation, the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 will continue to apply as it does to all treaties which are subject to ratification;

Under CRaG, the Government will lay before Parliament any treaties it intends

to ratify alongside an Explanatory Memorandum which will summarise the content of each trade agreement;

And, consistent with past practice with any new international trade partners, the Government will also, at the appropriate time, publish an impact assessment;

In order to implement a new trade agreement with a new partner, the Government will bring forward a bespoke piece of primary legislation, when required, for each new future trade agreement that requires changes to legislation and where there are no existing powers. Parliament will therefore have the opportunity to scrutinise this new legislation in the normal way.

Mr Speaker, I believe that this process will strengthen Parliament's ability to shape and scrutinise the Government's ambitious independent trade policy agenda and our new free agreements with partners around the world.

The Devolved Administrations

To develop and deliver a UK trade policy that benefits business, workers and consumers across the whole of the UK we need to reflect the needs and individual circumstances of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We will work closely with the Devolved Administrations on an ongoing basis to deliver an approach that works for the whole of the UK. As part of this, we are conducting a series of collaborative policy roundtables with Devolved Administrations and key stakeholders in all parts of the country, which will draw on their knowledge and expertise, recognising their role in helping to deliver the objectives of our trade policy and future negotiations. We will ensure that the Devolved Administrations are able to inform the government's approach to negotiations throughout the consultation period and, of course, with subsequent engagement throughout the entire negotiation process.

We will also engage more widely in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, holding meetings with a wide range of stakeholder groups.

And Mr Speaker, let us not forget the English regions, whose involvement in this process is also of vital importance and who, from the North East to the South West make a huge contribution to our trading performance. They too will be fully involved.

The public, business and civil society

As we prepare to begin negotiating future trade agreements once we leave the EU, we also want groups and any individuals with an interest to have their say and inform our approach to negotiations.

Our White Paper asked how the government should seek views from the public, business, trade unions and civil society. We were grateful to receive thousands of responses.

The responses made clear the need to move to a more formalised engagement

structure so that stakeholders are clearer on when and how they can input into the process and how their information will be used.

It is therefore so important that we ensure that the public, and wider stakeholders, have access to this process online – to make sure that we reach the widest range of people possible, both in terms of diversity and geography.

My department will also convene a Strategic Trade Advisory Group, to bring expert external insight to trade policy making and advise ministers. We are inviting expressions of interest for membership and will appoint 14 members, based on their technical expertise, to take seats on the group. We will ensure the group represents the varied interests of business, workers, consumers and NGOs in all parts of the UK. More details can be found on the DIT gov.uk pages.

Mr. Speaker, I have said that all stakeholders and members of the public must be able to inform the government's approach, and that is why we will launch public consultations for each potential new trade agreement.

If we are to learn the lessons from agreements such as TTIP, we need to ensure that people are able to express their views and feel that they have been taken into account. I want people to feel invested in this process and that the benefits of free trade are shared across the length and breadth of the UK.

This is also why the government's consultations will last for 14 weeks, giving everyone the opportunity to share their objectives and any concerns about potential new agreements. I will update the House on potential agreements that will be subject to consultation in the coming days.

My ministerial colleagues and I will continue to meet with representatives from business and civil society and my officials will continue to welcome technical policy discussions with a broad range of experts. We will also hold a range of outreach events to engage with stakeholders across the whole of the UK.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, the views gathered through the Government's consultation and engagement will ensure an informed and well evidenced approach to each of our trade negotiations.

I can confirm that before entering formal negotiations, we intend to publish an 'Outline Approach' to each negotiation, setting out the high-level objectives and scope of that negotiation. This document will be accompanied by a scoping assessment.

As I have said many times, the decision to leave the European Union was not a decision to retreat from the world. In fact, we need to embrace it – to trade more not less, fight protectionism and break down the barrier to trade wherever we find them.

As agreed at the European Council meeting in March, the UK will be able to begin to negotiate new trade agreements from April 2019. It is therefore right that we set out how we intend to gather views from across the country now, to inform the Government's approach to new trade negotiations, before those talks begin, and as they progress to conclusion.

As we decide our own trade policy for the first time in over 40 years, I'm sure members of this House will agree that it is only right that we all get a say. I am confident our proposals will deliver the scrutiny and transparency that the UK public, including Parliament, expect and deserve and I commend this statement to the house.

[News story: Liam Fox delivers Parliament and the public a central role in post-Brexit UK trade agreements](#)

International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox, today set out major new proposals ensuring that MPs, the Devolved Administrations, businesses and the public can influence Britain's post-Brexit trade, designed to ensure future agreements create prosperity across the whole of the UK.

International Trade Secretary Dr Liam Fox said:

For the first time in over 40 years the UK will have the chance to decide who we trade with and on what terms. Those decisions must work of the whole of the UK, and that is why we are making this unprecedented commitment to transparency and inclusiveness for our MPs, the Devolved Administrations, businesses, civil society groups, trade unions and the public.

As an international economic department, we have the chance to deliver trade agreements that work for consumers and businesses across the UK. The more input we get on these, the better they will be.

Public consultations:

Dr Fox announced the government's intention that a 14-week consultation will run ahead of any new negotiation, allowing any individual or organisation

across the UK to give their view. These will be easily accessible online to ensure as many people get to feed into the government's work as possible.

This is longer than other government consultation periods and longer than the EU runs its own trade consultations for, giving the British public more say over Britain's trading future.

As part of the consultations, the Department for International Trade (DIT) will run events in all regions and nations of the UK to seek their views on how prospective trade agreements could support prosperity and growth.

Expert advice:

A new Strategic Trade Advisory Group will also be created, advising DIT ministers and trade negotiators on trade policy and negotiations.

The Group will be made up of 14 experts drawn from different groups such as business, civil society and unions, with an interest in our future trading relationships and their impact on the UK – from the workplace to consumer choice and the environment.

Individuals will be invited to apply by 17th August 2018 to join the group which will meet quarterly, providing direct advice to ministers and UK negotiators.

[Apply to be part of the Strategic Trade Advisory Group to advise the government on trade policy and negotiations.](#)

Providing evidence:

MPs will be given the opportunity to consider the Government's approach to negotiations and the potential implications of any agreements.

As negotiations progress, the Government will keep Parliament closely involved with regular Ministerial statements and updates to the International Trade Committee. The Government will – before entering formal negotiations – publish an 'Outline Approach' to each negotiation, setting out the high-level objectives and scope of that negotiation. This document will be accompanied by a scoping assessment.

Devolved Administrations:

We will work closely with the Devolved Administrations on an ongoing basis to deliver an approach that works for the whole of the UK. As part of this, we are conducting a series of collaborative policy roundtables with Devolved Administrations recognising the close interaction between trade policy and devolved policy areas.

Parliamentary approval:

Once a free trade agreement is finalised, if it changes existing UK laws, and where necessary legislation doesn't already exist, then new primary

legislation will be introduced. Parliament will also be provided with comprehensive analysis of its effects. Importantly, Parliament will be able to scrutinise any new legislation in the usual way, as well as the ratification of all agreements through the usual procedures.

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