

UK's Minister for Africa announces £250,000 to support Ghana

Ghana's long-term prosperity is central to the UK-Ghana partnership and security and stability is essential to the country's growth. Together, the UK and Ghana are partnering to tackle shared threats through a new Ministerial security dialogue, law enforcement partnerships and peer-to-peer training.

To strengthen the UK-Ghana security partnership, Minister Duddridge will use his visit to announce a further £250,000 to fund 4 vital security and stability projects that will bolster Ghana's capability to combat threats. This funding is in addition to the existing £1 million of UK funding to support the country's counter-terrorism capability.

Arriving in Ghana, UK Minister for Africa James Duddridge MP, said:

Ghana's stability is essential for growth and prosperity in both Ghana and across West Africa. Through our flagship Conflict, Stability and Security Fund we are launching 4 new projects in Ghana worth £250,000, to support the ongoing safety and stability on the northern border.

The UK is clear that it is in our shared interest to support a strong, and peaceful Ghana, both now and in the years ahead, and our new package of support will empower communities, the country's security agencies and civil society organisations to continue to uphold stability along the border, across the country and within the region.

These new 4 security and stability projects will:

- grow the capacity of Ghana's national crisis response model
- provide specialists to help deliver Ghana's nationwide security exercise
- fund the important work of on-the-ground civil society organisations through STAR Ghana Foundation, working directly with communities across the country that are most vulnerable to insecurity

During his visit, Minister Duddridge will meet with key partners and stakeholders including honourable Ministers, leaders in Ghana's art and tourism sectors, as well as representatives from business and industry. The Minister will also visit Accra's iconic Christiansburg castle, tour Gallery 1957 and meet British-Ghanaian diaspora driving business and innovation in Ghana.

Minister Duddridge last visited Ghana in January 2021, where he attended His Excellency President Nana Akufo-Addo's Presidential Inauguration, met virtually with His Excellency Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia during the recent UK-Ghana Business Council held in June this year and finally met His

Excellency President Akufo-Addo with other senior officials and honourable Ministers during the recent Global Education Summit held in London in July.

Further information

- photos of the Minister's visit will be posted on the [British High Commission's Flickr page](#)
- the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) was launched in 2015 and has transformed the way the UK responds to conflict and fragility overseas. It enables 12 government departments and agencies to address security priorities in a collaborative way
- the £250,000 will fund 4 projects:
 - £100,000 for STAR Ghana Foundation –
 - working with government bodies to support the implementation of the Sustainable Peace, Security and Development in Northern Ghana
 - bring together central and regional governments, traditional and religious leaders and civil society at the upcoming a Northern Development Summit
 - identify and work with key stakeholders and civil society organisations in northern Ghana to test new ways of addressing the root causes of conflict and insecurity. This will be on the ground-community based work
 - £30,000 to develop Standard Operating Procedures for policing to deliver emergency response capability and interoperability between police counter-terrorism unit and other units within the service
 - £50,000 to provide UK specialist support to help deliver Ghana's nationwide security exercise
 - £70,000 to strengthen Ghana's national crisis response model within the Ministry of National Security
- established in 2018, the UK-Ghana Business Council (UKGBC) functions as a high-level forum to promote bilateral relations and strategic partnerships between Ghanaian private sector and UK counterparts. Promoting trade and investment for the mutual benefit of each nation and enhancing economic growth
- on Wednesday, 18 August 2021, the shipment of 249,000 UK-donated AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Accra. These vital vaccines have been deployed across Ghana, reaching those most in need

[Boost for North Yorkshire's growth as A1\(M\) junction improvements head towards completion](#)

The £10m project at junction 47 (Allerton Park) involves widening three of

the four slip roads onto and off the roundabout to increase capacity as well as a number of junction improvements.

Yesterday, Harrogate and Knaresborough MP Andrew Jones visited the works to get a progress report from North Yorkshire County Council which is delivering the project and National Highways, formerly Highways England, which is part-funding it.

As well as widening the slip roads, traffic signals will be installed on the roundabout to improve traffic flow. Signals will also be added to the T-junction between the A168 and the A59 a short distance from junction 47 on the York side to benefit drivers turning on to the A59 and improve safety.

To the west of Junction 47, between the A1 and the Flaxby roundabout, a lane will be added for traffic travelling east, so there will be two lanes in each direction between those two roundabouts.

Andrew Jones MP with representatives of the project team including North Yorkshire County Council, National Highways and Farrans Construction.

Mr Jones said:

A vital aspect of enabling the levelling up of this area and the wider region is ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support economic development and the jobs, homes and prosperity that delivers.

I am delighted to see the progress being made on this key junction. This upgrade will strengthen transport connections and enhance resilience, adding an important piece to the jigsaw that will guide sustainable growth in Harrogate and Knaresborough in the coming years.

Simon Boyle, Yorkshire and North East Divisional Director for National Highways, said:

We are delighted to be working with North Yorkshire County Council, York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and developer Forward Investment LLP on this project. Better transport links and improved journey reliability are key to the economic success of an area.

This scheme will unlock future growth to Harrogate and Knaresborough by enabling better movement of people and goods as well as improving traffic flow and safety for local road users. We look forward to its completion.

Cllr Don Mackenzie, Executive Member for Access, said:

These upgrades will address congestion at this location, improve road safety and support sustainable development in Harrogate and Knaresborough. This investment is also vital to address one of the County Council's top transport priorities, improving east-west connections across North Yorkshire.

The project has been supported by £2.47m from the government's Local Growth Fund, secured by the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, along with contributions from the County Council, National Highways and developer Forward Investment LLP. Work is scheduled to be completed in December 2021.

David Dickson, Chair of the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Infrastructure and Joint Assets Board, said:

Improved connectivity will enable good economic growth for the region. We're delighted to see the continued progress of this scheme.

The contractor is Farrans Construction and the scheme designer and supervisor is Aecom.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the National Highways customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the National Highways press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[Sentence increased for man caught with over 5,000 indecent images of children](#)

News story

Nathan Delgado has had his prison term increased after the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer, QC MP, referred his original sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.



A North London man who made thousands of indecent images of children has had his prison term increased after the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer, QC MP, referred his original sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.

Nathan Delgado, 49, was arrested in March following a search of his home. Analysis of Delgado's mobile phone found over 5,000 indecent images of children, of which 26 were identified as being taken by Delgado himself. It also was identified that Delgado had been discussing the sexual abuse of children online, distributing the indecent images as well as engaging in offending intended to involve a young child online.

On 18 June Delgado was convicted of a number of offences relating to making, taking and distributing indecent photographs of children, and attempting to cause a child to watch a sexual act. Delgado was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment at Wood Green Crown Court. He was also issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for life and placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

On 3 September the Court of Appeal found the original sentence to be unduly lenient and increased his sentence to 3 years' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer, QC MP said:

Delgado's offending was wide-ranging and it will have had a serious effect on the children involved. I welcome the decision of the Court of Appeal to increase his sentence.

Published 3 September 2021

Research: Avian influenza (bird flu):

epidemiology reports

Investigations carried out to describe and explain cases of avian influenza (bird flu).

£9 million fund for local authorities to tackle air pollution

Local projects to improve air quality across England will get a £7 million funding boost this year, the government confirmed today, as applications opened for this year's scheme.

The government's [Air Quality Grant](#) helps councils develop and implement measures to benefit schools, businesses and communities and reduce the impact of polluted air on people's health.

At least £1 million of the £9 million available this year will be dedicated to projects to improve public awareness in local communities about the risks of air pollution, following a recommendation in the Coroner's Prevention of Future Deaths report after the tragic death of Ella Kissi-Debrah in 2013.

These could include projects to inform people about the ways to reduce their exposure to emissions by avoiding pollution hotspots. Projects that deal with improving air quality, as well as improving knowledge about the health risks, are also strongly encouraged to apply.

Local authorities can also bid for a portion of the fund for a wide range of other projects to improve air quality and create cleaner and healthier environments. The criteria for this year's grant period will prioritise three areas:

- Projects which reduce air pollutant exceedances, especially in those areas that are projected to remain in exceedance of the UK's legal targets;
- Projects that will improve knowledge and information about air quality and steps individuals can take to reduce their exposure to air pollution; and
- Projects that include measures to deal with particulate matter, which is the pollutant most harmful to human health.

Since it was established, the Air Quality Grant scheme has awarded almost £70 million to a variety of projects, including a digital education package to teach children and parents about the health impacts of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, the development of a community website to share air quality

information and raise awareness with local residents and visitors, and a project to highlight the air quality issues that surround domestic burning.

Other applicants in previous years have also been awarded funding for projects including training GPs as Air Quality Champions to deliver air quality improvement messages in their surgeries, and monitoring PM2.5 levels at schools.

The Westminster Cross River Partnership received £573,370 from the 2019 fund alongside £160,000 match funding from Business Improvement Districts and local authorities to develop initiatives to improve air quality across London.

The partnership, led by Westminster City Council in collaboration with 16 project partners, has engaged with businesses through the Clean Air Villages project to develop local initiatives to support organisations in reducing their emissions from deliveries and servicing trips. This includes nine cargo bike schemes, replacing car and van deliveries with cycle freight; a citizen scientist air quality monitoring project to help provide information about local air quality and an air quality ambassador programme.

This project and others funded by the grant scheme have contributed to the significant improvement in air quality seen in the UK in recent decades. Since 2010, levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) – particles or liquid droplets in the air which present the greatest risk to public health – have reduced by 11% while emissions of nitrogen oxides have fallen by 32% and are at their lowest level since records began.

Environment Minister Rebecca Pow said:

“Air quality has improved significantly since 2010 but still poses enormous health risks, which is why we are boosting our funding to local authorities to help them take action.

“This is part of the Government’s wider strategy to tackle air quality. Our landmark Environment Bill places a duty on us to set at least two air quality targets by October 2022, including an ambitious, legally-binding target to reduce fine particulate matter – the most damaging pollutant to human health.

“We know local authorities are best placed to address the issues they face in their areas. We look forward to receiving innovative ideas for ways to reduce emissions, help communities understand how they can limit their exposure to air pollution, and promote cleaner, greener alternatives.”

Transport Minister Rachel Maclean said:

“From schools to local businesses, the Air Quality Grant will help local councils implement measures to clean up our air as we build back greener, reduce our carbon footprint and look ahead to COP26. These could include projects to help businesses make the switch to greener transport, or help local authorities better monitor pollution from roads.

“The funding announced today will help us improve air quality, meet our

climate change obligations, and support economic growth right across the country.”

Kate Fenton, who led the Clean Air Villages project funded by the Air Quality Grant, said:

“Defra’s Air Quality Grant has enabled Cross River Partnership to bring together its members from the public and private sector, to deliver both tailored local initiatives and cross-borough schemes that improve air quality in London and beyond.

“The recently launched Clean Air Tool supports businesses and individuals who are considering switching from diesel vehicles to zero or ultra-low emission options to understand the impact of their choices. The latest phase of the Clean Air Villages project to be funded by the grant, and led by Westminster City Council, provides the opportunity to continue promoting and launching cargo bike and shared electric vehicle schemes.

“There are also a wide range of freight interventions being delivered, some of which are to support businesses in understanding the impact of the expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone on their business. Through working together, we can improve the air that we all breathe.”

Applications for the grant open from Friday 3 September and close on Friday 8 October.

The Air Quality Grant forms part of the wider [UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations](#), which includes a £3.5 billion investment into air quality and cleaner transport. The plan is supporting the uptake of low emissions vehicles, getting more people to cycle and walk, and encouraging cleaner public transport.

It also contributes towards meeting the objectives of Defra’s 2019 Clean Air Strategy, which has been praised by the World Health Organisation as “an example for the rest of the world to follow”.

The government has also recently taken bold action to cut pollution from household burning – the single largest source of the pollutant particulate matter (PM2.5), which is the most harmful air pollutant for human health. A ban on the sale of coal and wet wood for domestic burning came into force in May this year.

Local Authorities in England are invited to apply via Bravo. Further details on how to apply are available on the [Air Quality Grants GOV.UK page](#).