

Fisheries Minister reinforces ties with trade partner Norway

The Fisheries Minister, Victoria Prentis MP, has undertaken her first official visit to Norway to support trade links and build cooperation on fisheries management.

The visit took place from Monday 23rd August to Wednesday 25th August and included a meeting with Odd Emil Ingebrigtsen, the Norwegian Fisheries and Seafood Minister, and meetings with trade and industry stakeholders.

Norway is a key partner for the UK with a long history of cooperation across trade, science and energy.

Earlier this year, the UK and Norway signed a new Free Trade Agreement to secure a closer trading partnership. This is coupled with a Memorandum of Understanding with Norway to advance science and research cooperation on the polar region, an important milestone ahead of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow later this year.

Fisheries Minister Victoria Prentis was keen to explore the parallels between the UK and Norway, both independent coastal states in the North Sea, as the UK begins to chart a new course and sets out a new approach to fisheries management.

Fisheries Minister, Victoria Prentis, said:

It was a pleasure to visit Norway and meet with Minister Ingebrigtsen to build on the strong partnership that exists between our nations on fisheries, trade and energy.

While we agree on many issues, there are fisheries management issues where we have differences. However, the strength of our relationship means that we can discuss areas of disagreement maturely and constructively.

The UK and Norway have much in common as independent coastal states, and with increased investment in our vibrant aquaculture industries we are both key producers of sustainable seafood.

The Minister had the opportunity during her visit to address 'Aqua Nor', Norway's premier trade show for aquaculture producers and technology. She paid tribute to the links between Norwegian investment and the UK's development of a renowned aquaculture sector – Scottish salmon, supported by this investment, is now the UK's biggest food export.

The Minister expressed her desire to see the further sustainable growth of the sector and saw a range of technical innovations that increase the

sustainability and yield of aquaculture farming.

In discussions with Minister Ingebrigtsen, the Norwegian Fisheries and Seafood Minister, the UK Minister stressed maximising the working relationship between the two nations on fisheries ahead of resuming consultations on a bilateral annual agreement for 2022 in the autumn.

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Press release

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In the coming weeks the Student Loans Company (SLC) will distribute over £2 billion in Maintenance Loan funding to over 1 million students across the UK – supporting a record number of students to access opportunities in higher and further education.

With the new academic year almost ready to start, SLC is urging students to get ready for the first payment by following our top tips.

- **Make sure you've submitted your application and provided any evidence you have been asked for:**

Sign in to your online account and check your to-do list is complete. If your 'to-do list' isn't showing, this means you have no actions. Most evidence can be uploaded online, you can watch our short film explaining how to do this. Please only provide evidence you are specifically asked for.

[short film](#)

- **Prepare parents and partners too:**

Parents and partners may also be asked to provide financial information and evidence. They should do this through their own online student finance account which they can set up at www.gov.uk/studentfinance. They don't need to upload any evidence, especially not P60s, unless we ask for it – otherwise it'll take longer to process your application if we receive information that's not required.

- **Check your bank details and National Insurance number are correct in your online account:**

If you need to update your bank details, make sure you do this at least 4 days before your payment date. It's important that the details are correct to ensure your money goes to the right place.

Register on your course:

Follow the registration guidance provided by your higher education provider and make sure you register as soon as possible. We cannot make payments to you until your university or college confirms that you've registered. It can take three to five days for payments to reach your account once you are registered so you should make sure you have money to cover any initial costs.

- **Remember if you are applying close to your term start date you may not get your full entitlement initially:**

It can take 6-8 weeks to process a student finance application, which means that applications may not be fully processed by term start. We will do our best to ensure that all eligible applicants have some money in place by awarding the minimum Maintenance Loan amount first, followed by a top-up payment if students are entitled to more funding. [Read our online guide on how to get your first payment if you are applying late.](#)

- **Check the status of your payments:**

You can view your payment schedule and check the status of your payments via your online account. Watch our handy film explaining what each of the payment statuses mean.

[handy film](#)

- **Let us know as soon as possible if you plan to suspend or withdraw from your studies:**

We hope it won't happen but if you have to leave or suspend your course it's important that you consider the impact on your funding. Talk to your university or college and let SLC know of any changes as soon as possible. Find out more [online](#).

SLC's Executive Director of Operations, Chris Larmer, said:

SLC exists to enable students to invest in their futures through further and higher education. This year we have received a record number of student finance applications and are on track to ensure that more students than ever will have their funding in place at the start of term.

We are urging students to play their part too and to follow our tips to prepare for payment. To further help students we have also

- made a wide range of information and resources available online and on our social media channels covering the most common payment

questions.

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Guidance: Permission to trap crayfish, eels, elvers, salmon and sea trout

Get permission or a licence to trap crayfish, eels, elvers, salmon, sea trout, lamprey and smelt: how to apply and authorisation rules.