

## Research: Measles, mumps and rubella: lab-confirmed cases in England 2021

Quarterly reports, with commentary, on cases confirmed by Public Health England's Virus Reference department or national routine laboratory testing (mumps only).

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## Research: Pertussis immunisation in pregnancy: vaccine coverage (England)

Vaccine uptake data and commentary about the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination programme for pregnant women.

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## Reflections on 50 years of the MDP

### **The beginning – 1971**

For many of us old enough to recall it, 1971 is a distant memory, but I recognise it is a year for which many of our younger colleagues and audience have no recollection whatsoever. So, let me either refresh (or illuminate) those reading this blog, with some key events from the year of our origin.

Whilst it was considered the height of fashion to be wearing miniskirts and platform heels in the early 70s, Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) attire consisted of white shirts and woollen trousers (with a specially designed, sewn in, truncheon holder in the right-hand pocket). The early 70s saw a rise in the ratio of women going to work but, despite that, female representation in the workspace was still low and non-existent in the MDP; our first female recruits joined us in 1974.

Computing was a new concept, with Intel launching its first processor in November 1971. Paper and pen, and the occasional typewriter (for those with such skills), were the main forms of written communication, within policing and in wider circles too. Police officers relied upon evidence recorded in their pocket notebooks, which led to the obvious scrutiny in court to justify that notes were recorded 'as soon as practicable after the event'.

The Force did little more (according to Wikipedia) than 'man gates, check passes and occasionally patrol fences, armed with nothing more than a pistol', and the civilian support to the Force came mainly in the form of administrative roles. MDP officers were located in many stations across the Defence infrastructure – from north to south, east to west.

MDP officer carrying out gate duties. Crown Copyright.

## The modern MDP

Now, whilst many of us view aspects of policing (and MDP) history as important – for example the principles of policing, as endorsed by Sir Robert Peel, are as valid today as they have ever been – we are all acutely aware that the world constantly moves on.

Today, the MDP provides 'Unique Policing Services', far less associated with the simple guarding function most colleagues performed at our inception. Whilst there is still some work to do to better define what a police service can (and should not) perform in Defence, we are armed and capable of responding to a multitude of incidents both inside and outside the wire.

It is our capability to operate in the public space, delivering policing tactics such as [Project Servator](#), that makes us a distinct asset to move threat reduction further from the sites and communities we protect. It is also our ability to use our policing powers, outside Defence, within the civilian population, that enable niche investigations to be conducted for the benefit of the MOD. Whilst most of our uniformed colleagues are armed (or provide support – or command – to those who are) our civilian capability has changed significantly too. Where policing skills are not required, roles are now performed by professional civilians and the MDP is the sum of that police-civilian mix.

Equipment has moved on considerably. An operational cop now wears equipment which is more suited to the role we perform (and reduces the ironing demand!). Although I acknowledge the common observation that 'cops will always moan about equipment regardless of the quality', our equipment is now far better suited to protecting the public, colleagues, and the officer. Our capability to use lethal force where necessary, justified, and proportionate is supported with less lethal options and an increased capacity to record interactions 'live time', which enables future scrutiny to be exercised.

We have seen many developments in technology and IT over the half a century of our existence. It is now possible to identify who we are dealing with as we interact with them, rather than relying on prolonged back office enquiries; it is also far easier to communicate in the operational environment and across police forces.

Our representation has certainly changed (albeit slower than perhaps many of us would wish). We are a Force which develops and changes constantly, as we deliver the professional policing service that Defence deserves, and which

benchmarks us against the standards in wider policing.

Whilst some of the places we serve may have changed since the 1970s, MDP colleagues are still dispersed across the United Kingdom: almost 2,900 cops and 300 civilians, delivering from the far north of Scotland to the southern ports of England; from the east coast of Norfolk in to the borders of Wales; and across the Irish Sea in Northern Ireland. We are not just a Defence asset though, serving, with the agreement of the Secretary of State, United States Visiting Forces, critical national infrastructure sites and other service providers – as well as providing a scalable armed capability to wider policing at times of national emergency.

MDP officers today. Crown Copyright.

## **Our people are our future**

Our service is delivered through great people, whose commitment to our role was most recently demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic – one episode in our history and an example of the benefit Defence derives from MDP colleagues. I have no doubt we will need some of that commitment in large chunks as we move in to the next few years, with some significant changes for the MDP, including: the move of our Headquarters to RAF Wyton; new ways of delivering training; full fitness harmonisation with national policing standards; and post COVID-19 working arrangements, to name a few.

As I sign off, I wonder what any successor of mine might be writing about the MDP at our centenary... Short of any major medical advances, I can predict I won't be about to read it, but some of you will. So, without trying to predict the detail of any future centenary blog, I am sure they'll be saying, as I am, how proud they are to lead the very many committed colleagues who work in the MDP.

Andy Adams, Chief Constable – Ministry of Defence Police

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## [Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update](#)

News story

The sixth round of free trade agreement negotiations with New Zealand took place between 19-30 July 2021.



Both countries are committed to concluding a high-quality free trade agreement (FTA), setting a precedent for high standard FTAs in the future.

We have now provisionally closed nine chapters and one annex in total. In Round 6, significant progress was made in the following areas:

- **Express Delivery Services (Annex):**

These provisions give legal certainty to UK delivery service suppliers by offering reassurance that the regulatory environment provides a level playing field. Securing commitments on this essential part of the supply chain enables smoother delivery of goods between our countries.

- **Anti-Corruption:**

Corruption acts as a barrier to free trade by increasing the cost of doing business. The chapter covers provisions relating to whistleblowing, embezzlement, money laundering, and other areas. Having strong global standards based on an international rules-based approach

allows businesses to compete fairly. If businesses cannot compete fairly, the costs are ultimately shifted onto consumers and taxpayers. Doing business with integrity is beneficial to the medium-long term prosperity at both a national and corporate level.

## • **Development:**

Trade agreements between two developed economies can impact on developing countries that are not party to the agreement. Development provisions recognise the role that trade and investment can play in contributing to positive economic and social development outcomes; whilst creating opportunities for UK firms and consumers, e.g., lowering prices, and opening fast-growing markets for UK exporters.

Below is a summary list of those areas discussed in the round, with productive discussions in all areas:

- Cross Border Trade in Services (CBTS)
- State-Owned Entities and Designated Monopolies (SOEs)
- Trade and Labour
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)
- Rules of Origin (RoO)
- Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
- Consumer Protection
- Domestic Regulation
- International Maritime Transport Services (Annex)
- Investment
- Indigenous Trade
- Digital Trade
- General Exceptions
- Financial Services
- Professional Business Services (PBS)
- Trade Remedies
- Institutional Provisions
- Good Regulatory Practice and Regulatory Cooperation (GRP)
- Temporary Entry of Business Persons
- Intellectual Property (IP)
- Telecommunications
- Trade and Environment

An agreement could see the removal of tariffs on an array of UK and New Zealand exports, such as food and drink, clothing, and manufactured goods.

A free trade agreement with New Zealand will open another important gateway to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a £9 trillion free trade area of 11 Asia-Pacific nations, including New Zealand and Australia. Membership will open huge new opportunities for our farmers, manufacturers, and services firms, with two-thirds of the world's middle classes set to be in Asia by 2030.

## [PM to call on G7 leaders to step up support for Afghan people](#)

- PM to call on countries to match UK commitments to protect those most in need in Afghanistan and bolster aid to the region
- Leaders set to discuss joint approach to securing a more stable future for Afghanistan
- Meeting follows doubling of UK humanitarian aid spending and the announcement of one of the most generous resettlement schemes in British history

Prime Minister Boris Johnson will call on G7 leaders to continue to stand by the Afghan people and step up support for refugees and humanitarian aid when they meet this afternoon (Tuesday 24th August).

Chairing the meeting, he is expected to urge international partners to match the UK's commitments on aid and the resettlement of those most in need, in order to protect human rights and contribute to the stability of the region.

Leaders are also expected to reiterate their commitment to safeguarding the gains made in Afghanistan over the last 20 years – in particular on girls' education and the rights of women and minorities. Discussions are set to cover ongoing collaboration on evacuation efforts at Kabul airport and longer-term work to secure a more stable future for Afghanistan and ensure any new government is inclusive and abides by its international obligations.

Ahead of the meeting, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Our first priority is to complete the evacuation of our citizens and those Afghans who have assisted our efforts over the last 20 years – but as we look ahead to the next phase, it's vital we come together as an international community and agree a joint approach for the longer term.

That's why I've called an emergency meeting of the G7 – to coordinate our response to the immediate crisis, to reaffirm our commitment to the Afghan people, and to ask our international partners to match the UK's commitments to support those in need.

Together with our partners and allies, we will continue to use every humanitarian and diplomatic lever to safeguard human rights and protect the gains made over the last two decades. The Taliban will be judged by their deeds and not their words.

The meeting will take place by video conference and the NATO and UN Secretaries-General have also been invited to join the discussion.

Earlier this week the Prime Minister set out his five-point plan for addressing the risk of humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

The plan has five parts:

1. immediately helping those to whom we have direct obligations
2. protecting ourselves against any threat from terrorism
3. supporting Afghan people in the region through humanitarian and development assistance
4. creating safe and legal routes to resettle Afghans in need
5. developing a clear plan for dealing with the new Afghan regime in a unified and concerted way

The meeting of G7 leaders comes after the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of COBR on Monday afternoon where ministers discussed the latest situation on the ground. As of the morning of Monday 23rd, the UK had secured the evacuation of almost 6,000 people out of Kabul since Operation PITTING began last week, which includes British Nationals and their dependants, embassy staff, and Afghan nationals under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) programme.

The UK has already doubled the amount of humanitarian aid to the region, committing up to £286 million with immediate effect, and last week we announced a new bespoke resettlement scheme. This programme will be one of the most generous in British history and is set to relocate up to 20,000 vulnerable Afghans.