

UK doubles aid to Afghanistan

News story

The UK is to double its humanitarian and development aid to Afghanistan, allowing us to provide urgent life-saving assistance to millions of people suffering from the conflict, drought and covid-19.



This takes the total UK aid to Afghanistan this year to £286 million, one of our largest bilateral programmes. It means the UK's total aid contribution to the country since 2001 is now around £3.5 billion.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

This doubling of UK aid demonstrates our commitment to the people of Afghanistan to support a stable, peaceful future for the country.

We call on others to follow our lead to ensure the most vulnerable Afghans receive the humanitarian assistance that they need.

The new funding will build on previous support to Afghanistan which has already helped almost 10 million more children go to school compared with 2001, helped to reduce maternal mortality by more than 42 per cent, and helped to clear more than eight million landmines and other unexploded munitions.

Separately, as a result of the current crisis, we are supporting British nationals, dual nationals, and those Afghans who worked for the UK government to leave Afghanistan.

The UK Government has sent a Rapid Deployment Teams to Kabul to support UK staff on the ground to process and arrange these departures.

The increase follows the announcement of a new UK resettlement scheme to welcome a total of up to 20,000 Afghan women, children, and others most in need, to resettle in the UK in the long-term.

The new route is separate from, and in addition to, the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), which offers any current or former locally employed staff who are assessed to be under serious threat to life priority relocation to the UK.

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[Research: COVID-19 vaccine surveillance reports](#)

Data on the real-world effectiveness and impact of the COVID-19 vaccines.

[Health Secretary opens new cancer hospital](#)

Thousands of patients in Cumbria will benefit from state-of-the-art cancer diagnosis and treatment at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care in Carlisle

[Health Secretary opens new cancer hospital](#)

- Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid has officially opened a cancer hospital in Carlisle to make one of the biggest combined cancer treatment services in the country
- The £35 million Northern Centre for Cancer Care, North Cumbria, integrates cancer diagnosis and treatment across Cumbria, with a chemotherapy day unit, plus radiotherapy and CT scanners
- The centre is the first hospital to open as part of the government's commitment to deliver 48 hospitals by 2030, backed by an initial £3.7 billion

Thousands of patients in Cumbria are set to benefit from state-of-the-art cancer diagnosis and treatment at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care – housed in the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle – which was officially opened

by the Health Secretary Sajid Javid today (Thursday 19 August).

Last year, the government announced details of 40 new hospitals to be built by 2030, the largest hospital building programme in a generation. Together with eight schemes which secured investment through the previous government, of which this hospital is one, this will mean 48 hospitals in total will be delivered by the end of the decade.

The £35 million facility visited by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care today will be used by patients from across north, west and east Cumbria, making it one of the biggest combined cancer treatment services in the country.

The hospital brings new, cutting-edge services under one roof in north Cumbria for the first time including a chemotherapy day unit, radiotherapy machines and a CT scanner as well as outpatients, consultation and examination rooms. The new facilities means most adult cancer patients in Cumbria will be able to receive care close to home, rather than having to travel.

The Health Secretary toured the hospital, spoke to frontline staff and patients and officially opened the new facilities.

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid said:

I am incredibly honoured to open this cancer hospital in Carlisle, which will support thousands of people by bringing these vital services under one roof, as part of our commitment to deliver 48 hospitals by 2030, backed by an initial £3.7 billion.

Cancer diagnosis and treatment is a top priority and I am committed to tackling the backlogs caused by this pandemic.

The NHS is here for everyone and I look forward to seeing how the hospital will help to diagnose and treat cancer patients across Cumbria by levelling up cancer care in the region.

The hospital welcomed its first patients last week, and expects to receive 1,200 new patients a year in addition to the 2,000 patients already set to receive treatment or follow-up care at the new centre. The expert team expects to deliver 11,500 radiotherapy treatments, 8,000 chemotherapy treatments and 4,000 supportive therapy treatments annually.

The government's commitment to deliver 48 hospitals includes three dedicated cancer hospitals which will provide better care for patients, an improved working environment for staff and help the NHS reach its net zero carbon ambition.

The commitment forms part of the Health Infrastructure Plan, a strategic long-term investment to ensure the NHS and those working in it have the world-class facilities they need for the future.

Each local hospital will learn from best practice with advice from national experts so they will be amongst the best in country.

Dame Jackie Daniel, Chief Executive, Newcastle Hospitals said:

I'm delighted that we have been able to bring the Northern Centre for Cancer Care to North Cumbria so that local people can benefit from high quality, safe and sustainable services.

This £35 million investment will bring specialist services closer to the homes of the 2,000 patients each year, many of whom would previously have needed to travel to Newcastle for care.

I'm very proud of the whole team for delivering such high quality services, and for their tireless work throughout the pandemic to continue providing outstanding care.

The government is committed to ensuring the NHS gets the support it needs. An additional £6.6 billion was recently announced to support the next phase of the NHS response to COVID-19, including £594 million to continue the hospital discharge programme, enabling patients to leave hospital as quickly and as safely as possible. £1 billion has also been committed to help kickstart recovery and begin addressing backlogs and tackle long waits. This brings the total package of additional support given to our health services for COVID-19 to £92 billion, with £63 billion for 2020/21 and £29 billion for 2021/22.

Services at the centre will be run by Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as part of the Northern Centre for Cancer Care, which also has a site in Newcastle.

- The ['Our NHS Buildings'](#) website is the official home of the government's major NHS infrastructure projects across the country, including new hospital builds and upgrades
- The government has [opened](#) the selection process for eight of the 40 new hospitals:

[Promotional material: Monitoring surgical wounds for infection: information for patients](#)

Explains surgical wound infection, and the national programme for monitoring infections acquired in hospitals, in English and 8 other languages.