Croatia, Trinidad and Tobago and Austria to be removed from travel corridors list

- Croatia, Trinidad and Tobago and Austria to be removed from list of travel corridors for England following data showing a significant increase in confirmed cases
- passengers required to self-isolate when returning from these countries from 4am on Saturday 22 August
- Portugal added to exemptions list from 4am Saturday 22 August

People arriving into England from Croatia, Trinidad and Tobago and Austria from 4am Saturday 22 August 2020 will need to self-isolate for 2 weeks as the countries are removed from the travel corridors list.

Data from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and Public Health England has indicated a significant change in both the level and pace of confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in all 3 destinations, leading to ministers removing these destinations from the current <u>list of travel corridors</u>.

The weekly incidence (cases) per 100,000 for Croatia has increased from 10.4 on 12 August to 27.4 on 19 August (164% increase). There has been a consistent increase in the weekly incidence rate of COVID-19 in Trinidad and Tobago over the past 4 weeks, with a 232% increase in weekly incidence (cases) per 100,000 between 12 and 19 August. In Austria, the weekly incidence (cases) per 100,000 of the population has increased from 10.5 on 13 August to 20.3 on 20 August (93% increase).

Portugal has been added to the government's travel corridor list following a decrease in confirmed cases of coronavirus. Passengers arriving in England from Portugal at or after 4am on Saturday 22 August will not need to selfisolate, so long as they haven't been in or transited through any other non-exempt countries in the 14 days preceding their arrival.

At the same time, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has <u>updated its</u> <u>travel advice</u> to advise against all but essential travel to Croatia, Trinidad and Tobago and Austria. Additionally, Portugal has been added to the list of destinations that are exempted from the FCO's global advisory against non-essential travel.

Infections from COVID-19 are on the rise across Europe. The government has made consistently clear it will take decisive action if necessary to contain the virus, which includes removing countries from the travel corridors list rapidly, if the public health risk of people returning from a particular country without self-isolating becomes too high. This means holidaymakers may find they need to self isolate on return to the UK and are advised to consider the implications of self-isolation on them and their families before making travel plans.

People currently in <u>Croatia</u>, <u>Trinidad and Tobago</u> and <u>Austria</u> are encouraged to follow the local rules and check the FCO travel advice pages for further information. The government is urging employers to be understanding of those returning from these destinations who now will need to self-isolate.

COVID-19 has profoundly changed the nature of international travel. Travellers should always check the <u>latest advice from the FCO</u>, given the potential for changing coronavirus infection rates to affect both the advice about travelling to other countries and rules about self-isolation on return.

All travellers, including those from destinations on the travel corridors list, will still be required to show a completed <u>passenger locator form</u> on arrival into the UK unless they fall into a small group of exemptions.