

Transport update: £2 bus fare cap on a single bus ticket

[On 3 September, we announced plans to invest up to £60 million to introduce a £2 bus fare cap on a single bus ticket on most services in England outside London](#). This will start no later than 1 January 2023 and will be in place for a period of 3 months until March 2023.

At a time when many are struggling with the rising cost of living, this is a significant investment that will result in millions of people across England saving on travel costs. This investment also makes clear our continued commitment to delivering on the bold vision for bus services set out in '[Bus Back Better](#)', the government's national bus strategy, and particularly our ambition to make bus services cheaper. The introduction of the £2 bus fare cap is a significant step forward to delivering this and continues the government's track record of providing the largest investment in bus services in a generation, in England outside London.

This fare cap will not apply to bus services in London as transport is devolved to the Mayor of London, including fare setting. However, I know that colleagues across Parliament will be pleased that this announcement follows the agreement with [Transport for London on a £1.2 billion multi-year settlement to secure the long-term future of London's transport network](#), including bus services.

As well as supporting passengers by reducing the cost of bus fares, we have also continued to invest in bus services, in response to the unprecedented impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic but which would now be threatening the provision of services at a time when the public need bus services more than ever.

With nearly £2 billion provided so far, through the [COVID-19 bus service support grant](#), the [Bus Recovery Grant](#) and most recently the local transport fund, we have mitigated the impacts of the pandemic on bus networks. This meant that buses were kept running over the course of the pandemic to ensure that those who had to travel for work, education or healthcare were able to access these vital services and help keep this country running.

As [I announced to this House in March, this funding was originally due to end in April \(2022\)](#), but at the time it was clear that the sector was still facing significant financial challenges as it sought to recover from the pandemic. That is why we announced we would provide a further £150 million, and extend recovery funding for the sector until October, to allow bus services the maximum amount of time to recover.

At the time of announcing this funding, we were clear that this would be the last such round of recovery funding. However, with the sector continuing to face significant challenges, and many people facing pressures due to the rising cost of living, we recognise that further government support is

necessary to prevent significant cuts to bus services for the millions of people who use them every day.

That is why on 19 August we announced a [six-month extension to the Bus Recovery Grant](#), worth up to £130 million, to continue supporting bus services in England outside London. This will be in effect for 6 months starting in October 2022 until the end of the financial year in March 2023. This funding will provide the sector and passengers with certainty in the short-term and ensure that these vital services will continue to serve those that rely on them to live, work and travel. Both of these further investments in England's bus services demonstrate our commitment to supporting bus services. We will continue to work closely with the sector as we deliver the national bus strategy, and fulfil our ambition for everyone, everywhere to have access to great bus services.

[DA 40 NG, G-CTSR: Anniversary Statement](#)

News story

Runway overrun after attempted go-around, Cranfield Airport, Bedfordshire, 3 September 2021.



This statement provides an update on the ongoing AAIB investigation into an accident involving DA 40 NG aircraft, G-CTSR, which overran the runway during an attempted go-around at Cranfield Airport, Bedfordshire, on 3 September 2021.

While flying a visual circuit, the student pilot elected to go around because the approach was unstable. During the go-around, the aircraft descended as it flew along the runway and subsequently struck the perimeter hedge, coming to rest in an adjacent field. The pilot sustained minor injuries.

The investigation is complete and the final report into the accident is

expected to be published later this year.

Published 5 September 2022

[UK Armed Forces continue to strengthen interoperability with Finland and Sweden](#)

Press release

British troops have taken part in Exercise Vigilant Knife alongside Swedish and Finnish Armed Forces.



British troops have taken part in Exercise Vigilant Knife alongside Swedish and Finnish Armed Forces, further strengthening our interoperability in anticipation of Sweden and Finland's accession to NATO.

The short notice command-post exercise took place in Rovaniemi and Rovajärvi, northern Finland from 29 August to 2 September 2022 and built on the success of [Exercise Vigilant Fox](#) which took place in July.

Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace said:

Whilst there is war in Europe, it is more important than ever to strengthen our international partnerships. We welcome Finland and Sweden's application to join NATO and will continue to exercise together so we are ready to face shared security challenges.

Exercise Vigilant Knife is an invaluable opportunity for UK personnel to develop their skills and experience of warfighting in cold weather conditions, enabling them to be

effective on the battlefield alongside their Finnish and Swedish counterparts.

Around 80 British Army personnel from C Company, 2 Rifles Battlegroup took part in the exercise, travelling from the island of Santahamina in the south of Finland where they are undertaking a 3 month training deployment as part of a [security agreement between the UK and Finland](#).

Formed of over 2,000 troops, the international force practiced delivering and receiving international assistance as well as enhancing tactical and technical interoperability.

As a light infantry company, British personnel provided anti-tank, sniper and reconnaissance capabilities to the exercise and were primarily involved in both offensive and defensive actions to test the readiness of the Finnish forces alongside the Swedish unit.

This added to the invaluable experience that UK troops have already enjoyed whilst on deployment in Finland. Operating in northern Finland presented new challenges enabling troops to train in heavily wooded terrain.

Enhancing our forces through international exercises is crucial preparation should we need to deploy alongside our European partners in the future, enabling us to be effective on the battlefield.

Published 4 September 2022

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[JCVI advises use of additional bivalent vaccine for autumn booster campaign](#)

Press release

Published advice updated to include an additional bivalent vaccine now approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).



Following on from the previous advice on which vaccines should be used in this year's autumn booster programme, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has [updated its published advice](#) to include an additional bivalent vaccine now approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Studies indicate the Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent vaccine produces a marginally higher immune response against some variants than the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA Original 'wild-type' vaccine. The clinical relevance of these small differences is uncertain

'Bivalent' vaccines have been developed by global manufacturers since the emergence and dominance of the Omicron variant. These vaccines are targeted against antigens (substances that induce an immune response) from 2 different COVID-19 strains, or variants.

All of the available booster vaccines offer very good protection against severe illness from COVID-19. As more vaccines continue to be developed,

the committee will consider their use in the autumn programme.

Professor Wei Shen Lim, Chair of COVID-19 immunisation on the JCVI, said:

It is very encouraging that more vaccines continue to become available and we now have another option to add to the vaccines already advised for the autumn booster campaign.

Winter is typically the time of greatest threat from respiratory infections. We strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to have their booster vaccine this autumn when it is offered. This is our best defence against becoming severely ill from COVID-19.

Published 3 September 2022