

Ukraine Independence Day

What should have been a time of celebration was this year marked by tragedy – 24 August also marked 6 months since Russia invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine.

Since Ukraine's independence in 1991, a proud, internationally engaged country, and one committed to freedom and the principles of the UN Charter, has emerged. Ukraine has become a global exporter of grain – feeding hundreds of millions of people around the world.

But now the country and all it has achieved is under threat. Over the last 6 months, the scale of atrocities against Ukraine's citizens is certain, with extensive violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Officially there have been 12,800 civilian casualties so far, with the expectation that real figures are considerably higher. At least 366 healthcare centres have been attacked, and over 2,200 schools. More than 12.8 million Ukrainians have been forced from their homes – displaced – with 6.2 million people now living as refugees.

The UK, EU and US, and many other countries, have stood by Ukraine in its darkest hour. We will continue to do so. We are committed to championing fundamental human rights, sovereignty, international humanitarian law and democratic values internationally, to help build a fairer, freer world.

Many Namibians will be able to relate to the grave situation in Ukraine, having fought so hard and so long for independence, and freedom from oppression, to become a proud, stable, democratic and peaceful nation.

The war in Ukraine continues to have a huge impact globally, affecting the most vulnerable people living in the world's poorest countries. Since the beginning of the year, we have seen a rise in the cost of living around the world, including here in Namibia. Global food insecurity and the risk of famine is at an all-time high, driven by conflict, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

At present, at least 1.6 billion people worldwide are directly affected by the surge in food and energy prices. In East Africa, millions of people are faced with the worst drought and food shortages in decades. Four consecutive years have seen insufficient rain for harvests. Livestock is dying, and the price of staple foods keeps rising.

Ukraine's grain exports collapsed after the invasion, which has exacerbated food insecurity around the world. African countries import more than 12% of their wheat from Ukraine.

This war is also affecting the trade of fertilisers. The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that, due to the conflict, Africa faces a fertiliser shortfall of 4 million metric tonnes this year – 33-40% of supply in 2020. Without sufficient supply of fertiliser, Africa could lose \$14-19 billion –

one-fifth – worth of food production in the next 2 harvesting seasons, with significant knock-on consequences to food availability.

Recognising the global food crisis, international sanctions on Russia have deliberately not included food or fertiliser exports from Russia to third world countries. The UN-brokered deal to unblock Ukraine's grain exports across the Black Sea is a vital step, and news of a shipment by the World Food Programme transporting grain from Ukraine to the drought-hit Horn of Africa region is a positive sign of progress.

However, to enable a lasting return to global security and economic stability, there must be peace. No country deserves war. But in war time, there are rules: there is international humanitarian law and there is the commitment we made to uphold this through the UN Charter and the important role played by the ICRC. The world needs a free and a safe Ukraine so it can securely return to supplying the world with its food.

Our commitment to a better world, one that is fairer and strives for freedom for all – especially in the aftermath of the pandemic – is a challenge that we all must face together. Ukraine is our friend in this global reconstruction effort, and it is our partner in food security.

As we commemorate Ukraine's anniversary of independence, our respective countries and institutions stand together with Ukraine, both supporting Ukraine to help protect its own people, but also around the world in partnership with those nations who share these same goals.

Strength to you, Independent Ukraine.

Signed by:

HE Charles Moore, British High Commissioner

HE Sinikka Antila, Ambassador of the European Union

HE Herbert Beck, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

HE Sébastien Minot, Ambassador of the Republic of France

HE Alberto de la Calle, Ambassador of Spain

HE Luis Gaspar Da Silva, Ambassador of Portugal

Jessica Long, Chargée d'Affaires a.i, United States of America

Matti Karvanen, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Finland

7 new community diagnostic centres to offer more patients life-saving checks

- More than 1.7 million tests, checks and scans have already been delivered by the 92 existing community diagnostic centres
- GP referrals to community diagnostic centres speed up diagnosis times by offering tests closer to home, eliminating unnecessary hospital trips

Seven new community diagnostic centres (CDCs) will open to help bust the COVID backlogs, diagnose patients more quickly and meet future demands on the NHS, the Health and Social Care Secretary has today (1 September 2022) confirmed.

The one-stop shops offer a range of diagnostic checks, scans and tests closer to home. Following a GP referral, patients can get their symptoms checked and receive a potentially life-saving diagnosis for a range of conditions such as cancer, heart and lung disease more quickly. The new facilities will also relieve pressure on NHS staff ahead of a potentially challenging winter.

So far, 92 have already opened in a variety of settings from football stadiums to shopping centres – carrying out over 1.7 million tests. This forms part of the government's ambition to roll out 160 community diagnostic centres across the country by 2025 to deliver 9 million tests, checks and scans a year, with the programme backed by £2.3 billion of diagnostics investment.

CDCs reduce the number of hospital visits and reduce waiting times for patients by diverting people away from hospitals – so hospitals can focus on treating urgent patients while the diagnostic centres focus on tackling the backlog for tests and checks. They are more convenient for patients and more efficient, with patients less likely to have their tests cancelled.

The new CDCs will be rolled out in:

- Eltham in south east London
- Lancashire
- Leigh in Greater Manchester
- St Albans
- Willesden and Wembley in north west London

Health and Social Care Secretary Steve Barclay said:

Since taking on the role of Health and Social Care Secretary, I have been focused on clearing the COVID backlog and waiting times. Community diagnostic centres are a vital part of our plan to transform the way we deliver tests, scans and x-rays and ultimately reduce waiting times for patients.

Along with speeding up diagnosis times, they will also help tackle

health disparities – ensuring that people get treated as quickly as possible no matter where they live, with new centres opening from Essex to Manchester.

NHS national director of elective recovery, Sir James Mackey, said:

These 7 ‘one-stop shops’ are the next step in our elective recovery plan and a welcome addition to the 92 existing community diagnostic centres, which have already delivered more than 1.7 million tests and checks in just over a year.

Our elective recovery plan set out how the NHS will deliver 9 million more tests and checks a year by 2025 and the work of these diagnostic centres, some in convenient spots including shopping centres, are excellent examples of the innovative work being done across the health service to ensure patients get the tests and checks they need as quickly as possible.

GPs refer patients to CDCs where staff use CT scanners, MRI scanners, and other new diagnostic equipment to diagnose people as quickly as possible.

More than 1.7 million tests, checks and scans have already been delivered in the following regions across the country:

- 173,000 in East of England
- 222,000 in London
- 303,000 in the Midlands
- 173,000 in North East Yorkshire
- 260,000 in the North West
- 329,000 in the South East
- 245,000 in the South West

The Finchley Memorial Hospital CDC opened in north London in August 2021 and now offers patients 2 MRI scanners along with 2 obstetric ultrasound machines. Staff carry out a range of scans, blood tests and other cardiology and respiratory services – with more than 50,000 tests so far delivered.

In Dorset, a CDC was constructed on the top floor of Beales department store in Poole to tackle waiting lists in the region, with the first patients walking through its doors in December. The space was once used to sell furniture, and now boasts an eye testing centre, a breast screening unit and 16 clinical rooms that can be adapted for different needs.

In Barnsley, a CDC has been constructed in the Glass Works shopping centre as part of the town’s urban regeneration project. Thanks to its public transport links, patients from more disadvantaged areas have improved access to diagnostic services – including breast screening.

As part of the selection process, the government worked closely with the NHS and invited bids from various regions. Analysis was carried out to determine

where they would be most beneficial in reducing waiting lists and tackling health inequalities.

A range of measures have been adopted to bring down waiting lists and address the lasting impact of the pandemic. Last week, the Health and Social Care Secretary announced that over 50 new surgical hubs will be opening to offer hundreds of thousands more patients quicker access to procedures.

Backed by £1.5 billion in government funding, they will provide at least 100 more operating theatres and over 1,000 beds – delivering almost 2 million extra routine operations over the next 3 years.

These innovative ways of working will help the NHS carry out the biggest catch-up programme in its history and offer patients the care they need, when they need it.

New CDC locations and opening dates

CDC location	Opening date
Willesden Centre for Health and Care, north west London	Winter 2022 to 2023
Wembley Centre for Health, north west London	Autumn 2023
Leigh, Greater Manchester	Winter 2023
Whitegate Drive Health Centre: 2 spoke CDCs in Clifton and Lancashire	Spring 2023
St Albans	Winter 2023 to 2024
Eltham Community Hospital, south east London	Spring 2023

List of operational CDCs

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
East of England	Basildon and Billericay	Basildon Community Diagnostics CDC	1 Aug 2021	38,788
East of England	Peterborough	Cambridge and Peterborough CDC	1 Jul 2021	35,692
East of England	Norwich South	Central Norfolk CDC	4 Apr 2022	200
East of England	Clacton	Clacton CDC	8 Aug 2021	85,525
East of England	Great Yarmouth	East Norfolk CDC	12 Dec 2021	5,802
East of England	Welwyn Hatfield	New QEII Hospital CDC	1 Mar 2022	3,647
East of England	North West Norfolk	West Norfolk CDC	4 Apr 2022	3,375
London	Barking	Barking Community Hospital CDC	14 Jul 2021	22,432

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
London	Finchley and Golders Green	Finchley Memorial Hospital CDC	2 Aug 2021	50,341
London	Hornsey and Wood Green	Finchley Memorial Hospital CDC (Wood Green)	25 Aug 2022	Not yet reporting activity
London	Bermondsey and Southwark	Guy's Cancer Centre CDC	4 Sep 2021	3,028
London	Bethnal Green and Bow	Mile End Hospital CDC	1 Jul 2021	13,938
London	Ealing and Southall	North West London CDC	19 Jul 2021	11,028
London	Putney	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC	1 Aug 2021	114,844
London	Mitcham and Morden	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (Epsom)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Richmond Park	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (Kingston)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Croydon South	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (Purley)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Tooting	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (St Georges Site: Non-Acute)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Wimbledon	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (The Nelson)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Mitcham and Morden	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (The Wilson)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Dulwich and West Norwood	Tessa Jowell Health Care Centre CDC	26 Jul 2021	6,884
Midlands	Cannock Chase	Cannock Chase CDC	14 Jul 2021	24,906

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
Midlands	Stourbridge	Corbett CDC	1 Oct 2021	118,728
Midlands	Coventry North East	Coventry City Community CDC	1 Nov 2021	21,162
Midlands	Derby North	Florence Nightingale Community Hospital CDC	1 Nov 2021	26,017
Midlands	Grantham and Stamford	Grantham CDC	1 Nov 2021	16,485
Midlands	Erewash	Ilkeston Community Hospital CDC	6 Dec 2021	6,533
Midlands	Wyre Forest	Kidderminster Treatment Centre CDC	15 Aug 2021	31,702
Midlands	Leicester East	Leicester CDC	3 Oct 2021	8,708
Midlands	Stratford upon Avon	South Warwickshire CDC	1 Nov 2021	20,737
Midlands	Nuneaton	Warwickshire North CDC	1 Nov 2021	2,339
Midlands	Birmingham	Washwood Heath CDC	13 Dec 2021	3,491
Midlands	Derbyshire Dales	Whitworth Hospital CDC (the new name will be North Derbyshire CDC in 2023)	10 Oct 2021	4,246
North East and Yorkshire	Barnsley Central	Barnsley Glassworks CDC	18 Apr 2022	10,615
North East and Yorkshire	Bishop Auckland	Bishop Auckland CDC	14 Jul 2021	10,575
North East and Yorkshire	Darlington	Bishop Auckland CDC (Darlington Memorial Hospital)	14 Jul 2021	22,039
North East and Yorkshire	Durham	Bishop Auckland CDC (University Hospital of North Durham)	14 Jul 2021	20,023
North East and Yorkshire	Blaydon	Blaydon CDC	19 Jul 2021	13,924
North East and Yorkshire	Tynemouth	Blaydon CDC (North Tyneside)	Reporting through hub (Blaydon CDC)	Reporting through hub (Blaydon CDC)

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
North East and Yorkshire	Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	Humber Coast and Vale CDC	31 Oct 2021	28,265
North East and Yorkshire	Doncaster North	Montagu Hospital CDC	6 Jan 2022	3,308
North East and Yorkshire	North Tyneside	North Tyneside CDC	1 Feb 2022	1,911
North East and Yorkshire	Penrith and the Border	Penrith CDC	4 Oct 2021	14,634
North East and Yorkshire	South Shields	South Tyneside CDC	26 Jul 2021	3,023
North East and Yorkshire	Durham	South Tyneside CDC (Durham Treatment Centre)	14 Jul 2021	14,144
North East and Yorkshire	Hartlepool	Tees Valley CDC	18 Jul 2021	30,869
North East and Yorkshire	Richmond (Yorks)	Tees Valley CDC (Friarige)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)
North East and Yorkshire	Redcar	Tees Valley CDC (Redcar)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)
North East and Yorkshire	Hartlepool	Tees Valley CDC (University Hospital Hartlepool)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)
North West	Bolton South East	Bolton CDC	5 Nov 2021	9,514
North West	Eastham Wirral	Clatterbridge CDC	14 Jul 2021	27,667
North West	Wirral West	Clatterbridge CDC (Arrowe Park)	Reporting through hub (Clatterbridge CDC)	Reporting through hub (Clatterbridge CDC)
North West	Ellesmere Port and Neston	Ellesmere Port CDC	17 Dec 2021	7,454
North West	Liverpool Riverside	Liverpool Women's Hospital CDC	6 Mar 2022	3,036
North West	Manchester Withington	Manchester And Trafford CDC	1 Nov 2021	66,925

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
North West	Salford and Eccles	Northern Care Alliance CDC – Multi Site	1 Jul 2021	18,323
North West	Oldham West and Royton	Northern Care Alliance CDC – Oldham	4 Jan 2022	5,605
North West	Preston	Preston Healthport CDC	1 Oct 2021	28,905
North West	Rossendale and Darwen	Rossendale CDC	1 Nov 2021	13,918
North West	St Helens South and Whiston	St Helens CDC	3 Jul 2021	34,280
North West	Weaver Vale	Victoria Infirmary Northwich CDC	4 Oct 2021	16,609
North West	Westmorland and Lonsdale	Westmorland CDC	21 Jul 2021	11,279
North West	Blackpool North and Cleveleys	Whitegate Drive CDC	2 Aug 2021	16,082
South East	Aldershot	Aldershot Centre For Health CDC	4 Oct 2021	6,082
South East	Chesham and Amersham	Amersham Community Hospital CDC	18 Oct 2021	61,003
South East	Bexhill and Battle	Bexhill Community Hospital CDC	15 Nov 2021	17,752
South East	Bognor Regis	Bognor CDC	27 Nov 2021	15,574
South East	Dover	Buckland Community Hospital CDC	1 Oct 2021	42,228
South East	Reigate	East Surrey CDC	1 May 2022	1,545
South East	Brighton Kemptown	Falmer Community Stadium CDC	21 Nov 2021	5,399 (as of 7 Aug 2022, no report for 14 Aug 2022)
South East	New Forest West	Lymington New Forest Hospital CDC	1 Nov 2021	53,854
South East	Maidstone and Weald and Greg Clark	Maidstone And Tunbridge Wells Hospital CDC	30 Sep 2021	22,702
South East	SW Surrey	Milford Community Hospital CDC	27 Jun 2022	593
South East	Oxford East	Oxford CDC	1 Oct 2021	14,308
South East	Mid Sussex	Queen Victoria Hospital CDC	14 Jul 2021	9,653
South East	Windsor	Slough CDC	1 Oct 2021	9,806

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
South East	Worthing and Shoreham	Southlands Hospital CDC	7 Nov 2021	10,319
South East	Portsmouth North	St Mary's Community Hospital CDC	25 Oct 2021	14,029
South East	Newbury	West Berkshire Community Hospital CDC	1 Oct 2021	37,956
South East	Woking	Woking Community Hospital CDC	1 Apr 2022	6,185
South West	Weston Super Mare	BNSGG (Phase 1) Weston CDC	8 Sep 2021	3,756
South West	Bath	BSW Banes Locality CDC	22 Nov 2021	49,078
South West	Poole	CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village	10 Dec 2021	11,906
South West	West Dorset	CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village (Outpatient Assessment Clinic Dorchester)	Reporting through hub (CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village)	Reporting through hub (CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village)
South West	Dorset	CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village (Outpatient Assessment Clinic Poole)	Reporting through hub (CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village)	Reporting through hub (CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village)
South West	North Cornwall	Cios Bodmin CDC	13 Sep 2021	10,524
South West	St Ives	Cios West Cornwall CDC	4 Apr 2022	6,219
South West	Exeter	Devon Exeter Nightingale CDC	1 Jul 2021	30,431
South West	Gloucester	Gloucestershire Community CDC	4 Oct 2021	5,571
South West	Gloucester	Gloucestershire Quayside CDC	14 Dec 2021	19,999
South West	Taunton Deane	Somerset Community CDC	24 Jul 2021	86,916
South West	Taunton Deane	Somerset West CDC	26 Sep 2021	20,307

PM call with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz: 31 August 2022

Press release

The Prime Minister spoke to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz this afternoon.



The Prime Minister spoke to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz this afternoon.

The leaders thanked one another for their friendship and cooperation for the past few months. The Prime Minister pointed to the staunch opposition to Putin's actions and the historic support for Ukraine galvanised through Germany's Presidency of the G7 as evidence of the strong UK-German partnership. He paid tribute to Chancellor Scholz's leadership on this issue and encouraged him to stay the course in his political, military and economic support for Ukraine.

The Prime Minister noted the extreme pressure, particularly in terms of energy prices, the people of the UK, Germany and elsewhere have come under as a result of Putin's barbarism. Chancellor Scholz thanked the Prime Minister for everything he has done for Ukraine in his role.

The Prime Minister expressed his confidence that the UK and Germany will continue to be close partners on a huge range of issues. He pointed to climate change and defence as areas where our countries are working together to make the world a better and safer place.

The Prime Minister and Chancellor Scholz concluded by wishing one another all the best for the future.

Published 31 August 2022

PM speech at the Commissioning of HMS Anson: 31 August 2022

Thank you very much Captain Bing.

Deputy Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen, it is fantastic to be here in Barrow, which is the crucible of British marine engineering, of course, and the historic vast maternity ward of these steel leviathans.

And when you look at HMS Anson ladies and gentlemen you are looking at the climax of eleven years of high precision effort by 10,500, brilliant shipwrights, and sonar experts, and weapons engineers – a concentration of talent and expertise that can be mustered by only two or three other countries in the world, at the most.

And on this special day, we give them our thanks.

And you're looking, by the way, at a vessel that is five times as long as the chamber of the House of Commons and I think you will agree is an international argument considerably more persuasive than some of the things that are deployed in the chamber.

And this is also as the lady sponsor, as the wonderful lady sponsor pointed out this is the home, the place of work, play and rest for one hundred and ten brave submariners at sea, week in week out in the service of our country and to them in anticipation I think we should give our thanks.

When you're looking at HMS Anson, you are also looking at a vast UK industrial project that represents all that we mean or certainly all that I mean by levelling up, that's driving jobs and growth and the acquisition of skills up and down the country, sonar built in Somerset torpedoes built in Portsmouth, propulsion system, I think I might even say from Derby, Rolls Royce in Derby.

And you will know that those Rolls Royce reactors were, which are shortly going to be fired up, I think for the first time, they are the basis of the small modular reactor programme that this government has commissioned as part of our strategy to ensure that the people of this country get reliable supplies from the UK of the energy, affordable energy, that we need.

And I've just been informed by the by the brilliant people in BAE that these engines run so quietly, that the most important feature of this machine is that for all its enormous bulk.

And by the way, it's I think it's smaller than the dreadnought, but it's still colossal.

All its bulk, you cannot hear it coming.

And I can tell you that I've just been out with the Metropolitan Police this

morning on a dawn raid.

Coincidentally, in Lewisham, I think maybe South Norwood.

And I can tell you how important, is the element of surprise.

And we arrested a drug dealer, ladies and gentlemen that he was suddenly surprised to see me at the foot of his bed at 530 in the morning, he seemed remarkably pleased actually.

The element of surprise is crucial. And that is why HMS Anson is so vital for our defence, by leave of the Ministry of Defence and my great friends. The Secretary of State for Defence, I can tell you roughly what this boat does, it doesn't actually carry the nuclear deterrent itself though it does carry as you know, plenty of other lethal stuff, but it does protect our nuclear deterrent.

And therefore today, ladies and gentlemen, what we are looking at is the policemen of the world, gathering intelligence protecting our sea lanes cruising up behind you silently you do not even know it's there and invisibly helping to create that forcefield around us that is warding off attack on NATO countries for 80 years or getting on for 80 years keeping safe, a billion people around the world.

That is what this machine does.

And that's why I'm so pleased, by the way, but under the AUKUS agreements with Australia and with the United States, the technology we hope in the submarine will be used to help keep people safe across the whole of the Pacific region as well.

Now, some people will continue to insist that this is a weapon of war.

I tell you that she is a guarantor of peace.

And in this uncertain world, we need that guarantee more than ever.

I congratulate all those who designed her. All those who built her. And I know that in the decades to come, all those who are going to set to sea in her.

And I know that in decades to come, when she's out at sea, unseen beneath the surface of the water, keeping us safe, we will all remember the day that we were here in Barrow to see HMS Anson commission.

Thank you, God bless this wonderful submarine and all those who sail in her.

Australian submariners to join Royal Navy crews as UK and Australia deepen defence ties through AUKUS pact

- Royal Australian Navy submariners will join UK crews to train on newly commissioned HMS Anson
- Prime Minister and Defence Secretary host new Australian Deputy Prime Minister at Barrow to see commissioning
- Australian visit strengthens international defence ties in light of trilateral AUKUS partnership, working with the US

It came as he and Defence Secretary Ben Wallace emphasised the importance of the deep defence ties between the UK and Australia, following the development of the trilateral AUKUS partnership working with the United States, who were represented today by their Defence Attaché Captain Leland.

Hosting Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles on his first official visit to the UK since the new Australian government came to power, the Prime Minister and Ministers attended the commissioning of the fifth of seven new Astute-Class Royal Navy submarines, HMS Anson.

With naval capability at the centre of the two powers' future defence relationship, the visit reinforced the priorities of the [Integrated Review](#) and significance of the AUKUS partnership – which links the UK, the United States and Australia in promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

The UK and US have already welcomed Royal Australian Navy personnel on its specialised nuclear training courses, and more will follow next year, before Australian submariners go to sea. The training and exchanges mark the beginning of a multigenerational naval partnership between the three AUKUS nations.

The Australia Deputy Prime Minister – who is also Minister for Defence – visited Barrow having yesterday also seen the Type 26 frigate shipbuilding facility in Govan, accompanied by the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Ben Key.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, said:

HMS Anson is the perfect example of where levelling up the UK and generating jobs, skills and growth across our country goes hand-in-glove with Global Britain.

From the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea, our submarine service is protecting the UK and our allies 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the deployment of Australian submariners alongside our British crews epitomises the strength of the AUKUS partnership.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, said:

Today is a significant milestone in the UK and Australia's preparation to confront growing threats to the liberal democratic order, especially in the Indo Pacific.

Not only have we progressed our defence planning but Minister Marles participated in the commissioning of our latest attack submarine, on which will Royal Australian Navy submariners will be embarked as we develop our shared capabilities in the years ahead.

Built in a UK shipyard, HMS Anson demonstrates the very best of British industry, sustaining our world-leading sub-surface capabilities and underlining the UK's readiness to contribute them to shared security, especially with our closest allies Australia and the United States under the AUKUS initiative.

One of the most sophisticated underwater vessels ever built, HMS Anson represents £1.3 billion of UK investment. Capable of defending the UK's interests at home and overseas, HMS Anson will be armed with up to 38 Spearfish Heavyweight Torpedoes, and Block V Tomahawk land attack missiles, able to tackle targets at a range of up to 1,000 miles.

Building on commitments made in the Integrated Review, the completion of HMS Anson demonstrates the strength of British industry and its world-leading nuclear technology that will be leveraged to deliver the trilateral AUKUS defence and security partnership between the US, UK and Australia.

First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Ben Key said:

HMS Anson is the cutting edge in submarine design and construction, ensuring operational advantage in the underwater battlespace, the last great stealth domain.

Given the world we live in, there is no more important tool in the United Kingdom's arsenal: silent, unseen, and a key instrument of our global, modern, ready Royal Navy.

In the last year 17,700 Defence jobs were supported through direct spending with UK industry in the North West. More than 11 years in the making and built in BAE Systems' Barrow-in-Furness site, more than 10,000 coders, engineers, scientists, submariners and technicians across the UK were involved in HMS Anson's construction. Powered by a Rolls-Royce nuclear reactor, the boat will be operational for 25 years without refuelling.

At 97 metres long, HMS Anson stands at around the length of two Olympic swimming pools, with 240 kilometres of cabling – enough to stretch from Barrow-In-Furness to its new home in Faslane, Scotland.

HMS Anson will remain in Barrow for the coming weeks while undergoing final checks and rigorous testing to the numerous complex systems that make up a nuclear-powered submarine, before sailing to HM Naval Base Clyde in Faslane to prepare for sea trials.

BAE Systems Chief Executive Charles Woodburn said:

The Astute class submarines are among the finest engineering accomplishments in the world. As the custodian of the UK's submarine design and build capability, we're incredibly proud of the role we play in the delivery of this strategic national endeavour.

The UK has built and operated world-class nuclear-powered submarine capability for over 60 years.

HMS Anson will join four other Astute Class submarines in service with the Royal Navy – HMS Astute, HMS Ambush, HMS Artful and HMS Audacious.

Two further boats – Agamemnon and Agincourt – are in various stages of construction at BAE Systems' Barrow-In-Furness site as part of £11.2 billion overall investment in the whole Astute-Class programme.