

# PM call with Dr Tedros, Director-General of the World Health Organization: 8 July 2020

News story

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to Dr Tedros, Director-General of the World Health Organization today.



The Prime Minister spoke to Dr Tedros, Director-General of the World Health Organization today.

He began by emphasising the UK's continued commitment to the organisation and its role in the global fight against coronavirus.

Dr Tedros outlined progress on the independent international review into the coronavirus outbreak.

They agreed it was essential to understand why the outbreak happened and why it wasn't prevented from spreading – in order to learn lessons that will help to avoid future pandemics.

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of international cooperation in the fight against coronavirus – particularly in areas such as global health and trade.

Published 8 July 2020

---

# [Prime Minister's letter on Dr Liam Fox's nomination for the position of WTO Director General](#)

## Help us improve GOV.UK

To help us improve GOV.UK, we'd like to know more about your visit today. We'll send you a link to a feedback form. It will take only 2 minutes to fill in. Don't worry we won't send you spam or share your email address with anyone.

Email address

[Send me the survey](#)

---

## [Seeking a ceasefire in Libya](#)

Mr President, firstly, thank you to the Secretary-General for his briefing, and to the Acting Special Representative to the Secretary General and her team for the continued and tireless efforts of all those working in the Mission to end the conflict in Libya.

Let me also thank you, Mr President, for chairing this timely session. Six months ago, the Berlin Conference participants represented here today committed unequivocally and fully to respect and implement the UN arms embargo, and called on all actors to refrain from activities exacerbating the conflict, including the financing of military capabilities and the recruitment of mercenaries.

But six months later, Mr President, it is clear, sadly, that some of those same countries have continued to arm and supply their proxies in flagrant violation of the arms embargo. We condemn this disregard for the commitments made in Berlin. We also condemn the disregard for the resolutions of this Council. We condemn the disregard for their obligations under international law.

The UK is deeply concerned at the ongoing conflict, fuelled by reckless international interventions, and the unacceptable humanitarian and human rights cost – all at the time of a worsening coronavirus outbreak. Continued reports of numerous civilian casualties. It is shocking that the World Health Organisation ranked Libya first in the world, ahead of Afghanistan and Syria, in numbers of attacks on health facilities and staff from January to May

2020.

The UK is particularly concerned about unacceptable civilian and mine clearance personnel casualties as a result of mines, booby traps, and improvised explosive devices left by the withdrawing forces aligned with the LNA. The UK continues to fund specialist NGOs to map explosive hazards, share expertise with the mine action community and conduct demining on the ground.

We are shocked by the disturbing reports of the discovery of mass graves in Tarhouna. The Libyan authorities must secure these sites until a proper investigations can be conducted. We condemn all human rights violations and abuses, and violations of international humanitarian law, including indiscriminate attacks, unlawful killings, sexual and gender-based violence, and the silencing of journalists, activists and human rights defenders.

The persistent climate of impunity in Libya must be addressed. This is why the UK co-sponsored the resolution adopted at the Human Rights Council's 43rd Session establishing an international, independent Fact Finding Mission to investigate violations and abuses in Libya. We call on all parties to allow access to the Mission across the whole country.

In the economic sphere, the independent audit of the two central bank branches is a vital step towards improved transparency and reunification. We encourage all parties to cooperate fully with this process. We continue to condemn unequivocally the blockade of oil facilities and welcome the UN-led efforts to end the blockade. Libya's legitimate National Oil Corporation should be allowed to operate unimpeded for the benefit of all Libyans.

We are particularly concerned at reports of Wagner Group and other foreign mercenaries entering Libyan oil fields. Wagner Group activities exacerbate the conflict, as does all external military support – including the provision of mercenaries and arms and deployments of combat aircraft.

But what have the external backers of the parties gained, Mr President, from their continued disregard of the commitments they made in Berlin? Despite the rapid developments on the ground, it is clearer than ever that there can be no military solution. Only a political process will be able to provide a sustainable, inclusive settlement for the people of Libya.

Now, despite all this, there is now a window of opportunity to make real progress and change Libya's troubled trajectory. We welcome the engagement of the parties in the UN-led 5+5 military talks, which we are supporting as co-chairs of the Security Working Group. This is especially important now given the high risk of further escalation around Sirte. Only by engaging in the 5+5 dialogue in good faith can the parties avoid further bloodshed and put Libya back on the road to a political agreement. We fully support UNSMIL's efforts to de-escalate the situation around Sirte.

Instead of emphasising maximalist goals and red lines, the parties should engage constructively in the military talks to agree a viable ceasefire. And instead of further fuelling the conflict, the international backers must recognise that their interests lie in meeting their Berlin commitments and

supporting the parties to achieve a ceasefire, a return to a UN-led political process and an inclusive political solution for the people of Libya.

Thank you.

---

## Summer Statement delivers plan for jobs in Scotland

The Chancellor today set out the next steps in the UK Government's strategy to secure Scotland's economic recovery from coronavirus – announcing a "Plan for Jobs" to level up, spread opportunity and unite the UK.

Rishi Sunak outlined how he would focus on protecting, supporting and creating jobs as the UK enters the next phase in its recovery following the outbreak.

Delivering his Summer Economic Update, he said:

Our plan has a clear goal: to protect, support and create jobs. It will give businesses the confidence to retain and hire. To create jobs in every part of our country. To give young people a better start. To give people everywhere the opportunity of a fresh start.

As part of a series of landmark measures the Chancellor announced that the government will:

- support jobs with the Job Retention Bonus to help businesses keep furloughed workers. UK Employers will receive a one-off bonus of £1,000 for each furloughed employee who is still employed as of 31 January 2021.
- expand Worksearch Support including a Flexible Support Fund and a £2 billion Kickstart scheme to subsidise jobs for young people
- create jobs in the construction and housing sectors through funding to decarbonise public sector buildings, a demonstrator project to decarbonise social housing and funding to support research and development for Direct Air Capture (as announced by the PM on 30 June)
- protect jobs with VAT cuts for hospitality and tourism, as well as a Eat Out to Help Out discount scheme.

The Summer Economic Update confirms an additional £800 million of Covid-19 funding for the Scottish Government through the Barnett formula.

The UK Government is now providing £4.6 billion through the Barnett formula to help the Scottish Government support individuals, businesses and public services through Covid-19.

Rishi Sunak said the plan for jobs was the second phase of a three-phase plan to secure the UK's economic recovery from coronavirus.

The first phase, beginning in March, focused on protection with a £160 billion package of support – one of the largest and most comprehensive economic responses in the world. In Scotland this package has so far protected more than 620,000 jobs, helped thousands of businesses and paid £425 million to 146,000 self-employed people.

The Chancellor outlined that following the second phase focusing on jobs, there would come a third phase focusing on rebuilding, with a Budget and Spending Review in the autumn.

Speaking about the impact for Scotland, Chancellor Rishi Sunak said:

Since this crisis started, our wide-ranging package of support for Scotland has protected more than 620,000 jobs, thousands of businesses and paid £425 million to self-employed people.

Today I've set out our plan to protect, create and support jobs across Scotland – to level up opportunity, safely reopen our economy and strengthen the Union.

With a massive funding boost for Jobcentre Plus, doubling the number of work coaches, more people will now benefit from personalised and tailored job support. We're investing £800m through the Barnett formula, giving Scotland the funds to create green news jobs. And we're protecting the thousands of existing jobs in the hospitality sector with a cut to VAT and the Eat Out to Help Out scheme.

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

The measures announced by the Chancellor to support the country's post-coronavirus economic recovery delivers for all parts of the UK.

The UK Government's ambitious plan for jobs, with its strong emphasis on our young people, is great news for young Scots.

The VAT cut for tourism and hospitality will be a huge boost for Scotland. It is now absolutely essential that Scotland's world-class tourism and hospitality industry can properly open for business.

The stamp duty cut gives a helping hand to the housing market and building trades in England. I urge the devolved administration to use their powers to do the same in Scotland.

And, thanks to UK Government spending decisions in the rest of the

UK, Holyrood will get a £800 million cash boost, bringing their total additional coronavirus support funding to £4.6 billion.

The Chancellor has set out a fantastic package of support. The devolved administration now need to play its part and show they are serious about Scotland's economic recovery.

---

## **ESFA Update: 8 July 2020**

[unable to retrieve full-text content] Latest information and actions from the Education and Skills Funding Agency for academies, schools, colleges, local authorities and further education providers