

[Letter from the Minister of State, Cabinet Office about the CSPL review of electoral regulation](#)

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

[UN Human Rights Council 44: statement on behalf of the Core Group on Sri Lanka.](#)

Thank you Madam President.

This statement is on behalf of Canada, Germany, North Macedonia, Montenegro and the UK, the Core Group on Sri Lanka.

We thank the High Commissioner for her report.

In February, the Government of Sri Lanka indicated that it no longer supported resolution 30/1, which Sri Lanka had co-sponsored in a landmark partnership with the international community to address the harmful legacies of war and build a sustainable peace in the country.

We reiterate our profound disappointment at this development. We remain firmly committed to advancing the resolution's goals of accountability, reconciliation, and inclusive peace in Sri Lanka.

While the Government of Sri Lanka has stated its own commitment to advancing these principles through domestic processes, we stress that any accountability mechanism must have the confidence of those affected.

Since March, Sri Lanka has been battling COVID-19, and has kept case numbers significantly lower than the regional average. However, as stated by the High Commissioner, extraordinary measures to tackle the pandemic should not be used to roll back human rights. We share the concerns of Sri Lankan human rights organisations over the targeting and marginalisation of minority groups, the pardoning of Sergeant Sunil Ratnayake and promotion of others accused of serious violations during the conflict, and the militarisation of a wide range of civilian functions and public initiatives.

We call on Sri Lanka to ensure that the country's democratic space remains open and accountable. We call for detentions and arrests to follow due process and be compliant with international norms and universal rights, for example in the case of lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah, who has now been detained for almost three months without charge or presentation before the court. We call for an end to impunity for the violations and abuses of the past.

Thank you Madam President.

DWP service update



As of this morning restrictions placed on accounts for which Wirecard is the parent company such as Pockit have been lifted, meaning customers will now be able to use their pre-payment cards again.

This means that if you receive payments of any kind from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), into accounts held by companies associated with Wirecard, they will continue to be paid into these accounts as normal.

If you are still experiencing issues receiving or accessing these payments, please call the enquiry line specific to the benefit or pension you receive.

These numbers can be found at the top of any correspondence customers have received from the DWP and are listed on the [existing benefit claims](#) page. More information can be accessed on the relevant [benefit pages](#).

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 3267 5144

Follow DWP on:

Published 30 June 2020

Last updated 30 June 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 30 June 2020

First published.

Government announces £40 million green jobs challenge fund

Plans to create thousands of new jobs to kick-start the nation's green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic were unveiled by the government today.

The £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund will bring forward funding to help charities and environmental organisations start work on projects across England to restore nature and tackle climate change.

The fund will help conservation organisations and their suppliers create up to 3,000 jobs and safeguard up to 2,000 others in areas such as protecting species, finding nature-based solutions to tackling climate change, conservation rangers and connecting people with the outdoors.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said:

Our ambitious green recovery package will deliver a steady stream of shovel-ready environmental projects, protecting nature at the same time as creating and retaining thousands of new jobs.

Many of us have become even more appreciative of nature during lockdown and our Green Recovery Challenge Fund will help charities and other organisations employ more people to work on tree-planting, nature restoration and helping the public enjoy the outdoors.

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund will be funded by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by bringing forward £10 million of money from the Nature Recovery Fund and £30 million of Nature for Climate Funding, so that the money can be spent now when it is most needed.

It is envisaged that the fund will create a broad range of short and long term jobs such as ecologists, surveyors, nature reserve staff and education workers in environment organisations; and support their suppliers in areas

such as agricultural engineering, horticulture, and equipment and seed supply.

Organisations will be invited to bid to the fund and details will be set out in due course.

Natural England Chair Tony Juniper said:

Coronavirus has shown us even more starkly how vital access to a thriving natural environment is to everybody's health and wellbeing. This new fund will kick start nature's recovery by building partnerships across the country, in towns and cities and in rural areas.

It's also an unprecedented opportunity to build new careers for people from all walks of life to create the environment we need for the future.

Today's green recovery funding support formed part of a [wider package to boost the economy announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson](#) and "build back a greener and more beautiful Britain".

[The Prime Minister also re-iterated the government's commitment](#) to re-foresting Britain by planting 75,000 acres of trees every year by 2025, "creating a new patchwork of woodlands to enchant and re-energise the soul". The Government is currently [consulting on a new English Tree Strategy](#) to expand tree cover, support woodland management and increase public engagement with trees and woodlands.

[Rental e-scooter trials to be allowed from this weekend](#)

- government paves way for e-scooter rental trials to start as lockdown restrictions eased
- fast-tracked trials will test devices' safety, green credentials and ability to reduce traffic

New regulations allowing trials of rental e-scooters will come into force on Saturday 4 July 2020, Transport Minister Rachel Maclean has announced.

The first trials are expected to begin the following week. Local authorities and devolved administrations hosting the trials can allow or run the rental schemes in their areas, as outlined in accompanying [guidance for areas and rental operators](#) published today (30 June 2020).

Whether commuting to work or riding for leisure during the warm summer months, local residents will soon be able to test the benefits of e-scooters on roads, cycle lanes and tracks.

The trials are designed to help understand whether the devices reduce motor traffic, as well as their impacts on safety for their users and others. They will be strictly prohibited on pavements, will be limited to 15.5mph and riders are recommended to wear helmets.

Users will need a full or provisional car, motorcycle or moped licence to take part in the trials, and must be 16 or over. To avoid a flood of poor-quality scooters onto the streets, the regulations only cover rental schemes.

Individually owned scooters will still be illegal on public roads.

Transport Minister Rachel Maclean said:

As we emerge from lockdown, we have a unique opportunity in transport to build back in a greener, more sustainable way that could lead to cleaner air and healthier communities across Great Britain.

E-scooters may offer the potential for convenient, clean and cost-effective travel that may also help ease the burden on the transport network, provide another green alternative to get around and allow for social distancing. The trials will allow us to test whether they do these things.

The trials, which are due to last for 12 months, will be closely monitored so the government can assess the benefits of e-scooters and their impact on public space.

The rental schemes will involve leading companies in the industry from Great Britain and across the globe working closely with local authorities to provide a plan for the controlled introduction of e-scooters in cities, towns and rural areas.