

# Minister announces new measures to bolster UK's resilience

Lead Minister for Resilience and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Kit Malthouse MP, announced new measures to bolster the UK's resilience on a visit to the Met Office yesterday (Monday 15 August).

Minister Malthouse visited the Met Office, based in Exeter, to see how their forecasting expertise feeds into government planning to tackle severe weather and how the agency worked closely with Government and other partners to give people plenty of warning and advice about staying safe in the recent extreme heat.

The Minister announced the launch of a new public emergency text alert system for the UK, as well as changes to the Civil Contingencies Secretariat – the Cabinet Office's emergency planning and response team.

Speaking in the Operations Centre of the Met Office, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Kit Malthouse MP, said:

“To make sure that government continues to offer the best possible prevention and protection against threats, we are shaking up how we prepare for and respond to emergencies, strengthening the effective resilience capability we already have in place.

“We will launch a new public emergency alerts system in the Autumn which will focus on extreme weather, revolutionising our ability to ‘warn and inform’ people who are in significant and immediate danger. These alerts will be sent direct to people’s mobiles giving details of the emergency – such as local flooding – explaining what to do and how to seek help.

“Our vital COBR unit – which leads the government’s response to acute domestic and international emergencies – will be bolstered by a dedicated team helping to future-proof us from harm. This National Resilience Framework Team will take a deeper look at our approach to risk and how we mitigate it and help us take huge leaps forward in terms of collecting, analysing and using live data.”

Ian Cameron, Director of Markets at the Met Office, commented:

“The right messaging helps people take action to stay safe. It is clear that we are seeing an increase in the number of extreme weather events in the UK and overseas. Just this summer we have seen temperatures in the UK exceed 40C for the first time on record, followed closely by the heatwave which ended earlier this week. Communicating effectively is imperative so we can warn and alert people, ensuring they are aware and have more time to take action and look after themselves, their friends and family.”

Minister Malthouse spoke with a range of staff in the Met Office to learn more about their work, from the Meteorologists who lead on weather forecasts,

to the Space Weather Operations team who are part of just one of three space weather prediction centres in the world, monitoring potentially disruptive solar activity for government and industry.

The [emergency alerts system](#), which will focus on events like extreme weather and warning the public where there is a risk to life, will be launched in the autumn following a public awareness campaign. The free message will give details of the emergency – local flooding or wildfires, for example – what to do and how to seek help, and will relay urgent messages to over 85% of mobile phones in areas affected.

Changes to the Civil Contingencies Secretariat – the Cabinet Office’s emergency planning and response team – will see a COBR Unit continuing to lead the government’s response to acute emergencies, and work on longer term planning being driven forward by a separate team dedicated to strengthening the UK’s underlying resilience. This National Resilience Framework Team in the Planning and Analysis Secretariat will take a deeper look at the government’s approach to risk and how it is mitigated as well as collecting and analysing live data to improve future responses to emergencies.

---

## [Ambassador Cowell meets PM Mikati](#)

World news story

I committed to continuing the UK’s support to the Lebanese Armed Forces and to the most vulnerable living in Lebanon.



Ambassador Cowell meets PM Mikati

British Ambassador to Lebanon Hamish Cowell met with Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati at the Grand Serail today.

Ambassador Cowell said after the meeting:

I had a good first meeting with Prime Minister Designate Najib Makati. Our discussion underlined the importance of strengthening the longstanding bilateral relations between our countries.

I committed to continuing the UK's support to the Lebanese Armed Forces and to the most vulnerable living in Lebanon.

The UK wants to see stability, prosperity and security in Lebanon. This is why I urge authorities to deliver urgent reforms in order to secure a much-needed IMF deal.

This is essential:

- To put Lebanon on the path to recovery,
- to regain business and investor confidence and
- to address the many and very serious difficulties the Lebanese people are facing.

The UK will support Lebanon in this regard.

Published 16 August 2022

---

## **Change of British High Commissioner to Mozambique**

Press release

Ms Helen Lewis has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of Mozambique in succession to Ms Nne Nne Iwuji-Eme.



Ms Helen Lewis has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of Mozambique in succession to Ms Nne Nne Iwuji-Eme. Ms Lewis will take up her appointment during October 2022.

### ***Curriculum Vitae***

Full name: Helen Lewis

<b>Year</b>	<b>Role</b>
2019 to 2021	Juba, Development Director South Sudan
2017 to 2019	Cabinet Office, Deputy Director Gulf-Iran, National Security Secretariat
2016 to 2017	Department for International Development, Gulf Team Leader, Middle East and North Africa Department
2014 to 2016	Islamabad, Head, Rule of Law Team
2013 to 2014	Islamabad, Senior Conflict Adviser
2013	Department for International Development, Senior Conflict Adviser, Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE)
2011 to 2013	Juba, Stabilisation Adviser, UK Stabilisation Unit
2010 to 2011	Sana'a/Doha, Regional Conflict Adviser
2008 to 2010	Department for International Development, Conflict Adviser, Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE)
2003 to 2008	Peace and security sector roles including: Policy Coordinator at Ulster University's International Conflict Research Centre, Programme Associate at Search for Common Ground, Washington DC
2002 to 2003	Fulbright Scholar, School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC

Published 16 August 2022

---

# Would you like to be the British High Commissioner to India for a day?

To celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child, the British High Commission is offering women from across India a unique opportunity to experience a day in the life of the UK's top diplomat in the country. The competition is open to women aged 18-23 and the deadline to apply is 2 September 2022.

**Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India, said:**

The UK and India are doing big things together, from combating climate change to agreeing a free trade deal. But, celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child together with a wonderful young Indian applicant each year is without a doubt one of my favourite things to do as High Commissioner.

I am delighted to launch the sixth edition of our High Commissioner for a Day competition, particularly during the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Empowering women and girls is one of the UK's top priorities globally, as it is for Prime Minister Modi as well. This is an excellent opportunity for young women to show their full potential. I look forward to seeing entries from every corner of this great country.

The winner of this pan-India initiative gets a unique opportunity to head the diplomatic mission for a day – overseeing the UK's largest overseas network, chairing meetings with diverse stakeholders, and a chance to experience the UK-India partnership in action.

To apply to be the 'High Commissioner for a Day', participants must record and upload a one-minute video answering 'which woman in public life inspires you the most and why?' The video must be shared on either Twitter, Facebook or Instagram by tagging '@UKinIndia' and using the hashtag '#DayoftheGirl'.

## **Further information**

The British High Commission has organised the 'High Commissioner for a Day' competition annually since 2017. The theme for this year's competition is 'Women in Leadership'.

Last year's winner was 20-year-old Aditi Maheshwari from Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, whose day as the High Commissioner included observing the India-UK Energy for Growth Dialogue, meeting with beneficiaries of the Chevening Alumni Programme Fund, interacting with climate experts from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and meeting young leaders from the not-for-profit Global Youth.

## Terms and Conditions:

- A jury at the British High Commission (BHC) will select the winner, who will be announced on @UKinIndia social media channels. Only one entry per participant will be accepted. Multiple entries from the same person will be disqualified. The High Commission's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the above will be possible.
- By applying to the competition, participants transfer the copyright ownership of their videos to the BHC New Delhi. BHC may use these videos to produce content for future communication on its social media channels.
- Participants are reminded not to share personal details in their video, post or tweet. The BHC is not responsible for the data that participants make public on these platforms.
- The High Commissioner for a Day programme will take place in-person in Delhi (unless Covid-19 advice changes). In case the winner is not from Delhi/NCR, we will fund travel or accommodation to Delhi as part of the competition.

For media queries, please contact:

David Russell, Head of Communications  
Press and Communications, British High Commission,  
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021. Tel: 24192100

Media queries: [BHCMediaDelhi@fco.gov.uk](mailto:BHCMediaDelhi@fco.gov.uk)

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Flickr](#), [Youtube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

---

## [Scottish Secretary responds to August Labour Market Statistics](#)

News story

As new figures from the ONS show Scottish unemployment at a record low, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack says the UK Government is continuing to help create and support jobs through investment in communities.



**Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:**

Today's labour market figures show positive signs for Scotland. Unemployment has fallen over the last year to a historic low and there are more people on the payroll.

The best way to continue growing our economy in the long-term is to get even more people into well-paid, highly-skilled jobs as we know that people are better off in work than on benefits. However, we also know people are worried right now about the rising cost of living and that's why we're providing the most vulnerable households with an extra £1200 of direct support through our £37bn package of support, while continuing to help all households with their bills.

Alongside this, the UK Government continues to drive forward investment in communities to create and support jobs, helping level up opportunity from our biggest towns and cities to our most remote villages.

#### **Background**

Figures from the ONS show unemployment at 3.2 per cent in Scotland, down 1.1 p.p. since the same time last year. Scotland's employment rate is at 75.4 per cent, an increase of 1.2 p.p. over the last year.

Published 16 August 2022