

Statement on media freedom in Yemen

Press release

Media Freedom Coalition's Executive Group statement concerning media freedom in Yemen



The undersigned members of the Media Freedom Coalition's Executive Group express their growing concern about the Houthis' attacks on media freedom in Yemen, where their continued detention of Yemeni journalists is troubling evidence of serious abuses of the right to freedom of expression.

In particular, we condemn the Houthis' decision to put four Yemeni journalists to death for their reporting, an alarming situation that constitutes a blatant disregard for human rights. Attacks on media freedom are attacks on human rights, and the protection of journalists and other media workers is critical to the success of any peacebuilding efforts undertaken in Yemen.

We call on all parties to guarantee the safety of journalists and to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, so that they can carry out their work without fear of detention, reprisals or restrictions inconsistent with the right to freedom of expression.

We also call on the Houthis to:

- immediately disavow their decision to put to death the journalists Abdulkhaleq Ahmed Amran, Akram Saleh Al-Walidi, Al-Hareth Saleh Hamid and Tawfiq Mohammed Al-Mansouri and release them
- Immediately release journalists Hisham Ahmed Tarmoom, Hisham Abdulmalik Al-Yousefi, Haitham Abdulrahman Al-Shihab, Essam Amin Balgheeth, and Hassan Abdullah Annab
- immediately free all other detained Yemeni journalists and disavow any intention to punish or harm them, and account for those journalists who are missing
- Refrain from undermining the exercise of the right to freedom of expression by all Yemeni journalists and media workers in the pursuit of their essential work—without being subjected to further punishment

Canada, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America

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[Driving lessons, theory tests and driving tests to restart in England](#)



The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) has announced that learners can resume driving lessons and motorcycle training in England from Saturday 4 July 2020.

The rule applies to all types of driver and motorcycle training in England, including private practice with someone you live with or in your [support bubble](#).

Theory tests will restart in England on Saturday 4 July. The tests will take place with social distancing measures in place to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

Car driving tests will restart in England on Wednesday 22 July, which will give learner drivers time to have refresher lessons and practice before taking their test.

DVSA will make further announcements about the resumption of testing, training and lessons, including publishing information on how services will be restarted safely, shortly.

When lessons and tests will restart

When services restart depends on what vehicle you're learning to drive or ride.

Car

Service	Date
Driving lessons	Saturday 4 July 2020
Theory tests	Saturday 4 July 2020
Driving tests	Wednesday 22 July 2020

Motorcycle and moped

Service	Date
Motorcycle and moped compulsory basic training (CBT)	Saturday 4 July 2020
Motorcycle direct access scheme (DAS) training	Saturday 4 July 2020
Theory tests	Saturday 4 July 2020
Motorcycle and moped module 1 and module 2 tests	Monday 13 July 2020

Lorry, bus and coach

Service	Date
Driver training	Saturday 4 July 2020
Theory tests	Saturday 4 July 2020
Driving tests	Monday 13 July 2020

Car and trailer

Service	Date
Driver training	Saturday 4 July 2020
Driving tests	Monday 13 July 2020

Tractor and specialist vehicle

Service	Date
Driver training	Saturday 4 July 2020
Driving tests	Monday 6 July 2020

Approved driving instructor (ADI)

Service	Date
Driving instructor training	Saturday 4 July 2020
ADI part 1 test (theory)	Saturday 4 July 2020
ADI part 2 test (driving ability)	Wednesday 22 July 2020
ADI part 3 test (instructional ability)	Wednesday 22 July 2020
ADI standards check	Wednesday 22 July 2020

Motorcycle trainer

Service	Date
DVSA enhanced rider scheme trainer theory test	Saturday 4 July 2020

Helping the country to get moving again

Grant Shapps, Transport Secretary, said:

Driving lessons and tests are vital in helping people get to work and visit loved ones, and provide the skills for a lifetime of safe driving.

As the country recovers from COVID-19 we can now open-up our services to help get the country moving again and I am very pleased to announce the restart of driving tests and lessons in a COVID-secure way.

Gareth Llewellyn, DVSA Chief Executive, said:

It has been vital that lessons and tests only resume when safe to do so and in line with the government's advice.

We know this has been a tough time for the whole country including learners and driving instructors but I am pleased to announce the restart of lessons and tests in England.

Tests for critical workers have continued during the lockdown and I would like to thank all those instructors and examiners who have continued to work to help deliver tests for those who have done so much to help us during this terrible pandemic.

More information

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Last updated 15 July 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 15 July 2020

Added the date that approved driving instructor (ADI) part 3 (instructional ability) tests and ADI standards checks restart in England.

2. 1 July 2020

Added links to information about theory tests and driving tests in England, and in Scotland and Wales.

3. 25 June 2020

First published.

Major milestone hit as 2 billion items of PPE delivered

- Almost 28 billion items have been ordered by the government to provide a continuous supply to health and care workers tackling coronavirus
- Part of herculean cross-government effort to future-proof supply chains

Two billion items of PPE have been delivered to NHS and social care staff across the UK since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, the government has announced today.

Amid unprecedented global pressures on supply chains, 341 million masks, 313 million aprons, 4 million gowns and 1.1 billion gloves have been delivered to frontline workers thanks to the efforts of government, NHS, industry and the armed forces to massively scale-up distribution networks.

Almost 28 billion items of PPE have been ordered overall from UK-based manufacturers and international partners to provide a continuous supply in the coming months.

This will help protect our hardworking NHS and care staff, allowing them to continue to save lives and provide high-quality care to those who need it.

This was a vital condition in order to safely ease the lockdown and start to bring some normality back to people's lives.

Matt Hancock, Health and Social Care Secretary, said:

Coronavirus has placed unprecedented global demands on PPE supply chains. To tackle this we set a national challenge calling on companies to channel their manufacturing power into manufacturing much-needed PPE, and brought in Lord Deighton who has truly delivered once more for his country.

Two billion items of PPE have now been delivered to the frontline, and a further 28 billion items sourced, that will protect frontline workers well into the future.

It is thanks to the herculean effort from UK industry, the NHS and departmental teams, our diplomatic teams abroad, and the armed forces that we have now hit this impressive milestone.

The normal supply chain for PPE was designed to accommodate delivery to 226 NHS trusts, but essential PPE supplies are now being supplied to 58,000 different settings, including care homes, hospices and community care organisations.

This has been achieved through a cross-government effort to harness the manufacturing power of UK suppliers, forging new relationships with overseas companies and setting up new supply chains from scratch in a matter of weeks.

Lord Deighton, the government's adviser on PPE who previously led the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, was also appointed to oversee supply and ramp up manufacturing of PPE from UK-based companies.

More than 30 deals have been struck with companies, including the Royal Mint, Jaguar Land Rover and Honeywell, through the Make initiative to manufacture and deliver PPE in the UK. We are also working with over 175 new suppliers to deliver at the scale and pace the UK requires. Around 20% of all PPE will be manufactured in the UK by the end of the year.

The latest companies to join the national drive and sign new contracts are:

- Medicom, a company based in Montreal, will be providing hundreds of millions of respiratory and medical masks to the UK every year, once the UK facility is opened later this summer. This new UK-based factory will create at least 75 new full-time, skilled jobs
- Redwood, based in Wigan, will be providing 379,000 gowns until November this year – around 75,800 a month – with the first delivery due this week

Lord Paul Deighton, adviser to the Health and Social Care Secretary on PPE, said:

The driving motivation of our team has been to supply our frontline workers with the PPE they need so they can focus on saving lives. This is why hitting this milestone matters and why I am so grateful to all the individuals and companies, both in the UK and overseas, who have contributed to this effort.

Responding to a massive spike in our requirements and a significant global supply shortage, we have in a matter of weeks scaled up our international procurement, our domestic manufacturing and our logistics and distribution capabilities so that we can deliver PPE to where it's needed.

We are now working to build the stock levels which will help to future-proof our health and care sectors for years to come.

Contracts for billions of items of PPE were negotiated by a team led by Defence Equipment and Support, the procurement arm of the Ministry of Defence.

Sir Simon Bollom, Defence Equipment and Support CEO, said:

The New Buy PPE team has worked tirelessly and collaboratively with colleagues from the NHS and across government from the outset and

this remarkable milestone indicates how focused they are on getting vital PPE to the NHS frontline.

Ranil Jayawardena, International Trade Minister, said:

The announcement today is testament to the hard work of British teams around the globe, sourcing critical medical equipment in the fight against coronavirus.

We've got to keep going and do even more. I welcome Lord Deighton's important work on PPE here at home and abroad – and the Department for International Trade will continue our work to make our supply chains more robust, seize new overseas opportunities, and push on with trade deals amongst friends and allies to boost the British economy.

The government will always be ready to fire up our overseas networks, secure medical and other critical supplies, and help make Britain more resilient in the future, as we strive to beat this virus.

From the beginning of the outbreak, the government has worked tirelessly to find new ways of getting more PPE to staff across the health and care system as quickly as possible.

We have rapidly processed over 23,000 cases from over 15,000 suppliers to ensure they meet the safety and quality standards that our NHS staff need, as well as prioritising offers of larger volumes. We have so far actively engaged with over 99% of the companies that have offered PPE.

We now have sufficient contracted supplies for our foreseeable demand in most product areas.

We've contracted with over 175 new suppliers able to deliver at the scale and pace the UK requires.

In March, the National Supply Distribution Response 24/7 helpline was launched to allow health and care providers to arrange urgent deliveries of PPE. This was followed by £1.6 billion of funding for local authorities to deal with the immediate impacts of coronavirus, which they could use to help ensure social care staff could get the protection they needed. Social care providers later received an emergency drop of over 7 million items of PPE from the government.

In April, the government launched [the PPE action plan](#), setting out clear, decisive actions on securing enough PPE to last through the crisis and ensuring those who need PPE can get the right type at the right time.

The temporary team rapidly mobilised by Lord Deighton to source UK manufactured PPE included many senior executives from the private sector,

many of whom were involved in the delivery of London 2012.

[Christ Church Oxford – mediation required by charity regulator](#)

Press release

The Charity Commission has told both sides in the dispute to enter talks



The Charity Commission has told both sides in the dispute at [Christ Church, Oxford](#), to enter into a mediation process.

The Commission is concerned that the very protracted and public dispute between the College's governing body and its Dean is damaging to the reputation of the charity, and affecting its ability to govern itself.

The situation risks harming the reputation of charity more generally, in the eyes of the public.

Both parties in this dispute have called on the Charity Commission to intervene further. However, any regulatory intervention can be effective only if relationships between all parties are stable. The Commission has therefore today told the parties to the dispute that it expects them to enter into formal mediation within a limited time frame, with a mediator selected by the Commission, and without delay.

Helen Stephenson, Charity Commission Chief Executive, said:

It is not our job, as charity regulator, to referee disputes. Our role is, instead, to ensure that charities are governed effectively, charitable funds are properly accounted for, and trust in charity is maintained. In these exceptional circumstances, we have told the parties to the dispute to enter mediation, without

which it is difficult to resolve issues in the charity in any reasonable timescale.

The Commission will not comment further on the case until the mediation has been completed.

It has also asked both sides to refrain from public, or private, commentary whilst the mediation process takes place.

Ends.

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[Health Secretary responds to NHS workforce statistics](#)

Compared to 2010, there are over 23,100 more doctors in our NHS and over 22,000 more nurses, midwives and health visitors.

All professionally qualified clinical staff, doctors, nurses, scientific, therapeutic and technical staff and support to clinical staff are at record levels.

Responding to NHS workforce statistics today, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

It's fantastic to see record numbers of NHS staff, including 6,000 more doctors and 12,000 more nurses compared to last year.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our NHS staff, we are turning the tide on coronavirus, and I remain absolutely committed to growing the workforce and making the NHS the best possible place to work.

We will continue to do everything we can to attract and retain our brilliant NHS staff as part of delivering 50,000 more nurses by end of the Parliament.

The figures for March do not include any former healthcare professionals who bravely volunteered to return to the frontline to support the NHS during the pandemic, as they began to be deployed from April.

Today NHS Digital has published their [monthly NHS workforce data for March](#)

[2020](#)

Over the last year (March 2019 to 2020) the number of nurses has gone up by 12,131, from 282,422 to 294,553.

Over the last year (March 2019 to 2020) the number of doctors has gone up by 6,629, from 112,031 to 118,660.