

COP26 will be a chance to restore our relationship with nature

On 5 June the world marked World Environment Day. This year the anniversary fell in unprecedented circumstances: the global COVID-19 crisis has of course brought with it immense challenges around the world, including in Egypt, Italy and the UK. But in the middle of so much pain and suffering, we have also had the opportunity to reflect on the effects of the crisis on our climate. Falling global emissions had an impact on all walks of life: wildlife not seen in decades have appeared in parts of the UK, fish have returned to the canals of Venice, and air pollution is at a record low in many of our cities.

The Coronavirus provides a stark reminder of what happens when humanity's relationship with nature breaks down. As we recover, we have an opportunity to protect and to restore that relationship, by reducing our exposure to deadly viruses and climate impacts alike.

That is why next year's climate summit, COP26 – which will be held in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021 – will be a critical moment for us all. Hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy, it will be the biggest summit ever to take place in the UK: over 30,000 delegates are expected to gather for the event in Glasgow. Postponing the summit until 2021 has given us another year to get ready: Italy and the UK will be working tirelessly over this period to raise global ambition, and to ensure that COP26 is a resounding success. The twin Presidencies of the G7 (UK) and the G20 (Italy) in 2021 will be putting the climate change agenda front and centre.

We are delighted that Egypt will be our partner in this vital endeavour.

At the last summit – COP 25, in Madrid – the UK and Egypt jointly launched an ambitious action plan aimed at mitigating the most severe impacts of climate change, and adapting to those impacts where they cannot be avoided. This was an important contribution to the global effort to complete and implement the Paris Agreement of 2015. Only by delivering on that Agreement can we demonstrate that the world is able to work together to solve this pressing challenge.

As the Egyptian Minister of Environment, Her Excellency Dr Yasmin Fouad, said at the recent Petersberg Climate Dialogue, the whole world has come together to face the Coronavirus. The solidarity we have achieved in that context provides an excellent platform on which to build united and coordinated international action to tackle the climate crisis as well.

To achieve that, we need countries, cities, states and businesses to come together now to take ambitious action towards achieving net zero global emissions. As incoming Presidents of COP26, the UK and Italy are committed to bringing all our partners together to deliver on the spirit and the letter of the Paris Agreement. A special effort will be dedicated to the impact of

climate change on Africa: Italy will host an event on this theme in 2021, in preparation for the COP26 summit in Glasgow. Italy will also organize the first edition of the event “Youth4Climate: driving ambition” to highlight the fundamental role that young generations play in tackling issues related to climate change.

As we recover from COVID-19, we have a rare opportunity to rebuild in a way that lays the foundation for sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth. And just as we have come together to face COVID-19, the international community can and must unite to tackle the climate crisis. Our people, and our planet, deserve no less.

Latest ESFA senior staff moves

News story

An update from Eileen Milner, ESFA chief executive, on senior staff moves in the agency



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Eileen Milner, chief executive of ESFA, said:

The Department for Education has appointed ESFA’s Director of Academies and Maintained Schools (AMSD), Mike Pettifer, as the Director responsible for overseeing the Department’s COVID-19 continuing response plan.

Mike will continue the work he undertook to establish the team in March as single accountable Director for the next 18 months. The role of the team has evolved rapidly over the past few months, and Mike will lead the transition into a recovery phase. Mike will move across to his new role in the coming weeks.

Mike has over 25 years’ experience working in the FE and skills sector in teaching, policy and planning. Currently, Mike is the

Director responsible for funding academies directly as well as the funding of local authorities to fund maintained schools.

Warwick Sharp, Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, will be moving across to head up ESFA's Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate later this summer.

Warwick will be taking up a significant part of Mike's AMSD portfolio at the start of Summer recess on an acting basis, with a recruitment process into a permanent position taking place later in the year.

Warwick has over 12 years experience in education strategy and policy. He is currently responsible for leading Private Office Directorate, including the Secretary of State's immediate Private Office as well as supporting Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, Special Advisers and the Board.

I wish Mike and Warwick all the very best as they step into their new roles.

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[National Data Guardian launches public consultation about the Caldicott Principles and Caldicott Guardians](#)

Dame Fiona Caldicott, the National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care (NDG), today launches a [public consultation](#) about the Caldicott Principles and Caldicott Guardians.

The Caldicott Principles

The Caldicott Principles were developed in 1997 as a result of [a review chaired by Dame Fiona](#) of how patient information was handled across the NHS. They have since become widely used across health and social care to help ensure that confidential information is protected and used when appropriate.

The NDG now proposes to add an eighth Caldicott Principle to the seven in use

to emphasise the importance of there being no surprises for patients and service users with regard to how their confidential health and care data is used.

During work to develop this, the NDG has taken the opportunity to review the wording of the existing principles. As a result, the NDG is proposing some amendments to the existing principles in order to ensure that they are as clear as possible, consistent with other data sharing requirements and guidance, and that the language is up-to-date.

Caldicott Guardians

There are currently more than 18,000 Caldicott Guardians working in health, social care and other sectors; they help their organisations to ensure that information is used legally, ethically and wisely in accordance with the principles.

[The National Data Guardian is seeking views](#) on whether, under her [statutory power to issue guidance](#), she should issue guidance proposing that all health and adult social care organisations in England should appoint a Caldicott Guardian. We would particularly like to hear people's thoughts on how we can ensure that such guidance is appropriately and proportionately implemented in a range of organisations, in particular small organisations.

Dame Fiona said: "I have long emphasised the importance of dialogue with the public about how confidential information is used by the health and care system. This is essential to ensure that people can trust that what they tell their doctor, social worker, nurse or other care professional is treated with appropriate respect and used beneficially. All those working in health and care have a part to play in that dialogue.

"I hope that our proposals will support this and look forward to hearing how they are received."

Background

The work that has led to this consultation has been taking place over more than two years. There is greater detail on our consultation page about this.

These proposals are not a response to the current pandemic or the data sharing arrangements that it has prompted. However, we are mindful that when we look beyond the current pandemic, there must be careful consideration of which temporary data sharing arrangements should end – as what is appropriate during a public health crisis to protect everyone from a dangerous disease may not be appropriate when the danger recedes. Equally, discussions must also be had about which of the changes (such as those expedited to improve and speed up data sharing) are beneficial and should be maintained.

We hope that by conducting this consultation now, we can develop an improved set of Caldicott Principles and guidance in time to inform and support these important discussions, which will be important to maintaining public trust for health and care data to be used.

Consultation plans

[The consultation will be open](#) for an extended period of two months until Thursday 3 September to allow organisations and individuals supporting the fight against COVID-19 more time to respond.

To ensure that a variety of voices are heard, the NDG has commissioned YouGov to run workshops with members of the public about the consultation. We will also be engaging with a range of groups and stakeholders over the next two months to ensure that we obtain a diversity of perspectives. If you would like to discuss the consultation, please contact the Office of the National Data Guardian: ndgoffice@nhs.net

Government outlines support for pubs, cafes and restaurants

- New laws will help businesses get back on their feet and get people back in their jobs safely
- Simpler licensing process for outdoor seating for pubs, restaurants and cafes
- Councils encouraged to reduce red-tape and create more outdoor markets
- Government plans to support outdoor dining as part of efforts to help the economy bounce back from coronavirus
- Part of comprehensive plan to revive high streets, support the hospitality industry and help get people back to work

More pubs, restaurants and cafes will be able to serve customers outdoors in plans announced by the government today (25 June 2020).

The government will simplify and reduce the costs of the licensing process for outdoor seating and stalls, making it easier for people to safely drink and dine outside.

Proposed planning freedoms will mean that outdoor markets, pop-up car-boot sales or summer fairs will not need a planning application, which will transform the way people shop and socialise.

Pubs and restaurants will be able to use car parks and terraces as dining and drinking areas, using their existing seating licenses.

Temporary changes to licensing laws will allow many more licensed premises, such as pubs and restaurants, to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises. Customers will be able to buy their drinks from a pub and consume them elsewhere, making social distancing easier.

These measures will give an immediate and much needed boost to many

businesses, whilst supporting them to successfully reopen over the summer.

This builds on support introduced in March allowing many food and drink business, including pubs, to offer a takeaway service. Additionally, these changes will support hospitality staff return to work safely, revive businesses and provide a real boost to high streets affected by the pandemic.

This Bill is the next step to enable people to socialise this summer and enjoy the best of British hospitality in a COVID-secure way – helping businesses get back up and running and employees return to work.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

I know we all look forward to seeing our pubs, cafes and restaurants open their doors again and I'm determined to give them a helping hand to get back on their feet and their staff back to work safely.

That's why we are introducing changes to make it quicker, easier and cheaper for them to set up outdoor seating and street stalls to serve food and drink.

Business Secretary Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP said:

Our pubs, restaurants and cafes are the lifeblood of high streets and town centres across the country and we are doing all we can to ensure they can bounce back as quickly and safely as possible.

This week we gave our vital hospitality sector the green light to reopen from 4 July, and today we are introducing new legislation to enable businesses to make the most of the crucial summer months ahead.

Transport Secretary Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP said:

These measures will help create new summer streets and summer squares, providing people with ways to enjoy our high streets and hospitality sector safely.

Alongside our recently announced £2 billion investment in cycling and walking, this shows a clear focus from the government on using pavements and open spaces to make sure people can get out and about, helping people remain safe while getting back to normal life.

Changes for the hospitality industry introduced by the government will:

- reduce the consultation period for applications for pavement licences to from 28 calendar days to 5 working days, and grant consent after 10 working days if the council does not issue a decision
- set a lower application fee for a pavement and street cafe licence of up to £100
- remove the need for a planning application for outdoor markets and marquees, meaning they can be set up for longer
- provide more freedoms for areas to hold car-boot sales and summer fairs

Councils will need to continue to ensure their communities are consulted on licensing applications, that waste is disposed of responsibly, and that access to pavements and pedestrianised areas is not compromised.

Today's announcement follows a new £50 million fund to support local high streets introduced last month and the government's decision to extend the working hours of construction sites in order to get the country building again.

The [Reopening High Streets Safely Fund](#) will help councils in England introduce a range of safety measures in a move to kick-start local economies, get people back to work and customers back to the shops.

As we emerge from this pandemic, the government will do all it can to support our economic recovery, help businesses through the lockdown and get back to work safely. The Business and Planning Bill introduces a number of urgent measures to help businesses get back to work and succeed in these new and challenging circumstances, by removing short term obstacles that could get in their way.

The Bill will help businesses transition from immediate crisis response and lockdown, towards economic recovery. It will also help them implement new, safer ways of working to managing the ongoing risks from COVID-19 – in particular the need for social distancing.

The alcohol provisions apply to England and Wales. Other measures apply to England only.

Off-sales, including home deliveries and takeaways, will be allowed in the hours that alcohol can already be sold for consumption on the premises. This automatic extension will eliminate the time and cost to businesses who may wish to apply for a variation of their licence.

The new rules on selling alcohol for consumption off the premises do not apply to those who have had permission for this refused or taken away in the last 3 years.

Businesses should contact their local council to enquire about a licence for an outdoor stall.

The government intends to introduce new laws giving people greater freedom over how they use their land by doubling the length of time that temporary structures can be placed on land without needing an application for planning permission.

For the current calendar year only, the time limits in the existing right for the temporary use of land will be doubled from 14 days to 28 days for holding a market or motor car and motorcycle racing, and from 28 days to 56 days for any other purpose. This makes it easier to host markets, stalls, marquees, car boot sales and summer fairs.

The government is removing the requirement for councils to get planning permission to set up new markets, supporting a revival of markets and helping to transform the way people shop and socialise.

The bill also seeks powers to enable DVSA to issue temporary MOT exemptions to certain Heavy Vehicles on the basis of road safety risk. This will ensure vehicles with the highest road safety risk will be tested first, once testing resumes, helping ensure we keep our roads as safe as possible while testing demand needs to be managed.

The government is making temporary provisions for bus and lorry drivers aged 45 and over to forego the need for a D4 medical in order to renew their driving entitlement. These changes are temporary and will only apply where the licence has not expired before 1 January 2020. This provision is already in place, and the legislation will retrospectively formalise the process.

The Bill includes provisions to allow the effective delivery of the Bounce Back Loans Scheme, which will allow it to operate effectively and for loans to quickly reach small businesses.

[Border Force seizes 37kg of cocaine at Dover](#)

News story

Border Force officers in Dover have prevented an attempt to smuggle cocaine into the UK hidden under a lorry's bunk bed mattresses.



The seizure was made on Saturday 20 June, when officers stopped a Bulgarian registered lorry at Dover's Eastern Docks.

When Border Force officers searched the vehicle they found an estimated 37 kilograms of cocaine. The drugs had a potential street value of around £3.7 million and the investigation was referred to the National Crime Agency (NCA).

Chris Philp, Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts, said:

This was an excellent seizure and has prevented a large amount of lethal Class A drugs from reaching the UK's streets.

Working with our partners at the NCA we will continue to do all we can to arrest and prosecute those involved in drug smuggling.

Bulgarian national Kiril Petkov Hubavenski, 32, of no fixed UK address, was charged with the attempted importation of a Class A drug. He appeared at Maidstone Magistrates Court on Monday 22 June and was remanded in custody until his next appearance at Canterbury Crown Court on 20 July.

Border Force officers use hi-tech search equipment to combat immigration crime and detect banned and restricted goods that smugglers attempt to bring into the country.

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