

# Primary schools to be given flexibility to bring back more pupils

Press release

Headteachers are being encouraged to invite back more primary pupils before the summer, where they have capacity to do so



Primary schools in England are to be given greater flexibility to invite back more pupils, but only if the school has capacity within existing guidelines and if protective measures are in place.

Children in early years, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 began returning to classrooms on 1 June, with over half of primary schools open to at least one of these year groups as of 4 June.

Updated guidance published today (15 June) gives heads and school leaders the ability to invite back additional children if – having invited back the pupils in eligible year groups – they are able and feel ready to do so within the existing guidance.

Schools will have flexibility to decide which additional pupils to prioritise for return, provided existing guidelines are followed and protective measures are in place, including limiting primary class sizes to no more than 15 pupils.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

I want to make sure as many pupils as possible can get back into the classroom and be reunited with their friends and teachers before the summer, to support their wellbeing and education.

We have a range of protective measures in place in schools to reduce the risk of transmission and I would like to encourage primary schools to invite more children back if they can maintain those existing guidelines.

I would encourage parents to take advantage of a place if they are eligible, and I'd like to thank teachers and staff for all their hard work as we take the next step in our phased and cautious approach to returning all children to school.

From Monday 15 June, secondary schools will welcome back pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 and colleges will welcome back 16-19 students, with settings using a range of approaches to allow a quarter of students in at any one time.

Schools and colleges can invite young people who are not yet returning to on-site provision in for a face-to-face meeting before the end of this term, where it would be beneficial and as long as this happens in line with wider protective measures guidance. This time can be used to check-in on students before a return to school or college in September, or moving into employment or the next stage of education.

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## **[Recovered appeal: land at Levitt's Field, Waterbeach Waste Management Park, Ely Road, Cambridgeshire \(ref: 3225123 – 15 June 2020\)](#)**

Decision letter and Inspector's Report for a recovered appeal for a waste recovery facility (Waterbeach Waste Recovery Facility) comprising the erection and operation of an energy from waste facility, air cooled condensers and associated infrastructure, including the development of an internal access road; office/welfare accommodation; workshop; car, cycle and coach parking; perimeter fencing; electricity sub-stations; weighbridges; weighbridge office; water tank; silos; lighting; heat offtake pipe; surface water management system; hard standings; earthworks; landscaping and bridge crossings.

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## **[EU-UK Statement following the High](#)**

# Level Meeting on 15 June

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson met the President of the European Council Charles Michel, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, on 15 June.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson met the President of the European Council Charles Michel, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, on 15 June by videoconference to take stock of progress with the aim of agreeing actions to move forward in negotiations on the future relationship.

The Parties noted the UK's decision not to request any extension to the transition period. The transition period will therefore end on 31 December 2020, in line with the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Parties welcomed the constructive discussions on the future relationship that had taken place under the leadership of Chief Negotiators David Frost and Michel Barnier, allowing both sides to clarify and further understand positions. They noted that four rounds had been completed and texts exchanged despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Parties agreed nevertheless that new momentum was required. They supported the plans agreed by Chief Negotiators to intensify the talks in July and to create the most conducive conditions for concluding and ratifying a deal before the end of 2020. This should include, if possible, finding an early understanding on the principles underlying any agreement.

The Parties underlined their intention to work hard to deliver a relationship, which would work in the interests of the citizens of the Union and of the United Kingdom. They also confirmed their commitment to the full and timely implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement.

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## [Applications sought for the English fully documented fishery \(FDF\) scheme/s for 2020](#)

News story

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is seeking applicants for a Fully Documented Fisheries (FDF) scheme for 2020.



Fully Documented Fisheries (FDF) scheme applications are now open

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is seeking applicants for a [Fully Documented Fisheries \(FDF\) scheme](#) for 2020.

Fully Documented Fishery (FDF) schemes have been run by the MMO since 2011. These schemes have demonstrated the effectiveness of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) in reducing discards and encouraging more selective fishing behaviour.

The behaviour of vessels fitted with REM has also been compared to vessels fishing in the same areas, using the same gear types, and has shown differences in both catch composition and grading. In addition, REM has proven to be a useful tool for gathering scientific data. The MMO has collaborated with the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (Cefas) on exploring this use. The aims of the scheme for 2020 are to:

- Demonstrate how a Fully Documented Fishery can increase compliance with the Landing Obligation.
- Monitor catches of species subject to the Landing Obligation, including species below the minimum conservation reference size and discards.
- Understand the effectiveness of any technical measures introduced in 2020.

- Demonstrate the issues faced by vessels in complying with the landing obligation, and the difficulties it introduces.

In return for participation in this scheme, vessels will be able to access additional quota for North Sea stocks, however the species and quotas available have not been finalised.

The scheme will run from July 1st until 31st December 2020.

To apply, the vessel must be English-registered, and preferably a member of a Producer Organisation (PO), however, applications will also be considered from vessels in the non-sector. Where a vessel is new to the scheme, they will have to arrange for a suitable MMO approved REM system to fitted at their own expense. Vessels which wish to apply, must do so by Monday 22nd June 2020.

More information and application forms can be found on the [North Sea Fully Documented Fishery \(FDF\) scheme](#) pages.

If you have any questions, please contact: [ukcatchquota@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ukcatchquota@defra.gov.uk)

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## **UK statement on Technical Cooperation to the IAEA Board of Governors**

The United Kingdom supports the IAEA's Technical Cooperation programme, which plays a vital role in delivering the safe and secure exchange of nuclear technologies and expertise for peaceful uses, as envisaged in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is essential that all countries can access the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. This is why the United Kingdom will – later this year – host a Forum to review the outcomes of the recent workshops on expanding access to these benefits.

It is also why the United Kingdom pays our TCF target in full and on time. This is in addition to the €17 billion the UK spent on International Development in 2019. We urge other Member States to pay their contributions to the TCF in full and on time to minimise any constraints on the effectiveness of the Agency's development projects.

We recognise that the increasing use of nuclear technology means that the Agency is trying to do more with less, and therefore encourage the Agency to implement the important OIOS recommendation to develop long and medium-term strategies to help prioritise its efforts in the areas where they can make the biggest impact. We also call on the Agency to ensure robust governance

mechanisms are in place to ensure accountability and transparency of TC programmes.

Chair,

The use of nuclear technology is increasingly important to combat global challenges and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We welcome the Agency's work to assist Member States to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, as an example of how the Agency can rapidly deliver support to those most in need. We encourage the Secretariat to build on this success, and ensure that all Member States can fully realise the benefits of all forms of technical cooperation. To this end, we encourage the IAEA to do more to support Least Developed Countries in accessing a much higher percentage of the TC Fund.

Chair,

Climate change is another challenge which affects us all and the UK commends the work of the TC programme to increase access to nuclear technologies for monitoring, mitigating and adapting to climate change. We encourage the Secretariat to continue to link into the wider UN response on this issue and to ensure a joined approach across IAEA departments. The UK will host the rescheduled COP26 in November 2021 and we look forward to working closely with the IAEA to show the part that nuclear technologies can play in the fight against climate change.

Nuclear energy also has an important role to play in tackling climate change and delivering a sustainable energy supply for the future. In the United Kingdom, the National Nuclear Laboratory has deepened its co-operation with the IAEA in this area. I am delighted to announce that this cooperation will form the basis of the first ever UK-IAEA Collaborating Centre.

Finally Chair,

We welcome the expansion of female participation in the TC programme noted in the report, as well as the increasing focus of gender within specific projects. The United Kingdom continues to support the IAEA's work on gender equality.

With these comments, the UK takes note of document GOV/2020/19

Thank you, Chair