

First Meeting of the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration

News story

The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration held its first meeting.



UK Commission on Covid Commemoration

The Commission met for the first time, virtually, on Friday 29 July 2022.

They considered existing Covid commemoration initiatives highlighting their interest in understanding what is already being done around the United Kingdom. The Commission agreed that the recently launched [local Covid Commemoration survey](#) would provide a great source of information and play an important part in setting a helpful context to their work and ensuring that their work supplements and supports existing initiatives.

The Commission is looking forward to taking this very important work forward and starting to engage with stakeholders and the public.

The Commission will meet again in early September.

Published 5 August 2022

Call for Bids: China Network's International Programme (Open Societies) Fund 2022/23

World news story

The British Embassy in Beijing is pleased to open a call for bids to the China Network's International Programme (Open Societies) for projects running between 15 October 2022 and 31 March 2023.



All projects should aim to support improvements to and/or increase understanding and awareness of contemporary human rights in China. Issues on which we welcome bids include – but are not limited to:

- Freedom of expression including media freedom and countering disinformation
- Religious and cultural rights, including for minority groups.
- Technology and human rights
- Criminal justice reform
- Civil Society resilience

This bidding round will only fund projects running between 15 October 2022 and 31 March 2023. All project outputs, including finalised research/analytical products, must be completed by 31 March 2023.

We anticipate a further call for bids early in the next calendar year. If bidders see potential for their project to extend into a subsequent project beyond 31st March 2023, bidders are welcome to explain how this might be achieved in the project summary.

Selection Criteria

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Project design: Feasibility of activities and outputs including the capacity of implementing organisation to deliver outcomes.
- Impact: Supporting identifiable, meaningful improvements to or deepened awareness and understanding of open societies and human rights issues in China. Working together with other diverse partners to enhance impact of the project.
- Scalability: The potential for the project to act as a building block for subsequent expansion/work improving human rights.
- Viability and risks: Clear engagement/buy-in of key stakeholders. Robust analysis of key risks including clear consideration of Covid-related risks (particularly if operating in China), and a plan of action to manage and mitigate those risks.
- Value for money: Comparable and reasonable costs against the scale of achievable outcomes

We draw your attention to the below key points:

- Proposals should be between £20,000 – £80,000 (210,000 RMB – 840,000 RMB).
- All funding must be activity-based (i.e. not for general support staff costs (admin, finance support), office rental etc.).

Process

1. Project proposals must be received by 23:59 (GMT) on Friday 9 September 2022. Late proposals will not be considered.
2. Proposals must be submitted using the attached forms only (Project Proposal Form and Activity Based Budget), which must be completed in English.
3. Proposals must be submitted
to: China.InternationalProgramme@fcdo.gov.uk

Important Information to Note

- Project payments will be paid in arrears in two instalments. Implementers must have enough resourcing to fund half of the project costs at a time.
- If the project involves work with children or vulnerable adults, implementing partners can reflect a proportion of safeguarding costs as legitimate overheads in their bid, or include programme-specific safeguarding budget lines.
- If the project is approved, implementers will be expected to sign a Grant Agreement with the British Embassy Beijing.

Attachments

[Project Proposal Template](#)

[Activity Based Budget Template](#)

Guidance

[Project Proposal – Guidance](#)

[Activity Based Budget – Guidance](#)

[Grant Agreement Template](#)

Published 5 August 2022

Major expansion of woodlands for communities across England

Communities all across England will see millions more trees planted thanks to Government investment to expand woodlands.

The investment will create larger, well-designed and more diverse woodlands which will be more resilient to climate change, as well as natural hazards such as wildfires and storms – playing an important role in helping us adapt to a warmer world. They will help to reduce flood risk in vulnerable areas, provide sustainable UK grown timber and provide more places for nature and biodiversity to thrive.

England's 13 Community Forests, including the Humber and Mersey Forests as well as partners including the Northern Forest and Great Northumberland Forest, are all set to benefit from the funding. As part of the Government's £750 million Nature for Climate Fund, these projects will expand woodlands near our cities, towns, villages and rivers – giving more people greater access to nature and improving health and wellbeing.

Collectively around 2,300 hectares of trees – equivalent to around 3,220 football pitches – will be planted as part of this year's £44.2 million funding allocation, playing an important role in Government ambitions to treble tree planting rates by the end of this Parliament and reach net zero. It is estimated the planting announced today will see 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide absorbed by 2050, valued at nearly £100 million.

The funding will also create more green jobs within the forestry and environmental sectors, helping spread economic growth across the country.

Lord Zac Goldsmith, Forestry Minister, said:

Our economies, livelihoods and wellbeing all rely on nature.

As well as tackling the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, this significant funding will create diverse treescapes across the country and improve the health and wellbeing of local communities by giving them more opportunities to enjoy nature on their doorstep.

Sir William Worsley, Forestry Commission Chair, said:

The social, environmental and economic benefits of being in woodlands are well-documented, helping local communities to be happier, healthier and more pleasant places to live.

It is a personal mission of mine to make sure as many people as possible get to experience these benefits. This funding will ensure we plant trees in areas close to where people live, as well as providing job opportunities in new woodland creation through planting, establishing and managing trees.

Paul Nolan, Chair of England's Community Forests, said:

England's Community Forests welcome the opportunity to establish even more new woodlands close to people to deliver all the benefits that we know they provide.

Over the past two years, England's Community Forests have worked closely with Defra, Forestry Commission, Natural England, over 70 local authorities and a huge range of landowners to establish more than 1000 hectares of new woodland. We are looking forward to continuing this joint endeavour and helping the country reach our net zero goal.

Community Forest plans contribute to the planning and regeneration strategies of the local authorities they work with, providing the green infrastructure needed to support regional growth. These plans are targeted to areas where woodland cover is lowest and focus tree planting towards more deprived communities – helping to level-up environmental benefits across the whole of England.

Local authorities will also benefit from further support announced today for the development of the new LA Tree and Woodland Strategies toolkit, launching in September in partnership with the Tree Council, Fera, Forestry Commission and Forest Research. This will help to build local capacity to plan for new trees and woodlands.

This announcement forms part of wider Government action to recover and restore nature, as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan, and commitments to reach net zero by 2050.

To see what grants are available from our partners, please visit [Regional woodland grants and incentives](#).

Giant sand sculpture urges holidaymakers to stay safe on MOD training grounds

Ahead of the busy summer holiday season, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), part of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), is urging holidaymakers and locals to take extra care and check military firing and training times when accessing MOD sites shared with the public. This includes a number of popular coastal locations.

Depicting an oversized military vehicle, the sand drawing was brought to life on Saunton Sands beach in Devon, an area steeped in military history and adjacent to the Braunton Burrows Training Estate.

A member of Sand In Your Eye works to create the giant Chinook (Crown Copyright).

The artwork launches the next phase of the Respect the Range campaign, a public safety initiative to warn visitors about the very real risks they face when entering shared land used by the MOD for training. Risks include:

- live firing
- unexploded ordnance
- fast-moving military vehicles

Accessing military training estate areas when it is not safe to do so, not only places visitors in harm's way, but can also put service personnel at risk and interrupt vital training exercises designed to prepare the Armed Forces' to deploy in real-life situations.

The MOD wants to raise awareness of the risks to the general public, especially any holidaymakers or day-trippers heading to coastal hotspots this summer.

The Sand In Your Eye Team set to work at Saunton Sands beach in Devon (Crown Copyright).

There are a large number of MOD training locations across the UK, but Respect the Range highlights the following key sites with shared public access that

could pose significant risk to locals and tourists: Lulworth, Holbeach, Donna Nook, Barry Buddon, Lydd & Hythe, Salisbury Plain and Aldershot.

To protect themselves and stay safe while using military land, the MOD is encouraging visitors to:

- check training times before traveling
- stick to public access routes
- observe safety information including red flags, fences, signs and by-laws while on military land
- don't touch any ordnance they come across, and report it

Brigadier Jonathan Bartholomew, DIO's Head of Overseas Region and the Defence Training Estate, said:

With the summer holidays now upon us, it's an important time for us to raise public awareness about MOD training estate locations and how the public can stay safe when visiting them. Whilst last year's Respect the Range campaign targeted the countryside of Salisbury Plain and Aldershot, this year we are focusing on protecting tourists and visitors on our coastline.

These beauty spots are shared land, where families, tourists and locals spend time. But it's also where our Armed Forces practise live-fire training, so it can go from tranquil to treacherous by the hour, 24 hours a day.

The MOD supports public access to much of the military estate and encourages visitors to explore the beauty of Britain's beaches, but this should be done in accordance with military guidance and with caution. We ask that the public do not cross into areas that are prohibited, stick to public paths and always check live firing times. This will help protect yourself, your loved ones and military personnel. It's key that we work together to share these spaces with respect and consideration.

Respect the Range highlights the dual use of each location by using memorable photography and design, and targeting the most popular types of land usage in the hotspots. This phase of the campaign builds on last year's pilot, which focused on MOD's landlocked locations, by bringing in coastal locations too. The dangers differ but are equally as dangerous between the distinct terrains, and it is important that the public are aware of these in order to stay safe.

Please note that Branton Burrows Training Estate is not an area used for live firing exercises.

For more information on how to access military estate safely, visit:
www.gov.uk/guidance/safe-access

Recruitment vacancy for an Efficacy Assessor

News story

Details of a vacancy in our Efficacy Team



This exciting and interesting job puts you at the heart of authorising veterinary medicines in the UK.

You will be a veterinary assessor within the Efficacy Team, which is part of the VMD's Authorisations Division.

You will assess efficacy and target species safety data submitted in support of applications for the authorisation of pharmaceutical products.

You will also provide advice from a veterinary perspective both within the VMD and to external stakeholders including veterinary surgeons and members of the public.

Job Title

Efficacy Assessor

Grade

SS0

Salary & Pension

£38,751 – £43,847 per annum with Pension Scheme

Annual Leave entitlement

Commencing at 25 days

Role

You will be responsible for the assessment of efficacy and target species safety data for applications for:

- new marketing authorisations for pharmaceutical veterinary medicinal products
- variations to existing marketing authorisations
- veterinary aspects of animal test certificates to conduct clinical field trials

This work will contribute to assuring the quality, safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical veterinary medicinal products to assist the VMD in protecting animal health, public health and the environment.

How to apply

You must make your application via [Civil Service Jobs -Efficacy Assessor 221630](#)

where you will find a full job description including salary details.

Closing Date – 1 September 2022

Published 4 August 2022