

# New strategy outlines UKAEA's commitment to delivering fusion research sustainably

Its key sustainability goals are designed to protect and enhance the environment while supporting the UK's target of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

UKAEA, which leads the development of sustainable fusion energy, has committed to design and construct new buildings completed after January 1, 2023, with a strong focus on sustainability by achieving a BREEAM Excellent design rating and net zero operational carbon emissions.

As part of the new strategy, published today for the first time alongside the [full annual report and accounts for 2021/22](#), UKAEA has also vowed to improve and upgrade the energy performance of the existing estate and promote sustainability in its supply chain to ensure broader environmental benefits.

Silvia Rapa, UKAEA Environment and Sustainability Manager, said:

"Fusion promises to be an important part of future low carbon energy production and the UK is proud to be a global leader in developing this transformative technology.

"Until fusion is realised, and as conventional renewable energy sources struggle to keep pace with a growing demand, we need to ensure we are doing all we can to operate as responsibly as possible. This strategy gives us strong direction, and outlines our commitment to delivering world class research in an energy efficient manner to minimise the impact we have on our environment and to support and enhance the wider government net zero targets."

UKAEA has developed clear objectives to help achieve its three primary sustainability goals.

New buildings completed after 1 January 2023:

Existing buildings monitored and upgraded:

- Gas energy supply transitioned to electric
- Solar PV panels and hot water systems
- Facade and roof refurbishments for insulation
- Metering and energy monitoring
- Develop long-term decarbonisation plan

Environmental focus to procurement process:

Fusion energy has great potential to deliver safe, sustainable, low carbon energy for generations to come. It has been described as the ultimate energy

source, based on the same processes that power the sun and stars.

Running fusion experiments is a highly energy-intensive activity and represents a short-term emissions cost as an investment in a much longer-term sustainable future. For this reason, UKAEA is exempt from the standard Greening Government Commitments operational targets and fusion related emissions are excluded from sustainability targets so as not to impact the development of fusion technology.

Visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukaea-sustainability-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukaea-sustainability-strategy) for the full UKAEA sustainability strategy.

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## [Don't pick a pike in the Broads this summer](#)

Press release

The Environment Agency is working with partners to urge the protection of pike in the Broads during the warm weather period.



Anglers are being advised not to fish for pike in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads until 1 October.

The [Environment Agency](#) is working with the Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain, Norwich and District Pike Club, the Broads Angling Services Group and others. Joint advice and guidance for the Broads and local angling tourism associated with the Broads' holiday industry has been worked on in collaboration.

The area's shallow waters can be warm in the summer months, leading to problems for the iconic and popular pike. Coupled with large numbers of holiday makers visiting the area to go fishing, this means pike are often under increased pressure in summer months.

Continued hot weather can cause problems in rivers, lakes and drains. These include low oxygen levels, low river flows, elevated water temperatures and algal blooms. This can in turn lead to increased levels of stress on fish populations and even fish deaths. When water temperature reaches 21°C, pike are particularly susceptible to heat related stress. The capture and release of them during fishing can also lead to further stress and pike fatalities.

Kirk Markham, fisheries technical specialist at the Environment Agency in East Anglia, said:

This is a precautionary measure for local pike conservation based on data from our monitoring programme and our understanding of water temperatures in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.

Everyone from boat hire companies and fishing tackle shops to the general public can help communicate this. You can also help us by reporting signs of distressed fish, pollution and other environmental incidents or concerns to our free incident hotline number, 0800 80 70 60.

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## **Heat Wave Response – Oral Statement**

Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement on this week's heatwave.

Coningsby, in Lincolnshire, broke records yesterday when it registered a provisional reading of 40.3 degrees Celsius.

According to the Met Office, no fewer than 34 locations around the United Kingdom exceeded the country's previous highest temperature of 37.8 Celsius, set in 2019.

We have seen a collective national endeavour to prepare for and manage the effects of the heat – from town hall to Whitehall and across various industries, to keep people safe and infrastructure functioning.

From water companies and rail engineers to public servants right across the land, everyone has pulled together – with members of the public responding in a way that was responsible, and took the pressure off vital public services.

Our national resolve has been exemplified by our Fire & Rescue Services – for many of whom, yesterday was their busiest day since World War 2. They were undoubtedly stretched but coped magnificently and the systems put in place to

make sure that the fire service can operate on a national basis as well as locally worked well.

In tinderbox conditions they have dealt with dozens of wildfires around the country over the past 24 hours. Fifteen Fire & Rescue Services declared Major Incidents and handled emergency calls the length and breadth of the country.

Sadly, at least 41 properties have been destroyed in London, 14 in Norfolk, five in Lincolnshire, and smaller numbers elsewhere. On behalf of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to those who have lost their homes or business premises and I know my Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State is working closely with local authorities on this.

Throughout recent days, the Prime Minister has monitored our work and has been specifically briefed on a number of occasions – we did so again this morning. The Prime Minister was briefed during the wildfires by Mark Hardingham, Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council, and the Civil Contingencies Secretariat; and he has passed on his thanks to all the brave firefighters who have sought to control the flames in such debilitating conditions.

I would also like to pay tribute to the fire control staff, officers and support teams for their essential work; and the other agencies that have made such tremendous efforts in recent days – the NHS, our emergency call handlers, Police and Maritime & Coastguard Agency among many others.

Honourable Members will be relieved to know that some pressure on services will ease now that the fiercest heat has subsided. Many incidents are now being scaled back.

Thunderstorms are likely this afternoon but for much of the country, more clement dry conditions are the pattern in coming days. The Met Office, however, stresses that the summer is likely to bring further hot weather and wildfire risk will remain elevated.

That is why we are treating this heatwave as an exacting test of our national resilience and contingency planning.

As always, there is no room for complacency.

Mr Speaker, we have seen what you can achieve when you prepare properly and then work closely together.

Owing to the technical expertise of the weather forecasters, who predicted with admirable precision the peak of the heatwave and how high the temperatures would be, the Government was able to launch an advance campaign of comprehensive public advice.

And our early data shows how, well before the heatwave arrived, people were taking on board this advice from the UK Health Security Agency, the NHS, the chief and deputy chief medical officer, emergency services, and key agencies on the ground.

And because of our established local networks and colleagues in the Devolved Administrations, we had people spread across the UK ready to step in when it mattered.

I am particularly grateful to the cooperation and support we received from the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive. We need to manage these national events together.

Mr Speaker, I would like now to give some examples of how people taking the right action helped to mitigate the effects of the extreme weather.

Starting with heeding advice: fully five times as many people accessed NHS England internet pages on how to manage the symptoms of heat exhaustion, in the critical week beginning July 11.

Moving on to our vital 999 call services, we had feared that they would come under untold pressure. Yet as the mercury climbed inexorably on July 18, fewer 999 calls were made than the week before; and more 111 calls – again suggesting the public had heeded the advice, this time to avoid using 999 unless in emergencies.

On to travel, and once again people were playing for the team. The public stayed at home to avoid the heat, not venturing far. The data bears this out: on Monday, footfall at major London stations was around 35% of normal post-pandemic levels. Yesterday [TUES], Network Rail reports, passenger train numbers were around 40% down on the previous week.

We did not forget those who cannot easily leave their homes, asking people to look out for elderly and vulnerable family members and neighbours.

Tragically however, 13 people are believed to have lost their lives after getting into difficulty in rivers, reservoirs and lakes while swimming in recent days – seven of them teenage boys. I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to the families of the victims for their terrible loss.

Of course we still have to work through the longer-term consequences of the heatwave.

The true picture will not come until all incidents are analysed, all emergency teams are debriefed, and all incident logs and data reconciled.

There is a great deal of data yet to come in from colleagues in the devolved administrations, and from the local authorities and agencies around the country.

We do recognise that we are likely to experience more of these incidents: and that we should not underestimate their speed, scope and severity.

Britain may be unaccustomed to such high temperatures but the UK, along with our European neighbours, must learn to live with extreme events such as these.

The Government has been at the forefront of international efforts to reach

Net Zero, but the impacts of climate change are with us now. This is why we have a National Adaptation Programme under the leadership of the Environment Department.

As we have seen in recent days, we will continue to face acute events driven by climate change. It is the responsibility of Cabinet Office Ministers to coordinate work across Government when these events take place.

This government will continue to build our collective resilience. To this end, the National Resilience Strategy about which I was asked about on Monday, will be launched at the earliest possible opportunity by the incoming administration.

In the meantime, I will continue to coordinate work of teams across government in building resilience, to make sure the country is ready to meet the challenges of the autumn, the winter and beyond – and it is in that spirit that I commend this Statement to the House.

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## [Accident involving a light aircraft, Newtownards, County Down 19 June 2022](#)

News story

The AAIB has sent a team to Newtownards, County Down.



An accident involving a light aircraft which occurred last night near Newtownards, County Down has been notified to the AAIB. An investigation has begun and a team of inspectors are on their way to the accident site.

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## Significant fee rise for criminal barristers confirmed in law

- legislation laid to increase barrister fees by 15 percent from the end of September 2022
- the typical criminal barrister will receive £7,000 extra a year
- fifteen percent increase for solicitors' work in magistrates' courts and police stations

The 15 percent fee increase will see a typical criminal barrister earn £7,000 more a year while criminal solicitors will also receive a 15 percent fee rise across a range of their work, including that undertaken in police stations, magistrates' courts and youth courts.

The legislation has been fast-tracked so legal professionals can see the pay rise before the end of the year with the new fees introduced at the end of September.

Justice Minister Sarah Dines said:

We are creating a sustainable legal aid system that is fit for the future and the typical criminal barrister will get a generous pay rise of £7,000 following a 15 percent fee increase.

The £135 million extra investment in legal aid will also help ensure that solicitors and other legal professionals are better paid for the important work they do to ensure victims get timely justice.

The remaining proposals in the recent consultation on criminal legal aid will be responded to later this year, with potential further increases for solicitors and other legal professionals as part of longer-term reforms, with £20 million set aside for this work.

Up to £74 million extra has been allocated to criminal legal aid per year over the last 4 years and the proposal to increase investment by £135 million a year is the biggest rise in a decade.

The Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid found that, before expenses, the median fee of a criminal barrister in 2019-20 was £79,800 and that 80 percent earn at least £45,000 after expenses. While junior barristers earn much less in their first couple of years of practice, by their third year of practice the average criminal barrister will earn £65,000 before expenses.

The government is also investing £477 million into the justice system to

reduce backlogs in the courts caused by the pandemic and has also removed the cap on how many days courts can sit for a second year. The investment means more trials can take place and the same decision last year meant that nearly 17,000 more days were sat in the Crown Court than the year prior to the pandemic.

Video technology has been rolled out to over 70 percent of all courtrooms and 3,265 virtual court rooms have been opened so that more hearings can take place.

Since May, magistrates have been able to sentence offenders to up to a year in prison, doubling their previous powers, helping to free up an estimated 1,700 extra sitting days of Crown Court time each year.