

PM meeting with Prime Minister of New Zealand: 1 July 2022

Press release

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The two Prime Ministers welcomed the Free Trade Agreement signed between the two countries in February this year, and the Prime Minister thanked New Zealand for its support for UK accession to CPTPP.

The two leaders welcomed the agreement to expand the Youth Mobility Scheme, allowing young British nationals and New Zealanders to work more easily in both countries. They also signed the Research, Science and Innovation Arrangement, strengthening the UK and New Zealand's collaboration across all three areas to address issues such as climate change.

Reflecting on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and NATO summit in Madrid this week, the leaders discussed current geopolitical challenges and agreed on the importance supporting countries around the world in defending their sovereignty. The Prime Minister also thanked Prime Minister Ardern for New Zealand's support in training Ukrainian Armed Forces in the UK.

The leaders discussed the UK's increased engagement and investment in the Pacific region, and agreed on the importance of working closely with Pacific Island leaders to support their economic resilience.

Prime Minister Ardern updated on her work tackling violent extremism online as part of the Christchurch Call to Action, and the Prime Minister agreed more needed to be done to combat disinformation and drive the use of responsible algorithms.

Liquidation

Press release

In a recent case, Kevin Rooney, Traffic Commissioner for the West of England, made the decision to not only revoke the licence of Mulholland International Limited and to find that Wendy Mulholland the licence holder and transport manager has lost her reputation, but to also disqualify her immediately and indefinitely from holding a licence or acting as a transport manager within the UK or EU.



Mulholland International Limited was granted a standard international goods vehicle operator's licence in March 2018 authorising the use of six vehicles and two trailers. It was called to public inquiry in January 2021 where the commissioner curtailed it to 3 vehicles only having accepted an undertaking for a full systems compliance audit to be carried out by 31 May 2021.

Mulholland Tippers Ltd applied for a standard national licence in June 2020 to authorise four vehicles. The application was determined and refused at the same January 2021 public inquiry.

The compliance audit never happened, and the commissioner discovered that the company entered creditors voluntary liquidation in October 2021 and was estimated to owe £254,715 including HMRC VAT of £80,346 HMRC PAYE of £52,958 and a Bounce-back loan of £37,077.

The commissioner said "Wendy Mulholland treats the tax-paying British public with disdain. This is a three-vehicle operation. How it could possibly have generated such a deficit in such a short period of time is beyond me. It is for the liquidators to undertake their statutory duties in that regard. Wendy Mulholland should not be allowed to continue within the haulage industry."

Further details can be found [here](#).

Belgo-British Conference: 1 July 2022

World news story

The UK Business and Energy Secretary opened the conference alongside his Belgian counterpart in front of key figures from government, business and academia.



On 1 July 2022, Kwasi Kwarteng, UK Business and Energy Secretary and Tinne Van der Straeten, Belgian Minister for Energy, opened the 16th Belgo-British Conference at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London.

Chaired by Sir Robin Niblett, Director of Chatham House, and Mr Johan Verbeke, former Belgian Ambassador to the UK, the conference brought together key figures from government, politics, business, academia and civil society to discuss opportunities for the UK-Belgium relationship in a changing geopolitical and economic context, including energy security.

UK Business and Energy Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, said:

Our long and close relationship with Belgium has rarely been as important as it is in today. In light of Putin's continued atrocities in Ukraine, it is vital that we continue to work with allies like Belgium to boost energy security in the UK and across Europe.

I was delighted to attend the Belgo-British Conference, which follows the signing of the Joint Declaration on bilateral cooperation by our Prime Ministers last December. Belgium is and will remain a key partner for collaboration on energy, trade, business, research and innovation.

Belgian Minister for Energy Tinne Van der Straeten said:

In today's world, it is important to have good friends. Belgium and the United Kingdom are friends, close neighbours and allies. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia shows that this alliance stays more relevant than ever.

We need to stand side by side, now and in the future, to defend democratic values, human rights, energy sustainability and security. The Belgo-British conference aims to do exactly that. Alone you go fast, but together we go further.

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[Sellafield to star on BBC One this weekend](#)

News story

Sellafield will feature in one of the BBC's flagship primetime shows this Sunday.



Sellafield Ltd head of policy Phil Hallington is interviewed by BBC Countryfile presenter Tom Heap

The Sellafield site will play a leading role in a Countryfile report about the past, present, and future of the UK's nuclear industry.

Presenter Tom Heap and a film crew visited the Sellafield site, in West Cumbria last week to record footage and interviews.

The programme will document Sellafield's history as the birthplace of the UK nuclear industry and its continued contribution to the UK energy sector via spent fuel and waste management services.

Phil Hallington, Sellafield Ltd head of policy, was interviewed for the show. Filming locations included the Fuel Handling Plant and the Windscale Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor waste store.

Matt Legg, Sellafield Ltd external communications manager, said:

We're always on the look-out for high quality opportunities to tell the Sellafield story to a national audience.

BBC Countryfile is a show we've been keen to feature on for a long time because of its focus on rural communities.

The crew were all impressed with the size and scale of our operation and the dedication and professionalism of the people they met on site.

It's a news report so it will be an honest portrayal of our past, present, and future operations, including references to incidents of the past.

But we're confident the programme will present our site in a positive light and emphasise the incredible contribution we make to the UK every day.

BBC Countryfile is on BBC One at 7pm on Sunday, 3 July.

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Prime Minister signs landmark science agreement with New Zealand

- Prime Minister agrees major Research, Science and Innovation Arrangement with New Zealand
- arrangement demonstrates commitment to closer bilateral relationship, bringing UK and New Zealand researchers and business together to address shared challenges
- UK also launches global programme in AgriTech, supporting UK businesses grow and scale by establishing connections to New Zealand's leading AgriTech industry

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed a historic agreement with New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at Downing Street today (Friday 1 July), strengthening the UK and New Zealand's collaboration in research, science, and innovation.

The Research, Science and Innovation Arrangement demonstrates a commitment to developing deeper links between our science and innovation communities, strengthening collaboration between the 2 nations and building on areas of shared scientific and innovative excellence.

Co-operation under the arrangement is expected to be wide-ranging, from joint research and development of new technologies, to visits and exchanges of scientists, and innovation missions between businesses.

The UK is working with New Zealand's Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to deliver the agreement, which will support the ambitions set out in the UK's [Integrated Review](#) to develop strategic science partnerships, and strengthen the UK's presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Science Minister George Freeman said:

This is another step in our Science Superpower mission to widen and deepen our post-Brexit global science programmes.

Today's agreement with our New Zealand allies and partners represents another victory for our bilateral relations in science and innovation, particularly in the Indo-Pacific, where we are also building strong working relationships with Australia, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea. This is in addition to the Science and Innovation Memorandums of Understanding I have now agreed with Israel, Switzerland, Sweden and Canada.

As I made clear at the recent G7 science summit in Frankfurt, and at the 47 nation Eureka Innovation Summit in Lisbon last week, the UK is more committed than ever to deepening our international research collaborations.

The agreement made today will give us the chance to deepen our collaborations with New Zealand's outstanding science and research community in a number of areas, from space, quantum and photonics, to Antarctic research and Agritech.

The combination of our long-standing UK leadership in plant and animal science with New Zealand's world class AgriTech eco-system will also provide an exciting opportunity to build partnerships and collaborations, showcasing the best of UK innovation in efficient farming, and helping UK businesses grow and scale while enabling access to global markets.

The arrangement will support the UK's access to New Zealand's niche capabilities in areas such as quantum technology, enabling collaboration that

will further global scientific development in these important fields. The agreement will promote joint work between our most innovative businesses and brightest researchers, while supporting our ambition to become a global Science Superpower and Innovation Nation.

The UK government is also announcing an Innovate UK Global Business Innovation Programme (GBIP) in AgriTech with New Zealand today, an endeavour which will support innovative UK businesses to build high-potential connections with New Zealand's AgriTech industry.

The programme will enable access to New Zealand businesses, universities, labs and investors, allowing innovators to work with their counterparts to develop solutions to common industry challenges, such as advancing the use of robotics and satellite data for more efficient and precise farming. British SMEs will also be supported in bringing their products and services closer to global markets. Recruitment for eligible individuals is planned to commence today.

Opportunities are already being explored with the British High Commission in Wellington to put the arrangement into action, and deepen the connections between our research and innovation communities.