

[News story: Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster meets Speaker Pelosi](#)

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, David Lidington, hosted the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, at Lancaster House on 15 April 2019.

Speaker Pelosi was joined by eight members of the Ways and Means Committee, where they discussed the latest developments with the UK's departure from the EU, maintaining the integrity of the union of the United Kingdom, and the close economic and security partnership between the UK and the US.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, David Lidington, said:

I was delighted to welcome Speaker Pelosi and members of the Ways and Means Committee to London today. It is essential that the UK and the US continue to build upon our shared values and ambitions, paving the way for a future Free Trade Agreement and continuing our cooperation as security partners of choice.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi said:

The United Kingdom and the United States share a deep and special bond of friendship. We were honoured to meet with Deputy Prime Minister, David Lidington, for a discussion on the next steps and direction of Brexit, where we affirmed the US commitment to the Good Friday Accords and peace in Northern Ireland.

[Press release: Notebooks of Charles Darwin's mentor at risk of export](#)

- Resource includes letters from Darwin on his developing theory of evolution
- Charles Darwin once wrote: "I always feel as if my books came half from Lyell's brains"

Arts Minister Michael Ellis has prevented the sale of notebooks by Sir Charles Lyell – the renowned Scottish geologist who influenced Charles Darwin – in a bid to keep the important archive in the UK.

Sir Charles Lyell (1797 – 1875) was a key figure in the history of geology and science. He is best known for writing the *Principles of Geology*, which presented the idea of uniformitarianism – the theory that changes in the earth's crust during geological history resulted from the action of continuous and uniform processes.

The 294 notebooks and manuscripts, valued at £1,444,000, contain Lyell's conversations with fellow scientists including his transcribed correspondence with the father of evolution, Charles Darwin.

The archive also contains Lyell's notes for his printed works and record his developing ideas about the uniformity of nature including early ideas on climate change, extinction, and biodiversity.

Arts Minister Michael Ellis said:

This archive reveals the workings of one of the most influential scientists of the last 200 years and provides us with an extraordinary insight into a time when science was changing long-held beliefs about the world.

I hope a buyer can be found to keep the unique records of a British great in the country.

Lyell acted as Darwin's principal mentor upon his return from the Beagle voyage in 1836. During the five year voyage, Darwin documented information and samples of different species. He kept Lyell informed on the developing theory of evolution through natural selection and shared copies of the letters that he received following the publication of *On The Origin of Species* in 1859. The letters, copied by Lyell, are unique survivors from the time and of huge importance to the study of late Georgian and Victorian scientific ideas.

The collection includes 10 notebooks kept during Lyell's tour of Italy and Sicily in 1829 which include his observations about the earth's formation and volcanoes, which were an important influence in his later work, *Principles of Geology*. Seven books contain notes on the origin and antiquity of man, record his private conversations with Darwin and contain the reactions of key figures to Darwin's theory of evolution. Other volumes in the collection include his notes from reading books, articles, letters and unpublished manuscripts.

The decision to defer the export licence follows a recommendation by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA), administered by The Arts Council.

Committee Member Peter Barber said:

Charles Darwin once wrote that "I always feel as if my books came half from Lyell's brains". Lyell's notebooks and papers are perhaps

the most important source of information not only on Lyell's own multifarious researches – including climate change as well as geology – but also on intellectual networking and networks in Victorian Britain and on numerous other, non-scientific as well as scientific, aspects of Victorian society.

It is of the utmost importance that Lyell's notebooks and papers are retained in this country so that they can, at long last, be made available to researchers.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the outstanding significance of the notebooks to the study of Lyell's work, the development of modern scientific knowledge, and late-Georgian and Victorian intellectual culture. They noted that the impressions in these notebooks are a largely unstudied resource for historians and a window into the development of science and the social and political issues of the 19th century.

The decision on the export licence application for the notebooks and manuscripts will be deferred until 15 July 2019. This may be extended until 15 October 2019 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase the notebooks is made at the recommended price of £1,444,000.

Offers from public bodies for less than the recommended price through the private treaty sale arrangements, where appropriate, may also be considered by Michael Ellis. Such purchases frequently offer substantial financial benefits to a public institution wishing to acquire the item.

Images of the notebooks can be downloaded from [Flickr](#).

ENDS

Notes to editors

Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the notebooks should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.

Details of the notebooks are as follows:

- 294 manuscript notebooks of the geologist Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875).
- In two series: 263 numbered notebooks, 1825-1874, on geology, natural history, social and political subjects; * 31 additional notebooks, 1818-1871, with indices.
- Mostly octavo format.

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council, which advises the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.

The Arts Council champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities

across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections
www.artscouncil.org.uk.

News story: Life-saving frontline technology given £5 million boost

Technology being developed by a team of military doctors and scientists to stop rapid blood loss on the battlefield is a step closer to saving lives.

The TXA Autoinjector project, which allows life-saving blood clotting treatment to be administered at the push of a button, has been given a £5 million funding boost by Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson to accelerate the technology.

During a visit to The Royal London Hospital and London's Air Ambulance at Barts Health NHS Trust today, the Defence Secretary said the technology would be backed by the department's new Transformation Fund.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

Saving lives is at the heart of what our Armed Forces do, and this funding shows our commitment to ensuring those serving on the frontline get the best treatment as rapidly as possible.

Our work to save lives does not stop at our serving men and women but must also be about helping to improve the livelihoods of people across the world. This technology will allow us to just that, whether it is rolling it out to emergency services in the UK, or equipping medics in developing countries across the globe.

If successful, the cutting-edge medical technology could also be adapted from use in the battlefield to any major trauma incidents, from stab wounds to road traffic accidents.

It could also be used to help women in developing countries who suffer major blood loss during birth and are unable to access medical treatment.

Around 4.8 million people across the globe die due to major trauma incidents every year, while 14 million women face traumatic blood loss during labour.

Colonel Nigel Tai, trauma surgeon at The Royal London Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust added:

Large international clinical trials show that TXA saves lives in bleeding patients. But we also know that for patients to be given the best chance, TXA should be given as soon as possible after injury.

The prospect is, that by packaging the drug in to a pre-filled AutoInjector, injured soldiers can self-treat as part of their first-aid drills, and won't have to wait for evacuation or specialist medical help to arrive

The auto-injector uses Tranexamic Acid, which is a cost-effective and reliable drug that stabilizes and strengthens blood clotting within damaged tissues and can be administered by an untrained user.

Currently, administration of TXA requires an intravenous drip but the development of the auto-injector will allow it to be administered safely into a muscle.

The treatment is expected to benefit up to a third of seriously injured soldiers who would otherwise die from their wounds.

Once developed, the Autoinjector could be rolled out to police, NGOs, ambulance services, and Code Red first aid kits situated in public places.

Press release: Man found with Class A drugs in ear has sentence increased

A man found by police to be in possession of cocaine – including some within his ear – has had his sentence increased after intervention by the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP.

Klevis Drazhi, 20, was pulled over by police on Saturday 19th January after encroaching into a cycle lane. When officers asked for his driving licence and insurance, Drazhi handed over a false Albanian licence and a mobile phone, displaying a text message about a post code.

Officers noticed a small, white parcel concealed within the offender's ear. After a search of the car, officers uncovered 11 wraps of white powder later confirmed to have a presence of cocaine – and £1305 cash.

In interview, Drazhi claimed he was coerced into supplying drugs by a member of the Albanian mafia. He also admitted to illegally entering the UK on the back of a lorry.

Drazhi was originally sentenced to 11 months imprisonment at Inner London Crown Court. The Court of Appeal today raised that to 30 months.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

“Clearly, the original sentence should have been within a higher band. I am pleased the Court of Appeal has decided to increase the offender’s sentence, which reflects the severity of his crime.”

[Press release: UK economy delivering record employment](#)

New figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show the employment rate has never been higher at 76.1%, while unemployment remains at its lowest rate since the 1970s at 3.9%.

Employment rate remains at a joint record high

There are over 1.1 million fewer unemployed people than in 2010, with youth unemployment level almost halved in that time.

Employment Minister Alok Sharma welcomed the figures from the ONS which also showed wages outpacing inflation for 13 months in a row, with real wages growing by 1.6% on the year.

Minister of State for Employment Alok Sharma said:

“The UK jobs market continues to go from strength to strength, proving the underlying resilience of the British economy.

“But we must not take this for granted. We need to work urgently to get behind a Brexit deal that protects this jobs record and gives employers the certainty to continue to invest in their workforce and boost wages.

“With more people in work than ever before, it is welcome news that wages are continuing to rise at their fastest rate in a decade.

“And by increasing the living wage and personal tax allowance for 2019, this government is putting more money in people’s pocket, benefiting millions of families across the country.”

The government has made more changes to the tax system for 2019 to ensure people are keeping more of what they earn.

From April, working parents and disabled people will be able to earn an extra £1,000 a year before their Universal Credit starts to reduce. This change will see 2.4 million families keep up to an extra £630 per year of what they earn.

It will remain at 57.95 pence per litre across the UK. Fuel duty has been frozen for the ninth successive year, saving the average car driver £1,000.

From 1 April 2019 people will be able to claim up to £59,200 annually through the Access to Work scheme to help pay for additional support that they may need in the workplace. This can include workplace adaptations, assistive technology, transport and interpreters.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 3267 5144

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