

Alok Sharma, COP26 President, to visit South Africa to reinforce support for a just energy transition

- Mr Sharma will meet key stakeholders involved in the process of a clean and just energy transition and how the partnership will support their ambitious goals
- UK announces further £1.5m funding for new technical assistance and partnerships on supporting South Africa's just energy transition

COP President Alok Sharma will travel to South Africa this week (19-21 June) as work continues to support the implementation of the South Africa Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) announced at COP26 last year.

During his visit, the COP President will meet with South African government ministers, communities, business leaders and officials involved in delivering a just energy transition for South Africa – discussing the opportunities and challenges presented by such a transition, and how the partnership can support them to accelerate a move to renewable energy.

The South Africa Just Energy Transition Partnership is a long term political agreement between South Africa and an International Partner Group (IPG) of countries, comprising the UK, US, France, Germany, and the EU.

The country-led Partnership aims to accelerate the decarbonisation of South Africa's economy, with a focus on bolstering the electricity system and a move away from coal that will help the country achieve its ambitious goals set out in their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

On his first visit to the country, Mr Sharma will also meet with coal mining communities to hear about their perceptions of a just energy transition and emphasise the opportunities that green growth presents for job creation. He will also witness work to support a just transition in action at a coal-fired power plant soon to be decommissioned, observing the repurposing process underway there and promoting the importance of efforts which retain and create new jobs while shifting from coal.

While in South Africa, Mr. Sharma will meet with key ministers from across the South African government and representatives from the South Africa Presidential Climate Finance Task Team assigned to deliver the Just Energy Transition Partnership. The parties will jointly assess progress and agree the next steps to drive forward this innovative response in accelerating and financing a just energy transition.

Alok Sharma, COP26 President, said:

“A clean, just energy transition not only delivers enhanced climate action, it will help create new jobs, economic growth, clean air and a resilient, prosperous future.

“Providing financial support and technical partnerships is fundamental to support this transition in developing and emerging economies.

“The South African Just Energy Transition Partnership embodies the ambition we called for at COP26. This country-led approach puts fairness at the heart of the transition from coal to clean energy and will deliver high levels of finance and support to South Africa in achieving this ambitious transition.

“With less than six months before COP27, my visit is about demonstrating our continued support to South Africa to drive forward this commitment and build on key next steps.”

A further £1.5m of support will be provided to South Africa in 2022-2023 through the UK’s Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (PACT) program, aimed at providing technical assistance to South African government stakeholders working on just transition sector job resilience, climate transition pathways for reaching net-zero in various economic sectors, and energy sector decarbonisation.

There is a huge global appetite for the strategic energy security that greater investment in renewables can bring. Work is ongoing with partners to assess the scope for similar partnerships in other nations with further announcements anticipated in advance of COP27.

PM call with Prime Minister of Norway: 19 June 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to the Prime Minister of Norway, Jonas Støre, this evening.



The Prime Minister spoke to the Prime Minister of Norway, Jonas Støre, this evening, ahead of the NATO leaders summit later this month.

The Prime Minister updated Prime Minister Støre on his visit to Kyiv on Friday, and his assessment of the conflict in Ukraine.

He reiterated his strong belief that Ukraine can and will win and said his visit to the country had further cemented that view.

The leaders discussed the blockade of grain in Odessa, and how international partners and allies could further support efforts to ensure its release.

Both Prime Ministers agreed more needed to be done ahead of the NATO leaders summit to support Ukraine and bolster its resilience in the face of continued Russian aggression.

The Prime Minister said he looked forward to seeing the Norwegian leader in Madrid to discuss how the UK and Norway could continue to work together in support of Ukraine.

Published 19 June 2022

[Statement on violence in Afghanistan](#)

World news story

The UK does not support anyone seeking to achieve political change through violence in Afghanistan.



UK Government

Following violence in Afghanistan, Hugo Shorter, Chargé d’Affaires at the UK Mission to Afghanistan in Doha said:

The UK does not support anyone, including Afghan nationals, seeking to achieve political change through violence, or any activity inciting violence for political purposes, in Afghanistan, and will not allow UK soil to be used to plan or prepare it, and we strongly discourage others from doing so.

Violence of any kind is not in Afghanistan’s interests, nor the international community’s, and we deplore terrorist attacks of all kinds.

To promote peace and stability, to deliver essential humanitarian support to the Afghan people, and to address shared concerns on security, there is no alternative to engaging pragmatically with the current administration of Afghanistan, and that is what we are doing.

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[Moving ahead to reopen railway lines and stations including one not used since reign of King George V](#)

- government commits £15 million in funding to develop 9 Restoring Your Railway schemes
- comes after the launch of Restoring Your Railway in 2020, as well as the successful reopening of the Dartmoor Line
- schemes will receive funding to kickstart reopening and level up local communities across the country

Rail Minister Wendy Morton has announced a further £15 million in funding to develop 9 Restoring Your Railway schemes across England to reopen disused railway lines, services and stations, including some that were axed in the 1950s and 60s – with one station taken out of use as far back as 1930, Haxby Station on the York to Scarborough Line.

The [Restoring Your Railway Fund](#) was announced in January 2020 as part of the levelling up agenda when the government pledged £500 million to deliver on its manifesto commitment and start reopening lines and stations.

The fund is kickstarting and boosting development on projects and has already seen success with the [reopening of the Dartmoor Line](#). Communities across England are now closer to having their connections restored, improving access to jobs, homes and education.

This funding will continue the development of some schemes identified through the Ideas Fund, which is providing early-stage development funding to 38 schemes in total.

This announcement comes after the completion and reopening of the Dartmoor Line, which was delivered ahead of time and under budget. The restored line has been hugely popular, with more than 50,000 journeys undertaken in the first 20 weeks since the line reopened – more than double the number predicted.

Rail Minister Wendy Morton said:

This funding will reconnect communities long cut off from the railway.

The last time you could catch a train from Haxby Station was 1930, George V was on the throne and The Times had just published their first-ever crossword. But now, thanks to this funding, communities across England could be reconnected to our railways once more.

This fund is a great example of how we are committed to helping communities across the country level up and reconnect people and businesses to new opportunities.

The 9 schemes receiving funding are:

- Aldridge station and line upgrade in Walsall
- The Barrow Hill Line between Sheffield and Chesterfield
- The Ivanhoe Line between Leicester and Burton on Trent
- Meir Station between Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire
- Haxby Station on the York to Scarborough Line
- Reinstating the Fleetwood Railway Line
- Ferryhill Station in County Durham
- The Mid Cornwall Metro, connecting Newquay, Truro and Falmouth
- Devizes Station between Pewsey and Westbury in Wiltshire

By funding development to reopen these lines and stations, the government is levelling up local communities, providing transformative opportunities for people to travel to work, get to school and see their family and friends.