

Five Eyes Chiefs of Defence Hold Talks in London

Press release

The UK is hosting the Chiefs of Defence from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States over three days of events in London.



The five Chiefs of Defence on the steps of the Ministry of Defence, flanked by personnel from the RAF Regiment.

The UK Chief of the Defence Staff Admiral Sir Tony Radakin welcomed his counterparts from the Five Eyes intelligence alliance this week to discuss areas of mutual defence and security interest and to attend Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Chief of the Defence Staff Admiral Sir Tony Radakin said:

The peace and prosperity we have enjoyed over the last 70 years rests in great part on the strength of the United Kingdom's alliances worldwide.

The Five Eyes partnership is one such example; and is testament to the mutual trust and admiration that exists between our respective Armed Forces. Today's meeting was an opportunity to restate our commitment to one another, and to the rules and freedoms which underpin security and stability worldwide.

The senior military leaders, who meet twice a year, will attend the Queen's Birthday Parade, including the Trooping of the Colour by the 1st Battalion Irish Guards and the flypast over Buckingham Palace by aircraft from the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force.

The alliance, which includes Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, is a long-standing and trusted collaboration.

Partners reaffirmed their commitment to advance defence and security cooperation to protect shared interests and values.

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[UKHSA latest findings into monkeypox outbreak](#)

[Monkeypox outbreak: epidemiological update](#)

The current outbreak is the first time that the virus has been passed from person to person in England where travel links to an endemic country have not been identified.

Of 190 confirmed cases identified from 6 to 30 May, 183 were in England, 4 were in Scotland, 2 were in Northern Ireland and 1 was in Wales.

In England, 86% of the cases are in London residents (132 out of 153) and only 2 were women. Most monkeypox cases have occurred in people aged 20 to 49 years old (87%). One hundred and eleven cases are known to be gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men (GBMSM).

Recent foreign travel to a number of different countries in Europe within 21 days of symptom onset has been reported by 34 confirmed cases (18%). Investigations to date have identified links to gay bars, saunas and the use of dating apps in the UK and abroad. Investigations continue but currently no single factor or exposure that links the cases has been identified.

UKHSA has worked rapidly with partners including the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH), the British HIV Association, the Terrence Higgins Trust, Stonewall and dating App Grindr to communicate with sexual health services and the GBMSM community. The LGBT Consortium and Pride organisers across the UK have been encouraged to help share public health messaging over the next few weeks.

Dr Meera Chand, Director of Clinical and Emerging Infections at UKHSA, said:

We are working to break chains of transmission, including by contact tracing and vaccination. We are grateful to everyone who has come forward for testing and it is extremely important that everyone continues to be aware of the symptoms and to seek advice if they have concerns.

We are reminding people to look out for new spots, ulcers or blisters on any part of their body. If anyone suspects they might

have monkeypox, particularly if they have recently had a new sexual partner, they should limit their contact with others and contact NHS 111 or their local sexual health service as soon as possible, though please phone ahead before attending in person.

In London, outreach activity has included working with venue owners and event organisers.

Professor Kevin Fenton, London Regional Director for Public Health said:

Monkeypox can affect anyone but we know that many of the most recent diagnoses are in gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, many of whom live in, or have links to London. We're reminding everyone of the symptoms of monkeypox, and especially gay and bisexual men in particular, to be especially aware and seek advice immediately by calling NHS111 or their local sexual health clinic if they have concerns.

As with any new disease outbreak, the risk of stigma and uncertainty is great. This is why we're working side by side with the NHS, sexual health, voluntary and community sector organisations in London to share accurate information about monkeypox especially to people and groups at increased risk through representative voices.

UKHSA health protection teams are contacting people who may be high risk contacts of confirmed cases. These contacts will be risk assessed and if they remain well, will be advised to isolate at home for up to 21 days. In addition to isolating, UKHSA is offering the Imvanex vaccine to people who have had contact, or may have contact (for example health workers), with a confirmed case of monkeypox to reduce the risk of infection and severe illness.

Investigations are continuing and UKHSA will publish weekly updates for partners and the public, with latest case numbers and findings.

For more information:

Table 1: Number of laboratory confirmed monkeypox cases by region of residence, England, 06 to 30 May 2022 (n=183)

Region of residence	Total confirmed
East of England	5
East Midlands	<5
London	132
North East	<5
North West	<5
South East	10

Region of residence	Total confirmed
South West	<5
West Midlands	<5
Yorkshire and Humber	<5
Unknown*	27
Total	183

*address not yet confirmed

Prior to this outbreak, there had been 7 cases of monkeypox in the UK between 2018 and 2021. Four of these were imported, 2 cases were in household contacts of confirmed cases, and 1 case was in a healthcare worker involved in the care of an imported case.

[ACCIA phone line and inbox: bank holiday hours](#)

You may still email the Advisory Committee on Clinical Impact Awards (ACCIA) during this time, however, please be aware that you will not receive a response until Monday 6 June at the earliest. We'll respond to all enquiries as quickly as possible, but do allow sufficient time for these to be handled upon our return.

You may find the below 'quick fixes' helpful in answering potential issues. Please review this list before contacting ACCIA.

If you're unable to log into your account

Try logging in via a different browser. If you're currently using Google Chrome, try using Microsoft Edge or Mozilla Firefox.

Ensure you're on the correct portal: you should be using the new [ACCIA application portal](#), not the ACCEA portal.

If you have requested a password reminder or have just registered, be sure to check your junk and spam as automated emails from the system may be filed there.

You cannot see your application

If you have started and saved an application, it will appear on your homepage under the 'My Awards' heading. On some smaller screens you may need to scroll down to reach this section.

Any draft applications will appear under the 'in progress' tab.

If you have submitted your application for employer validation it will be under the 'submitted' tab.

Word limits

Word limits for domains are 2,000 characters, including spaces.

Citations for both employers and national nominating organisations are 900 characters, including spaces.

You have a query relating to eligibility, transitional arrangements or the NCIA reforms

Please review the relevant [ACCIA guidance documents](#) and [resources](#) for information in the first instance.

You are an employer wanting to provide your sign off and are unsure where to find applications

Ensure you are registered on the [ACCIA portal](#) – the registration link for employers is different.

Any applications that have been submitted for your sign off will be shown under the 'Employer Validation' heading on your homepage. Some smaller screens may not show this immediately – you may need to scroll down to see any applications

Please be aware that only applications under this heading are to be reviewed. You may be able to see applications by clicking on 'Organisation Profile' but many of these applications will still be in draft and have not yet been submitted to you. Please ignore these until they appear on your homepage.

[National Highways announces £167m investment to improve roads across South West of England](#)

The announcement comes as the Government continues its drive to level up transport in regions right across the country, investing in vital infrastructure and boosting both connections and local economies as we build back better from the pandemic.

Well-known motorways and major A-roads including the M5, M4, A40, A36, A303, A30 and A38 are all included in the planned package. Motorists, pedestrians and cyclists are all set to benefit from the planned works, which include road resurfacing, bridge joint replacements, the creation of cycle lanes, improved signage and landscaping.

In total, National Highways will spend £167 million on more than 100 schemes across Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Wiltshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall.

Mark Fox, National Highways Interim Regional Director, said:

Hundreds of thousands of drivers use our roads every day for work journeys, home deliveries and the movement of the goods and services, so it's essential we keep them in a good condition to ensure safety and reliability.

With this investment, National Highways will continue to deliver the essential maintenance and upgrades throughout the region to improve safety and help keep drivers on the move.

National Highways will begin work on its comprehensive maintenance programme in the coming weeks, with schemes including:

- M5 Junction 16 Patchway and Almondsbury Interchange deck refurbishments
- M5 Junctions 20-21 St Georges Railway Bridge deck refurbishment
- A36 Dundas Retaining Wall
- A36 Bath to Monkton Combe Drainage
- M5 Junctions 10-11 Bamfurlong Lane deck refurbishment
- M5 Junctions 13-14 Michaelwood Footbridge replacement
- A38 Chudleigh Station Drainage Improvements

This latest investment into the region's roads follows on from last year's essential maintenance programme which saw National Highways pump £200m into the completion of 121 road renewal and maintenance projects.

Over the past 12 months, National Highways resurfaced 277 lane km (172.1 miles) of motorways and major A-roads in the South West, using 221,177 tonnes of resurfacing material.

A further 84,948 road studs were laid to help light the way for drivers, 77kms (47.8 miles) of safety barrier were renewed, with 23kms (14 miles) of drainage improvements to reduce carriageway flooding and 36 new bridge joints.

To keep up to date with the latest travel information follow [@HighwaysSWEST](#) on Twitter or visit the [National Highways website](#).

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the National Highways customer contact

centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the National Highways press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[Accident involving a microlight near North Berwick, East Lothian – 01 June 2022](#)

News story

The AAIB has sent a team to East Lothian.



An accident near East Fortune Airfield, south of North Berwick in Scotland, involving a microlight aircraft has been notified to the AAIB. An investigation has been launched into the accident and a team of inspectors are on route to the accident site to gather evidence.

[Read more about how we investigate aircraft accidents.](#)

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