

Press release: Historic Opening of Doldamgil

Opening of Doldamgil shows British Embassy commitment to historical Deoksugung Palace area

The British Embassy Seoul is delighted that the Doldamgil road was opened to the public on 30 August 2017. The Embassy has long understood the importance of the Deoksugung Palace area to the Korean people – which is why since 2010 it has worked closely with SMG to find a solution to the Doldamgil road issue. In 2015 British Ambassador, Charles Hay, signed a MoU committing to finding a solution which would benefit all those who visit the beautiful Deoksugung Palace.

As part of this commitment, the Embassy looked into the possibility of opening up part of the land owned by the Embassy to create a pathway all around the Palace. The British Embassy is a working office with regular visitors, with some staff and family members living on the compound. After detailed discussions with security experts – who came out to Korea from the UK – the Embassy concluded that for security reasons it could not agree to the plan of a pathway through our land. But the Embassy proactively agreed to return the 100m of road at the back of the Embassy that had been originally rented from Seoul Metropolitan Government – which is now the Doldamgil – and relocate the back gate in order to do this. Once this was agreed, the Embassy has done all it can to allow the work to be completed as quickly as possible. The Embassy is thrilled that the road is now open.

British Ambassador to South Korea, Charles Hay, said:

Whether residents of Seoul or visitors from other parts of Korea or abroad, I hope that as they walk along the road they will catch a glimpse the natural and cultural legacy of this area, and reflect on the unique contribution that it has played in the history of the great city of Seoul, and its relations with the rest of the world.

Additional Information/Notes to Editors

- The Embassy compound – aside from this road – was bought and has been legally owned by the British Government for over 130 years.
- In the 1960s (whether unilaterally or in consultation with Seoul City Authorities is not recorded) a decision was made not to renew the lease that had been taken out in the 1950s on the 100m stretch of land at the back of the Embassy. The Embassy continued to occupy it though, and over time it was assimilated into the Embassy compound. This fact was rediscovered and raised with the embassy in 2010. Since then, the British Embassy and Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) have been working together to find a solution.

- Under the 2015 MoU, the idea for a pathway through the Embassy's land was suggested by SMG. The Embassy was committed to finding a solution that allowed for the development of a green cultural and historic zone at the heart of Seoul without compromising the security of our people and of our historic buildings. As with any such changes to the infrastructure/integrity of an Embassy compound, the proposal was thoroughly reviewed by security and other experts in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London. Their decision was that the increased security risks associated with the project were not compatible with the FCO's duty of care to Embassy staff, clients and visitors, and that there were no suitable mitigation measures that could be taken to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. The Embassy therefore reverted to the idea simply of returning the leased land.
 - The Embassy is keen to give opportunities to the public to see the embassy and its grounds. It has participated in both the 'Jeong-dong Culture night' organised by Jung Gu government and the 'Seoul Open Night' organised by Seoul Metropolitan Government. This has allowed ordinary Korean citizens to come in and see the Embassy for themselves.
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Press release: £40 million to create jobs and boost visitors to the Great British Coast

Towns and cities along Britain's coastline are set to benefit from thousands of new jobs and millions of pounds more in visitor spending after the government announced the next round of the [Coastal Communities Fund](#) today (4 September 2017).

Coastal Communities Minister Jake Berry confirmed that the fifth round of funding for 2019 to 2021 will provide at least £40 million to help coastal areas in England further transform their economies and boost jobs in their local area. It will be open for applications in early 2018.

The government has already provided £170 million for 278 projects around the country since the Coastal Communities Fund was launched in 2012. This has resulted in 2 million more people visiting the coast and spending an additional £171 million.

This has already helped to start 485 new businesses and create 5,569 jobs – with these figures set to almost triple once the first 3 rounds of projects have been completed.

Coastal Communities Minister Jake Berry said:

From the world-renowned Blackpool illuminations to Brighton's i360, our coastal towns and cities have a lot to offer all year round.

That's why we're backing them with another £40 million of government funding, helping to boost economic growth and create jobs.

This year is already looking like another record year for staycations and our latest round of funding will help attract even more visitors to the Great British Coast so that our coastal communities can thrive.

The minister will also visit Cleethorpes today to meet with local leaders and hear about the start of the town's Coastal Communities projects, which were backed by £3.8 million of government funding earlier this year.

Press release: 1 in 10 men aged 50 have a heart age 10 years older than they are

[Heart Age Test](#) is the only known way of measuring our heart age, which shows how many years we can expect to live healthily without a heart attack or stroke. The higher our heart age, the higher our risk.

Analysis of 1.2 million test results shows the majority of people (64%) with a heart 10 years older than their actual age are male.

Every month, 7,400 people die from heart disease or stroke. A quarter of deaths are of people under 75 and most of these can be prevented.

Public Health England's (PHE) campaign is leading the way in addressing how people think about their heart health, encouraging them to be as familiar with their heart age as they are with their weight or height.

To help people find out their risk and get an immediate idea of their heart health, PHE is encouraging adults to take 3 minutes out of their day to take the [Heart Age Test](#). A new version of the test forms part of PHE's One You campaign, which supports adults in making simple changes towards a longer, happier life. People who take the test will be referred to apps, advice and resources to help them eat and drink better, get active, and quit smoking to improve their heart health.

The campaign runs throughout September in partnership with cardiovascular charities British Heart Foundation, Stroke Association and Blood Pressure UK.

For the first time, the test will direct users to their nearest blood pressure station if they do not know theirs, as those with high blood pressure are more at risk of heart disease or stroke.

Associate Professor Jamie Waterall, Lead for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, PHE, said:

We should all aim for our heart age to be the same as our real age – addressing our risk of heart disease and stroke should not be left until we are older. The Heart Age Test is really important as it gives an immediate idea of heart attack and stroke risk, with no doctor's appointment needed.

While trends have recently shown incidence of cardiovascular disease (including heart attack and stroke) declining in recent years, it is still the main cause of death amongst men and the second highest cause of death in women.

Around half of those taking the test since it launched in February 2015 did not know their blood pressure numbers. High blood pressure is often symptomless and 5.6 million people in England currently have high blood pressure but do not know it.

Katherine Jenner, Chief Executive Officer of Blood Pressure UK, said:

We're pleased to be teaming up with the Heart Age Test to create an easier way to put people in control of their health. Getting your blood pressure tested in your nearest pharmacy or health centre can be the first important step to prolonging your life.

Having a high heart age increases the risk of serious health issues including dementia, heart attack, stroke, chronic kidney disease and diabetes. Making simple changes, like doing more activity or quitting smoking, can reduce this risk and PHE is urging adults to lower their heart age before it is too late.

Other risk factors include excessive alcohol consumption, poor diet and family history of premature heart disease.

Dr Mike Knapton, medical director at the British Heart Foundation (BHF), said:

It's extremely worrying that so many people don't know their blood pressure or cholesterol levels, as these silent conditions can lead to a deadly heart attack or stroke if untreated.

The Heart Age Test is a quick and easy way to estimate the number of years you will live in good health. If you are concerned by the age of your heart, make an appointment with your GP.

The Heart Age Test is available from the [One You](#) and [BHF](#) websites.

John Deanfield, BHF Professor of Cardiology and Senior Adviser to Public Health England on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, who led the development of the Heart Age Test, said:

The Heart Age Test takes the results of considerable research, and translates this into messages that we can all apply to our heart health. Understanding personal risk, together with opportunities from intervention, empowers people to take control of their own cardiovascular health. I call it 'Investing in your arteries'. It's about convincing people their heart health really matters, and if they take action early in life and sustain that, they will get a big lifetime benefit on their future risk of heart disease.

The analysis is based on 1.2 million Heart Age Tests taken, of which 33,000 of those were by people aged 50. Out of all 1.2 million people who have taken the Heart Age Test, 167,000 (12%) had a heart age at least 10 years older than them. To date, the test has been taken 1.3million times.

Around 7,400 people die each month from heart disease or stroke. Source: [NOMIS Mortality statistics – underlying cause, sex and age](#).

5.6 million people in England currently have high blood pressure but do not know it Source: [Hypertension prevalence estimates for local population, PHE 2016](#).

The Heart Age Test is an online assessment for anyone over 30 which allows a person to input basic physical and lifestyle-related information, and provides an immediate estimation of their 'heart age'. The test is designed to prompt people who may look outwardly healthy to think about the health of their inner organs as well. A new version of the tool is launched on the [One You](#) website today (4 September 2017), and will also be available for the first time on mobile phones.

The healthy range for blood pressure is if the first number (systolic number) is between 120 and 90 and the second number (diastolic number) is between 80 and 60. Blood Pressure UK have a guide explaining high, low and normal [blood pressure readings](#).

Around 80% of heart attacks and strokes in people under 75 could be prevented. The main preventable risk factors for heart attack and stroke are:

- smoking
- a high-fat diet
- diabetes
- high cholesterol
- high blood pressure
- being overweight or obese

Public Health England is committed to tackling cardiovascular disease through

our joint working with NHS England on the NHS RightCare Cardiovascular Disease Prevention pathway. The [NHS Health Check](#) programme, which helps people detect and manage their risk of heart disease, is a core part of the NHS RightCare Cardiovascular Disease Prevention pathway. Last year 1.3million adults over 40 received a check.

The Heart Age Test is a collaboration between partners including:

- Public Health England
- NHS Choices
- British Heart Foundation
- British Cardiovascular Society
- University College London

The tool builds on communication of risk work undertaken by colleagues at Cambridge University and research of primary care data undertaken by a team at the University of Nottingham. The test incorporates the Heart Age Calculator and guidelines, developed by the multi-collaborative Joint British Societies Consensus Recommendations on the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease (JBS3).

Blood pressure stations are places where people can get their blood pressure checked, at NHS locations and participating pharmacies.

PHE exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. It does this through advocacy, partnerships, world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health. www.gov.uk/phe. Follow us on Twitter @PHE_uk

[News story: Chancellor to meet Metro Mayors and visit key infrastructure in the North](#)

Philip Hammond will today (Monday 4 September) convene the government's first meeting with all three Metro Mayors from the North of England, to discuss boosting growth across the Northern Powerhouse regions.

Boosting productivity in the region will be top of the agenda when he meets Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, Steve Rotheram, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, and the Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen. These three areas alone have a population of five million and combined economy worth more than £102 billion.

Employment across the Northern Powerhouse is currently at a record high

(73.8%), but Ministers believe more needs to be done to tackle the productivity gap. The government will continue to support the region through devolution and investment – including record amounts in transport, alongside support for skills and innovation. Ministers will shortly be announcing further funding to improve roads right across the North.

The Chancellor is clear the Northern Powerhouse will have a key role in the Industrial Strategy and efforts to ensure Britain makes the most of the opportunities ahead as we leave the European Union.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond said:

Boosting productivity in the North is at the very heart of the government's ambition to build an economy that works for everyone.

As we prepare to leave the European Union it is even more important that we support the Northern Powerhouse to reach its full potential.

That's why we are investing record amounts in infrastructure, and working with Metro Mayors to encourage growth and create opportunities throughout the North.

He will also see how work is progressing on a new rail link, Ordsall Chord, which will connect Manchester's three main train stations, and provide new direct-links to Manchester Airport from across the North of England. This will help support jobs and growth across the region, reducing commuting times and speeding up links to foreign markets – all key to helping boost productivity.

He will travel to Leeds to see progress being made to create up to 700 homes at the Seacroft development in the east of the city. This has received support from the government through the Home and Communities Agency's single land programme. The Chancellor will reveal good progress is being made on a 'housing deal' with Leeds, which could unlock thousands more new homes. These deals will look to increase the supply of housing in areas of high demand.

Communities and Local Government Secretary, Sajid Javid, said:

I want to strike housing deals across the country to support councils' ambitious and innovative plans for new homes, and to help boost supply where it's most needed. We're committed to considering all tools at our disposal, and by using our money more flexibly we can deliver more homes.

We're making good progress with a Leeds housing deal and hope to announce further details at Autumn Budget. As well as increasing housing, this will help grow local economies as part of our commitment to the Northern Powerhouse.

Press release: PM statement on North Korea: 3 September 2017

This latest action by North Korea is reckless and poses an unacceptable further threat to the international community.

I discussed the serious and grave threat these dangerous and illegal actions present with President Abe in Japan this week and reiterate the call we jointly made for tougher action, including increasing the pace of implementation of existing sanctions and looking urgently in the UN Security Council at new measures.

This is now even more pressing. The international community has universally condemned this test and must come together to continue to increase the pressure on North Korea's leaders to stop their destabilising actions.