

Press release: Terrorist attacks in Spain: Foreign Office statement

A Foreign Office spokesman said:

Our thoughts are with the victims of these terrible attacks and the people of Spain.

We are currently assisting a small number of British people affected and are working to find out if any more need our help. We have deployed additional staff to Barcelona and have offered support to the Spanish authorities.

The helpline for people calling from Spain is 112 and 012. From abroad it is 0034 93 214 21 24 and 0034 900 400 012.

Follow the [British Embassy in Spain](#) and the [Foreign Office](#) on Twitter and the [Foreign Office on Facebook](#).

News story: UK flags to be flown at half-mast for Barcelona victims

Flags on Whitehall government buildings will fly at half-mast on Friday 18 August 2017, as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives and all others that were affected by the attacks in Barcelona on Thursday.

Other organisations and local authorities may follow suit.

News story: CIEH are no longer regulated by Ofqual

Qualifications offered by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health are no longer regulated as of 18 August 2017.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) announced in November

2016 that it would be voluntarily surrendering its status as an Ofqual-recognised awarding organisation this summer. From 18 August 2017 no qualifications offered by CIEH are regulated by us, and their details no longer appear on our register. A full list of currently recognised awarding organisations and regulated qualifications can be found on [the Register of Regulated Qualifications](#).

Awarding organisations that are recognised by us must continually meet the rules that apply to them. One of the benefits of this regulation is that it provides a level of assurance to learners and those who depend on regulated qualifications to ensure they continue to be valid and fit for purpose. It is, however, for individual awarding organisations to decide whether Ofqual recognition is appropriate for them.

News story: Bids for government funding prove strong interest in LaunchUK

- 26 proposals were submitted in response to the call
- Proposals came from spaceports all over the UK, working with vehicle operators from the UK, other European nations and the US
- Multiple proposals have been recommended for further consideration, to ensure any grant funding delivers the best outcome for the UK

The number of responses for government funding to support UK spaceflight has highlighted a strong interest in the UK commercial market for small satellite launch and sub-orbital flight. The UK Space Agency's call for grant proposals to establish initial launch capability in the UK has now concluded, with a number of options being recommended for consideration.

In total 26 proposals were submitted to the call process, representing potential spaceports all over the UK and a range of launch and sub-orbital flight technologies. These were assessed by a panel of independent experts drawn from academia, industry and government. The panel looked at a range of criteria including technical feasibility, commercial sustainability and benefits to the UK.

Ross James, Deputy CEO of the UK Space Agency, said:

“The fact several proposals have been recommended for consideration reflects the exceptional strength of the field, and the high level of interest in LaunchUK. The funding requested exceeded £10 million, and we believe there may be a case for awarding a number of grants to establish the UK's first spaceport and launch capabilities. We will now enter into dialogue with the relevant parties to ensure we are getting the best outcome for the UK.”

This is just the start of this exciting new endeavour in the UK, with further opportunities to be a part of the new market for those that missed out on the call. The UK Space Agency will continue to engage with organisations looking to participate in commercial small satellite launch and sub-orbital flight in the UK. Ross James added:

“This funding call is about establishing initial capability in the UK, but our wider ambition remains to grow a strong market, making the UK the best destination in Europe to participate in small satellite launch and sub-orbital flight.

“The proposals we received demonstrated an exciting future of new launch technologies and services. We will continue to engage with all organisations that wish to enter the UK market. We will be holding a second LaunchUK event later this year to bring together this community, and discuss our plans going forward in more detail.”

Final announcements about any awards of grant funding are expected later in this financial year.

[News story: UK government's sale of Green Investment Bank completed](#)

The Climate Change and Industry Minister, Claire Perry, confirmed today (18 August 2017) that the sale of the [Green Investment Bank \(GIB\)](#) to Macquarie Group Limited has now been completed.

The £2.3 billion deal ensures that all the taxpayer funding invested in GIB since its creation, including set-up costs, has been returned with a gain of approximately £186 million.

As well as fully meeting the government's objectives, the deal secures the future of the GIB with an ambitious new owner committed to growing the business. The Edinburgh office will be home to a new revenue-generating business as well as providing services to the green energy portfolios of both Macquarie and GIB in the UK.

The government decided that moving it into the private sector now would free it from the constraints of public sector ownership allowing it to increase investment in our green infrastructure as we transition to a green economy. GIB's independent Board supported the government's decision to sell the business to Macquarie.

In order to build on the company's success within the private sector, Macquarie and GIB have announced today that the company will now be known as the Green Investment Group (GIG) so that it will be able to make overseas

investments.

Climate Change and Industry Minister Claire Perry said:

We led the world in setting up the Green Investment Bank and it is now being copied by others. Now that it's in the private sector, it will be able to operate on an international level to tackle the global challenge of climate change. It is also perfectly placed to help us finance green initiatives for our Clean Growth Plan and realise the commitments set out in the Paris Agreement.

The green 'special share' held by the Green Purposes Company Limited also comes into force now. Five independent trustees have the power to approve or reject any proposed changes to GIG's green purposes in the future.

The government will continue to hold an interest in a portfolio of a small number of GIB's existing green infrastructure investments. These assets will continue to be managed by GIB until they can be sold on in a way which returns best value for taxpayers' money.

1. The sale of the Green Investment Group (formerly Green Investment Bank) was announced in April 2017. It was secured through a competitive process and met the objectives outlined when it launched the sales process last year. As well as securing value for money for the taxpayer and freeing GIG from the constraints of public sector ownership, it will enable GIG to grow its support for green projects.
2. The sale proceeds of £1.75 billion, which has now been received, sees all taxpayer funding invested in GIG returned with a gain of around £186 million. This, together with over £500 million of current outstanding commitments which will now be met by Macquarie and its partners rather than taxpayers, means that the transaction value is around £2.3 billion.
3. The government has now repealed the relevant provisions of the [Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013](#), removing statutory controls over GIG's green purposes to ensure that GIG can be re-classified to the private sector.
4. The government will provide a report to Parliament on the sale, as required under the [Enterprise Act 2016](#) in the Autumn.