

[News story: VPC and VMD Open meeting 2017](#)

The Veterinary Products Committee and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate will hold their annual open meeting on Friday 29 September 2017.

The VPC and VMD will hold their Open Meetings on Friday 29 September 2017 at the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Weybridge, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB.

The VMD Open Meeting will begin at 10.30am followed by the VPC Open Meeting and close by 1pm.

Admission is free but will be by ticket only.

VMD staff will give presentations based on the advance questions received followed by presentations by the VPC members, and then an open question and answer session.

Tea and coffee will be available before and after the meeting.

Questions and requests for tickets should be sent by Friday 25 August 2017 to Chris Abbott; openmeeting@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Please include the names of all attendees.

[Press release: Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire: Robert Voss](#)

Mr Robert Voss has been appointed Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Hertfordshire.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Mr Robert Voss CBE DL as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Hertfordshire to succeed the Countess of Verulam who stepped down on 31 July 2017.

Further information

Robert Voss has recently retired after a long and distinguished career in the metal industry, having also chaired the European Metal Federation in Brussels for 16 years. He has a special interest in young entrepreneurs, through his involvement with Hertfordshire Young Enterprise, as a venture partner

investing in a number of young companies and as a trustee of the Young Person of the Year charity.

He also established a Young Entrepreneurs Challenge. He is a governor of The University of Hertfordshire and a member of the of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation survivors testimony committee. He was awarded the CBE in 2014 for “services to British Industry and voluntary work in the UK”.

Mr Voss lives in Loudwater with his wife, Celia. They have two adult sons, a daughter and two grandsons.

[News story: Charitable recycling company wins Sellafield contract](#)

A waste recycling company will open a new facility and create local jobs in West Cumbria, having won a contract with Sellafield Ltd.

‘Recycling Lives’ will recycle metal from the nuclear site, offering jobs and training opportunities at a new depot in Workington.

The company will also set up a food distribution charity with centres throughout Cumbria, which will also need staff and volunteers.

This follows the success of a similar community programme they have delivered throughout Lancashire.

Martin Chown from Sellafield Ltd said:

We want to ensure our local communities benefit from the money we spend and we do this by insisting that companies that win work with us invest to support local growth.

I’m excited by the plans Recycling Lives has to create jobs and support disadvantaged people in west Cumbria.

It demonstrates the unique power of Sellafield Ltd to attract new businesses to the area

The scrap buying and processing facility in Workington, has brought an empty site back into use, and will be open to the public and other businesses from September.

William Fletcher from Recycling Lives, said:

We are pleased to have been chosen as the preferred contractor for scrap metal collection and processing from Sellafield Ltd.

We're really excited to be able to use this contract to create social value across Cumbria.

The benefits will be more than just environmental and economic, as we create social impact through job creation and food redistribution.

Their food redistribution service operates on behalf of national organisation, Fareshare. It diverts surplus food from manufacturers, suppliers and supermarkets, that would otherwise go to landfill, and distributes it to charities and community groups in deprived areas.

Find out more about [Recycling Lives](#)

[News story: Real Madrid vs Manchester United – Travel Advice](#)

Fixture information

Date: Tuesday 8 August 2017

Venue: National Stadium Philip II, Skopje

Kick off time: 8:45pm (local time); 7:45pm (UK time)

Man Utd supporter meeting point/UEFA fan zone: Mother Theresa Memorial House, Macedonia Street

As well as this advice, check out our [travel advice for Macedonia](#)

Passports and visas

Please check your passport and visa details:

- you don't need a visa to travel to Macedonia if you have a British Citizen passport; but your passport should be valid for at least three months from the date you enter the country
- if you have a different type of British nationality (other than 'British Citizen'), check entry requirements with the Macedonian Embassy in London before you travel
- make sure you take out good travel insurance even if you're only going for one night – it could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties

- the British Embassy have been advised you may need your passport (and your match ticket) to gain entry to the stadium
- if you lose your passport, or have it stolen, contact the British Embassy on +389 2 3299 299 or by e-mail at consular.skopje@fco.gov.uk to book an appointment to apply for an Emergency Passport

Getting to National Stadium 'Philip II'

- Philip II National Stadium is located in the city centre; you can find a map showing the location of the stadium [here](#). The stadium holds 33 460 supporters fully seated
- The Stadium is located near the city centre, in the city park, 15 minutes walking distance from the Main Square and the city centre. It can be reached by bus No 8 and No 15a (get off at the City Park Stop. There is a paid parking lot next to the stadium.
- there will be a Manchester Utd fan zone at the Mother Theresa Memorial House in Macedonia Street ([map](#))
- it is an 18 minute walk to the stadium from Mother Theresa Memorial House; you can find a map showing the route [here](#)
- taxis are plentiful and cheap by UK standards, although some vehicles may not be in very good condition. Most taxis are metered. Vehicles may vary in colour.
- avoid taxis parked outside hotels or in tourist areas; ask your hotel to call a taxi or flag down a passing taxi with a green 'available' light in the window
- a licensed taxi company operates at Skopje airport and has an official rank. Details are available at <http://skp.airports.com.mk/default.aspx?ItemID=384>

At the match

- Man Utd fans are seated in East Sector and blocks 5 & 6 in South Sector; All gates have disabled access
- access to the stadium can be slow, there will be ticket checks and body searches at three check points before entrance to the stadium
- to avoid missing the start of the match, you should get to the stadium early – entrances will open at 5:45pm
- anyone who is obviously drunk won't be allowed into the stadium
- weapons, flares, fireworks, alcohol, cans, glass, bottle tops aren't allowed in the stadium
- smoking is allowed at the stadium; lighters will be permitted
- beer in plastic containers will be available at the stadium

Helpful tips for local area

You should leave your passports in a hotel safe and use another form of ID: e.g. driving licence or the passport photocopy.

You should maintain at least the same level of personal security awareness as in the UK. As in any other city beware of pickpockets and bag snatchers at airports, railway stations, around the town centre and when using public transport – only carry what you need and leave spare cash and valuables in

hotel safety deposits.

Tap water in Skopje is drinkable.

Contact the British Embassy in Skopje in case of a consular emergency:

British Embassy Skopje, Todor Aleksandrov No.165, Skopje 1000, Macedonia

Tel: +389 (2) 3299 299 (also for out of hours emergencies)

Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 8am to 4:30pm, Friday, 8am to 1pm

For more information please visit our website at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/macedonia>

Emergency services numbers

Police: 192

Ambulance: 194

Fire brigade: 193

Further information

Follow the British Embassy on Twitter [@ukinmacedonia](#) for up to the minute travel advice.

Tourist information about [Macedonia](#)

Information about the city of [Skopje](#)

[Press release: UK leads final push to make polio history](#)

The UK is leading the final global push to eliminate polio around the world for good, International Development Secretary Priti Patel announced today (Friday, 4 August 2017).

Polio was wiped out in the UK in the 1980s and there are more than 100,000 British survivors today. Globally, the wild poliovirus still exists in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, with 8 new cases this year.

It is likely that the last new case of polio will be diagnosed this year, paving the way for the world to be certified polio-free in 2020.

Ms Patel has announced UK support to lead the last push needed to end polio. This will immunise 45 million children against the disease each year until

2020 – that is 80 children a minute.

Britain has had a long standing commitment to making polio the second human disease in history to be eradicated, after smallpox. As a direct result of the UK's support to global efforts, which began in 1988, more than 16 million people are walking today who would have otherwise been paralysed, and the number of people contracting the disease has been reduced by 99.9%.

The UK's support will:

- immunise up to 45 million children against the disease each year until 2020 – that is 80 children a minute;
- save more than 65,000 children from paralysis every year;
- help over 15,000 polio workers reach every last child with life-saving vaccines and other health interventions; and
- help save almost £2 billion globally by 2035, as health care systems are freed up from treating polio victims.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

Polio has no place in the 21st Century. This devastating and highly infectious disease causes painful paralysis and is incurable – trapping the world's poorest people in a cycle of grinding poverty.

The UK has been at the forefront of fighting global health threats, including polio, and our last push towards eradication by 2020 will save 45 million children from contracting this disease.

The world is closer than it ever has been to eradicating polio for good, but as long as just one case exists in the world, children everywhere are still at risk.

Now it is time for others to step up, follow Britain's lead and make polio history.

Paralympian and broadcaster Ade Adepitan, who contracted polio as a baby, said:

The UK has done so much to help eradicate polio and UK aid contributions have delivered great results. The number of people around the world contracting polio has gone from thousands every year to just a few cases. We can see the finish line – and we can't stop now.

The UK has always been a world leader. It can be part of our legacy to be at the forefront of the race to eradicate polio around the world. Let's keep doing what we are doing and make the world a better place for future generations.

We are so close to eradicating polio. We need just one last push to

make this disease history and change the world.

This last push will help break the relentless cycle of poverty for millions more children so they can live healthier lives, go to school and then get a job. It will mean more people contributing to their economy, which will help their countries to grow and become more prosperous.

This is good for Britain too: helping people become less reliant on UK aid in the long-term.

As the world becomes more interconnected, it is right that Britain acts to tackle those diseases, which pay no attention to national borders, so that we can stop them spreading and threatening us here at home. For example, defeating Ebola – the deadly epidemic that was only ever a plane ride away – ultimately protected British lives.

- International Development Secretary, Priti Patel, has today set out an additional £100 million (\$130 million) to help end polio for good.
- It is possible that the last case of polio will be in 2017, and it takes three years without a single case to prove eradication; meaning the world could be certified polio-free in 2020.
- Pictures and human stories of DFID supported work in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria are [available on Flickr](#); footage and hi-res pictures detailing the personal stories of vaccinators and survivors are [available on Google Drive](#); and an [animation, designed for social media use](#), can be found on DFID's Facebook channel. For UK polio survivor and polio expert interviews, contact DFID Press Office.
- On 12 June 2017, during Rotary International's Convention in Atlanta, global leaders recommitted to the importance of a polio-free world, and pledged financial support, totalling US\$1.2 billion against the additional US\$1.5 billion needed to finally eradicate polio.
- With the UK contribution, there is still a \$170 million funding gap – it is time for others to step up.
- The UK's £100 million support will be channelled through the World Health Organisation (WHO) to implement programmes of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).
- The GPEI is a public-private partnership led by national governments with 5 partners – WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to

eradicate polio worldwide.

- Polio eradication activities are implemented by UNICEF and WHO in partnership with countries and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.
- Today's announcement builds on the British Government's commitment in 2013 to spend £300 million on polio between 2013 and 2018. Since 2013 our support has helped control outbreaks and limit the polio virus to only 3 countries – Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria.
- This is a success story. Less than 30 years ago there were 350,000 cases in over 100 countries. Eradication will need continued intensive surveillance, high immunisation rates and rapid responses to any polio virus identified.