

Press release: Change of British High Commissioner to Cyprus

2017 Full time language training 2013 – 2017 FC0, Director, Asia Pacific 2009 – 2013 Manila, Her Majesty's Ambassador and Non-Resident Ambassador to Palau, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia 2006 – 2009 FC0, Head, Far Eastern Department 2003 – 2006 New Delhi, Counsellor (Economic) and Director of Trade & Investment 1999 – 2003 Guangzhou, Her Majesty's Consul-General 1998 – 1999 FC0, Deputy Head, China Hong Kong Department 1997 – 1998 FC0, Head of Section, Hong Kong Department 1996 – 1997 FC0, Head of Section, European Union Department (Internal) 1992 – 1995 Beijing, Second later First Secretary (Economic and Political) 1989 – 1991 Full time language training (Mandarin) 1988 – 1989 FC0, Assistant Desk Officer, Middle East Department

News story: VMD Pharmaceutical Industry Event Presentation 2017

On Friday 23rd June 2017 the VMD held an Information Event for the pharmaceutical industry. Those able to attend saw presentations covering the following topics:

- Update on EU Exit
- Update on the new Regulations and the Great Repeal Bill
- Industry perspective on the Cascade
- Reduction of regulatory burden
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing,
- Autogenous vaccines
- Products Quality Defects
- Environments Risk Assessment update
- The Latest developments in AMR activities

A copy of the presentation slides are available: [Pharm Industry Day Presentation 23 June 2017](#) (PDF, 5.29MB, 162 pages)

Press release: Welsh Secretary promises certainty and stability to

[international companies in Wales](#)

Mr Cairns will visit Japanese electronics company Panasonic Manufacturing on the outskirts of Cardiff which has had a presence in Wales since 1974.

Alun Cairns said:

My visit to Panasonic is a continuation of my commitment to engage with global companies based here in Wales and to offer the reassurance that Wales will still be the same outward looking, ambitious country it has always been after we leave the EU.

Panasonic is an important inward investor in Wales. We want to work closely with businesses from every part of the world to demonstrate the huge potential available to them here in Wales, and to give them the certainty they need to invest and grow.

Panasonic has a long standing history in Wales and has developed and manufactured a vast array of product lines including microwave ovens, vacuum cleaners and mobile solutions over the years. Its Cardiff site employs over 400 staff members and offers the ability to provide testing services to external companies.

Mr Cairns said:

Panasonic is a synonymous with expertise and has a strong manufacturing history. We are proud to have them here in South Wales, employing our local skillset and contributing to local economic growth.

Japan is one of the UK's key economic partners and our second largest inward investor. We want to see our partnership continue to grow and flourish.

ENDS

[Statement to Parliament: Update on the Airports NPS and a decision on night](#)

flights

In October 2016, the government [selected a new north-west runway at Heathrow](#) as its preferred scheme for delivering new airport capacity in the south-east.

In February a [consultation on a draft Airports National Policy Statement \(NPS\)](#) was launched, which set out the reasons for this preference, along with the mitigation and compensation measures the government expects the promoter to put in place if planning permission is to be granted.

The consultation closed on 25 May and the work to analyse the over 70,000 responses is progressing well. I would like to thank all of those who contributed their views.

This government is fully committed to realising the benefits that a new north-west runway at Heathrow would bring, in terms of economic growth, boosting jobs and skills, strengthening domestic links and – critically – increasing and developing our international connectivity as we prepare to leave the European Union.

The timing of the election, in particular the need to re-start a [Select Committee inquiry into the draft Airports NPS](#) means we now expect to lay any final NPS in Parliament in the first half of 2018, for a vote in the House of Commons.

I will provide a further update to the House after the summer recess on our next steps following analysis of the consultation responses.

Today (13 July 2017) I am also publishing a [response to the consultation held earlier this year on a new night flight regime for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted](#). I am fully aware that noise is a major concern for those living near these airports, and that night noise is widely regarded as the most disturbing impact of aviation. While advances in new technology mean that aircraft are generally getting quieter, the limits governing night noise at these airports has not kept pace with these developments.

The new rules we are publishing today will encourage the use of quieter aircraft at all 3 airports by reducing the amount of noise these airports are legally allowed to make, and will give local residents a 5 year guarantee about the level of noise that they will be exposed to. This decision strikes a balance between managing the impacts on local communities by locking in the benefits offered by recent technological developments, with the economic benefits of night flights.

This decision should be seen as a signal that this government takes this issue very seriously, which is why we expect a ban on scheduled night flights of 6.5 hours at an expanded Heathrow. We will also explore whether there is more we can do – including considering further legislation – to incentivise the industry more generally to invest in the quietest aircraft and operate

them in the quietest way.

Strong international links are critical to the future prosperity of our country, with a world-class hub airport and thriving aviation sector central to this. We are committed to realising the economic and social benefits aviation has to offer, while taking seriously the need to balance this with managing the local and environmental impacts of aviation.

Press release: Historic State Visit celebrates depth and breadth of our longstanding ties with Spain

Spain's State Visit is an opportunity to celebrate our longstanding partnership with Spain and our shared, history, values and interests, the Prime Minister said today, as she prepared to host King Felipe VI at Downing Street.

The three-day visit by King Felipe and Queen Letizia is Spain's first State Visit to the UK since 1986 and follows centuries of diplomatic relations. It highlights the close and vibrant links we have built through cooperation on trade and investment, security and defence, science and innovation, and on the world stage.

Ahead of the UK-Spain Business Forum at Mansion House today, the Prime Minister welcomed the scale of this investment as a sign of the depth of our commercial ties and Spain's continued confidence in the strength of the UK economy.

Britain remains the number one European destination for Spanish investment.

Today's business forum will highlight examples of Spanish investment in a range of sectors across the UK, including:

- today's announcement by Spanish manufacturer CAF that it is to start building trains and trams at a new factory in South Wales. The company will invest £30 million in the facility near Newport, creating 300 jobs and giving a boost to UK manufacturing and the Welsh economy.
- today's announcement by Spanish infrastructure company Sacyr that it will soon open a new London office close to Victoria Station, which will provide a base for further investment and job creation in the UK.
- the ongoing expansion of Luton Airport, whose majority shareholder is

Spanish airport operator AENA. Over £100 million is being invested in this major redevelopment which aims to increase capacity by 50% to 18 million passengers and is expected to create thousands of jobs, with the first phase now complete.

- the construction of a £26 million factory on a Steel & Alloy Processing site in Oldbury, as Spanish steel producer Gonvarri Steel Services, part of the Gestamp Group, scales up its production capacity in the West Midlands. The project has been supported by the Department for International Trade and will create more jobs in the local area.
- the recent launch of new clinics in the West Midlands and London by Spanish fertility specialists IVI as they invest in their UK expansion, creating jobs and supporting research.

The Prime Minister also hailed the enduring friendship between Britain and Spain and pledged that our relationship will continue to go from strength to strength as the UK leaves the EU.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

Britain's longstanding relationship with Spain has been built over centuries on the deep and solid foundations of our shared history, values and interests.

Today, we work closely together in a range of areas to ensure the security and prosperity of our people, including through our military and law enforcement cooperation to fight international terrorism, our academic collaboration on science and innovation, and our growing trade and investment ties.

Indeed, the sheer scale of Spanish investment in Britain demonstrates Spain's continued confidence in the strength of the UK economy, and shows that we can and will maintain the closest possible relationship.

This week's State Visit is an opportunity to celebrate the historic bond between our countries and our citizens. We are firm friends, and I look forward to seeing our partnership go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

Speaking ahead of the UK-Spain Business Forum, International Trade Secretary Liam Fox said:

As an international economic department over the past twelve months we've helped secure more foreign direct investment projects than ever before, supported thousands of UK businesses on their export

journey, and continue to promote British trade values across the world.

I'm delighted to welcome further Spanish investment into the UK today, as we remain Spain's number one destination in Europe for direct foreign investment.

Our diplomatic relations stretch back more than 500 years, and as we leave the EU we want to remain a good friend and neighbour to Europe and build a positive new partnership with each of its member states".

There are over 300,000 Britons living in Spain, while over 130,000 Spaniards have made the UK their home. In today's talks with King Felipe, the Prime Minister will welcome the valuable contribution that Spanish citizens make to Britain's economy and society.

And she will pay tribute to the heroism of Ignacio Echeverría, the Spanish banker who was killed in last month's appalling act of terror at London Bridge as he rushed to help someone who was being attacked.