

High energy usage businesses to benefit from further government support

High energy usage businesses, such as steel and paper manufacturers, are set to receive further support for electricity costs as the government has confirmed details today (Friday 29 April) of the Energy Intensive Industries (EII) compensation scheme.

The scheme will be extended for a further 3 years and its budget will be more than doubled. This will help ensure the UK remains an attractive investment destination for energy intensive industries, whilst encouraging greater electrification to help cut emissions as part of the green industrial revolution across the country.

Today's announcement will add to the more than £2 billion the government has provided since 2013 to support businesses in energy intensive sectors with the price of electricity bills.

Industry Minister Lee Rowley said:

We want to keep the UK at the forefront of manufacturing, helping our energy intensive industries remain competitive and sustainable for the long term, and continuing to power our economy with thousands of jobs across the country.

We are not only extending our support through the compensation scheme, by offering a greater level of compensation to eligible firms, we are delivering more relief from electricity costs for these industries.

The scheme provides businesses with relief for the costs of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and Carbon Price Support mechanism in their electricity bills, recognising that UK industrial electricity prices are higher than those of other countries.

The scheme will now also provide support for companies that manufacture batteries for electric vehicles, supporting the UK's drive to capitalise on the global shift to greener technologies.

Investment Minister Lord Grimstone said:

For the first time we are including battery manufacturers in our electricity bill compensation scheme for energy intensive industries to help keep the UK at the forefront of this growing industry.

By doing so, we are ensuring the UK continues to attract investment across the country, supporting jobs and building the batteries that will power our automotive industry for decades to come.

Industry Minister Lee Rowley has met with business groups representing energy intensive industries to discuss the scheme's extension, including UK Steel and the Confederation of Paper Industries.

The government will also consider further measures to support business including increasing the renewable obligation exemption to 100%. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks. This is in addition to existing support through the £315 million Industrial Energy Transformation Fund to help heavy industry cut bills and reduce emissions.

UK Steel Director General Gareth Stace said:

The 3-year extension of the EII compensation scheme and the increase in the level of relief provided by it delivers on a long-standing industry ask and gives the UK steel sector a much-needed reduction in electricity costs. This increase in compensation is a key priority for the steel sector and is a much-needed step to tackling the industrial electricity prices that hold the UK steel sector back from competing with our European counterparts.

Director General of the Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) Andrew Large said:

The CPI welcomes the extension of the existing carbon price floor (CPF) compensation scheme that addresses the cost of carbon on industrial electricity prices. We look forward to working with the government to develop further measures to help close the competitiveness gap with our European and global competitors, many of which are already receiving an enhanced level of support to cushion the impact of an extended period of high energy prices.

Executive Chairman, Britishvolt (BV) Peter Rolton said:

This is a positive step from UK government, clearly recognising the strategic importance of battery manufacturers, and other industry that has intensive energy needs, on the roadmap to net zero, and the urgent need for them to become and remain internationally competitive in light of high energy bills. Support through this and other EII schemes will help the likes of BV to build a factory and adjacent supplier park, powered by both renewable and affordable energy. In turn, this will bring thousands of new jobs, boosted productivity and innovative net zero solutions to the automotive sector, the North East and wider economy.

Bringing an end to impunity in Libya: UK Statement at the UN Security Council

I would like to thank the Prosecutor, Karim Khan, for his important briefing today on the occasion of the 23rd report of the Prosecutor of the ICC on the situation in Libya. The United Kingdom gives its full support to the Prosecutor's ongoing investigations and I welcome both the Prosecutor's briefing and his report as a demonstration of transparency to the Council.

As the report sets out, there is credible evidence of the ongoing commission of widespread serious crimes in Libya, including crimes of conflict-related sexual violence. The UK condemns these reprehensible acts and calls for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. Human rights must be fully protected in Libya.

We must maintain our commitment to the victims of the last eleven years. The ICC investigation is an important contribution to transitional justice, which is critical to the success of the political process and in the interests of all Libyans. The UK calls on the Libyan authorities to cooperate with the ICC investigation and Independent Fact Finding Mission. Access to sites, evidence and witnesses free from intimidation is necessary for progress to be made.

The UK supports the Prosecutor's renewed strategy and the principles on which he will take forward the investigation. The UK welcomes, in particular, prioritisation of the Libyan investigation and the announcement of additional resources, which we hope will accelerate progress towards justice for victims.

The UK commends the Prosecutor's work to co-operate with national authorities and his intention to develop such partnerships further, including in assisting prosecutions at the national or regional level where this is appropriate. We reiterate our call for all relevant States, including both States Parties to the Rome Statute and States not party to it, to cooperate with the ICC and surrender individuals subject to arrest warrants.

This Council mandated the Prosecutor's investigation in Libya, in order to ensure accountability for serious international wrong-doing. The UK will remain steadfast in its commitment to accountability for atrocity crimes in all situations in which they are committed. We will continue to work with the Prosecutor and with international partners to bring an end to impunity.

Foreign Secretary statement on BVI Premier arrest

Press release

The Foreign Secretary's statement following the arrest of BVI Premier, Andrew Fahie



Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss said:

This afternoon, the Premier of the British Virgin Islands, Andrew Fahie, was arrested in the United States on charges related to drugs trafficking and money laundering.

I am appalled by these serious allegations. This arrest demonstrates the importance of the recently concluded Commission of Inquiry.

I have spoken to the Governor of the BVI and he will be holding an emergency meeting of the Territory's Cabinet later today. He will set out next steps tomorrow, including urgent publication of the Inquiry's report.

ENDS

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UK invites Honduras to join a new

global security approach

World news story

British Ambassador Nick Whittingham invited Honduras to embrace a reboot in the free world's approach to tackling global aggressors in the wake of the Ukraine crisis.



Ambassador Whittingham explained the war should be a catalyst for rebooting, remodelling and recasting a global security architecture that has failed Ukraine.

He praised strength and unity of the free world's response to Putin's invasion, including Honduras' support at multilateral forums. Nevertheless, he stressed this collective response needs to follow through to ensure aggressors fail and are contained in the future.

This new approach melds hard security and economic security, builds stronger global alliances, recognises we are seeing the return of geopolitics, and will urge action in three areas:

1. Stronger defence – based on collectively investing more in defence, including maintaining NATO's open door policy (including for Sweden and Finland), and for NATO to adopt a more "global" outlook where it steps up work with Pacific partners.
2. Boosting economic security – reducing economic dependency on aggressors and creating stronger trade, investment, science and tech ties among allies and partners.
3. Building a stronger network of alliances – with the G7 playing a stronger role, as it has done during the Ukraine crisis, and building a deeper, more intertwined network of bilateral security and economic partnerships.

Ambassador Whittingham warned the fate of Ukraine remains in the balance and urged allies, including Honduras, to double down in ensuring Putin fails in Ukraine. The G7 and partners need to keep the pressure on Russia through tougher sanctions, providing further military aid, and continued humanitarian support.

UK Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, set the UK's latest position on the war in Ukraine at the [Mansion House speech](#) on 27 April. The Mansion House speech is delivered at the annual Lord Mayor's Easter Banquet. The event is a set piece in the diplomatic calendar and is attended by ambassadors, diplomats, FCDO staff and the business community.

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[UK invites Guatemala to join a new global security approach](#)

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He praised strength and unity of the free world's response to Putin's invasion, including Guatemala's active leadership at multilateral forums and welcoming of Ukrainian refugees. Nevertheless, he stressed this collective response needs to follow through to ensure aggressors fail and are contained in the future.

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