

UK to bolster defensive aid to Ukraine with new £100m package

News story

The new support will include more anti-tank missiles and air defence systems, as well as loitering munitions and non-lethal aid like helmets, body armour and night vision goggles



The package will include more Starstreak air defence systems (MoD Crown Copyright)

The UK will provide a further package of military aid to Ukraine, the Prime Minister announced today.

The new support will include:

- More than 800 more [NLAW](#) anti-tank missiles
- Additional [Javelin](#) anti-tank systems
- Additional loitering munitions
- Additional [Starstreak](#) air defence systems
- Additional non-lethal aid including ballistic helmets, body armour and night vision goggles

This package amounts to more than £100 million and has been designed in consultation with the Armed Forces of Ukraine to ensure that it meets their military needs. This builds on the £350 million of military aid and around £400m of economic and humanitarian support that the UK has already provided.

As well as providing bilateral lethal aid, the UK Armed Forces – alongside Polish, US and international partners – have established an International Donor Coordination Centre in Stuttgart.

This plays a leading role in the international effort and ensures that the military aid delivered to Ukraine is as coordinated and effective as possible. The team from 104 Logistics Brigade was established following the first International Donor Conference convened by the Defence Secretary in February.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Putin has steeled our resolve, sharpened our focus and forced Europe to begin to rearm to guarantee our shared security.

Alongside our allies, this military support will bolster Ukraine's efforts to ensure Russia's barbaric invasion fails.

The Defence Secretary Ben Wallace MP said:

The UK Government is resolute in our support for Ukraine and determined that no barbaric Russian act goes unanswered.

Another 800 NLAWs will not only support the Ukrainian defence, but show Putin that his brutality only stiffens our resolve.

The aid announced today builds on [last week's second International Donor Conference](#), where the UK brought together more than 35 international partners. Following the first Donor Conference on 25 February, the international community provided 2.5 million items of military weapons and equipment to Ukraine, amounting to more than £1.5 billion.

Earlier this week, ministers from the Ministry of Defence [hosted a Ukrainian delegation](#) on Salisbury Plain Training Area to demonstrate UK equipment which will contribute to future planned support packages as Ukraine's needs evolve. Further announcements will follow in due course.

Published 8 April 2022

[PM meeting with German Chancellor Olaf](#)

Scholz: 8 April 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz this afternoon.



The Prime Minister welcomed German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to Downing Street this afternoon to discuss the West's response to Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine.

The two leaders shared their disgust at the Russian regime's onslaught and condemned Putin's recent attacks.

Speaking about the plight of Ukrainian refugees forced to flee their homes, the two leaders agreed to work together to ensure those wanting to reach family and friends in the UK could do so quickly.

They also agreed on the need to maximise the potential of renewable energy in the North Sea and collaborate on climate ambitions and green energy.

The Prime Minister said he wanted to further deepen the UK's relationship with Germany, and intensify its cooperation across defence and security, innovation and science.

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed the need to make significant changes to the Northern Ireland Protocol in order to safeguard peace and stability in Northern Ireland and protect the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in all its dimensions.

They both agreed to stay in close contact and looked forward to meeting again at the G7 and NATO leaders' summits in June.

Published 8 April 2022

Cabinet Office Minister visits Greggs HQ in Newcastle

Yesterday Cabinet Office Minister Nigel Adams visited Greggs House in Newcastle to hear how the food-on-the-go retailer is investing in communities and is helping to get people back into work.

During the visit, Minister Adams heard from a number of employees at Greggs' HQ about the Fresh Start programme which offers training and work experience to people who are transitioning into work, including care leavers, people who have been unemployed for a long time, or who are leaving the armed services or prison.

The Minister also took the opportunity to promote the government's Places for Growth programme which will benefit Newcastle and the surrounding areas. The ten year programme will move 22,000 roles outside of London by 2030 to other regions in the UK by 2030.

The number of civil servants working at government locations in the north east increased between 2020 – 2021 by 5.7%. The programme has also committed to more than 350 roles being relocated to Tyneside by 2025.

As a prominent business employing more than 25,000 people and operating over 2,200 shops nationwide, Minister Adams heard from the senior leadership team, including Roisin Currie, CEO Designate and Emma Walton, the organisation's People Director, about their ambitious plans to reach 3,000 shops and double Greggs' sales in the next five years – which in turn will help to achieve the governments levelling up agenda by investing in communities and providing thousands of jobs in all regions of the UK.

In November, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced a new core hub office in Newcastle upon Tyne which will enhance and support the close working and co-location between existing Defra staff in Newcastle, and number of arms-length body colleagues.

The Departments for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), DEFRA, Work and Pensions (DWP), Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and HMRC have all made commitments to grow their workforce in Tyneside and the surrounding areas.

Minister Nigel Adams said:

Greggs is an iconic British company that has not forgotten its roots and continues to support and create jobs for local communities throughout the UK.

The government is committed to strong local growth through our Places for Growth strategy. There are more than 16,000 civil

servants already in the Tyneside area from at least 15 government departments, and it's vital that we continue to build a more diverse and inclusive civil service that reflects local communities across the UK.

Roisin Currie, CEO Designate said:

Whilst Greggs is a National business, the sheer 'localness' of our operations means we can have a hugely positive impact on the communities we serve both through offering employment opportunities including to those who need more support through our Fresh Start programme, but also through our longstanding partnership with The Greggs Foundation supporting initiatives such as the Breakfast Club programme.

Our people are what makes our business successful and we pride ourselves on offering them a great place to work. It was good to hear more about the Levelling Up agenda from the Minister, and we are supportive of any positive steps made to further drive equal opportunity for UK communities.

Notes to editors

- Government departments who have a presence in the Tyneside area include Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Department for Work and Pension (DWP), Cabinet Office, Home Office, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), DEFRA and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).
- The government [announced](#) this week that employers businesses hiring former members of the UK armed forces in their first year of civilian employment can save thousands of pounds through National Insurance relief.
- Civil Service Statistics as at 31 March 2021 are available [here](#).

[Boris Becker convicted of bankruptcy offences](#)

Boris Becker [received a prison sentence](#) of 2 years and 6 months at Southwark Crown Court on 29 April 2022 in relation to his bankruptcy offences.

Following a trial at Southwark Crown Court, Boris Franz Becker was convicted of four counts against the Insolvency Act 1986. He will appear for sentencing on 29 April 2022

During proceedings, the court heard that Boris Becker was made bankrupt on 21 June 2017 in the High Court following a petition from Arbuthnot Latham & Co, a private bank.

Boris Becker was legally obliged to disclose all of his assets so that his trustee could distribute available funds to his creditors.

The former tennis player, however, failed to disclose, concealed and removed significant assets from the Official Receiver and his Trustee in Bankruptcy.

Assets concealed included €426,930.90, which was transferred to several third parties, a property in Leiman, Germany, and 75,000 shares in Breaking Data Corp.

Boris Becker's failure to disclose all his assets led to his discharge from bankruptcy being suspended indefinitely. He is also subject to a 12-year Bankruptcy Restriction Undertaking, effective from 17 October 2019.

Chief Executive of the Insolvency Service, Dean Beale, said:

Today's verdict confirms that Boris Becker failed to comply with his legal obligation to declare significant assets in his bankruptcy.

This conviction serves as a clear warning to those who think they can hide their assets and get away with it. You will be found out and prosecuted.

The prosecution was brought by the Insolvency Service on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The charges Boris Becker was convicted on included:

- Removing property totalling close to €427,000 from his bankruptcy estate (count 4)
- Failed to disclose ownership of a property in Leiman in Germany (count 10)
- Concealed a loan of €825,000 from the Bank of Alpinum of Lichtenstein (count 13)
- Ownership of 75,000 shares in Breaking Data Corp (count 14)

Boris Becker remains bankrupt and his [12-year Bankruptcy Restrictions Undertaking](#) remains the subject of public record on the [Individual Insolvency Register](#).

Mark Ford, Finbarr O'Connell and Gilbert Lemon of Smith & Williamson LLP are joint trustees in bankruptcy of Boris Becker's estate.

Bankruptcy restrictions are wide ranging, including informing a lender of your status if you want to borrow more than £500 and you cannot act as a director of a company without the court's permission. Guidance on the main statutory consequences flowing from a [bankruptcy restrictions order or undertaking](#).

[More RAF jets to join NATO air policing mission in Romania](#)

Together with eight Typhoons stationed in Cyprus, this uplift will bring the total number of RAF fighter jets stationed in South-Eastern Europe to 14. The two additional jets are expected to remain in Romania until the end of July.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace made the announcement on a visit to Mihail Kogalniceanu Airbase in Romania alongside Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, where they met Romanian officials and observed UK jets taking part in NATO's Air Policing mission.

The announcement reaffirms the UK's commitment to our bilateral defence relationship with Romania.

The Typhoon jets and Royal Air Force personnel have deployed to Romania to join the long-standing NATO Air Policing mission for the Black Sea region. Operation Biloxi is the British name for the NATO Air Policing mission.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace MP said:

The UK and Romania are steadfast in the defence of our shared values and commitment to NATO's collective security, in the air, at sea, and on land.

Together we are supporting Ukraine in its defence against Putin's illegal invasion and I pay tribute to Romania's generosity providing shelter for the tens of thousands of innocent civilians fleeing this horrific conflict.

Air policing is a purely defensive operation and a permanent NATO mission which began in 1961 during the Cold War. The mission ensures the security and integrity of all NATO Alliance members' airspaces. Airspace is monitored by operations centres and, where it is assessed that an interception is required, NATO aircraft can be scrambled as part of a Quick Reaction Alert. The UK supports Romania by augmenting its own capabilities.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston said:

Our air forces are at the vanguard of NATO's collective security, united in our shared determination to protect our nations.

From the North of Norway to the Black Sea and Mediterranean, aircraft are airborne, alert and ready to defend against any threat to NATO territory or populations.

The Defence Secretary and Chief of the Air Staff were invited to the Op Biloxi Ceremony hosted by the Romanians at the airbase. The ceremony saw jets take part in a scramble exercise and flypast, showcasing NATO's ability to rapidly respond to incursions to Allied airspace.

Ben Wallace and Sir Mike Wigston met with Romanian Defence Minister Vasile Dincu and Chief of the Defence Staff, General Daniel Petrescu. They discussed the defence relationship, regional security and the war in Ukraine, and further strengthening the UK-Romania bilateral relationship.