

PM call with Prime Minister Modi: 27 October 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, this afternoon



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, this afternoon.

Prime Minister Modi conveyed his best wishes on the Prime Minister's appointment on behalf of 1.6 billion Indians.

The Prime Minister said he was a visual representation of the historic links between the UK and India, and intended to build on this relationship to develop ever closer ties between our two countries.

Discussing shared global challenges, the Prime Minister praised Prime Minister Modi's leadership on tackling climate change and the leaders welcomed opportunities to bolster our security, defence and economic partnership.

The Prime Minister hoped the UK and India could continue to make good progress in negotiations to finalise a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement.

The leaders also agreed to work together as two great democracies to strengthen the developing economies of the world, and looked forward to meeting in person at the G20 in Indonesia.

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Record numbers of staff working in the NHS

Press release

Record numbers of staff are working in the NHS, latest provisional data published by NHS Digital shows



- Data also shows record numbers of doctors working in NHS hospitals

There are over 1.2 million full-time equivalent staff working in NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups in England – over 31,000 more people compared to a year ago, up by over 2.5%.

Latest data published by NHS Digital shows that, compared to August 2021, there are also over 3,700 more doctors and over 9,100 more nurses working in the NHS.

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Steve Barclay said:

More healthcare staff means better care for patients, which is why it's fantastic to see a record number of over 1.2 million staff working hard in the NHS.

With over 3,700 more doctors and 9,100 more nurses, we are really putting patients first and NHS England is developing a long term workforce plan so we can continue to recruit and retain more NHS staff.

Thanks to all our doctors, nurses and NHS healthcare staff who work tirelessly to look after us and our loved ones and continue to inspire future generations to join this rewarding career.

The government continues to deliver on its commitment to recruit 50,000 more nurses by 2024, with 29,000 more nurses since September 2019.

Notes to editors:

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UK national statement to the IAEA International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power, 2022

Madam President,

It is a pleasure to be here today. On behalf of His Majesty's Government, the United Kingdom expresses its gratitude to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and Secretary Granholm for hosting this important event.

Madam President, a secure and affordable supply of energy is the foundation of economic growth and prosperity. Without energy security, societies are less resilient and more exposed to sudden shocks affecting global energy markets, as the current crisis demonstrates. Sixty years ago, the United Kingdom was the first nation to harness the reliability of civil nuclear electricity to power our homes and businesses. Earlier this year, we put nuclear power right at the core of our Energy Security Strategy with an ambition to deliver 24 gigawatts of nuclear energy by 2050.

The United Kingdom is committed to nuclear not just because the energy supply which it provides is reliable – it is low-carbon, too. I'm proud of the United Kingdom's leadership of COP26, where we ensured that nuclear energy and its contribution to achieving net zero were front and centre. Next month, at COP27, it will feature again at the UK Pavilion. The United Kingdom applauds the Director General and the IAEA for their role in promoting nuclear energy, and their commitment to championing the vast potential of nuclear technologies.

However, Madam President, it would be wholly wrong to ignore the situation at Europe's largest nuclear power plant. The United Kingdom continues to condemn the Russian Federation's unlawful invasion of Ukraine and its wicked actions against nuclear facilities. This includes the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, where each week we see flagrant disregard for core principles of nuclear safety and security by the Russian occupying forces, threatening the safety of millions. Their illegal and reckless actions include the abuse and mistreatment of the Ukrainian staff working at the site, raising the risk of human error in a potential nuclear incident.

The facts are clear – the only way to ensure the safety and security of

Ukrainian nuclear facilities is for the Russian Federation to end its unprovoked invasion, unconditionally withdrawing all its troops and personnel both from Ukraine's nuclear facilities and its internationally recognised borders.

I commend the bravery and resilience of the Director General, his team, and Ukrainian staff in their efforts to support nuclear safety and security in Ukraine.

We must also recognise, Madam President, that it is absolutely essential for the international community to work together to strengthen our nuclear safety frameworks. The United Kingdom recognises the Agency's global leadership for nuclear energy and remains committed to supporting these efforts.

The United Kingdom will continue to work closely with the IAEA to ensure that the robust and effective standards which underpin the use of nuclear energy and nuclear technologies continue to deliver for all IAEA member states.

A secure and resilient supply of nuclear fuel will also be vital to the successful deployments of new nuclear projects. The United Kingdom is committed to working with likeminded and reliable international partners to ensure the supply of nuclear fuel to enable energy security through nuclear power. To support this, we are investing in our nuclear fuel supply chain, developing our longstanding capability built through many decades of expertise, to support current and future nuclear fuel technologies.

Madam President, for Nuclear Energy to flourish, we must create an environment which allows us to harness its potential. Safety, standards, and security of supply are all of paramount importance. And investment matters, too. Great British Nuclear will be the UK's flagship vehicle for delivering our nuclear energy ambitions. It will work closely with the nuclear industry to help projects through every stage of the development process, enabling a resilient pipeline of new build projects, including megawatt and gigawatt scale reactors.

We must also ensure innovative regulation creates confidence for investors. That it is why, in March this year, the United Kingdom also passed The Nuclear Energy Financing Act. This establishes a new Regulated Asset Base (RAB) funding model as an option to finance small, large, and advanced nuclear projects. This model has successfully supported the development of large-scale infrastructure and we are confident that it will do the same for future nuclear projects.

As we do this, we cannot lose sight of the opportunities that Advanced Nuclear Technologies can offer. From the development of small modular reactors to meet our energy demands, ensuring that they meet the highest standards of safety and security, to pioneering nuclear techniques which promise to solve the most pressing global development challenges such as tackling plastic pollution, the United Kingdom will work with its international partners and the IAEA to make these opportunities a reality. In doing so, we are also exploring opportunities for regulatory harmonization, including through the IAEA's 'Nuclear Harmonisation and Standardisation

Initiative' (NHSI).

However, Madam President, the decision to include nuclear within a nation's energy mix is not just for politicians and industry to take. Public acceptance is crucial and their views **must** be considered. In the United Kingdom, we fully recognise that early engagement with local communities is essential to build public support and inform policy making.

To that end, we are working with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to identify a location for a Geological Disposal Facility for nuclear waste. We have taken a consent-based approach, which requires a willing community to be a partner in the project's development.

And it is the community that will have the final say. This is an integral part of the United Kingdom's commitment to safe, secure and responsible management of radioactive waste.

Finally, Madam President, allow me to me reiterate. We know that the nuclear technologies of today, and indeed those of the future, will help to deliver the secure supply of low-carbon energy that is so vital to our collective interest. The Director General, and the Secretariat can count on the United Kingdom's full and wholehearted support to achieve this vision.

Thank you.

[Research report examines views of assessments during pandemic](#)

News story

Publication today reports students' experiences and perceptions after exams cancellation in 2021.



Research published by Ofqual today reflects the views of students, parents

and school leaders on assessment arrangements during 2021, following the cancellation of exams.

[A series of YouGov surveys](#) commissioned by Ofqual and published today finds the public and stakeholders had less confidence in arrangements for 2021 than in exams.

Just over half (52%) agreed, however, that the arrangements for grading and assessing students in 2021 were as good as they could be in the circumstances. Agreement was highest among parents (59%) and senior school and college leaders (55%), and lowest among students (46%).

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[David TC Davies appointed new Welsh Secretary](#)

Press release

Former Wales Office Junior Minister Mr Davies is appointed Secretary of State for Wales by the Prime Minister.



New Welsh Secretary David TC Davies with the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

David TC Davies has been appointed as the Secretary of State for Wales.

Following his appointment, former Wales Office Minister Mr Davies pledged to work tirelessly on behalf of the people of Wales.

Secretary of State for Wales David TC Davies said:

It's a privilege and an honour to be appointed to the Office of the

Secretary of State for Wales. I would like to thank the Prime Minister for the trust that has been placed in me.

We now have a new Prime Minister and a new Cabinet who are determined to focus on delivering for the people that we serve.

I look forward to working alongside my colleagues in Westminster and with the Welsh Government on the common goal of improving lives and increasing opportunity for all the people of Wales.

Wales and the rest of the UK face significant challenges. I understand that the cost of living and the economic situation are having a significant impact on every single person in the country. My first priority is to help ensure families, businesses and individuals across Wales are helped through this challenging winter.

“Alongside that I will be working on growing the investment that Wales needs to improve prosperity for everyone.

There is huge potential for Wales to contribute to securing the UK’s long term energy needs. Offshore wind, nuclear and renewable energy are all areas where Wales can play a vital role.

I want to work collaboratively to make sure Wales continues to be a strong partner in the United Kingdom and continues to benefit from our place in the Union.

I promise to be a strong advocate for Wales around the Cabinet table, doing all I can to promote the interests of the people of Wales.

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