

First ballot of the 2022 Youth Mobility Scheme for Taiwanese youth

As before, there are a total of 1,000 places available to Taiwanese youth for 2022.

800 places will be allocated in this first ballot in January, while the remaining places will be made available in a second ballot in July 2022. If your application is successful you will be able to live, work and study in the UK for up to 2 years.

How to apply for the ballot

If you would like to be in with the chance to apply for the scheme you should send one email per applicant to: Taiwan.YMS2022@fcdo.gov.uk between midday (12pm) on Monday 17 January 2022 to midday on Wednesday 19 January 2022 (Taiwan time).

The header or subject line of your email must contain your name, date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY) and passport number as shown in your passport.

This must be written in English only.

For example:

WU Janice – 31/03/2000 – Passport123456789

The main body of your email should include the following information, written in English:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Passport Number
- Mobile phone number

The email account will only be open for 48 hours and all emails received within this timeframe will be sent an automated reply confirming receipt.

Once the ballot closes, allocations will be chosen at random by UKVI. If you have been successful a second email will be sent to you by 28 January to confirm acceptance and provide further instructions on how to make an appointment, along with documentary evidence required to apply for your entry clearance.

Please note successful applicants must prepare online applications and online credit card payments no later than 28 February 2022. Failure to submit your payment online by this date will automatically remove your name from the list and your allocation will be retracted. After you have paid online you have 90

days to book your appointment at the Visa Application Centre (VAC) and submit your paperwork for consideration.

If you are a Taiwanese youth living overseas you can also apply following the instructions above, and if you are chosen to apply you will be able to do so in your country/territory of residence. Applications cannot be submitted for the Youth Mobility Scheme in the UK.

If you're unsuccessful you will receive an email within two weeks of the ballot closing and no further action is required. You'll be able to re-apply for the ballot when it reopens in July 2022, if you meet the [eligibility requirements](#).

Further information about the scheme [can be found on gov.uk](#) and any enquiries relating to the application process, online application forms and questions in general should be directed to the [UKVI International Enquiry Line](#).

[New laws to strengthen national security come into effect](#)

The National Security and Investment (NSI) Act – the biggest shake-up of the UK's national security regime for 20 years – has fully commenced today (4 January 2022).

From today, the government will be able to scrutinise and intervene in certain acquisitions made by anyone, including businesses and investors, that could harm the UK's national security, better reflecting the threats we face today.

The government will also be able to impose certain conditions on an acquisition or, if necessary, unwind or block it – although it is expected this will happen rarely and the vast majority of deals will require no intervention and be able to proceed without delay.

The NSI Act will give investors additional certainty and clarity and cement the UK's world-leading reputation as a global champion of free trade and investment as well as an attractive place to invest, with more transparency and more simple, efficient clearance processes for relevant acquisitions.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

The UK is world-renowned as an attractive place to invest but we have always been clear that we will not hesitate to step in where necessary to protect our national security.

The new investment screening process in place from today is simple

and quick, giving investors and firms the certainty they need to do business, and giving everyone in the UK the peace of mind that their security remains our number one priority.

The vast majority of acquisitions will require no intervention and will be able to proceed quickly and with certainty in the knowledge that the government will not revisit a transaction once cleared unless false or misleading information was provided.

The new regime is even more transparent about the types of deals the government could examine, and requires businesses and investors to notify the government of certain acquisitions across 17 sensitive areas of the economy, including Artificial Intelligence and Civil Nuclear.

The government has published [comprehensive guidance](#) to help businesses and investors to understand their obligations under the new rules, including how to assess whether the government must be notified of an acquisition, and what to expect when going through the NSI notification and assessment process.

- On 2 November 2021, the Business Secretary published a [statement setting out the risk factors](#) that he will take into account when making a decision about calling in an acquisition, and the areas of the economy where a call-in is more likely to take place. Businesses and investors can use the statement to assess how likely it is that their acquisition may be called in
- the Act applies to acquisitions made from 12 November 2020, which is the day after the legislation was introduced in Parliament. The government will not re-examine any acquisitions that have already been examined under the Enterprise Act 2002 and current investigations under the Enterprise Act 2002 will continue under the Enterprise Act 2002
- the government has 30 working days to review acquisitions after it has accepted a notification as complete (not after the government has been notified). Find out more about [the review period](#)

[New campaign launch reveals six major health benefits to losing weight](#)

- Over 3 in 5 adults (63% of adult population) are at an increased risk from serious diseases and becoming seriously ill with COVID-19 as a result of being overweight
- The benefits of losing weight brought to life through a unique look inside the body and include preventing up to 12 types of cancers and preventing chronic back pain

A new Better Health marketing campaign has been launched today to help people

prevent risks of developing serious illness and help reduce the risk of being hospitalised with COVID-19.

Better Health is working in partnership with 15 weight management and physical activity partners who are providing both free and discounted offers and the website will also signpost to local weight management support.

From reducing the risk of serious diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and up to 12 types of cancer, to lowering the chances of being hospitalised with COVID-19, the multimedia campaign highlights the serious health conditions which could be prevented by losing excess weight and offers free support and guidance to achieve this goal.

It is estimated that over 3 in 5 adults(1) are at an increased risk from serious diseases as a result of being overweight. Losing just 5% of body weight can seriously reduce the chance of heart disease and could make all the difference in preventing treatable heart conditions(2).

The new campaign highlights six benefits that could have a lasting impact on a person's health by being a healthier weight:

1. Decreased risk of common cancers (colon, liver, pancreas, kidney)
2. Lowered risk of increased blood pressure
3. Reduced risk of heart disease
4. Less risk of developing diabetes
5. Less strain from chronic back & joint pain
6. Decreased risk of being hospitalised or becoming seriously ill with COVID-19

The benefits have been brought to life in a unique way, in a full body x-ray animation providing a window into the body, highlighting six key health risks that can be reduced if excess weight is lost.

GP and TV Doctor, Dr Hillary Jones said:

These six benefits highlight the impact of carrying excess weight, and the range of benefits that can be achieved by reducing your weight. Small changes every day can help you lose weight and feel healthier.

With Better Health, there are a variety of free NHS endorsed apps, resources and online tools to help people introduce simple changes that will help them eat better and get active this new year, including the NHS Weight Loss Plan, Couch to 5K and Active 10 apps.

Public Health Minister Maggie Throup said:

The Better Health campaign returns today, focusing on improving adults' health and helping them get to a healthier weight.

January is a great time of the year for making resolutions and I hope that people can use this as a kick start moment to be more active and eat healthier – especially when losing body weight can have such a positive impact on our health, including reducing the chance of becoming seriously ill with COVID-19.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer and joint lead for the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy said:

The New Year is a great time to make some healthy changes.

The Better Health campaign outlines the health benefits of losing weight and gives people the tools and resources to make small changes to improve their health.

Vanessa Hebditch, Director of Policy at the British Liver Trust said:

Obesity is a public health emergency and urgent action to tackle it is required to reduce the prevalence of fatty liver disease and other serious health conditions.

By 2030, experts predict that non-alcohol related fatty liver disease (NALFD) will become the leading cause of liver disease in the UK. Liver damage develops silently with no signs or symptoms and people often don't realise they have a problem until it is too late. Around one in five of us are already likely to have the early stages of fatty liver disease and many people are unaware that excess weight is a significant risk factor in this.

The British Liver Trust is proud to support the Better Health campaign which will help us all to make better choices when it comes to what we eat and drink as well as encouraging us to become more active.

Dan Howarth, Head of Care at Diabetes UK, said:

There are many factors that can increase your likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes, such as age, family history and ethnicity. But research shows living with obesity is the single greatest risk factor, accounting for about 80-85% of your risk of developing the condition.

The number of people living with obesity is rising and, with an estimated 13.6 million people in the UK at increased risk of type 2 diabetes, it has never been more vital to support those who are working towards a healthier weight. The Better Health campaign is an important part of the work being done to give people that

support, while raising awareness of the benefits of losing weight.

For more information about type 2 diabetes visit diabetes.org.uk.

Dr Aisling McMahon, Executive director: research, innovation and policy at Kidney Research UK, said:

Being overweight or obese can significantly increase the chances of developing type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure both of which are leading causes of kidney disease. In fact, research we funded in partnership with the Medical Research Council has also shown that obesity itself increases the risk of developing kidney disease. With three million people in the UK already living with kidney disease and knowing that levels of obesity are on the increase, this figure could be set to rise rapidly.

Campaigns, like Better Health, are so important to support weight management and healthy lifestyles to protect our kidney health, and there are a number of free resources to get us started.

Better Health has lots of free tips and tools to help people get started if they want to lose weight, eat better or get active; and the site can help you find additional weight loss support. Search 'Better Health'.

Notes to editors:

- The new Better Health full body x-ray animation can be viewed [here](#)
- The six benefits' list has been created based on evidence cited in the Government's Obesity Strategy: "[Tackling Obesity: Empowering adults and children to live healthier lives](#)", alongside NHS and additional sources(3), to provide the public with motivating reasons to eat better and get active in 2022.
- Better Health is working in partnership with 16 weight management and physical activity partners including:
 - Physical Activity: Our Parks, Sport England, Better Leisure Centres, InstructorLive, Anytime Fitness, Pure Gym, Her Spirit
 - Weight Management: Slimming World, GetSlim, MAN v FAT Football, WW – Weight Watchers, Second Nature, Healthier for Life, EFL Trust FIT Fans and Noom Weight
 - Free, local weight management services are provided by most Local Authorities. Visit the Better Health website to find out more

References

1. Health Survey for England 2019
2. NIHR, Being overweight or obese is linked with heart disease even

without other metabolic risk factors,

<https://evidence.nihr.ac.uk/alert/being-overweight-or-obese-is-linked-with-heart-disease-even-without-other-metabolic-risk-factors/>

3. The Obesity Strategy “Tackling Obesity: Empowering adults and children to live healthier lives”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-obesity-government-strategy/tackling-obesity-empowering-adults-and-children-to-live-healthier-lives> NHS/additional sources

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/high-blood-pressure-hypertension/prevention/> Coronary heart disease – Prevention – NHS (www.nhs.uk) Weight loss and diabetes | Diabetes UK What is diabetes remission and how does it work? | Diabetes UK Research spotlight – putting type 2 diabetes into remission | Diabetes UK

<https://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/resources/patient-information/therapies/physiotherapy/low%20back%20pain%20web.pdf>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/back-pain/?src=conditionswidget>

[Hannah Nixon joins Defence's Single Source Regulations Office](#)

News story

New Chair appointed for the SSR0, which provides independent, expert leadership in the regulation of single source defence contracts



The Minister for Defence Procurement, Jeremy Quin, has appointed a new Chair for the Single Source Regulations Office (SSRO), which provides independent, expert leadership in the regulation of single source defence contracts.

Hannah Nixon will assume the post on 3 January 2022. Hannah also holds non-executive director positions at the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), Thames Water, the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO).

Minister for Defence Procurement, Jeremy Quin said:

I am delighted to welcome Hannah Nixon to the SSR0. The SSR0 has a vital role to play working with the MOD and the Defence industry – a role becoming all the more important under the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy.

SSR0 Chief Executive, Neil Swift welcomed the new appointment:

I very much look forward to working with Hannah in her new role as Chair of the SSR0. The SSR0 will benefit from having a Chair with the experience to lead the Board in driving forward our improvement agenda.

Hannah has widespread experience in economics and regulation across a range of industries. She was the first CEO of the Payment Systems Regulator, the economic regulator of the UK's £80 trillion payments industry, responsible for driving competition and innovation in the interests of consumers. Hannah was also a senior partner at Ofgem, where she had responsibility for the networks division. Until recently Hannah was also a NED of the Jersey Competition and Regulatory Authority.

The SSR0 was founded under the Defence Reform Act in 2014. It is the independent statutory regulator of single source defence procurement, issuing statutory guidance, recommending the baseline profit rate and monitoring the application of the regime.

On her appointment, Hannah Nixon said:

I am looking forward to joining the SSR0. This is an important time for the organisation, as it supports the government's drive to deliver value for money in defence procurement whilst ensuring a fair price is paid, enabling an economically strong defence industry in the UK.

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[Testing measures to ensure young](#)

people return to classrooms

All secondary schools have been asked to provide one on-site test for pupils ahead of their return to the classroom this term to help reduce the transmission of Covid-19.

Education staff and college students are being asked to self-test at home before they return, and were sent home with tests ahead of the Christmas break.

Schools and colleges ordered tests before Christmas and have received these in advance of pupils returning, and will continue to be able to order additional tests through a separate supply route. Schools and colleges made test kits available to pupils before the end of term and they will have access to more as needed.

Students returning to university have also been advised to test before they travel back to campus.

Secondary, college and university students and education staff and early years staff should then continue to test themselves twice a week, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so, such as in the event of an outbreak.

12-15 year olds are encouraged to get fully vaccinated (two doses), to ensure they are protected. 16 and 17 year olds are now eligible for boosters and are being strongly encourage to take up this offer when invited to do so, along with university students.

Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi said:

Being in face to face learning is undoubtedly the very best place for children and young people's education and wellbeing, and my priority remains on keeping early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open so that face-to-face education can continue.

As we enter this new term, I want to thank all staff working in education for their continued dedication and resilience. It is through the hard work of all of you that we have ensured, and will continue to ensure pupils and students get the learning that they deserve. We must continue to look forward and not forget how far we have come in our fight against this virus.

The very best way we can continue to protect ourselves and our families is by getting the booster, or second jab if you are aged 12-15 – as soon as possible. I urge anyone who hasn't done this to do so now.

Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said:

We are doing all we can to minimise disruption this virus causes to everyday life, including keeping children in school, and regular testing is a key way to support schools and protect face-to-face teaching.

Vaccines remain our greatest line of defence so I urge all 12-15 year olds who have not come forward yet to get vaccinated, and all teachers to Get Boosted Now to protect yourself and those around you.

Children's Commissioner for England Dame Rachel de Souza DBE said:

Children have told me how much they really value and appreciate school as a place to learn, build friendships and take part in activities that benefit their physical and mental wellbeing.

As Children's Commissioner and having run schools all my life, I'm always excited about the start of a new term and the return to school. I am especially focused on this one, as it is so important schools are open and ready to welcome children.

We are so fortunate to have great teachers and parents who have already done so much to have children back in the classroom, and former teachers happy to volunteer extra support to keep children there. I want our classrooms open and operating because I firmly believe it is where all children belong and want to be. We owe it to them to make sure this happens.

Proportionate safety measures will also remain in schools, colleges and universities to help reduce the transmission of the virus, including increased ventilation and good hygiene, with older students and staff wearing face coverings.

All early years settings, schools, colleges, and universities are advised to continue to follow the latest guidance set out by the department which is kept regularly under review.