

# The Trade Revolution

President Carter created this centre to promote democratic ideals across the world

Its work is practical. It brings people together. It's mission explicitly states that it will value courage to break new ground.

I like that.

The most productive moments of my career, and I am sure yours too, are when we've been a catalyst to those things.

The greatest moments in our national history too are when we have had a relentless focus on making something happen, when we have spanned a divide, built an alliance, and defended what we thought was right.

I'm here in the US – touring state by state, because I want to get some practical things to happen. Because I want to bring people together And because I want to awaken you to an opportunity to do something really profound.

An opportunity that, if we get it right, could make a massive contribution to ending poverty, to quickening the delivery of the SDGs, to strengthening our national security and bringing peace and prosperity.

It is an idea. It could be a revolution.

It is an opportunity born from recent history: the political and constitutional gymnastics that both of our countries have been going through.

It speaks to the core of who we are, and what this institute represents.

In recent years our democracy has been under attack, and through some extremely challenging times. We have tested our institutions, our beliefs and our trust in each other to the limit. There has been disagreement and division in both our countries.

Some might say that is the hallmark of a weakened nation. I say not. Thinking differently and speaking passionately is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign of strength.

In the 2016 EU referendum we started a process that would spark argument, placards, parliamentary turmoil, court cases and two early general elections.

The UK decided that it wished to leave a trading bloc with whom it had been enjoying near frictionless trade in goods for 43 years,

and 4 years after that vote, despite all the difficulties of doing so, we did indeed leave.

The political dramas and negotiations were nothing compared to the massive effort needed from our civil servants to reinvent our border, transpose the statute book and get every business in the land prepared for several eventualities.

What sort of country does that? Why upset the status quo? Why risk upsetting friends and neighbours?

What sort of country strikes out on its own, putting its faith in its own destiny and resourcefulness?

What sort of country risks everything to go alone, to make a vision the reality?

What sort of people believe so much in the individual and the democratic system to risk everything, even at some moments in history to die for it.

What sort of country declares its independence and puts its faith in democracy and capitalism?

What sort of country defends those systems and the values that underpin them against the naysayers and the pessimists?

What sort of country values freedom above all else?

We do. Britain And America.

There's a reason that Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence sit side by side in Washington. It shows that first America followed Britain in reinventing its human rights.

Two hundred years later, Britain has returned the compliment.

We have left a trading group whose regulations inter-operate with others on the basis of harmonization. We have now chosen a different framework; one favoured by the WTO, the CPTPP and the United States. We want the way our regulatory systems inter-operate with others to be based on adequacy and equivalence.

That is a seismic shift. And it requires a paradigm shift in the American response in order to maximise the opportunity for all of us.

It's not every day that a G7 country does that.

Leaves the orbit of the EU to enable it to be closer to others. To be closer to you.

This is a major geo-political event and it calls for an US response that recognises this moment and the opportunity that comes with it.

The UK has made its choice:

To leave a trading bloc that is pushing its regulatory system on the rest of the world.

And gets on the side of the table with those who believe in outcomes-based regulation consistent with our common law.

We've decided: To take back our seats at international fora. To shape the reform agenda To work to rebuild our capacity to do so And to plug ourselves back into the global economy.

That is our choice. Now America has a choice to make. How will you respond?

Brexit is not an event to be mourned by the international community. Or an act of self-harm or one that requires us to be punished.

It is a massive opportunity to anyone who believes in democracy and the power of trade as a force for good in the world.

There is a global battle between two competing versions of capitalism.

One which is checked by democracy and organised by competition, wide-eyed to the limits for the state, and has the progress of all humanity as its polaris.

And another a state-led version, where government distortion to seek specific ends is the chosen course. The UK is firmly on the side of the former – competition-based capitalism – in case you were in any doubt, and we would argue that trading superpowers, have a special responsibility to practice free trade and fair trade to support the multilateral trading system. Because peace and prosperity don't happen by accident. They take work. We want our economies to grow. We want to lift all boats. It is critical that we do so as the spectre of inflation once again threatens to destroy hard-won gains. And when we view the huge challenges facing us all – whether that be from debt, a backlog of demand in public services, massively disrupted global supply chains and more. In the UK we are building a new trade policy that recognises this. Our leaving the EU should be viewed by any nation who shares those views as reinforcements arriving over the hill. As set out in the UK Government's Integrated Review of security, defence, development and foreign policy, we believe our vision of free and fair trade is best for humanity.

We will work to tackle the systematic use of market-distorting practices, such as harmful state subsidies and more other pernicious government interventions which damage competition.

We will ensure that our domestic policy supports UK businesses to compete fairly and on merit... here divergence is a "national necessity" to quote the UK's chief negotiator with the EU, Lord Frost. But this is not divergence for the sake of it, or just because we can. It is because we want to leave behind the anti-competitive and protectionist regulation of the EU, and cooperate with our trading partners on the basis that it is not for us to dictate how others regulate as long as our overall goals are the same. This regulatory competition is vital to create wealth and growth. In the UK we are liberalising the growth areas of the future to open them up to greater innovation. Data reform, gene editing, transport, medicine, AI and more We are reducing bureaucracy from state aid to procurement And conducting a

systematic review of retained EU law We are reviewing our domestic agriculture regime and our immigration system. and devising the best border in the world by 2025, with a chain of freeports around the UK. We will continue to push for reform and modernisation at the WTO. And we will stand with our allies to tackle unfair trade practices that threaten the livelihoods of our citizens, harm our businesses and erode trust in the functioning of the global trading system. The UK is also one of the few countries that is discussing or negotiating simultaneously with all the key players. It has therefore made itself a player on the global chessboard, and the US needs to understand and recognise the UK's new position.

This is far more significant than just the size of its market – when America set itself free, it was a small economy.

It is my hope that our move will act as a catalyst of greater trade liberalisation around the world.

Driven by democracy and freedom, With fairness, free markets and competition under-pinning everything that we do.

In these efforts we have many partners and allies. We are deepening those partnerships, with trade at the heart of our engagement. But perhaps the most critical partner for us is the US. For the US to wait to seize this opportunity would be to all our detriment, but also to its own. It is in its own interest to step up its trade policy and negotiations... It is vital to every agenda – domestic and foreign – that the US holds dear. You want to level up and regenerate communities? You need to increase opportunities for business and attract investment. Want the prospect of a best in class deal on agriculture? Think you will get that from the EU? You want higher paid jobs, then you need to let competition and innovation thrive. You want to strengthen your national security? Then you need to protect vital infrastructure, access to materials and products. You want a balance to China, then you need to increase growth, your role in creating prosperity and your relevance in the Indo pacific. You want to “defend against authoritarianism, fight corruption and promote respect for human rights.’ Then place trade at the centre of all you do. You want to protect the environment and give your population access to the latest science and medicine, then you need to enable smart people to collaborate, and what they’ve invented to be taken up fast. You want secure supply chains and cyber space, then focus on modernising trade. You want to make poverty history? No other activity has done more to achieve that in the history of mankind, than trade.

If you want democracy and capitalism to thrive and for your young people and that they continue to believe in those systems, you need to ensure they work for them. As our Prime Minister said at the Summit for Democracies last week, alongside security, trade and economic partnerships are central to strengthening democracy and standing up for our values. Trade must be at the heart of our domestic, economic and our international security policy. A focus on trade cannot wait until you’ve done the other stuff.

Imagine an invigorated shared vision for trade, building on the Atlantic

Charter, on AUKUS, on our shared ideals for the Indo Pacific. How powerful that would be. Imagine if we had developed that vision enough by 2023, by the time Japan has the presidency of the G7, India the G20, and while there is an Australian secretary general of the OECD. What an opportunity that would be.

We don't need a new gadget in our diplomatic toolbag, we need to dust off an old one.

The UK will work hard on this agenda. We will bring to life our words in the Atlantic charter and maximise the potential of AUKUS. That is why I am here for such an extended period of time. Travelling state by state, speaking not just to senators, congressmen, governors, agriculture commissioners and trade secretaries, but to mayors, Councilmen, businesses, social enterprise, philanthropists and trade bodies. We want to understand how we can get a real step-change in trade relations, and to increase trade between the UK and every corner of the US. We are seeking out ways to unlock barriers for businesses at state level.

Finding new areas of cooperation and swiftly delivering new partnerships.

Our newfound freedom means we can now build formal links with States through Memoranda of Understanding – to create a shift in trade relationships, and we are exploring these wherever we go.

We now have several discussions underway, about Liberalising regulations and increasing partnerships in key growth areas

And cutting bureaucracy and increasing flexibility in the core areas of economic trade between our countries

We can make progress on regulator-to-regulator discussions, removing barriers and where it helps create mutual recognition of qualifications.

Professional Business Services make up one of the largest sectors of both the UK and US economies.

Existing regulations make it incredibly difficult and expensive to switch between countries, or even states.

That is why the UK is exploring where we can reduce the time and costs of delivering these services.

This is not a replacement of an ambitious and future-facing trade deal between the UK and the US, but a complementary and helpful step to making sure we can take full advantage of existing and future opportunities.

On our travels we have had a great reception.

Politicians might not like change, but entrepreneurs love it!

And the questions they have asked of us have been as much about the global good that can be derived, as about their own firms and community.

Already responsive to the social, environmental and the ethical concerns of customers, investors and employees, businesses are taking their responsibilities to tackle harms and address poverty seriously.

They are the greatest agents of change we have in the world. More capable and responsive than any government.

By unlocking markets for good businesses we lessen the likelihood of failed states, for hot beds of dangerous ideologies, sources of illegal migration and cross border crime.

The expertise in our service sector – banking, law, fintech, IP, and more can assist developing nations to improve the ease of doing business and security for prospective investors and entrepreneurs in emerging markets.

In turn, creating jobs and tax revenue to fund health and education.

And science, construction and advanced manufacturing sectors can help tackle some of the environmental challenges our planet faces and deliver on the worlds ambitions stated at COP 26.

The people I've been speaking to in my tour understand that trade policy is not just about FTAs, but also about a shared mission to deliver liberalisation, competition and property rights protection to the greatest number people on earth.

Everyone we speak to

In the North, south, east, or west Democrat or Republican Producer or consumer Local or federal Private, public, or philanthropic.

Feels that mission deeply. It is who you are, America.

It is who we are too.

I believe passionately that the world is a safer, better place when Britain and America work together for common goals around the world.

We have a shared cultural DNA- Wealth creation Open trading systems Competition on merit Protection of property rights Delivered in the framework of a common law tradition we share.

Our partnership has already delivered much to our people on both sides of the Atlantic and across the globe.

Our security partnership has kept the world safe for over 100 years.

But with an unshackled UK, we can take yet more ambitious steps in putting trade at the heart of our relationship and in shared global challenges.

As President Biden said, "in the competition against China and other nations in the 21st century, let's show that American democracy and the American people can truly outcompete anyone."

I'm just at the start of the tour around the US, but I know this much.

The President is right.

and what he says applies to us Brits too.

We have the most entrepreneurial freedom loving people.

We can do anything.

And much depends on us having the chance to.

We have made our move.

We have made ourselves a player on the global chessboard and presented you with an unprecedented opportunity.

Let future generations of Americans not say

in the moment of choosing you failed to grasp that opportunity.

Too many people in the world, many of whom are voiceless, are relying on us both to make the right choice.

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## [Extra 100 Armed Forces personnel to support Scotland's vaccine rollout](#)

An additional 100 Armed Forces personnel have been made available from today (14 December) to accelerate the vaccine rollout in Scotland amid a wave of Omicron infections, bringing the total number of personnel supporting this effort to 221. Further support from the UK Government including Defence is on standby should it be requested or required.

121 personnel have been supporting the vaccine programme across Scotland since early October, and the boosted cohort of personnel are expected to be on task until the end of February 2022.

Alongside supporting the accelerated vaccine programme, 114 Armed Forces personnel are driving ambulances in support of the Scottish Ambulance service. As of today, this support will be extended until the end of March, with 96 personnel remaining on task to provide this life saving service.

### **Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:**

Our Armed Forces continue to tirelessly support the Covid-19 vaccination programme in Scotland to give people and communities

vital protection against this virus.

This uplift in support will help to get more vaccines into arms faster, working shoulder to shoulder with the dedicated health services.

The 221 personnel supporting the vaccine programme includes health care professionals and general duties personnel who will be working in support of NHS Scotland staff and volunteers, administering vaccines and providing planning expertise.

Personnel on task come from units across the three services – Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force. Some of those deploying have been active on other tasks in Scotland since the pandemic began including community testing.

**Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack said:**

Once again our fantastic British Armed Forces are stepping up in times of need to help tackle Covid-19 in Scotland and across the UK and I pay tribute to them.

The deployment of a further 100 personnel will make a significant contribution to getting people vaccinated in Scotland. As the festive season approaches, when we want to spend time with loved ones, it's more important than ever to be protected. I urge everyone to book their jabs as soon as they are eligible.

There are now 398 personnel available to support on Operation Rescript tasks in Scotland, the operational name given to Defence's work to support the pandemic response across the UK. This includes around 60 personnel supporting NHS Lanarkshire hospitals.

Support is being provided through the Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) process. Since March 2020, Defence have responded to over 430 MACA requests across the UK.

**Brigadier Ben Wrench, Commander Joint Military Command Scotland said:**

Whether it be responding to the impacts of storms or national health crises, the members of our Armed Forces are always prepared to deploy at short notice to support the nation and our communities.

I commend the dedication of all those serving and supporting this effort, many of whom will find themselves away from their families and loved ones this Christmas and Hogmanay.



The Armed Forces stand ready to step up and support civil authorities, devolved nations and communities as required in the coming months where the requests meet the MACA principles.

Recently, Defence deployed 134 personnel at short notice to support Aberdeenshire Council conduct welfare checks on vulnerable people and isolated communities impacted by Storm Arwen.

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## 15-minute observation period after vaccine temporarily suspended to speed up booster rollout

- Temporary suspension of short observation period for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines
- Advice from four UK Chief Medical Officers includes first, second and booster jabs and will be kept under review
- The risk of a serious allergic reaction after vaccination with the mRNA vaccines is low – around 1 report per 100,000 vaccine doses

The 15 minute observation period following a vaccination with Pfizer or Moderna will be temporarily suspended as part of new measures to speed up the booster rollout as part of our emergency response to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

Following advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers and the independent regulator Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's Commission on Human Medicines, the government has agreed to implement the temporary measure to help accelerate the rollout of vaccinations as quickly as possible.

The temporary suspension is being made on the basis of clinical advice that maintaining the 15 minute rule would cause more harm than it can avert because removing it will significantly increase the number of people who can be vaccinated over a short period of time.

Each devolved administration will determine how operationally the advice recommending the suspension will be implemented when safe and appropriate to do so.

The risk of a serious allergic reaction after vaccination with the mRNA vaccines is low – around 1 report per 100,000 vaccine doses – and we now have much more experience with giving these vaccines to millions of people. People are not normally observed for 15 minutes after other vaccinations.

MHRA Chief Executive, Dr June Raine said:

In light of the rapid spread of the new Omicron variant and the proven effectiveness of booster doses against Omicron, the 15-minute observation period following mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) can be waived during the emergency response to the Omicron variant. This advice includes first and second vaccine doses as well as boosters.

The 15-minute observation period after vaccination will remain in place for the small number of people who may have previously suffered anaphylaxis or other allergic reactions to a food, insect sting and most medicines or vaccines.

Anaphylaxis and other severe allergic reactions are very rare side effects with the COVID-19 vaccines. During this time when the Omicron variant is spreading rapidly, the benefits of vaccinating as many people as possible, which will be gained from waiving the 15-minute wait, far outweigh the very small risks of anaphylaxis.

We are continuing to closely monitor both UK and international data and would ask anyone who suspects they have experienced a side effect linked with their COVID-19 vaccine to report it to the Coronavirus Yellow Card website. Anyone who experiences symptoms of an allergic reaction such as difficulty breathing, rapid heartbeat or faintness should seek urgent medical attention

Chair of Commission on Human Medicines, Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed said:

The decision to temporarily waive the post mRNA observation period in specific circumstances comes after the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) considered and reviewed the available Yellow Card data on anaphylaxis after the primary course and after boosters. The data show that anaphylaxis and other severe allergic reactions are an extremely rare side effect with the COVID-19 vaccine.

Swift action is needed to tackle the rapid increase in cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 and the increasing risk to the public and healthcare services.

This temporary measure will assist in the major task of vaccinating the nation ahead of the end of the year.

We would encourage all individuals who have not yet had their first, second or third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to please come forward as soon as they are able to.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at the UKHSA, said:

With Omicron growing at such a fast rate, and with early data suggesting two doses of the vaccine is not enough to protect

against symptomatic infection, it is vital we do everything we can to get more jabs in more arms as quickly as possible.

The removal of the 15-minute wait, as agreed by the CHM, will help streamline the process at vaccine centres, and we have updated our guidance to facilitate this.

Nikki Kanani, GP and deputy for the NHS vaccination programme, said:

The updated CMO advice to temporarily suspend the 15 minute wait – where safe and appropriate – will be particularly helpful for smaller vaccination sites, helping get more people protected as quickly as possible.

As part of the national mission to protect the public against the new Omicron variant, the NHS has set out action to accelerate its COVID-19 booster programme with more pop up vaccination centres planned and extended opening hours.

Those who have a history of allergies, particularly to other vaccines, or have had an immediate reaction after a previous doses may be advised to stay for the 15 minutes. People are advised to tell the vaccine centre if that is the case and to tell them if they have previously fainted following vaccination.

The UK Health Security Agency has updated the Green Book to reflect the change from today [Tuesday December 14]. The updated Patient Group Direction and Protocol will be published shortly.

The change will be able to be implemented following the Green Book update at sites such as hospitals and GP practices and for housebound visits and the NHS will implement the guidance as soon as possible to wider vaccination sites once necessary clinical guidance is in place.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- [Link to four UK CMO's statement](#)
- The need for the suspension will be kept under review by the Commission of Human Medicines, the MHRA and the JCVI based on the need of urgency for the vaccination and booster programme and monitoring of anaphylaxis reports.
- Instead of waiting for 15 minutes after their vaccine, anyone coming forward for the jab is now asked to adhere to the following guidance:
  - Avoid leaving the centre if you feel unwell
  - Let the centre know if you have a history of allergies
  - Do not drive for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine
  - If you are vaccinated at home, you may need to arrange to have someone with you
  - Make sure the person you are with has a 'phone available
  - If you get tingling or throat tightness, get person you are with to

dial 999 or call for help if you are near the vaccine centre

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## Second State Pension Age Review Launches



The review will consider whether the rules around pensionable age are appropriate, based on the latest life expectancy data and other evidence.

The Pensions Act 2014 requires government to regularly review State Pension age, and in accordance with law, this latest Review must be published by 7 May 2023.

State Pension age is currently 66 and two further increases are currently set out in legislation: a gradual rise to 67 for those born on or after April 1960; and a gradual rise to 68 between 2044 and 2046 for those born on or after April 1977. The first Review of State Pension age was undertaken in 2017 and concluded that the next Review should consider whether the increase to age 68 should be brought forward to 2037-39 before tabling any changes to legislation.

As the number of people over State Pension age increases, due to a growing population and people on average living longer, the government needs to make sure that decisions on how to manage its costs are, robust, fair and transparent for taxpayers now and in the future. It must also ensure that as the population becomes older, the State Pension continues to provide the foundation for retirement planning and financial security.

Therefore, this review will consider a wide range of evidence, for example, it will:

- examine the implications of the latest life expectancy data
- provide a balanced assessment of the costs of an ageing population and future State Pension expenditure
- consider labour market changes and people's ability and opportunities to work over State Pension age
- and develop options for setting the legislative timetable for State

Pension age that are transparent and fair

## Further information

As set out in the 2014 Act, the Secretary of State is commissioning two independent reports to contribute to the evidence considered during this review: a report from the Government Actuary and a report on other factors.

- The Government Actuary will provide a report which must assess the age of entitlement in legislation by analysing the latest life expectancy projections;
- The report on other relevant factors will consider recent trends in life expectancy and the range of metrics we could use when setting State Pension age. This is to ensure the way we set State Pension age is robust, transparent and provides fairness to both taxpayers and pensioners. This report will be led by Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE., CMG. The Terms of Reference for this report can be found [here](#).

The UK Government agreed during the passage of the Pensions Act 2014 that the State Pension age Review would consider evidence from across the UK. The review will therefore consider differences across countries and regions, including Northern Ireland; it will also consider the effects for individuals with different characteristics and opportunities, including those at risk of disadvantage.

Media enquiries for this press release – 0115 965 8781

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Published 14 December 2021

Last updated 7 January 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 7 January 2022

Terms of Reference for the report have been added.

2. 14 December 2021

First published.

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## [High Commissioner's Oral Update on Nicaragua: UK statement](#)

World news story

The UK delivered this statement following the High Commissioner's oral update

on Nicaragua pursuant to the resolution adopted at the Human Rights Council.



Thank you Mr President,

The UK welcomes the update from the High Commissioner.

The elections on 7 November were neither free nor fair. The steps taken by President Ortega and Vice President Murillo to prevent free and fair elections in Nicaragua were a clear abuse of power involving systematic violations of human rights. Steps taken by the regime to silence opposition leaders denied Nicaraguans their right to vote for a candidate of their choosing. With opposition figures detained, including potential presidential candidates, and a crackdown on fundamental rights and freedoms, November's elections lacked any credibility.

Following the 7 November elections, the UK imposed sanctions against 8 senior Nicaraguan individuals, including the country's Vice-President. These entail travel bans and asset freezes on those people particularly responsible for undermining Nicaragua's democratic principles and institutions, commissioning serious human rights violations and repressing civil society.

This increasing authoritarianism must end. The rule of law and the fundamental rights of the Nicaraguan people must be respected. The UK will continue to work with its partners to encourage and support a peaceful and democratic future for Nicaragua.

The statement delivered earlier by Chile on behalf of 54 countries called on the Nicaraguan government to: release all political prisoners; end arbitrary detentions and the repression of independent media; allow the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to return and to cooperate fully with the UN system; to establish a meaningful, inclusive and transparent national dialogue; and to fulfil its obligations under international law. We support all of these calls.

Thank you.

Published 14 December 2021