

[Achieve and Talis report and safety flyer published](#)

News story

Collision in fog between a fishing vessel and cargo ship off Tynemouth, England.

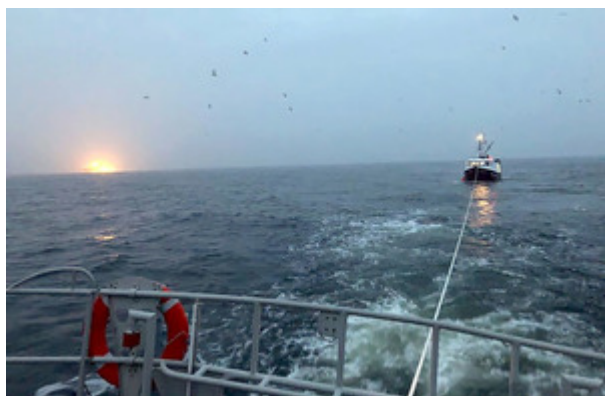


Image courtesy of RNLi (Tynemouth)

Our accident investigation report into the collision between the UK registered fishing vessel Achieve and the Panama registered general cargo vessel Talis, resulting in the sinking of Achieve while being towed back to port on 8 November 2020, is now published.

The report contains details of what happened, subsequent actions taken and recommendations: [read more](#).

A [safety flyer](#) to the fishing industry summarising the accident and detailing the safety lessons learned, has also been produced.

Published 3 December 2021

[Minister calls for at risk groups to get booster jabs](#)

The final [report](#) into Covid-19 disparities sets out how Government research identified the key virus risk factors – such as occupation, household size

and wider living circumstances – for specific groups and used that data to provide targeted, evidence-based guidance and advice on how to reduce the risk of infection.

- Final report on understanding and tackling COVID-19 disparities is published.
- Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch MP, calls for everyone to get every jab they need, to protect themselves and others, especially those at greater risk.
- All recommendations from key report accepted by Government and findings will continue to inform the ongoing response to the pandemic and future public health campaigns.

The Government's evidence-based strategy evolved as the virus did – from preventing infection and protecting frontline workers, to guidance on safety at work and in multigenerational homes, to the vaccine deployment and tackling disinformation.

The research was also used to inform the rollout of the world-leading vaccine deployment programme in those communities, with a range of measures used to increase vaccine confidence and tackle misinformation. Following concerted action by Government to encourage ethnic minority people to take the vaccine, 96% of all British adults, across all ethnic groups, were positive about it, and vaccine uptake and confidence has increased across all ethnic groups since the beginning of the year.

All recommendations in today's report, such as addressing specific ethnic minority groups, rather than referring to 'BAME', and applying lessons from the COVID-19 vaccination deployment to future programmes, have been accepted by the Government.

Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch MP, said:

"Our understanding of how Covid-19 affects different ethnic groups has transformed since the pandemic began.

"We know now that factors like the job someone does, where they live, and how many people they live with, impacts how susceptible they are to the virus and it's imperative that those more at risk get their booster vaccine or their first and second dose if they are yet to have them. These insights from the award-winning Race Disparity Unit have informed every action we have taken to tackle disparities, not least through our history-making vaccination campaign.

"This work is not over. We still need everyone to get vaccinated to protect ourselves, our families, and our society. By accepting the recommendations of my reports, the Government has committed to learning and applying important lessons from this pandemic across public health to ensure everyone, of every background lives a longer, healthier and happier life."

Minister for Vaccines and Public Health Minister for Vaccines and Public Health, Maggie Throup said:

“We know that COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on ethnic minorities and this report helps us further understand the reasons why.

“The vaccine is our best defence against this virus and our phenomenal vaccine campaign has saved thousands of lives. You can still get your first vaccine, second dose and if eligible, the booster jab to secure vital protection for yourself and your loved ones.”

Professor Sir Ian Diamond said:

“The Race Disparity Unit won the ONS Research in Excellence award for their innovative work into the disproportionate impact of Covid on ethnic minority groups. This superb work has demonstrated how research can be used to tackle inequalities in our society, and the powerful role that analysis can have in informing decisions.”

Professor Kevin Fenton, London Regional Director for the Office of Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID), said:

“The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have been acutely felt in our ethnic minority communities. However, we are now in a very different place, armed with the knowledge and understanding about why and how Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities have been disproportionately affected, and what steps need to be taken to address these disparities in risks and outcomes.

“Health disparities are not new but they can be reduced. As we have passed through different waves of the pandemic, we have seen repeatedly that working with communities, rebuilding trust and confidence in services, tackling vaccine hesitancy, and addressing myths and misinformation head on, all help reduce the devastating impact of the virus.

“Today, the vaccine remains the most effective measure to protect ourselves and our loved ones from the risks of COVID-19. Vaccine hesitancy is reducing, confidence and uptake are increasing across all communities. I urge everyone to get fully vaccinated – this includes getting your first, second dose and booster doses. Vaccines are safe, effective and save lives.”

Dr Raghiv Ali, Senior Clinical Research Associate, University of Cambridge; Consultant Acute Medicine, Oxford University Hospitals; Associate Professor NYU, said:

“In the first two waves, the higher death rate seen in ethnic minorities was primarily due to their higher risk of infection compared to Whites – particularly in older age groups. In the third wave, however we are seeing lower infection rates in ethnic minorities than in White people, but rates of hospital admissions and deaths are still higher with the pattern now matching levels of vaccine uptake in higher risk groups. Although vaccine uptake in all ethnic minorities has increased very significantly over the last year, the proportion unvaccinated is twice as high in South Asian people and four times as high in Black people.

“This is another reminder that the vaccines are the best way to protect yourselves and your elderly relatives – especially if you live in a multi-

generational household – and it is never too late to come and take your first dose. The booster doses are also really important to maximise your protection and reduce your risk as the immunity is now waning.”

Further information:

Anyone eligible and currently unvaccinated is encouraged to visit the NHS website to book an appointment or find their nearest walk-in centre.

Other significant initiatives to promote vaccine uptake and tackle misinformation include:

- An extensive communications campaign, which included the government working with over 90 faith and healthcare provider networks, influencers and experts from a range of communities, and the media – including 50 ethnic minority titles, 43 ethnic minority TV channels, and 14 community radio stations. Alongside this the cross-government Counter Disinformation Unit has acted swiftly to tackle dis- and misinformation, and DCMS launched a campaign to tackle the spread of false information about the vaccine.
- Allocating over £7 million of funding to local sustainability and transformation partnerships to support and enable locally led community engagement in all areas with health disparities.
- Working with faith leaders to promote vaccine uptake, including setting up vaccination centres in around 50 places of worship and using many more as pop-up venues.
- Bespoke programmes to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence in Black African, Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi and other groups, working with religious leaders, other trusted community voices and ethnic minority healthcare workers.
- Initiatives targeting religious events such as Easter, Ramadan and Passover to share safety recommendations.
- Supporting and advocating the use of mobile and community vaccine pop-ups to increase access to underserved communities, culminating in the launch of the national ‘Grab-A-Jab’ programme from July.
- Use of vaccination buses that travelled to specific locations, agreed through partnerships with the community, to support increased confidence and outreach, such as the bus in Crawley used to drive uptake in the Hindu community.
- A number of measures to improve uptake among ethnic minority healthcare professionals including webinars and question and answer sessions with ethnic minority medics and disseminating guidance on issues such as vaccine ingredients, which were an initial concern for Muslim and ultra-orthodox Jewish staff.
- Producing a video with the Chief Midwifery Office, Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, and midwives around the country to address worries regarding pregnancy and infertility.
- Creating a national bank of general resources that can be used at a local level (such as translated materials and multimedia) via a Vaccine Equalities Connect and Exchange Hub hosted on the FutureNHS Collaboration Platform. The Hub already has over 2,000 members across the country and information is being shared via initiatives such as

lunch and learn sessions on topical areas of interest.

This report makes the following recommendations, which the Prime Minister has accepted in full:

- The government and health agencies must build on the success of the COVID-19 vaccination deployment programme in reaching ethnic minority groups and apply this to future vaccination programmes, including COVID-19 booster vaccinations, winter flu vaccination and childhood immunisation programmes.
- In order to reassure ethnic minority groups and encourage uptake, the government must ensure there is clarity in the communications about the need for COVID-19 boosters and the longer-term plan for COVID-19 vaccination.
- To reassure pregnant women that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe, the government should continue to deliver clear messaging through trusted voices and via social media.
- Government departments, their agencies and the NHS must continue to build trust in health services within ethnic minority groups through optimising and building on the local partnerships and networks established under the vaccination programme.
- The successful elements of the vaccination programme must also be applied to the work to tackle longer-standing health disparities. This must be a priority for the new Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and its partners.
- To build confidence in future vaccination schemes and other health interventions, the National Institute for Health Research and the NHS Race and Health Observatory should seek to increase ethnic minority participation in clinical trials and research through methods such as promoting the INCLUDE Ethnicity Framework.
- The government should continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 by ethnicity as the virus evolves. This may include: measuring survival analysis over time monitoring vaccine uptake among 16 to 18 year olds and 12 to 15 year olds and uptake of the booster vaccine The findings and recommendations from this series of reports should be applied to the government's response to future COVID-19 variants.
- DHSC should continue to consider the set of interdependent UISPC recommendations proposed by NHS England to improve the quality of ethnicity data coding, and should outline responsibilities to relevant leads.
- ONS should collaborate with the other relevant health departments and consider how linking health and Census data could be improved and extended to facilitate more reliable, timely and detailed estimates of ethnic health disparities on a regular basis.
- Relevant health departments and agencies should review and action existing requests for health data, and undertake an independent strategic review of the dissemination of healthcare data and the publication of statistics and analysis.□□
- NHS Digital should include the proportion of records coded as not known, not stated, an 'other' group and 'any other ethnic group' in the NHS Data Quality Maturity Index.

- RDU will discuss ways to improve guidance and signposting for health statistics with the English Health Statistics Steering Group.
- A Programme Board, involving representatives of the user community and other relevant stakeholders (including the devolved administrations), should oversee implementation of these priorities and should publish regular reports of progress.
- The government and health agencies must implement the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 insights work and in particular:
- Address specific ethnic minority groups rather than a homogenous group (through for example use of the term 'BAME') and
- Ensure that public health communications do not stigmatise ethnic minorities when explaining that they may be more vulnerable or at higher risk
- The government should carry out a review of language and terminology around ethnicity to understand how to target messaging without stigmatising any particular group.
- The government should use the COVID-19 experience of reaching ethnic minority groups for future public health campaigns. This should include activities to:
- Develop and provide materials in multiple languages and formats, including BSL, easy read and audible formats, to ensure content addresses any difficulties to reach diverse audiences
- Build on community partnerships and work closely with local networks to improve understanding and gain insight into the audience
- Utilise community partners to co-create content and tailor communications that resonate with key audiences
- Communicate key messages through community partners and specialist media and digital channels, using trusted voices to land messaging where necessary

[Surveillance Camera Code of Practice amendments laid in Parliament](#)

News story

An updated Surveillance Camera Code was laid before Parliament on 16 November 2021.



An updated Surveillance Camera Code was laid before Parliament on 16 November 2021 pursuant to Section 31(3) of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. Subject to receiving parliamentary approval, the updated code is due to come into effect on 12 January 2022. You can [view the amended code and related documents](#).

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[Invitation to Tender – Research on Women’s Economic Empowerment in Japan](#)



The British Embassy, Tokyo, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office (FCDO) is looking to appoint an organisation to undertake research on Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) in line with the United Kingdom government’s commitment to UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Chapter 21 “Trade and Women’s Economic Empowerment” and the United Kingdom government’s future commitment to Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Article 23.4 “Women and Economic Growth”.

This project will build on the commitments made by the UK and Japan in the G7 and in CEPA, including preparatory work for the CEPA WEE working group, and support the commitments the UK will be making in regard to WEE under CPTPP: the UK Government is currently in the accession process to CPTPP. The report will provide a strong evidence base for current Women’s Economic Empowerment

work being done in Japan and an indication of the key players to engage to secure further progress. The output of this research should help the UK Government understand, in theoretical and practical terms, the challenges and opportunities related to economic gender inequality in Japan, to allow the UK to share appropriate best practice and lessons learnt and identify areas for collaboration or advocacy.

Please find [ITT Notice document](#) (PDF, 734 KB, 1 page) for further information.

Published 3 December 2021

Last updated 14 December 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 14 December 2021

The deadline has been extended.

2. 3 December 2021

First published.

[Government sets out plans to clean up the UK's supply chains to help protect forests](#)

Plans to clean up the UK's supply chains to tackle illegal deforestation were stepped up today (3 December) as the government launched a [consultation](#) on how to implement new measures in the Environment Act.

Demonstrating the UK's commitment to go further than ever before to clamp down on illegal deforestation, the consultation will help shape plans requiring due diligence from businesses to ensure they are using commodities produced in line with relevant local laws.

The measures will make it illegal for larger businesses in the UK to use commodities whose production is associated with large-scale forest loss such as cocoa, beef, soy, coffee, maize and palm oil, where they have not been produced in line with relevant local laws.

Businesses will be also required to undertake due diligence to show that they have taken action to ensure this is the case, and report on this annually.

Launching the consultation, International Environment Minister, Lord

Goldsmith, said:

Our forests not only have a vital role in cooling the planet, they are a source of clean air and water, home to indigenous communities and some of the most precious biodiversity on Earth – protecting them is essential to our survival.

Now the Environment Act has passed into law, we have the opportunity to shape these due diligence measures so we are effectively tackling key drivers of deforestation. Alongside introducing these world leading measures, we intend to ensure the global coalition that we brought together last month under the UK presidency at COP26 to commit to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 becomes reality.

Forests absorb up to one-third of the global CO₂ released from burning fossil fuels every year, but we are losing them at an alarming rate. Between 2015-20 an area of forest the size of 27 football pitches was lost every minute – with almost three quarters of deforestation linked to the expansion of agriculture, with land being cleared to make way for grazing animals and to grow crops.

Globally, nearly half of all recent tropical deforestation was the result of illegal clearance for commercial agriculture and timber plantations, and this figure is closer to 90% in some key forests. It is therefore vital to work with producer countries and support their efforts to uphold their laws and protect their forests. The UK, working with 28 producer and consumer governments which account for 75% of global trade of key commodities, has developed a shared roadmap of actions to protect forests and other ecosystems while promoting sustainable development and trade dialogue. This FACT (Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade) Roadmap also launched at COP26 was backed up by £500m of UK finance to aid delivery.

Justin Adams, Executive Director, Tropical Forest Alliance, said:

The UK COP Presidency deserves credit for bringing the nature agenda into the heart of the recent climate negotiations at COP26 – there is simply no path to 1.5 degrees without changing how we produce food and manage our landscapes. While there were many truly significant public and private sector commitments and investments announced in Glasgow, the real test is turning those into action. The Due Diligence requirements in the landmark Environment Act is a good example of how these political signals can be implemented in the right way. The key lesson we have learnt from tackling deforestation over the last decade is that no single actor can do it alone – collective action and partnership are key to success. Seeking input from producers, other consumer countries, and the companies who are working to address deforestation in their supply chains will be crucial.

The consultation will seek views on:

- Which forest risk commodities should be brought under initial regulations
- Which businesses should be in scope of the regulations
- How businesses should conduct due diligence exercises to identify, assess and mitigate risk; and what information should be included in their annual reports:
- What elements of business reports should be made public
- How the enforcement authority will monitor and ensure compliance with regulations.

Today's announcement follows the UK's hosting of COP26, which saw commitments from over 141 global leaders to work collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

It forms part of a package of measures to ensure that greater resilience, traceability and sustainability are built into the UK's supply chains and contribute to global efforts to protect forests and other ecosystems.

Secondary legislation is needed to implement the Environment Act regulations, which will then make it illegal for larger UK companies to use designated key forest risk commodities if they have not been produced in line with relevant local laws, and require due diligence on company supply chains to ensure this. Businesses that do not comply with these requirements may be subject to fines and other civil sanctions.

The consultation will run for 14 weeks and gather evidence on how government can implement due diligence regulations effectively. [Feedback for the consultation is to be submitted online](#) or via post.