

# PM opening statement at COVID-19 press conference: 15 November 2021

Good afternoon,

I have just chaired a meeting of the government's emergency COBR committee, following the sickening attack outside Liverpool Women's Hospital yesterday.

My thoughts remain with all those affected,

and, on behalf of the whole country, I want to pay tribute to the emergency services who responded as always with such speed and professionalism.

The police have now confirmed this is being treated as a terrorist attack and while the investigation continues at pace, you will understand that I can't comment on the details of the case or its motivation.

But it is a stark reminder of the need for us all to remain utterly vigilant, and the independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre are today raising the UK's threat level from substantial to severe, meaning an attack is highly likely.

But what yesterday showed above all,

is that the British people will never be cowed by terrorism.

We will never give in to those who seek to divide us with senseless acts of violence,

and our freedoms and our way of life will always prevail.

Turning to Covid, I want to update you on our progress,

and, in particular, on these storm clouds that are gathering over the continent.

A new wave of Covid has steadily swept through central Europe and is now affecting our nearest neighbours in Western Europe.

Our friends on the continent have been forced to respond with various degrees of new restrictions,

from full lockdowns, to lockdowns for the unvaccinated, to restrictions on business opening hours and restrictions on social gatherings.

We don't yet know the extent to which this new wave will wash up on our shores,

but history shows we cannot afford to be complacent.

Indeed in recent days cases there have been rising here in the UK, so we must remain vigilant.

Because there is one lesson we can draw from the current situation in Europe.

Those countries with lower vaccination rates have tended to see bigger surges in infection, and in turn been forced to respond with harsher measures.

While those countries with higher vaccination rates have, so far, fared better.

This shows us once again that if we want to control the epidemic here in the UK,

and if we want to avoid new restrictions on our daily lives, we must all get vaccinated as soon as we are eligible.

Today, following the recommendation of the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation,

we are making second jabs available to all 16 and 17 year olds, from 12 weeks after their first dose.

And we are making boosters available to all those aged 40 to 49 from six months after their second dose.

Boosters as you know are already available for all those over 50, those with underlying health conditions

and those working on the frontline of our NHS and in care homes.

And let me explain why that booster is absolutely crucial,

because over time the protection from two jabs starts to wane,

but that the third jab boosts protection back up to over 90 per cent against symptomatic infection.

So far around 12.6 million people across the UK have had that booster, including in England around three-quarters of all people over 70 and 80 per cent of eligible older people in care homes.

But many more people who are eligible have not yet come forward.

And so if you are one of those people, please go and get that third jab.

Because it would be an utter tragedy if, after everything we have been through,

people who had done the right thing by getting double vaccinated ended up becoming seriously ill or even losing their lives because they allowed their immunity to wane by not getting their booster. And if you haven't even had one dose, it's not too late.

In fact there's never been a better time to get that vital protection as we head into winter.

So please, please go and get vaccinated,

to protect yourself and others,

and in doing so we can help to ensure that we can continue in the way that we are

sticking to our plan of using vaccination to control this virus.

Thank you very much.

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## [UK terrorism threat level raised to SEVERE](#)

News story

The UK National Threat Level has been raised from substantial to SEVERE – meaning an attack is highly likely.



Following yesterday's incident in Liverpool, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) has today (15 November) taken the decision to raise the UK National Threat Level from SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is likely, to SEVERE, meaning an attack is highly likely.

The decision has been driven by two terrorist incidents in the past month, reflecting the diverse, complex and volatile nature of the terrorist threat in the UK.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Following yesterday's shocking incident in Liverpool, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre has raised the UK Threat Level to SEVERE.

It is important that the public remains alert to the threat from terrorism but not alarmed. I urge anyone with information or who suspects any suspicious activity to report it to the police.

Threat levels are determined independently of Ministers and are a tool for security practitioners, including the police, to use in determining what protective security response may be required.

The UK was last at SEVERE in November 2020 before being lowered to SUBSTANTIAL in February 2021.

You can find out more about how the threat levels are set, what they mean and when they have changed, by visiting the [Security Service webpage](#).

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## [Manchester United FC v Villarreal CF match: travel advice](#)

- Date: Tuesday 23 November 2021
- Kick off time: 6:45pm (local time)
- Venue: Ceramica Stadium (formerly El Madrigal), Villarreal

As well as this advice, read our [travel advice for Spain](#) for information on [COVID-related entry requirements to Spain](#) and local restrictions, as well as information on completing the [Health Control Form](#) before you travel.

### **Passports and visas**

The rules for travelling to European countries changed on 1 January 2021. British nationals can travel to countries in the Schengen area for up to 90 days in any 180-day period without a visa. This applies if you travel as a tourist, to visit family or friends, to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events, or for short-term studies or training.

Check your passport is valid for travel before you book your trip, and renew your passport if you do not have enough time left on it. Make sure your passport is valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave Spain, or any other Schengen country.

Remember your [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) but also [take out travel insurance](#), even if you are travelling for for 1 night only. It could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties.

At Spanish border control, you may need to use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing. Your passport is usually stamped on entry and exit unless you can demonstrate that you are resident of Spain.

You may also need to show:

- a return or onward ticket
- enough money for your stay
- proof of accommodation for your stay, for example, a hotel booking confirmation
- proof of address if visiting your own property (eg. second home), or an invitation from your host or proof of their address if staying with a third party, friends or family

You must provide ID, for example, your passport, if a a police officer asks for it. The police have the right to hold you at a police station until your identity is confirmed.

Always take care of your passport, as getting a replacement is costly and time-consuming. Remember to keep a photocopy or scanned copy of your passport somewhere safe.

If you lose your passport, you'll need to apply for an [Emergency Travel Document online](#).

## **Getting to the stadium**

Stadium address:

Estadio Ceramica (formerly El Madrigal)  
Calle Blasco Ibáñez, no 2  
12540 Villarreal (Vila-Real)  
Castellón

The stadium is located in central Villarreal. The club is called Villarreal, but the town is known as Vila-Real, and that many street names in Vila-Real, Castellón and Valencia will be in the local language of Valenciano.

There are some rail services between Villarreal and Castellon and between Villarreal and Valencia. Timetables and ticket prices care on the [Renfe website](#).

A taxi from Villarreal to Valencia should cost approximately 80 Euros and from Villarreal to Castellon approximately 20 Euros. We advise pre-booking return taxis to Valencia, as availability may be limited.

## **At the match**

Access to the stadium can be slow. There will be ticket checks at various checkpoints before getting to the stadium including body searches and after getting through the turnstiles. To avoid a last-minute bottleneck you should get to the stadium early. Doors will be open for visiting supporters 90 minutes to 2 hours before kick-off.

- Police and stewards may ask to see the ID of ticket holders to prevent ticket fraud. You should carry photo ID with you
- Manchester United fans should enter the stadium through gate 25
- fans should follow Spanish police instructions and avoid physical contact of any type, including requests to take photos etc.
- current COVID restrictions in Spain require all fans in football stadiums to wear a mask at all times. Fans are not allowed to smoke, eat or drink inside the stadium. You are only permitted to drink water (under 500ml) with no bottle top. Food and drink will be available outside the stadium before the match
- anyone who is obviously drunk or bearing racist insignia will not be allowed into the stadium. Banners with political slogans will not be permitted inside the stadium
- flares, fireworks, alcohol, cans, glass, bottle tops or containers over 1/2 litre are not allowed in the stadium
- visiting supporters may be kept behind for around 20 to 30 minutes after the match to allow the home fans to leave the stadium

## **Tips**

- pickpockets operate in large crowds so be careful with your valuables
- in Castellon, Valencia and, as in any other city, beware of pickpockets and bag snatchers at airports, railway stations, around the town centre and when using public transport. Only carry what you need, leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposits.

- drinking in the streets in some parts of Spain is illegal, and you can be arrested for doing so.
- police officers have the right to stop people from taking photos or filming if they consider that their personal security or that of a police operation or secured area could be compromised as a result. Doing so can be met with severe penalties.
- carry a print out of your COVID vaccine QR Codes in case you lose or don't have access to your mobile phone whilst in Spain, to help your return to the UK

## Useful contacts

British Consulate in Alicante  
Edificio Espacio – 6th floor  
Rambla Méndez Núñez, 28-32  
03002 Alicante  
Spain

Website: [www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-alicante](http://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-alicante)

Telephone + 34 965 216 022 (including out of hours emergencies)

Opening hours: by appointment only

The local emergency services contact number is 112.

## Further information

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# [Clindacutin Ointment 10 mg/g for dogs – Product defect recall alert](#)

News story

Product defect recall alert for Clindacutin Ointment 10 mg/g for dogs by Dechra Regulatory B.V.



We wish to make wholesalers and distributors aware that all in-date batches of Clindacutin Ointment 10 mg/g (Vm 50406/4011) are being recalled with immediate effect.

Dechra Regulatory B.V has issued a class III recall to the wholesale level.

The reason for the recall is that the product has been manufactured released according to specifications of the Dutch marketing authorisation which is not approved in this country.

This recall is for the following batches only:

**Batch No    Expiry date**

BC (21H258) July 2023

BB (21H244) July 2023

Dechra Regulatory B.V is contacting wholesale dealers to examine inventory immediately and quarantine products subject to this recall.

For further information regarding the recall, please email; [quality@dechra.com](mailto:quality@dechra.com) or [externalnetwork.qa@dechra.com](mailto:externalnetwork.qa@dechra.com).

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## [UKEF overhauls guarantees to kickstart major exports](#)

- UK Export Finance can now finance international companies setting up in the UK to export as well as a newly simplified guarantee for SMEs
- UKEF reveals clean growth guarantee for businesses seeking major funding to deliver on the UK's COP26 commitments
- Changes announced during International Trade Week as UK launches its new 'Made in the UK, Sold to the World' campaign



UK Export Finance (UKEF) has announced significant changes to its range of products as the UK begins its first ever [International Trade Week](#).

Its new enhanced support, which include making its [Export Development Guarantee \(EDG\)](#) more flexible and accessible, will help to bring foreign businesses to the UK, stimulate investment into the green economy and level up its support for SMEs across the country.

**International Trade Secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:**

Supporting UK exporters, while bringing international investment to the UK is vital to levelling up all parts of the country. By enhancing our support offer, UKEF can encourage overseas companies to establish themselves in the UK to sell to the world.

Our improved terms for clean growth exporters will help them seize new export opportunities and invest to grow their international business – spurring on the development of the British supply chain in high growth sectors too. With these changes, UKEF has the tools to help us deliver a greener future and a trade-led recovery.

UKEF's EDG helps businesses access high value loans which will enhance their UK export potential. It has already backed over £10 billion of loans for companies since its 2019 launch, helping them to invest in new technologies and recover from the pandemic.

These new changes mean that UKEF can now use the EDG to support businesses that don't currently export but have huge export potential, including businesses that are not yet based in the UK. This will encourage companies operating in sectors in which the UK doesn't have a strong presence, such as the production of electric vehicle batteries, to come to this country.

Coming on the heels of COP26 and the announcement of major backing for the largest solar plant in Turkey, UKEF will also offer it on extended repayment terms to UK green economy exporters who need to access significant working capital to grow their businesses.

To improve its backing for SMEs, UKEF is also revamping its Bills and Notes Guarantee to ensure UK exporters get paid immediately for their goods and services, making the product simpler and easier to access. This is particularly aimed at helping smaller businesses with manufacturing exports of heavy goods like machinery – making British SMEs' contract bids more attractive to overseas buyers.

UKEF has further revealed it is working to expand its range of delivery partner financial institutions, including challenger banks and alternative lenders, to allow more businesses to benefit from its award-winning support.

These announcements come during International Trade Week – which will launch the 'Made in the UK, Sold to the World' campaign, and include a series of virtual and in-person events, including daily presentations outlining UKEF's

financial support for exporters.

**Marcus Dolman and Geoffrey De Mowbray, Co-Chairmen of the British Exporters Association said:**

The increased UKEF support is welcomed and aligned with accelerating the UK's significant opportunities to advance UK exports and to drive clean and sustainable growth.

The addition of challenger banks and alternative lenders is key to enabling SMEs access to UKEF's products – all valuable additions for UK exporters.

The additions to the Export Development Guarantee include:

- widening its eligibility criteria so that investors who do not currently export – including foreign companies – can apply for an EDG if they can demonstrate that support will lead to exporting
- offering exporters of clean growth technology and services up to 10 years rather than 5 to repay loans issued under the product

Clean growth exporters are defined as those exporting goods, services or intangibles relating to:

- renewable energy
- energy efficiency
- pollution prevention and control
- environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use
- terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation
- clean transportation; sustainable water and wastewater management
- climate change adaptation
- eco-efficient and/or circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes
- green buildings as defined in the Green Bond Principles

## **About UKEF**

UK Export Finance is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, working alongside the Department for International Trade as an integral part of its strategy and operations.

Established in 1919, it exists to ensure that no viable UK export should fail for a lack of finance from the private market. It provides finance and insurance to help exporters win, fulfil and get paid for export contracts.

## Contact