

New joint statement between UK and US to strengthen quantum collaboration

- New statement of intent by UK and US to boost collaboration on quantum technologies
- signed by Science Minister George Freeman and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Science Advisor to the President, Dr Eric Lander
- announcement comes on same day as Innovate UK also announce result of £50 million domestic competition to fund 12 projects aiming to commercialise quantum technologies

The United Kingdom and the United States of America have signed a new [joint statement of intent to boost collaboration on quantum science and technologies](#) – helping to realise the full potential of the technology and deepen ties between the 2 countries.

Signed today by the Science Minister George Freeman and the US Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Science Advisor to the President, Dr Eric Lander, the statement sets out shared priorities for continued cooperation between the 2 nations, including promoting joint research, building the global market and supply chain and training the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The agreement builds on the UK and USA's long history of world-leading research partnerships, including in quantum information science and technology, and follows June's announcement that the UK and USA will develop a new partnership on technology.

UK Science Minister George Freeman said:

Quantum technologies are set to revolutionise computing with huge opportunities across our economy and society: from everyday functions like medical diagnosis and drug discovery to cyber security and AI.

The UK and US have been at the forefront of advancing this cutting edge area of science and technology.

Today's agreement is the latest chapter in the close partnership between our 2 countries in science and innovation, and I look forward to seeing the results for both nations in the years ahead.

US Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Science Advisor to the President, Dr Eric Lander said:

Science transcends borders, and cooperation with partners

accelerates the way we bring technologies to market. I am delighted we can deepen our relationship with the UK on quantum information science. By working together, we can broaden training opportunities, develop new applications for quantum technology, and think globally about how to maximize the benefits of these technologies for everyone.

The technologies that have transformed our lives – the building blocks of modern computers, the mobile phone, the laser, the MRI scanner – are all products of quantum science. This involves harnessing the unique ways that light and matter behave at tiny atomic or subatomic levels.

A new generation of quantum technologies exploit breakthroughs in the way that we are able to precisely manipulate and measure these special properties, to engineer quantum devices with dramatically enhanced functionality and performance.

Today's agreement will also see the National Physical Laboratory and the National Institute of Standards and Technology explore ways to grow their long-standing partnership between quantum programmes through alignment of projects and the exchange of staff and students in key areas, including quantum metrology, computing, clocks and future technical standards.

This statement of intent also aims to facilitate new research partnerships, as well as grow ties between businesses in the UK and US. In the coming months, UK and US industry will meet to establish new connections and explore future opportunities to work together to grow the global quantum industry.

The UK and US have a well-established history of close cooperation on cutting-edge quantum science and technology. In January, the government announced support for 3 projects involving UK and US collaborators to apply quantum technologies to fundamental physics questions about the universe.

An enhanced partnership between UK Research & Innovation and the US National Science Foundation is further intended to help facilitate new research collaborations in quantum.

International partnerships are part of a wider £1 billion government and industry investment through the National Quantum Technologies Programme to commercialise quantum innovations and secure the UK's status as a world-leader in quantum science and technologies.

The signing comes as Innovate UK also announces £50 million from their £170 million Commercialising Quantum Technologies challenge for 12 projects, including a quantum computing system that can model and predict the properties of drugs, leading to significantly faster and more efficient drug discovery.

The £50 million of domestic funding announced today is part of UKRI's £170 million Commercialising Quantum Technologies challenge, which aims to encourage private investment and create economic and societal benefits through driving innovation across a range of sectors including automotive,

healthcare, infrastructure, telecommunications, cybersecurity and defence.

COP 26: UK pledges over £55m to partner with Pakistan to fight climate change, manage water more sustainably and unlock climate investment

The UK has announced more than £55m of support to help Pakistan tackle climate change as part of the COP26 global climate change summit this week.

As global leaders come together for COP26, this is a critical time for Pakistan. It has been ranked the 8th most vulnerable country to climate change, and by 2100, rising temperatures mean 36% of glaciers along the Hindu Kush & Himalayan range will be gone.

The UK has already achieved notable successes. 90% of the world's economy is now covered by net zero targets, up from less than 30% when the UK took on the Presidency of COP26. This will help the most vulnerable countries like Pakistan.

The new funding for climate change in Pakistan is split into three parts:

*A 5-year climate resilience programme – worth £38 million – will help Pakistan's poorest communities to protect themselves from the changing climate;

*A 5-year water governance programme – worth £15 million – will make water use in Pakistan more sustainable and water access fairer;

*An additional £2.5 million to support new ways of attracting much needed climate investment to Pakistan, including on the development of a Nature Performance Bond. On World Environment Day in June alongside Prime Minister Imran Khan the UK committed to this. The British High Commissioner was due to announce the urgently needed new programmes at a high-level reception for climate change stakeholders at the British High Commission in Islamabad this evening (November 4th).

Dr Christian Turner CMG said: "For Pakistan, climate change could be catastrophic. That is why we are working together on trees and finance, and mobilising leading Pakistani businesses. This £55m new funding will ensure Pakistan becomes more resilient to climate impacts, with more sustainable water use and greater access to climate finance, so improving lives and livelihoods.

On COP26, the UK has been working with Pakistan on:

- A #26For26 campaign to have 26 Pakistani companies commit to halving emissions by 2030 and getting to net zero by 2050. 29 companies have so far signed up;
- Pakistan successfully joining more than 100 countries to pledge to end and reverse deforestation by 2030.

Even before COP26, the UK had been working closely with Pakistan on climate change, and will provide £7m this year to help the country achieve its climate change objectives. Earlier this year the UK launched a new programme in Lahore to promote cleaner brick production practices which will help improve air quality, reduce smog and fight climate change.

Notes to editors:

1. COP26 is the largest international event of its kind ever to be held in the UK with more than 25,000 delegates arriving in the city of Glasgow, including world leaders, opinion formers and top businesses. It will work to prevent global temperatures rising above 1.5C and protect our planet and people from the impacts of climate change.
2. On World Environment Day, at an event hosted by Prime Minister Imran Khan, the UK, alongside other countries agreed to start a dialogue with Pakistan on the development of a Nature Performance Bond. Today's announcement is a follow up to this dialogue. Funds to attract climate investment will help structure financing instruments and investment deals, and will include the next stage of work to develop a Nature Performance Bond structure for donors and investors to consider
3. As hosts of COP26 (co-hosted with Italy), the UK has been driving international action and support to adapt to the effects of climate change, which are already impacting lives, livelihoods and natural habitats across the world. Thirty five countries have joined the Adaptation Action Coalition, and over 2,000 businesses, investors, regions, cities and other non-state actors have joined the Race to Resilience. Over 40 countries and organisations have joined the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership, committing to make 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025.
4. Climate finance will be key at COP26. To support the transition to net zero, climate resilient economies, getting public and private finance flowing is crucial, especially to emerging markets and developing economies. Under the UK's COP26 & G7 Presidencies, we have seen clear moves towards this goal. G7 countries have committed new finance towards the \$100bn in climate finance goal, including more funding for adaptation. Ends

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Furlough number at a record low in final month of operation

News story

The number of people on furlough fell to a record low during its last month of operation, according to new statistics published today (4 November).



Figures show a further 210,000 employees came off the scheme in September – and around half of the 1.1 million people still being supported were on flexible furlough working some of their hours.

Insolvency Service data also showed redundancy notifications remained low throughout September.

Since the end of April, as restrictions started to ease, 2.4 million people have left the scheme as the economy has reopened.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

Our unprecedented furlough scheme helped people when they needed it most.

And as a result of our action the economy is growing, more employees are on payrolls than ever before and unemployment has fallen for 8 months in a row.

We are now investing billions building a stronger economy of higher wages, higher skills and rising productivity – and our Plan for Jobs will continue to deliver the opportunities people need to get ahead.

The furlough scheme was a vital piece in the unprecedented package of support the government provided during the pandemic which protected livelihoods and communities when they need it most.

Since its launch in March 2020, 11.7 million jobs have been protected and 1.3 million businesses supported. A further 2.9 million self-employed people were also supported by the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

These statistics come after the Chancellor unveiled a £3.8 billion investment in skills to boost productivity and wages at the Autumn Budget and Spending Review last week, as government support for workers moves to the next phase.

This investment will expand T levels, build Institutes of Technology, roll out the lifetime skills guarantee and quadruple the number of skills bootcamp places.

The Chancellor has also committed to an extra £500 million towards the next phase of the government's Plan for Jobs which will support hundreds of thousands of people into work and into better paid work.

It will help those on Universal Credit boost their career with advice from their dedicated work coach, support older workers with enhanced support through the Job Finding Support and Job Entry Targeted Support schemes and extend the Kickstart jobs placement scheme for 18–24-year-olds.

Further information

- The latest HMRC statistics on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme can be found [online](#)

Published 4 November 2021

[Finance Bill 2021-22 published](#)

News story

The Finance Bill 2021-22 was published today (4 November 2021), legislating for tax changes announced by the Chancellor at last week's Budget.



- The Finance Bill 2021-22 was published today legislating for tax changes announced at the Budget
- The Bill supports the Budget which will deliver a stronger economy for the British people through driving growth, securing public finances and levelling up employment opportunities
- Changes taking effect also crack down on tax avoidance and deliver a simpler tax system

It will extend tax reliefs for museums, galleries, theatres and orchestras, implement the new residential property developer tax, and introduce reforms to tonnage tax, among other changes.

Many changes will come into effect for the next tax year starting in April 2022.

Financial Secretary to the Treasury Lucy Frazer said:

This year's Finance Bill will help us to continue on our mission to deliver a stronger economy for the British people – through stronger growth, jobs and public finances.

The Finance Bill 2021-22 brings forward a number of tax measures from last week's Budget. The Bill helps support a stronger economy for the British people by helping to deliver stronger public finances, tackling tax avoidance and evasion, and contributing towards a simpler and more sustainable tax

system.

It does this through:

- Reforming the UK's Tonnage Tax regime to bring more shipping firms to the UK
- Extending tax reliefs for museums, galleries, theatres and orchestras to 31 March 2024
- Extending the £1 million Annual Investment Allowance cap by a further 15 months to 31 March 2023, to bring forward investment
- Implementing the 4% Residential Property Developer Tax on the largest most-profitable residential developers to support building safety remediation
- Simplifying Basis Period Rules to make it easier for the self-employed and small businesses to claim tax reliefs they are entitled to but often do not take advantage of due to confusing current rules. This, as the [OBR](#) concludes, has no effect on the amount of profits taxed.
- Clamping down on promoters of tax avoidance by reducing the scope for promoters to market tax avoidance schemes, disrupting their activities and supporting people more to steer clear of and leave tax avoidance arrangements
- Increasing the Normal Minimum Pension Age from 55 to 57, effective from 6 April 2028

The Overview of Tax Legislation and Rates ([OOTLAR](#)) document, published at Autumn Budget 2021, confirmed the measures going forward in the Bill.

The Finance Bill 2021-22 had its First Reading in Parliament on Tuesday 2 November and will now follow the normal passage through Parliament.

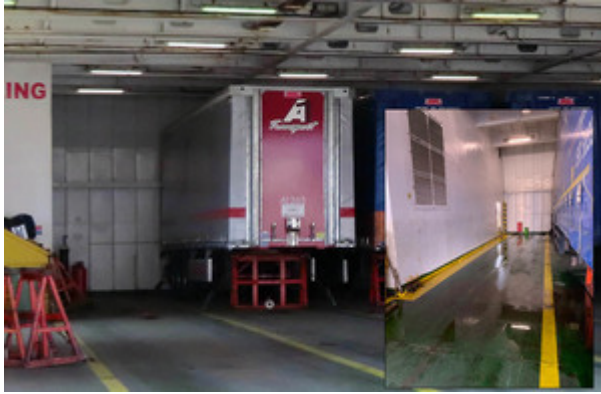
Further information

Published 4 November 2021

[Clipper Pennant safety bulletin published](#)

News story

Safety warning issued following a fatal crushing injury to a crewman on the upper vehicle deck of a roll-on roll-off ferry during cargo loading operations.



Our safety bulletin based on the initial findings of the investigation into the fatal accident on board the ro-ro ferry Clipper Pennant while alongside in Liverpool, England on 20 July 2021, is now published.

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