

Jeremy Quin MP, Minister for Defence Procurement, in Japan for bilateral discussions on defence industrial collaboration

He also called on Defence Minister Kishi, and had discussions with Commissioner Suzuki of Japan's Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA).

Minister Quin's meetings built upon the momentum in the UK-Japan bilateral defence and security relationship. The focus was on joint defence industrial and technology collaboration, with agreements to further develop strategic partnerships and opportunities. Minister Quin was also hosted by State Minister Nakayama for a visit to ATLA's Air Systems Research Centre in Tachikawa, outside Tokyo.

Jeremy Quin MP, Minister for Defence Procurement, said:

We share a strategic requirement for a future combat air system, with both the UK and Japan committed to ensuring interoperability with the US. Over the next 12 months, we will progress our shared interests in key areas of future fighter technology, maritime and complex weapons, underscoring our shared vision and intent. Japan and the UK are both committed to supporting the security and prosperity of the wider Indo-Pacific Region.

Minister Quin's visit built upon the UK's strategic intent to engage more proactively in the Indo Pacific Region, as outlined in the Integrated Review in March. An increasingly strong partnership with Japan in defence and security is integral to this vision.

Minister Quin also explained that the recent announcement of the new Australia, UK, US trilateral defence and security partnership, 'AUKUS', was a further clear demonstration of the UK government's strategic commitment to security cooperation globally and in the Indo-Pacific in particular. Defence Minister Kishi welcomed the enhancement of US, UK and Australia's security and defence cooperation, saying it was important for the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

Minister Quin's visit came just two weeks after HMS Queen Elizabeth, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 21 (CSG21), visited Japan. The visit of CSG21 was a powerful demonstration of the UK's close and enduring partnership with Japan.

Exercise PACIFIC CROWN saw the Japanese Maritime and Air Self Defence Force operating and training alongside UK counterparts across a broad spectrum of

activity, highlighting similarities in the UK and Japan's current capabilities and future requirements, and demonstrating the benefits of greater interoperability.

The UK and Japan are ever closer strategic partners. Both are strong allies of the US, and are working more closely together to increase resilience and to protect prosperity and national security.

With a strong foundation built on common values, the UK and Japan share an interest in strengthening our defences and the security of our people, homelands, economies and environments.

Those shared interests have been further strengthened this year through Prime Ministerial and senior Ministerial discussions, including in the G7, and in the defence field, across all services at all levels.

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Millions to be empowered by Government plans to strengthen day one employment rights and increase productivity of businesses

- British workers to get more choice over when and where they work, under new proposals to make the right to request flexible working a day one entitlement
- Government will also introduce a day one right to one-week's unpaid leave for carers balancing a job with caring responsibilities
- Plans will make for more productive businesses, whilst accommodating both staff and employer needs

Every employee in Great Britain will be given the right to request flexible working – regardless of time served – under Government plans to modernise the way we work.

Under the plans – delivering on a commitment set out in the Government's 2019 manifesto – around 2.2 million more people will be given the right to request flexible working.

The proposals consider whether limiting an employee's application for flexible working to one per year continues to represent the best balance between individual and business needs. The consultation also looks at cutting the current three-month period an employer has to consider any request.

If an employer cannot accommodate a request, as can be the case, they would need to think about what alternatives they could offer – for example, if they couldn't change their employee's hours on all working days, they could consider making the change for certain days instead.

The consultation looks at a range of flexible working methods such as job-sharing, flexitime, compressed, annualised and staggered hours, as well as phased retirement – not just working from home. It allows employees to balance their work and home life, including helping people who are managing childcare commitments or other caring responsibilities as well as ensuring that people who are under-represented in Britain's workforce, such as new parents or disabled people, have access to more opportunities.

The proposals are also good for British business. Research has shown companies that embrace flexible working can attract more talent, improve staff motivation and reduce staff turnover – boosting their business's productivity and competitiveness.

However, there are some circumstances where businesses will not be able to offer flexible working. That's why the Government is clear that they should still be able to reject a request if they have sound business reasons and will also respect freedom of contract rather than prescribing specific arrangements in legislation.

Today's proposals instead provide a framework to encourage conversations and balance the needs of employees and employers.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

Empowering workers to have more say over where and when they work makes for more productive businesses and happier employees.

It was once considered a 'nice to have', but by making requests a day one right, we're making flexible working part of the DNA of businesses across the country.

A more engaged and productive workforce, a higher calibre of applicants and better retention rates – the business case for flexible working is compelling.

The proposed changes would also mean that all applicants will know they can ask for flexible working before applying for a job. Equally, employers will need to consider whether they can offer flexible working before advertising.

Alongside clear benefits to workers, there is a compelling business case for flexible working. Benefits include:

- Attracting top talent – 87% of people want to work flexibly, rising to 92% for young people.
- A highly motivated, productive workforce – 9 in 10 employees consider flexible working to be a key motivator to their productivity at work –

ranking it as more important than financial incentives. Employers have reported seeing improvements in staff motivation and employee relations.

- More competitive business environment – the CBI Employment Trends survey found that 99% of all businesses surveyed believed that a flexible workforce is vital or important to competitiveness and the prospects for business investment and job creation.

This comes as the Government also announces that it will be fulfilling another 2019 manifesto commitment to give unpaid carers who are balancing a job in addition to caring for a dependant with long-term needs one week's unpaid leave, as a day one right.

The move is set to benefit millions of people – with figures suggesting that around five million people across the UK are providing unpaid care, with nearly half doing so while also working full-time or part-time.

Labour Markets Minister Paul Scully said:

Millions of people face the dual challenge of balancing full or part-time work with other responsibilities such as caring for loved ones.

By introducing one week of additional leave for unpaid carers, we will give these unsung heroes greater flexibility to help them better manage their personal and working lives, while giving them greater access to the job market.

The Government response to the consultation on carer's leave will confirm key elements of what the leave entitlement will look like:

- One working week of unpaid carer's leave (per employee, per year) will be available as a day one right to those managing caring responsibilities for those with long-term care needs alongside work.
- Eligibility, both in terms of who the employee is caring for and how the leave can be used, will be broadly defined.
- The leave will be available to take flexibly (i.e. from half day blocks to a whole week).
- There will not be an extensive administrative process to ensure legitimacy of requests to take Carer's Leave as the leave is unpaid.

The measure will also look to balance the needs of the employee with the employer, with a minimum notice period of twice the length of time being taken, plus one day (in line with annual leave notice periods).

Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss said:

As we move beyond the pandemic, we must seize the opportunity to make flexible working an option for everyone.

No-one should be held back in their career because of where they

live, what house they can afford, or their responsibility to family.

I want everyone to have the same opportunities regardless of the background or location. This is the right thing to do for workers, families and our economy.

Helen Walker, Chief Executive of Carers UK, said:

Juggling work with caring for someone who is older, disabled or seriously ill is a demanding balancing act and without support from employers can be too much to manage.

Carers UK's own research shows that pre-pandemic, every single day more than 600 people across the UK were giving up work to care for a loved one – with a devastating impact on their personal finances and at a huge cost to the wider UK economy.

Giving employees with caring responsibilities a legal right to unpaid carer's leave and the ability to request flexible working from day one of starting their job is an important step forward for UK workers and could make a difference to millions – enabling carers to support their relatives whilst staying in work, maintaining social connections and improving their financial stability.

James Timpson, Chief Executive of Timpson Group said:

People are our greatest asset as a business. I focus a lot of my time in creating a great culture, with a big part of that making sure colleagues feel empowered to work in a way that best suits them and also delivers for us.

Giving workers more choice about how they work will not only inspire and motivate staff, it will also help businesses attract and retain the best talent to grow their companies.

Tim Bailey, Zurich UK's CEO said:

We welcome the launch of this consultation. Zurich has been a flexible working employer for over a decade with employees now benefiting from a hybrid approach to working arrangements. As the first company in the UK to advertise all vacancies with the option of part time, full time, job share or flexible working, we've seen more than double the number of applicants from men and women for new roles.

By offering roles that fit flexibly around family life, employers open the doors to a much wider pool of untapped talent. This will also help people progress into higher paid jobs whilst fitting other commitments around their careers. Workers want a new deal and there's a danger that businesses that don't get on board, won't be able to compete for the best candidates.

Peter Cheese, chief executive of the CIPD, the professional body for HR and people development said:

The Government's consultation on giving employees the right to request flexible working from day one of employment is a welcome move to help create more inclusive workplaces.

Learning from the pandemic, many organisations are now open to more hybrid ways of working which give their employees greater say over where and how they work. But the reality for those whose roles can only be done at their place of work – such as restaurants, warehouses or hospitals – is that they often have very little flexibility.

We believe a day one right to request flexible working will help broaden the accessibility of all types of flexible working, including flexibility in hours as well as location. In turn this will boost inclusion, wellbeing and performance which is beneficial to both employers and employees alike.

Paul Hamer, Chief Executive of Sir Robert McAlpine, said:

Sir Robert McAlpine welcomes the consultation from Government to allow employees to request flexible working from day one – a step in the right direction for the UK workforce and businesses alike. We strongly believe that at the core of every successful business is a motivated and happy workforce, and this means encouraging a flexible working culture to shake off the constraints of traditional and rigid working arrangements.

José Luiz Rossi, Managing Director, Experian UK & Ireland said:

We welcome the Government's focus on flexible working. The Covid-19 pandemic has triggered a fundamental shift in our ways of working and, while we don't yet have all of the answers, we view the pandemic as an opportunity to adopt new ways of working where the majority of our workforce are given flexibility to work to a pattern that suits them regardless. It is important we give colleagues choice and flexibility to work in the most effective and

beneficial way possible. We know more flexibility is what most colleagues want and we also see the benefits in collaborating in our offices when required.

Notes to editors

- Government committed to consult to make flexible working the default unless employers have a good reason not to in the 2019 Conservative Manifesto. The consultation can be found [here](#)
- While the consultation focuses on contractual flexible working arrangements, the Government recognises that people don't always need something so formal to help them balance their home and work life. A call for evidence will be launched looking at the sorts of ad hoc or informal flexibility people may need – for example, to attend a one-off appointment.
- Employees with 26 weeks continuous service have a right to request flexible working under existing legislation. An employer can currently reject a request for specified business reasons such as:
 - extra costs that will be a burden on the business
 - the work cannot be reorganised among other staff
 - people cannot be recruited to do the work
 - flexible working will negatively affect quality
 - flexible working will negatively affect performance
 - the business' ability to meet customer demand will be negatively affected
 - there's a lack of work to do during the proposed working times
 - the business is planning structural changes.

Type of flexible working include:

- Job sharing: two people do one job and split the hours
 - Part time: working less than full-time hours (usually by working fewer days)
 - Compressed hours: working full-time hours but over fewer days
 - Flexitime: the employee chooses when to start and end work (within agreed limits) but works certain 'core hours', for example 10am to 4pm every day
 - Annualised hours: the employee has to work a certain number of hours over the year but they have some flexibility about when they work
 - Staggered hours: the employee has different start, finish and break times from other workers.
 - Working from home: it might be possible to do some or all of the work from home or anywhere else other than the normal place of work
 - Phased retirement: older workers can choose when they want to retire, meaning they can reduce their hours and work part time
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Foreign Secretary visits Mexico in drive to deepen ties with the world's fastest growing economies

Press release

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss will visit Mexico to boost diplomatic and economic ties in the country and wider region.



- Foreign Secretary travels to Mexico to boost diplomatic and economic ties
- Truss will open new UK Embassy, visit an AstraZeneca vaccine bottling site and attend a dinner to celebrate British food
- She will also seek Mexico's continued support to join free trade area, the CPTPP

The Foreign Secretary Liz Truss is to visit Mexico today as she seeks to boost Britain's economic and diplomatic partnerships in the country, and the wider region.

Truss will travel directly from the UN General Assembly in New York to Mexico City to boost UK trade and investment in Mexico, due to be the world's 7th biggest economy by 2050.

During her visit the Foreign Secretary is due to talk to her Mexican counterpart, Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard.

The Foreign Secretary said: "Closer ties with Mexico are a key part of our plan to strengthen economic, security and diplomatic links with like-minded allies who share our belief in free enterprise and free trade.

A trade deal with Mexico, for example, will pave the way for us to join the CPTTP, one of the world's biggest free trade areas.

Our relationship with Mexico has huge potential. It could open vast new opportunities for businesses, support jobs across Britain, and

help ensure we play a key role in an open and dynamic Indo-Pacific.

She will formally open the new British Embassy building in Mexico City, after the previous one was damaged in the 2017 earthquake. She will also attend a dinner with celebrity British-Mexican chef Fernando Stovell, who has held three Michelin stars and cooked for HM The Queen.

The Foreign Secretary will call for Mexico's continued support for Britain's accession into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and discuss plans to develop a new, updated UK-Mexico free trade agreement, which Truss sees as a key part of Britain's tilt towards the Indo-Pacific and the creation of stronger economic ties between countries who believe in rules-based free trade.

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[México lanza convocatoria para Climate Bootcamp – Youth Week](#)

Con el objetivo de promover la participación de la juventud en la agenda climática mundial, la Embajada del Reino Unido en México convoca al proceso de selección de un grupo de personas jóvenes mexicanas que tendrá la oportunidad de participar en el "Climate Bootcamp 2021", rumbo a la COP de la juventud (COY16.), que se celebrará en octubre de este año en Glasgow, Escocia. Esta conferencia sucede anualmente, semanas antes de la Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre cambio climático (COP), en el mismo país sede.

Las personas ganadoras de la convocatoria podrán, durante la semana del 25 de octubre:

- Participar en un taller de negociación para desarrollar herramientas útiles que serán utilizadas durante COY16
- Participar en un taller de liderazgo para desarrollar herramientas útiles que serán utilizadas durante COY16
- Participar en una sesión informativa donde se presentarán y discutirán los resultados del reporte del IPCC
- Participar virtualmente en COY16 desde las instalaciones de la Embajada Británica en la Ciudad de México. Si no es posible asistir a las instalaciones, se compartirán los datos de acceso a las reuniones vía remota. La Embajada Británica proveerá el equipo de IT para que las personas seleccionadas se unan a las sesiones en formato de videoconferencia desde las oficinas en la Ciudad de México
- Acompañar, virtualmente, al equipo de Cambio Climático de la Embajada

- Británica a reuniones con el equipo encargado de COP26 en Londres
- Conocer al Embajador del Reino Unido en México en una reunión virtual o en persona, dependiendo de la situación individual de cada participante
 - Reunirse de forma virtual con jóvenes de LATAM que también asistirán a COY16, para dialogar e intercambiar ideas en preparación para la conferencia
 - Asistir, virtualmente o en persona, a la clausura de Climate Bootcamp en la Embajada Británica en la Ciudad de México

A. Requisitos para candidatura

Las personas interesadas deberán cubrir el siguiente perfil:

- Tener interés en temas de cambio y acción climática, igualdad de género, diversidad e inclusión, y la participación comunitaria en dichas agendas.
- Tener disponibilidad de tiempo y la capacidad de destinar entre 4 y 6 horas al día al Climate Bootcamp, del 25 al 30 de octubre.

Además, deberán cumplir con los siguientes requisitos:

1. Tener entre 18 y 25 años
2. Estar estudiando una carrera universitaria o haber egresado en 2020
3. Contar con el correo de aceptación como delegado para COY16, la convocatoria para volverse delegada o delegado continua abierta en la siguiente liga: <https://ukcoy16.org/>

Para participar, las personas interesadas deberán seguir los siguientes pasos en tiempo y forma:

1. Seguir a @ukinmexico en Twitter e Instagram
2. Realizar un ensayo de en español de 700 palabras contestando a las siguientes preguntas: ¿Cuáles son los retos más importantes que enfrenta Latinoamérica como región en la lucha contra el cambio climático? ¿Cómo se podrían sintetizar en un mensaje unificado desde la juventud latinoamericana en COP? ¿Cuál es el rol de la juventud en la acción climática?
3. Enviar el ensayo en Microsoft Word a Mexico.Political@fcdo.gov.uk incluyendo los siguientes datos en el cuerpo del correo:
 - Nombre completo y nombre elegido (en caso de que sea distinto).
 - Edad
 - Carrera
 - Universidad
 - Ciudad

Para identificar las solicitudes, favor de establecer como nombre del correo "Convocatoria Climate Bootcamp – (Nombre completo de la persona solicitante)".

La fecha límite para enviar el ensayo es el viernes 11 de octubre de 2021 a las 23:59 horas, tiempo de la Ciudad de México.

Las personas participantes recibirán una respuesta automática por parte del correo Mexico.Political@fcdo.gov.uk. Con ella, se confirma que se recibieron sus datos.

B. Proceso de Selección

Una vez recibidas las solicitudes, personal de la Embajada Británica en México llevará a cabo la selección de las personas ganadoras a través de la evaluación de los ensayos y el apego a los requisitos estipulados en la sección A.

Criterios de evaluación del ensayo:

- Punto de vista original
- Contenido apegado a las preguntas detonadoras
- Límite de palabras
- Estilo de escritura
- Gramática

La personas ganadoras de la convocatoria serán notificadas por correo electrónico el día 11 de octubre de 2021. La decisión del comité de selección será inapelable.

Calendario de actividades convocatoria "Climate Bootcamp 2021"

Actividad	Fecha
Recepción de Solicitudes	11 de octubre de 2021
Publicación de las y los candidatos ganadores	18 de octubre de 2021
Periodo de Actividades	25 al 30 de octubre de 2021

[Iran: Foreign Secretary meets Iranian Foreign Minister](#)

News story

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss met Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-

Abdollahian today at the UN General Assembly.



A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development spokesperson said:

The Foreign Secretary held her first meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian to discuss bilateral, nuclear and regional issues. She called for the release and return home of British dual national detainees. She urged Iran to return rapidly to the JCPOA negotiations in Vienna with a view to all sides coming back into compliance and reducing tensions over Iran's nuclear programme.

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