

Prime Minister's address to Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate: 17 September 2021

Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate this afternoon, convened by the President of the United States Joe Biden.

Ahead of the UN General Assembly next week and with weeks to go until the major climate summit COP26 in Glasgow, the Prime Minister called on world leaders, particularly the G20, to come with ambitious commitments that will set the planet on the right path to net zero and keep within reach the aim of limiting warming of the planet to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This includes commitments like ending coal power, shifting to electric vehicles, halting deforestation and providing the climate finance for developing nations, which will require greater ambition and international collaboration to accelerate the innovation and deployment key clean technologies so they are accessible and affordable for all.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister also set out that the UK will be among the first signatories of the Global Methane Pledge, a US-EU initiative to reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to levels during the 2020s. The is due to officially launch at COP26 in Glasgow.

The UK has a strong record on reducing emissions from methane, one of the main greenhouses gases warming our planet, with around 60% of methane emissions cut over the last three decades across the waste, energy and agriculture industries.

This comes as new OECD data out today shows that developed countries are \$20 billion short of meeting their commitment to mobilise \$100 billion in international climate finance for developing nations, and a new report from the UNFCCC published today makes clear that all countries must come forward with new, ambitious 2030 targets – Nationally Determined Contributions – if the world is to stop emissions from rising.

Thank you very much John, Secretary Kerry, and Secretary General Guterres, and thank you President Biden for your leadership and convening us all today with a little more than 1,000 hours to go, my friends, until I welcome you all to Glasgow to the COP26 summit.

And as we just heard from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this is the most important period I think now in the history of the planet.

Because COP simply must succeed.

And that is only going to happen if, as we've heard from António, if people come to Glasgow armed with the commitments that will enable us to keep that

increase of 1.5c within reach and take us to net zero sooner rather than later, and hopefully by the middle of the century. And we also need the cash that will allow the developing world to do the same.

So President Biden makes a very good point when he talks about the action that we need to take on methane

and I'm very pleased to say the UK will be among the very first to sign the Methane Pledge.

Because it is a microcosm of the challenges we face.

The International Energy Agency reckons the world already possesses the know-how and technology to avoid as much as three quarters of the current emissions of methane, that's CH₄, produced by the oil and gas industry.

Over the last 30 years the UK has cut emissions of methane by something like 60 per cent.

And there are good commercial uses for methane, you can use it to make fabrics, you can use it to make anti-freeze.

So the world could slash its output of this powerful greenhouse gas tomorrow if we wanted to.

But the trouble is that the G20 currently lacks both the ambition needed to do so, and the offer of finance to developing nations that's needed to follow suit.

That, in a nutshell, is what we face with the whole climate conundrum.

We know what's going to happen if we fail to reach net zero. You heard Joe describe the consequences we're already seeing on our planet today.

We know how to fix it, we know how to get there, and we're continuously generating ever-more innovative ways of doing that.

From the biggest carbon capture facility opening this week in Iceland, to the Californian scientists feeding seaweed to cows so they belch less methane – that's the cows obviously, not the scientists.

And now what we need is the ambition and dedication required to bring it all together.

So over the next 1,000 hours between now and everyone coming to COP26, we must do the work that will allow us to come to Glasgow bearing the ambitious NDCs – Nationally Determined Contributions – and rock-solid commitments on coal, cars and trees.

And, as Joe has just said, we must get serious about filling the \$100 billion pot that the developing world needs in order to do its bit.

Because as Sheikh Hasina has pointed out, the developing nations are on the

front line of climate change, they don't lack the will, they don't lack the technologies, to make a difference, they simply lack the resources.

We in the G20 are blessed with both.

So let's show the leadership the world needs, let's do our duty by others who are less fortunate than ourselves, and let's use these 1,000 hours to set a course that will protect our planet, protect humanity, for a thousand years to come.

[£170m investment for the next generation of Royal Navy submarines](#)

Design work for the next-generation of Royal Navy submarines is underway following the award of two contracts to UK industry, the Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has today announced.

Two contracts worth £85 million each had been awarded to BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce to deliver design and concept work for a future Class of Royal Navy submarine.

Over the next three years and supporting 350 jobs in the process, the contracts will deliver design work to inform a future decision which will help define the replacement approach for the Astute Class submarines – the nuclear powered fleet of submarines (SSNs) currently in service with the Royal Navy.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

“Marking the start of a new journey for the Royal Navy's submarines, British designers and engineers will lead the way in developing submarines for our Royal Navy.

“This multi-million pound investment ensures that this vital capability will be ready to replace our Astute Class submarines as they come out of service, whilst supporting high-skilled jobs across the Midlands and North West of England.”

In his role as Shipbuilding Tsar, the Defence Secretary is firmly committed to supporting the UK shipbuilding and maritime industries, of which these contracts will play an important role. Underpinned by the Prime Minister's £24 billion increase in defence spending across four years, these contracts build upon commitments outlined in the recent Defence Command Paper ensuring that the Royal Navy has a world-leading underwater capability prepared to meet future threats.

Submarine Delivery Agency CEO, Ian Booth said:

“Designing and building submarines is one of the most complex and challenging feats of engineering that the maritime industry undertakes.

“It is essential that work on the next generation underwater capability commences as early as possible. This relies on some of the nation’s most experienced defence nuclear experts from the very beginning of the design phase.”

The industry teams, including Babcock International, are working closely with MOD to mature early design work on a range of options for a new crewed nuclear-powered submarine known as the Submersible Ship Nuclear Replacement (SSNR).

The contract with BAE Systems in Barrow will sustain around 250 roles at the shipyard to develop the platform design and delivery arrangements. At Rolls Royce in Derby, approximately 100 jobs are expected to be sustained through the contract for the development of the Nuclear Steam Raising Plant and the production arrangements.

[Dame Lynne Owens announces retirement as Director General of the NCA](#)

Lynne has led the NCA since January 2016 following a career that spanned three police forces, starting in 1989 when she joined the Metropolitan Police Service as a Constable. Prior to joining the NCA she was Chief Constable of Surrey Police.

Lynne was diagnosed with breast cancer in the summer and recently received treatment.

Commenting on her retirement, Dame Lynne Owens said:

It has been an absolute privilege to protect the public for the last 32 years.

Following the treatment I received for breast cancer in the summer, the prognosis remains entirely positive and I have recovered from the initial surgery well. However results indicate, and the medical team advise, that I now require more extensive surgery (a mastectomy).

Whilst back at work I am mindful that I have recently been away from the Agency for almost 4 weeks and the next stage will require

a more extended period of absence.

Throughout my service I have sought to focus on our responsibilities to the public and those I lead before myself and I cannot, with integrity, conclude that it is in the interests of the Agency to leave it with such uncertainty in leadership.

Similarly I recognise I need to create the time and space to heal physically and emotionally without the self-imposed pressure to return. I do not feel that my working life is over and I hope to contribute again in the future.

There is no doubt in my mind that the National Crime Agency will continue to go from strength to strength.

Our outstanding officers work tirelessly to protect the public from serious and organised crime, sometimes in the shadows and with a contribution that is less visible to the public eye.

We have worked hard to share some of our superb results and I know that the UK; its citizens, communities and businesses are safer as a result of their actions both here and abroad. I am so proud of them and all they do.

I remain grateful to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, and the Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, Matthew Rycroft, for their care and compassion through this time.

During her time leading the Agency, Lynne has overseen considerable change, driving the Agency's growth in size, stature and capability which has enabled it to carry out some of the most impactful operations against serious and organised crime.

The Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

I was deeply saddened to learn of Lynne's decision to step down as Director General of the National Crime Agency. I know this feeling will be shared by colleagues across government and law enforcement who will understand her decision and wish her well.

Lynne has led the NCA with dedication and energy for over five years to keep the people of the UK safe from the threat of serious and organised crime.

During her time as Director General the NCA has modernised its approach to tackling the threat, and worked ever more closely with law enforcement and other partners to achieve some stunning successes against criminals, and I should like to offer my thanks for her integrity, leadership and an unswerving commitment to public service.

The Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, Matthew Rycroft said:

I have worked with Lynne on a daily basis: she is passionately committed to the fight against organised crime. I know that she has not taken the decision to step down lightly, but she has decided that it is in the best interests of the NCA for her to do so.

This is characteristic of her integrity and sense of duty. I will miss her straightforward approach and expert advice, reflecting her very considerable experience over 30 years in law enforcement, including as Chief Constable of Surrey Police. All of us will miss Lynne and wish her well for her surgery.

In the last financial year (2020-21) the NCA had its most successful twelve months to date achieving an almost 40% increase in disruptions compared to the previous year, against the challenging backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

These developments have enabled the NCA to protect the most vulnerable in society and enshrined its place at the heart of the UK's world class law enforcement system and as an integral member of the national security architecture.

Recognised as an inspirational figure, Lynne has made a significant positive impact on law enforcement, demonstrating exemplary leadership of an operational Agency and the wider system that safeguards children, removes firearms and drugs from UK streets, disrupts cyber-crime and criminal finance and is at the forefront of innovative law enforcement techniques. She was made a Dame in the New Year's Honours 2021.

The Home Secretary will take the necessary steps to appoint an interim Director General as soon as possible. That person will lead the NCA whilst a substantive successor to Lynne is appointed through a competitive recruitment process.

[New landmark partnership with UAE to tackle illicit finance](#)

The new first of its kind agreement was signed by Home Secretary Priti Patel and UAE Minister of State Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh on Friday.

The agreement of the UK-UAE Partnership To Tackle Illicit Financial Flows is part of the new, ambitious and strengthened Partnership for the Future between the UK and the UAE as announced by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed Bin Zayed.

This aims to ensure that the UAE and UK are able to work more closely together to tackle the shared global challenges that we face, and promote prosperity and security for our citizens.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

I will always take the strongest possible action to keep the British people safe, and this new agreement bolsters both our countries' efforts in going after the terrorists and serious and organised crime gangs that seek to do us harm.

The partnership will help to keep the public safe, protect our prosperity and bring dangerous criminals to justice.

Minister of State Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh said:

The UAE stands with the UK in the global fight against illicit finance. We are committed to stamping out terrorist financing and serious and organised crime in all of its forms to protect the UAE and uphold the integrity of the international financial system.

The partnership marks a key milestone in the close cooperation between the UAE and UK. Through the robust, collaborative structure of the partnership, the UAE is determined to advance our shared priorities and reinforce our efforts to keep our two nations safe, prosperous and secure.

The partnership is a concrete articulation of the UK and UAE's shared ambition to increase co-operation on illicit financial flows. It offers a robust platform to build a stronger and more enduring strategic partnership, advancing the priorities laid out in the UK's Integrated Review and the UAE's National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing Strategy.

The launch of the Partnership To Tackle Illicit Financial Flows was held in London today (17 September) in a meeting chaired by the Security Minister Damian Hinds.

The partnership will bolster law enforcement by enhancing intelligence sharing and joint operations between the UK and UAE against serious and organised crime networks.

The UK and UAE's understanding of terrorist financing internationally will also be improved by sharing insight and expertise to help identify and stop terrorist financial flows.

Furthermore the partnership will raise professional standards on countering money laundering with a particular focus on high-risk sectors such as dealers of precious metals and stones, and real-estate as well as emerging technologies such as crypto currencies.

There will be an annual meeting between the Home Secretary and the UAE Minister of State to ensure progress on the partnership's ambitious objectives.

The partnership follows the UK's ambitions, made in the Integrated Review, to increase our co-operation with the UAE on illicit financial flows.

New byelaws to be introduced in the Severn Estuary and River Severn

- All salmon caught by rod and net fisheries must be released alive with minimum injury and delay to help combat stock declines.
- Salmon numbers are currently among the lowest on record and are below sustainable levels.

The Environment Agency is introducing restrictions on salmon fishing on the River Severn and Severn Estuary in response to the decline in migratory salmon stocks.

The introduction of byelaws are in response to the decline in migratory salmon stocks. Numbers are currently among the lowest on record and are below sustainable levels.

They will prohibit the operation of parts of the Severn Estuary commercial net fishery such as the draft net and putcher fisheries. They will require the release of all salmon caught by the lare nets in the estuary.

The number of available lare net licences will be maintained at a maximum of 22 through a new Net Limitation Order, to allow this cultural method of fishing to continue without impacting the fish stocks.

The new byelaws for the Severn rod fishery, will require mandatory catch and release of all salmon caught. They will also restrict fishing methods in order to improve the survival of released salmon.

The byelaw introductions have been approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs following a period of consultation.

All cases put forward by the Environment Agency to propose byelaws are also reviewed by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

CEFAS has confirmed that the science supporting the conservation case and risk categories justify the introduction.

It has been recognised that reductions in fishery exploitation alone will not recover salmon stocks but make a valuable contribution.

Kevin Austin, Environment Agency's Deputy Director for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Natural Environment, said:

We are committed to protecting our precious salmon stocks for future generations to enjoy. This is why we are taking steps to limit pressures that contribute to salmon declines.

We understand that the new byelaws may not be popular to some fishermen, and we are not making this decision lightly.

We must act now before it's too late and encourage all fishermen to play their part to ensure the next generation of anglers will be able to enjoy the benefits of sustainable salmon and sea trout fishing.

Fishing is only one of multiple factors that have led to the decline in salmon stocks in the Severn. However, we must do as much as we can to improve the chances for salmon to spawn successfully.

In the recent years, the effects of long periods of low flow, increased temperatures and exceptional floods have all been having an impact on the Severn fish stocks.

With the help of our local fishermen and angling community, the introduction of catch and release will be a welcome boost to improve the chances for salmon to spawn successfully.

Notes to editors

What are the new rules (byelaws)?

The byelaws now require all salmon caught on rod and line on the River Severn to be released alive with minimum injury and delay.

New controls on angling methods such as the use of barbless hooks and restrictions on certain baits will be implemented, and are intended to improve the survival of released fish so that they can contribute to spawning stocks.

New controls on angling methods will prohibit specified methods for fishing for salmon and sea trout by rod and line within the River Severn as follows:

- no fishing for salmon unless using an artificial lure fitted with a single barbless or de-barbed hook with a gape no greater than 13mm
- no fishing for salmon with rod line by means of any bait (worms, prawns and shrimp)
- no fishing with artificial fly unless furnished with a single barbless

or de-barbed hook with a maximum gape of 13mm OR a single barbless or de-barbed treble or double hook with the maximum hook gape of any treble or double hook(s) being no greater than 7 millimetres

- closing the commercial net fisheries for Putter ranks and Draft nets in the Severn Estuary; Lave nets will continue to catch and release for cultural purpose

Responsible fishing provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature and feel the range of benefits doing so can bring.

However, it is important to remember that if you decide to take up fishing, you must have a valid rod fishing licence and adhere to fishing byelaws and fishery rules.

It's easy to buy a rod fishing licence online

<https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence>.

Rod fishing licence income is vital to the work of the Environment Agency to maintain, improve and develop fisheries.

Revenue generated from rod fishing licence sales is reinvested to benefit angling, examples include: tackling illegal fishing, protecting and restoring habitats for fish and improving facilities for anglers.