

Most vulnerable to be offered COVID-19 booster vaccines from next week

- UK accepts advice from the independent JCVI on who to prioritise for a booster dose
- Further details on deployment to be set out in due course

Millions of vulnerable people are to be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine from next week as the government confirms it has accepted the final advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The programme will be rolled out to the same priority groups as previously. This means care home residents, health and social care workers, people aged over 50, those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, adult carers, and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals will be prioritised.

However, there will be flexibility in the programme, allowing all those eligible to receive their booster from 6 months after their second doses. This approach will allow more vulnerable people to be given their boosters quicker.

The move will ensure the protection vaccines provide for those most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 will be maintained over the winter months. Data published by ONS yesterday shows people who have not been vaccinated account for around 99% of all deaths involving COVID-19 in England in the first half of this year. All 4 nations of the UK will follow the JCVI's advice.

Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Our vaccine roll-out has been phenomenal. It's vital that we do everything we can to prolong the protection our vaccines offer, particularly for those most vulnerable to COVID-19 as we head into the autumn and winter months. I have today accepted the advice from the independent experts at the JCVI to offer a booster vaccine to those most at risk.

The booster programme will start next week thanks to the extensive preparations the NHS has already made to ensure booster jabs can be rolled out as quickly as possible.

I urge all those eligible to get their COVID-19 and flu vaccines as soon as they can, so you have the strongest possible protection over the winter months.

Vaccinations will begin next week and the NHS will contact people directly to let them know when it is their turn to get their booster vaccine.

The JCVI has also advised that the flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered. The NHS will now consider where it's appropriate for co-administration to be used to support the roll-out of both programmes and where waiting to deliver one vaccine does not unduly delay administration of the other. It is important people take up the offer of both vaccines when they receive it, so people are encouraged to get both vaccinations as soon as possible rather than waiting for the possibility of getting them together.

People will be offered either a full dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or a half dose of the Moderna vaccine, following scientific evidence showing that both provide a strong booster response. This will be regardless of which vaccine the individual previously had.

Where neither can be offered, for example for those who have an allergy to either vaccine, the JCVI advise that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine can be used for those who received this vaccine for their first and second doses. The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is safe, effective and has already saved thousands of lives in the UK and around the world.

NHS England will outline further details on deployment shortly. Plans for the roll-out will use the existing networks in place for the COVID-19 vaccination programme, including:

- local vaccination services co-ordinated by primary care networks and community pharmacies
- vaccination centres across the country, ensuring people can access a booster dose regardless of where they live

Following the JCVI's interim advice, the NHS wrote to providers on 1 July to ask them to start preparing for a potential booster programme. Local NHS organisations, in collaboration with local providers, local authorities and regional teams, have worked over the summer to ensure these preparations are in place.

NHS plans include ensuring there is capacity across community pharmacy, vaccination centres and general practice to deliver booster jabs, that the NHS has the workforce in place to deliver the programme and measures to maximise the use of the NHS Estate.

Flu vaccination remains a priority. It has been recommended for staff and vulnerable groups in the UK since the late 1960s, with the average number of estimated deaths in England for the 5 seasons 2015 to 2020 at over 11,000 deaths annually. During the 2019 to 2020 winter season, 86% of deaths associated with flu were people aged 65 and over.

The JCVI advice has taken into account data from the government-funded COV-Boost clinical trial, looking at the impact of a booster dose of each vaccine on people's immune systems, as well as ComFluCOV, which is investigating co-administration of the flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

The latest data from Public Health England and Cambridge University shows vaccines have saved more than 112,300 lives and prevented 143,600

hospitalisations and 24 million cases in England.

Yesterday, the government announced that [people aged 12 to 15 in England would be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) from next week, following advice from the 4 UK chief medical officers.

Over 4 in 5 adults across the UK have received both COVID-19 vaccine doses, and over half of all 16 and 17 year olds have already come forward for their first jab.

A total of 44,108,746 people have received 2 doses (89.2%) and 48,458,700 people have received one dose (81.2%).

[SLC makes first Maintenance Loan payment to students](#)

SLC exists to enable students to invest in their futures through higher and further education by providing access to trusted, transparent, flexible and accessible student finance services. This week, we are starting to make Maintenance Loan payments to new and returning students across the UK and in the coming weeks we will support approximately 1.5 million students with access to finance.

Today we have made payments to approximately 170,000 new and returning students and we will continue to do so over the coming weeks with the biggest payment date expected to be 20 September, when the majority of students start the new term.

Those students that applied before the application deadline, will receive their first payment at the start of term. However, we can only release funding once we have received confirmation of registration on the course from the university or college that a student has registered (or enrolled) on. It can take three to five days for payments to reach students' bank accounts once they have registered, so it's a good idea that they have some money available to cover initial costs.

If a student applied late (after the deadlines) their application may not be fully processed by term start. However, we are working hard to ensure that all eligible applicants have some money in place by awarding the minimum Maintenance Loan amount first, followed by a top-up payment if they are entitled to more funding. [Students can find out more about how to get their first student finance payment if they have applied late online.](#)

The start of a new academic year can be a busy and exciting time for students when there is often a great deal to organise. It is also our busiest time of the year, and it may be difficult to get through to us on the phone. We have

tried to make it as simple as possible for student to track their payment without having to contact us. They can check the status of their payment easily at any time via their online account – our short film explains what each of the payment statuses mean.

[Short film](#)

We will also send an SMS message just before payment is due to let students know it's on its way, so it's important that they make sure that their mobile number is up to date in their online account. This is also a good time to check that we have the correct bank details and National Insurance Number too, so they can be sure that their money is going to the right place.

To provide our student customers with more support with payment we have published information and resources in our [online guide](#). [And if they missed our recent payment Facebook Live event, they can watch the recording of our customer advisors answering payment questions.](#)

I hope these resources are useful, and to all students that are starting or returning to university or college this autumn, I'd like to send my very best wishes for the year ahead.

[UKHO revamps ADMIRALTY EasyTide with new platform and website](#)

Press release

New ADMIRALTY EasyTide website to provide seamless access to UK tidal prediction services



The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) has successfully launched its new ADMIRALTY EasyTide platform following extensive research on enhancing its tidal product portfolio.

The new ADMIRALTY EasyTide service provides free access to 7-days' tidal predictions for over 600 UK port locations, displayed as a tide table and tidal curve. The newly launched website has been redesigned to improve usability and built to ensure responsiveness across desktop, mobile and tablet devices whilst users access UKHO's considerable well of UK tidal data.

The announcement follows the news in April 2021 that EasyTide would become a free-to-use service for the current day plus subsequent six days' tidal predictions for UK port locations from September 2021.

The design and usability improvements of the new website will support leisure users and enable safer activities at sea, such as watersports, beach going, coastal walking and sailing.

As part of the new transition, Enhanced Predictions will no longer be available. Instead, UKHO is encouraging customers to explore their wider tidal product portfolio, including its ADMIRALTY Tidal Prediction Service, UK Tidal APIs, ADMIRALTY TotalTide and stock of Leisure Charts.

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[Police Superintendents' Association speech 2021](#)

I am delighted to join your conference this year, but want to apologise that it has to be by video link. With Parliament in session during your conference, I am required to be in London for crucial votes on government business.

Last year, I thanked you for the superb work you and all of policing had done during the COVID pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic, as we know, changes to guidance and COVID restrictions created difficult situations.

You did not flinch.

Thank you for continuing to do your exceptionally challenging jobs in these exceptionally difficult times.

This is also a moment to pay tribute to all those officers who have fallen in the line of duty. In July, I, like many of you, visited the National Memorial Arboretum, which was intensely moving and poignant. It was a reminder to us all and to the public of the ultimate sacrifice that has been made by so many colleagues during their policing career, as they sought to keep the public safe.

Police pay

I want to address the question of police pay.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was very clear at the last Spending Review that the significant economic impact of COVID-19 forced the government to take very difficult decisions.

The pandemic deepened the disparity between public and private sector wages.

Many private sector workers lost their jobs, were furloughed, or saw their hours and wages seriously reduced.

This meant the Chancellor could not justify an across-the-board pay increase for public sector workers.

He asked the advice of the pay review bodies...

...proposing to raise pay in the NHS but pause pay rises elsewhere in order to protect jobs.

However, workers below the median wage – including police officers – did receive a rise. Fire and rescue service pay is negotiated through the independent National Joint Council. The government has no statutory role in determining the pay of firefighters.

Central government likewise has no role in local authority staff pay.

This pandemic is something we have never experienced before – a truly seismic event which has affected many sectors and employers across the entire economy.

It has meant even tougher choices than usual. None of us wanted to be in this situation.

This is obviously a matter for the PSA [Police Superintendents' Association], but I would urge you to ensure that your members' voices are heard by the PRRB [Police Remuneration Review Body] for the next round.

Police pensions

Likewise on pensions, we seek a workable solution that is fair to public sector workers and fair to taxpayers.

I know the PSA attended an engagement session with the Treasury on the recently introduced Pensions Bill this month, as well as one with the Home Office in August.

We want to work with you as government finds a way through.

Diversity in policing

On diversity in policing, we are supporting police forces with a variety of recruitment strategies, whilst delivering a national campaign designed to reach diverse audiences.

In every discussion on this important issue, I have always stated that diversity is not just an issue when it comes to recruitment.

Paul and the National Policing Board know that I have set the bar high on the issue of retention and career progression – key areas of people investment that have been overlooked for too long.

This year, the College of Policing will plan and design a new Fast Track Inspector to Superintendent programme.

This is very welcome, as is the PSA's 'Future Supers' coaching and mentoring programme with the College. I am delighted that over 300 ethnic minority inspectors, chief inspectors, and police staff equivalents have signed up.

The Beating Crime Plan

On our fundamental joint task of driving down crime, we have made progress, but there is more to do.

Of course, COVID restrictions had the effect of suppressing some crimes, but the latest crime statistics for the year to March 2021 show that overall crime levels were stable.

Serious violence fell by 14 per cent.

Homicide fell by 16 per cent.

Meanwhile, neighbourhood crime had fallen by 31 per cent over the last 2 years.

In July, we published our Beating Crime Plan.

Operational decisions are for you...

...but the Prime Minister and I have set out our strategic approach for cutting crime, as a complement to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which has its second reading in the House of Lords today.

It is essential that we cut crime. Crime blights communities and destroys lives.

Our Beating Crime Plan has 3 overarching priorities:

- traditional crime, such as serious violence, homicide, and neighbourhood crime
- hidden harms
- fraud and online crime

We have introduced measures to strengthen the links between communities and policing, through the recruitment of 20,000 additional police officers by March 2023.

These efforts have helped us recruit 9,814 additional officers already.

We have also invested £70 million in the Safer Streets Fund, which will greatly help those communities hit hardest by crime.

We have made £130.5 million available this year to tackle serious violence, including murder and knife crime.

This includes:

- £30 million for the 18 areas across England and Wales worst affected by serious violence, supporting the police in identifying violence hotspots and targeting operational activity in those areas
- £35.5 million, in the same 18 areas, to develop violence reduction units
- £20 million for new early intervention programmes to help stop young people from being drawn into violence

Drugs are not only a scourge in their own right, but a major driver of crime.

That's why the government has invested £59 million in Project ADDER up to March 2023.

This project lets us work with forces to test a systematic approach to tackling drugs that balances enforcement with diversion, treatment, and recovery.

We have also invested heavily in tackling the drugs supply and tackling county lines gangs.

Since launching in November 2019, the County Lines Programme has resulted in the closure of more than 1,100 lines...

...over 6,300 arrests, over £2.9 million in cash and significant quantities of drugs seized...

...and more than 1,900 vulnerable people safeguarded.

The Beating Crime Plan also outlines our strategies for other crimes, such as those that involve hidden harms.

Crimes like domestic abuse, rape, modern slavery, and child sexual abuse are not always as visible as others, but they have a devastating impact.

We are building capacity and capability around fraud, cyber-crime, and other forms of online harm that blight people's lives.

The Beating Crime Plan also sets out our firm commitment to tackle economic crime, particularly fraud and cyber-crime.

We are publishing a Fraud Action Plan, further hardening the UK's defences

against fraudsters, and replacing Action Fraud with an improved national fraud and cyber-crime reporting system.

Our network of regional organised crime units include cyber-crime and Darkweb units. They are now up and running and provide access to specialist capabilities.

At a local level, we have established specialist cyber-crime units in every local police force in England and Wales.

We are also providing policing with the cyber skills and training needed through the Cyber Digital Career Pathway, delivered at the College of Policing.

We will continue to support and develop capacity in the Law Enforcement Cyber Crime Network. I want us to evolve it from reactive to more proactive.

And we are developing a campaign to confront the growing threat of ransomware and disrupt cyber criminals based overseas.

Meanwhile, antisocial behaviour and crime exist on a continuum and the first often leads to the latter.

There are a range of flexible tools and powers available to the police and other local agencies to tackle antisocial behaviour and we are working with local areas to ensure they are being used effectively.

We are going to work even harder with police officers and police and crime commissioners to address antisocial behaviour, often employing local solutions.

We are acutely aware of the dangers of adding to your burden, but all public organisations need to be fully accountable to the public.

Elected politicians – and I know this is overwhelmingly true of police officers too – frequently hear concerns from the public about response times.

That's why the Beating Crime Plan includes a commitment to develop league tables for response times to 101 and 999 calls.

I want to work very closely with you and will support you on the implementation of the Beating Crime Plan in operational settings.

Police powers

A critical element to beating crime is ensuring the police have all the powers they need to do their jobs. Senior officers agree that stop and search is crucial.

We piloted relaxations to voluntary conditions on Section 60 stop and search, empowering 9,000 more officers to authorise its use.

We gathered the views of police officers and community scrutiny leaders

throughout this process.

We found that police officers felt more confident using Section 60 – and that these relaxations better reflected the operational reality of policing. Consequently, the Beating Crime Plan made the relaxations permanent.

Plymouth and firearms licensing

A month ago, we saw the tragic and terrible shootings in Plymouth. Once again, we have been devastated by a senseless, appalling crime, and families have been left heartbroken.

My visit to Plymouth was shattering, but it was hugely reassuring to talk to police officers there. They were doing an extremely professional job in deeply distressing circumstances.

Events like this are rare, but that is no consolation to those affected – and their impact is felt throughout the country.

I have asked police forces in England, Scotland, and Wales urgently to review firearms licensing practices.

In particular, I have asked for a full review of all certificates that have been seized, refused, revoked, or surrendered in the past 12 months and then subsequently approved by the police.

The Home Office is bringing forward new statutory guidance to improve how people applying for a firearms licence are assessed in future, with greater consistency and improved standards.

Nobody will be given a firearms licence unless their doctor has confirmed to the police that they don't have any relevant medical conditions, including in relation to their mental health.

The new guidance will also make explicit that firearms applicants may be subject to social media checks.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct is also looking at the issues around the granting of firearms licences to those involved.

As all this is work which is ongoing, I won't comment further, but clearly it is vital that we do all we reasonably can to prevent further tragedies like we saw in Plymouth.

The public need to know that all necessary checks have been made to help keep them safe.

The Police Covenant and wider police wellbeing

It is also important that we never lose sight of the human side of policing.

It's right to set priorities and frame strategies, and to use technology and

data in a skilful way.

Ultimately, though, policing is delivered by people.

It matters that the police force is representative. It's also why we need to think so hard about welfare.

Police officers have faced all the same pressures as the rest of us throughout the pandemic, on top of having an even harder job than normal.

Policing is difficult and ferociously demanding. And leadership roles like yours bring additional pressures.

The Police Covenant was long overdue, and I am very grateful to the Police Superintendents' Association for all you have done to champion and support the development of the covenant.

The covenant will include a focus on occupational health standards and mental health training. We are also looking at options with the National Police Wellbeing Service for appointing a new Chief Medical Officer for Policing in England and Wales.

The Front Line Review clearly revealed your frustrations about unnecessary demands getting in the way of core policing...

...including internally generated demands such as disproportionate administration, overly bureaucratic processes, ineffective IT, and difficulties in sharing best practice and learning.

The development of the Police Covenant will draw on evidence from the Front Line Review. Addressing organisational issues is a major priority.

Conclusion

It has been a privilege to join your conference today. I value my interactions with policing – and my support for your work and policing is resolute.

Each of you across the Police Superintendents' Association has a central role to play, as we pursue our shared mission to keep this country safe. Thank you for all you do.

[**Policy Exchange speech: Liz Truss sets out Britain's new trade policy**](#)

Well thanks very much Dean, it's fantastic to be here this afternoon at

Policy Exchange to talk about trade and to talk about Britain's future as an open, enterprising economy where everybody shares the benefits of trade. And in order to recover from Covid, we need to make sure that we have thriving businesses who are seizing the opportunities of the future and creating jobs.

At the Department for International Trade, we are determined to make sure that we enable those opportunities. That's why we are building more successful trade routes, especially in digital and services, we're driving an exports-led recovery and we're bringing investment to every part of the UK.

Our trade strategy is grounded in the fundamental changes happening across the world... namely, that we are seeing a growth in the world's middle class, and two-thirds of the world's middle-class will be in Asia by 2030. Secondly, that we know that digital trade is becoming the dominant form of trade.

And finally we can see a huge rise in demand for the kind of high-value industries that the UK excels in – we're expecting that to double over the next decade.

And we face a choice as a country. Do we reach out to take forward those opportunities or do we stay in our comfort zone?

And in order to get those opportunities, we do have to jettison some of our outdated assumptions and attitudes. Today I am going to explain how we need to move from defence to offence in trade, and by doing that how we're going to benefit all parts of the UK and level up our country.

Our strategy is to grow trade with the fastest-growing parts of the world and to turbocharge trade, particularly in digital and services. This will help forge our future as a tech trade superpower.

Our approach will keep prices competitive, it will help make our businesses more dynamic, and ultimately it will help the UK economy grow and it will help level up our country.

Understandably, after nearly fifty years of being in the protectionist EU, we lost our trade muscle memory that we'd built up as a sovereign trading nation. But we've been building it back: negotiating our own trade deals, defending our key industries and getting out on the front foot.

Some people in the Twittersphere and beyond find this rather unsettling. But my view is now is the time that we need to dump the baggage of the previous debates and look forward to the future of trade, not the past. Many of these naysayers have thinly veiled vested interests to protect. They want the status quo rather than a dynamic future.

But I think it's important to recognise there is no status quo that we can stick with. We've got a choice: embrace these opportunities and dynamism, or face decline. Time and time again, our entrepreneurs in Britain have succeeded by looking forwards and being dynamic. The incumbents who have taken their positions for granted have seen failure.

Barely a third of the companies who are now in the FTSE100 were there when it

was first established in 1984.

Now of course in the wake of Covid, we have worked really hard across government to make sure we are bringing in the life-saving goods for our country, and there were issues with supply chains, but I'm afraid that has led to calls for autarky. People saying that we should produce everything from gloves to microchips here in the United Kingdom.

And of course we need to make to make sure we're not strategically dependent on fair-weather friends. But cutting ourselves off from trade would be hugely damaging.

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There are some people here in Britain who have said if goods are not produced exactly according to the way they're produced in Britain, we shouldn't be importing them. But we've got to look at the logical results of those types of attitudes.

It would mean British businesses losing out on overseas government contracts. It would mean British consumers paying higher prices in shops and it would mean huge swathes of developing countries losing out on their potential to become more successful. There are other people who say that the impact and experience of Covid justifies a permanently bigger state.

But what we know from our history in post-war Britain is that it ultimately leads to worse outcomes for everyone. We saw poor productivity, we saw stagnant growth and we fell behind our international competitors in those years following the war.

Industries like steel and shipbuilding were let down by successive governments which led to job losses and deindustrialisation, a situation that we are now turning around.

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And that's why we must now face facts: the path to economic revival doesn't lie in retreating and retrenching from the global marketplace, or inexorably growing the size of the state. That would leave us poorer, less free and consigned to decline.

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For all those reasons and more, our best way forward is free trade and free enterprise. And I'm pleased to say that people across Britain increasingly agree.

Two-thirds of those surveyed last year supported free trade. Our most recent survey taken this year shows that support has risen. It has hit 70% of the public supporting free trade. It is clear that British people support our strategy to move from defence to offence.

This strategy is crucial for our success, as we expand our trade footprint

across the globe. We were negotiating right through the pandemic, striking advanced trade deals while championing open markets and free enterprise.

Our strategy is grounded in the fundamental principle of securing more trade – and particularly expanding trade with the fastest-growing parts of the world. This is the way we are going to get the best deal for everyone and it's how we'll cement Britain's place as a global hub for trade and investment. We want to be open to the best and brightest.

We want to attract the world's top investors. We have struck deals so far covering 68 countries plus the EU, worth £744 billion. We are in negotiations now the Trans-Pacific Partnership which is one of the world's largest free trade areas by the end of 2022. We are just about to commence negotiations with India, Mexico, Canada and the Gulf.

We have established the Office for Investment under Lord Grimstone and are going to be holding the UK's first Global Investment Summit in October, and it will involve a reception at Windsor Castle with Her Majesty the Queen.

We will also be pursuing green investment through the COP26 summit. We are a science and tech superpower, as demonstrated by our world-leading vaccine rollout, our fantastic technology industries, our great universities, and we're also pursuing radical regulatory reform in areas gene editing, financial services and right across the board in technology.

We want to make sure that the United Kingdom is more competitive, bolder and more forward-leaning than any other country on the planet. We are supporting our exporters and investors through trade and investment hubs right across our country.

So why are we doing all of this?

Pretty much for the same reason that Robert Peel abolished the protectionist Corn Laws. It is about answering what he called the "great question – what is calculated to increase the comforts and to improve the condition" for working people?

Peel's reforms marked a new era of prosperity – GDP tripled by the end of the 19th century. And what we face now is significant economic challenges as we recover from the pandemic. Inflation is rising globally with commodity prices soaring, which heightens the need to keep prices down for consumers. Across the world, we see disrupted supply chains, labour shortages and costs rising.

Trade has a vital role to play in keeping prices down. Research published by the National Bureau of Economic Research estimates that the average British consumer would lose a third of their net income in real terms without trade.

And it's even worse for the poorest ten per cent of our society – their net income would be cut in half. That's because those on the lowest incomes spend a greater share of their money on imported goods like food and clothing.

Protectionism is no way to protect people's living standards. At this critical time, we need trade to curb any rise in the cost of living through

the power of economic openness.

By extending and deepening our trade routes, we can buy more of what we need at competitive prices. We are also broadening our range of reliable suppliers.

That's what the Trans-Pacific Partnership is all about. We currently import £28 billion of goods from those areas, but by joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership, we can do it on reliable terms. They have high labour standards, high environmental standards baked into the deal, so we get more reliable supply.

The stronger trade routes we establish, the more British employers can benefit from exchanging their products, innovation and capital. As the OECD makes clear, "trade openness" is really crucial to success.

We have seen how countries have transformed their fortunes. New Zealand, a nation of over 4 million people, now produces enough food to feed 40 million thanks to its open approach to trade. It's the second largest dairy exporter in the world.

By contrast, other countries like Malaysia and Mexico that pursued protectionist policies found themselves struggling to compete. They've now embraced the Trans-Pacific Partnership and are seeing economic growth as a result.

I am determined that in the UK we learn the lessons from our overseas counterparts and from our own history, and at this critical moment we make the right choice.

Rejecting protectionism and statism, and instead embracing enterprise and free trade, and in doing so making people better off – particularly those on the lowest incomes, particularly those outside London and the South East.

I am determined to make sure this industrial success is shared across the country. We want to involve businesses in negotiating those agreements as well as encouraging them to export and invest in Britain.

In the past, we have made mistakes. We focused too much on trade with the EU despite the richest opportunities being in the Asia-Pacific. We were too fragmented in our support and not focused enough on exporters right around the country. Over half of the money spent on our trade shows previously went to businesses around London.

But now our new Tradeshow programme will focus on the whole country, helping more firms across the Midlands, North and other parts of the UK. Nearly half of the businesses UK Export Finance supported were also in London and the southeast. But now we have the new UKEF general exporting facility, it's targeting businesses from Aberdeen to the West Midlands, making sure that everyone benefits with the backing of the UK Government.

We are also launching a new export strategy later this year which will support jobs and level up the country by creating a single export support

service and we'll extend its reach through our hubs in Darlington, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

The next step is going to be fully digitising our trade – Singapore is a model for this. It has the world's largest trans-shipment port; it has a single window at the border. We want that here in the United Kingdom.

And why is all this important?

It's important because we know exporters pay higher wages, are more productive, they do more research and development. But exporting businesses are far more likely to be found in London than in Sunderland or Glasgow. That is why we want to level up the country by making exporting the norm, rather than the exception.

I want Britain to become a nation of exporters again, and it's not insurmountable, we did export £600 billion in goods and services last year. But only one in ten British businesses export. In Germany and Denmark, twice as many businesses export per capita, and businesses in Slovenia are three times as likely to export their goods.

There is no reason we cannot match them.

My message to business is clear: we are out there negotiating trade deals, we want to help you walk through those doors, access those opportunities. Our agenda is about unleashing Britain's full exporting potential, and I want to see more goods that are made in Britain sold across the world. We, together, we can lead a huge exporting revival.

Ultimately, more British businesses becoming high-wage, high-growth and high-productivity will help drive our future economic success. And we're going to make that happen by focusing on the areas where we have comparative advantage: services, science and technology, culture, advanced manufacturing, quality food and drink.

Today, I am publishing new analysis by the Department for International Trade, which sets out the potential prize in the global market. It lays bare two major trends.

Firstly, the centre of gravity in the global economy is moving East. Almost 60% of the world's high-income earners are set to be in Asia by 2030. That means more consumers who want to buy high-quality goods and services that Britain sells, whether it's technology, financial services, or high-quality manufactured goods.

Secondly, we are seeing the accelerated adoption of technology, particularly after Covid presents. Demand for digital services is set to double in this decade. And we're also seeing demand booming for all of the types of key industries Britain specialises in, from life sciences to media, in a global market which could be worth £9 trillion by 2030.

We are going to make the opportunities work for us and take advantage of them as a newly nimble nation. We are using our first mover advantage to the

utmost.

For example, we started negotiating with Australia a year ago and have already secured agreement. We are achieving quality at speed by building a global network of next generation trade deals that are advanced in services and digital trade, where Britain excels.

We are forging modern trade routes taking us from Silk Road to the Silicon Road. And we are playing to our strengths as the world's second largest services exporter and, for me, the world's most innovative economy.

While some say we should stay on the defensive and focus on they could lose, we are on the offensive; we are zeroing in on where the biggest opportunities are to make our country successful.

Now of course we will continue to protect our industries from unfair practices and malign actors. We have shown that we are prepared to operate in trade defence as well.

But we know fundamentally that offence is the best form of defence. By taking this approach, we are helping the export British goods and services and driving up productivity and wages.

At the same time, we are defending our core beliefs in free enterprise, free speech, and democracy.

I know that the British people are up for the journey ahead. They want to see us out in the global market, on the front foot competing and succeeding. They're ready to join us, seizing the opportunities of the future.

Together, we are moving to offence to cement our status as an open, enterprising economy which shares the benefits of trade with everyone. And that's helping us to level up our country with new opportunities, new jobs, and new growth.

And by doing so, we are answering Peel's "great question" about how to best improve the lives of people across our country. That answer remains true as ever: free enterprise and free trade.

Thank you.