

COP26 Regional Ambassador Fiona Clouder travels to Guatemala

World news story

UK Government's Regional Ambassador for Latin America and the Caribbean, Fiona Clouder, will visit Guatemala on 25-26 August.



Ambassador Clouder will be in Guatemala to help ensure the delivery of COP26 objectives by engaging with representatives of government, businesses and wider society. In the meetings Ambassador Clouder will thrive for a COP26 that could achieve ambitious emission reduction targets, promote adaptation measures to protect communities and natural habitats, mobilize finance in favour of the environment, and accelerate collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society to deliver on our climate goals faster.

Ambassador Clouder will discuss this with the Climate Change Ambassador for Guatemala at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rita Mishan; the Minister of Environment, Mario Rojas and the Minister of Finance, Álvaro González Ricci. She will also have discussions with Guatemala's Green Building Council, currently implementing a UK funded project to promote sustainable development by enhancing the capabilities of the private and public construction sector. Finally, Ambassador Clouder will have a meeting with the Chamber of Industry of Guatemala to discuss the critical role private sector plays to tackle the effects of climate change.

In the run up to COP26, the UK is working with every nation to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change. More than 190 world leaders are expected to arrive in Scotland where the COP26 will take place in November this year. Together, with negotiators, government representatives, businesses and citizens for twelve days of talks, we aim to spur commitments that could lead to cleaner air, creating good jobs, restoring nature and at the same time unleashing economic growth.

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£600,000 to ignite regional space growth

News story

The UK Space Agency is inviting local development bodies to bid for funding of up to £100,000 to help put space at the heart of local economies



The £600,000 Regional Space Development fund launched today aims to accelerate the development of a thriving, resilient and well-connected space ecosystem across the UK.

The fund will support the space sector at a local level by supporting the recruitment of Space Cluster Development Managers and pump-priming activities that create jobs and growth.

Dr Colin Baldwin, Head of Local Growth Strategy at the UK Space Agency said:

Our cities, towns and rural areas all have competitive advantages essential to shaping our economy – and the space sector will be a key driver of future growth across the UK.

This funding will strengthen innovative companies and agencies in all corners of the country, helping the UK to achieve its ambitions in space and realise its potential on Earth.

Local economic development bodies are encouraged to act as the lead applicant. However, applications from UK Higher Education Institutions, other research organisations, and industry will also be considered.

The deadline for applications to the Regional Space Development fund is midday on 20 September 2021.

[CNC Firearms Instructor takes on Ultra Marathon](#)

News story

Next month CNC Firearms Instructor Andrew Bainbridge will be taking up the challenge to complete an Ultra Marathon of 100 kilometres (62 miles) along the Thames Path.



Andrew is undertaking this gruelling challenge to raise awareness and funds for the charity Rock 2 Recovery, which supports veterans suffering with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), providing immediate help for those suffering from PTSD as well as ongoing support and mentoring.

One of the patrons of the charity is Jason Fox from the Channel 4 SAS series. Jason has spoken candidly and extensively about his personal experience of PTSD and the effects this had on his career and personal life.

Andrew said: "I am very much aware that within the CNC we have many military veterans who have served on operations in recent campaigns and who may unknowingly be suffering from the effects of PTSD.

"As well as raising money for this excellent charity it also an opportunity to raise awareness of another avenue of potential support for those who may need it. I have a [donation page on Team Fortitude website](#) – if you have any spare pennies to donate I would really appreciate it. In 2019 I ran a 54-mile Ultra Marathon in Normandy along the D-Day beaches raising £1650 for Blind and Limbless Servicemen (BLESMA)."

To find out more about the [Rock 2 Recovery charity](#) and the amazing work they do, please visit their website.

[UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces new Trade Envoy to Ghana](#)

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has today (Monday, 23 August 2021) appointed 10 Trade Envoys across the world, including the new Trade Envoy to Ghana, Baroness Kate Hoey.

Baroness Hoey has been appointed for her experience supporting global businesses, all of which will help both British and Ghanaian businesses to find new export and investment opportunities. The Baroness will work closely with the UK in Ghana's Trade Team, as well as attending the twice annual UK-Ghana Business Council alongside senior representatives from the Government of Ghana and the UK's Minister for Africa.

Director for the UK's Department for International Trade in Ghana, Lindsey Gilbert-Crouch, welcomed the appointment:

We look forward to working with Baroness Hoey in her new role as Trade Envoy to Ghana. The Baroness brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience which will strengthen and broaden the already mutually prosperous UK-Ghana partnership.

As we look ahead to the coming COP26 held in Glasgow later this year, we know that Baroness Hoey will also be interested in Ghana's work to create a greener and more sustainable business environment.

Ghana has a vibrant, dynamic business community with strong links to the UK. In 2020, a year of significant business uncertainty, bilateral trade between the UK and Ghana reached just over £1bn and over the last financial year, the UK more than £180m worth of business deals.

The UK's trade and investment work continues to closely align with Ghana's beyond aid agenda, supporting development in the country's infrastructure through roads and water as well as the security sector. The recent trade deal signed between the UK and Ghana not only continues to build on the existing mutually prosperous partnership but also provides Ghana with tariff free access to the UK.

UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss, said:

Our Trade Envoys play a key role in delivering our ambitious global trade agenda, and I am delighted the Prime Minister has appointed

10 Trade Envoys, who will boost opportunities for businesses in some of the world's fastest growing markets.

As we seek to boost exports, promote investment, and break down barriers to trade, our Trade Envoys will support us to share in the benefits that a closer trading relationship can offer to our businesses and our communities.

Baroness Hoey has previously served as a Minister of State for the UK government, working first in the UK's Home Office and the then Department of National Heritage, now the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Baroness also served as a regional MP for Vauxhall in London for 20 years.

Further information

- to find further information and photographs of Baroness Hoey please use this [link](#)
 - the UK government already has Trade Envoys in more than 60 countries, building on the UK's strong relations with key trading countries, and working with the Department for International Trade's global network
 - in 2020/21, Trade Envoys supported over £16 billion of UK exports as part of DIT's export promotion activity. Exports are central to the government's ambition to level-up the UK and build back better, with government-led research estimating that exports support 6.5 million jobs across the UK, 74% of which are outside London
 - the full list of new appointments is below:
 - Lord Botham appointed to Australia
 - Baroness Hoey appointed to Ghana
 - Stephen Timms MP appointed to Switzerland and Lichtenstein
 - David Mundell MP appointed to New Zealand
 - Mark Eastwood MP appointed to Pakistan
 - Marco Longhi MP appointed to Brazil
 - Conor Burns MP appointed to Canada
 - Lord Walney [John Woodcock] appointed to Tanzania
 - Felicity Buchan MP appointed to Iceland and Norway
 - Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP appointed to Cameroon, in addition to his role as Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Egypt
 - you can find the full list of [existing Trade Envoys here](#)
 - established in 2018, the UKGBC functions as a high-level forum to promote bilateral relations and strategic partnerships between Ghanaian private sector and UK counterparts. Promoting trade and investment for the mutual benefit of each nation and enhancing economic growth
 - the UK-Ghana Trade Partnership Agreement provides Ghana with tariff free access to the UK and restores the terms of trade that applied until 31 December 2020. Agreement restores Ghana's duty free, quota free access to the UK. Providing both nations with greater opportunities to further strengthen the UK-Ghana relationship
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Batch of metformin oral solution recalled by MHRA due to nitrosamine impurity

Press release

Patients should not stop any treatments without consulting their doctor or pharmacist.



A recall notice for one batch (10,452 units) of metformin oral solution has today been issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as a precautionary measure after it was found to contain a nitrosamine impurity above accepted levels.

The impurity, nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), has been identified as a risk factor in the development of certain cancers.

At the very low levels that have been detected, nitrosamines only have a potentially harmful effect if consumed over a long period of time and to date there is no evidence that this impurity has caused any harm to patients. The [Class 2 recall](#) to wholesaler dealer and pharmacy level is precautionary to prevent further exposure.

All medicines in the UK are independently tested for quality prior to being made available to the public and there are strict controls in place to limit the presence of this impurity in metformin products. During testing prior to batch release, levels of the impurity NDMA in batch number 0LL0018 of metformin oral solution were found to be within acceptable limits. However, routine monitoring of the batch while on the market showed that levels of NDMA were no longer acceptable at 9 months.

The marketing authorisation holder has placed all remaining stock of metformin oral solution on hold while they investigate this issue further. No other batches have been found to be affected.

Patients are advised to continue taking their medication as directed by their

HCP and should not stop any treatments without consulting their healthcare team. The risks of suddenly stopping medication for type 2 diabetes is higher than the potential risk presented by the impurity. Individuals who are concerned should talk to their pharmacist or GP.

The MHRA continues to work with the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that an adequate supply of these products remains available for patients.

Dr Alison Cave MHRA Chief Safety Officer, said:

Patient safety is at the heart of everything we do. This recall of one batch of metformin oral solution is a precautionary measure to prevent further exposure to the nitrosamine impurity. There is no evidence to date that this impurity has caused any harm to patients.

Individuals who have metformin oral solution from this batch at home should continue to take their medication. It is very important to speak to your doctor or pharmacist before stopping any treatment – they can address any concerns you may have and can advise you on the best course of action.

Healthcare professionals should check their stock to quarantine and return any units from this batch to their supplier using their supplier's approved process.

Notes to editors

- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe. All our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits justify any risks.
- Metformin is widely used to treat type 2 diabetes.

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