

UK will provide vaccines to COP26 delegates

World news story

At the G7, the UK committed to a safe in-person COP26, and to provide vaccinations for registered participants who would otherwise be unable to get them.



The UK government plans to offer vaccinations to registered national delegations, observers (including civil society) and media delegates who cannot access vaccines through other means. This will be managed through the COP26 [registration portal](#), which launched on the 28 June 2021.

The offer for registering for a vaccine closes on the 23rd July. Accredited COP Delegates being fully vaccinated will be an important mitigation measure to ensure the health and safety of both delegates, and the local community. The vaccination of registered delegates will be part of a wider package of measures the UK will have in place to be able to deliver a safe, in-person COP26.

COP26 is the 2021 edition of the United Nations Annual Climate Change Conference. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is integrated by the signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – a treaty agreed in 1994 which has 197 Parties (196 countries and the EU). The 2021 conference, hosted by the UK, together with Italy, in Glasgow, will be the 26th meeting of the Parties.

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UK Minister visits Syria border to push for continued humanitarian access

Press release

Minister for the European Neighbourhood, Wendy Morton, visited the Bab al-Hawa border crossing between Turkey and northern Syria and reiterated the UK's call for the essential aid corridor to remain open.



The Minister for the European Neighbourhood, Wendy Morton, visited the Bab al-Hawa border crossing between Turkey and northern Syria today (29 June) to see first-hand how vital UK and international humanitarian assistance is reaching 2.4 million Syrians every month.

Her visit comes ahead of a crucial vote on 10 July, when United Nations Security Council (UNSC) members will decide whether to keep this crossing open.

The UK's position is clear: the Bab al-Hawa border crossing must remain open and other border crossings must be reopened so that life-saving food, shelter and medical supplies can be delivered and vital aid operations can continue. The border from Turkey is currently the only authorised route for UN-coordinated humanitarian aid to reach the more than 2 million people in north-west Syria who have been displaced from their homes.

Russia and China have used their veto power to reduce the number of border crossings available leaving only Bab al-Hawa, making it more difficult to respond to rising humanitarian needs in the region. These two countries continue to place political support for the Assad regime above life-saving support for the Syrian people. The UK urges all UNSC members to vote to expand humanitarian access into Syria to avoid an even greater deterioration of the dire humanitarian situation in the north west of the country.

FCDO Minister for the European Neighbourhood Wendy Morton said:

The Bab al-Hawa border crossing must remain open so that life-saving humanitarian assistance can reach the most vulnerable

Syrians. Between 2020 and 2021, the UK provided clean drinking water to over 225,000 people, health consultations to more than 400,000 Syrians and formal education to over 200,000 children in north-west Syria – all through this vital aid crossing.

The UK, as a force for good in the region, will be voting in favour of maximum humanitarian access at the UNSC so that charities operating in north west Syria can continue their life-saving work. More than 13 million Syrians remain in dire need of support across the war-torn country.

Minister Morton also reaffirmed UK support for Turkey's efforts to maintain the ceasefire and to protect defenceless civilians fleeing the Syrian regime's barbaric and wholly unjustified assaults. Turkey is a close friend of the UK and a NATO ally on the frontline of some of the most serious challenges the world faces. The UK will continue to support Turkey as it helps refugees from Syria, including through our pledge of £427m to the EU Facility for Refugees by 2025.

Notes to editors

- To date, we have committed over £3.7 billion in response to the regional Syrian crisis, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. Since 2012, across Syria and the region, we have provided over 28 million food rations, over 21 million medical consultations, 6 million cash grants/vouchers, 10 million relief packages and over 14 million vaccines.

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[Committing to protecting a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace for generations to come](#)

Madam President, today, almost everything has a digital dimension.

The international community needs to grasp the tremendous opportunities that the internet offers, for learning, for business, for communication and, indeed, for entertainment.

But we also need to treat the threats that go with that, with the seriousness they deserve.

The threats posed by malicious and dangerous activity in cyberspace are now

clearer than ever.

Indeed, only last month, a criminal gang targeted Colonial Pipeline, holding to ransom America's largest fuel pipeline and threatening serious economic disruption.

Some of this activity aims for theft or extortion. Often, it is simply sabotage and disruption.

But we have a collective responsibility, as an international community, to create a cyberspace that benefits all countries and, indeed, all people. Together, we should be shaping the rules that serve the common good.

We are of course not starting from scratch in this regard.

It was ten years ago that the UK brought together more than 60 countries in London, to establish basic principles like universal access to the internet, and protecting individuals' rights online.

Ten years later, we have come a long way since then.

Just this year, the UN General Assembly unanimously reaffirmed the application of international law in cyberspace and agreed a set of voluntary principles, including the importance of protecting health infrastructure.

A Group of Governmental Experts moved forward our understanding of the norms, rules and principles of cyberspace, and set out clear interpretations of how international law applies.

But we want to go further. It is no secret that states are developing cyber operations to support their military and national security capabilities. Indeed, the United Kingdom is one of them.

Let me be clear: we will use these capabilities to defend ourselves against those who seek to harm us. We are committed to use these capabilities where necessary, in a proportionate way, and in line with international law.

Our collective challenge here is to clarify how the rules of international law apply to state activities in cyberspace, guard against malicious actors bending the rules, and enforce the consequences for those who commit malicious cyber activity.

The United Kingdom is committed to working with all countries, and with its many stakeholders, to make sure cyberspace is governed by rules and norms that enhance our collective security.

Rules and norms that promote democratic values, rules and norms that support global economic growth, and counter the spread of digital authoritarianism.

We must uphold the rule of law in cyberspace: embodying responsible state behaviour, incentivising compliance, deterring attacks and, indeed, holding others to account for irresponsible state behaviour.

We must also absolutely prioritise and ensure human rights are protected online, as they are offline, to ensure we build a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace, accessible to everyone.

The UN framework for responsible state behaviour in cyberspace is our starting point. We must support all States to now implement it.

The United Kingdom was pleased to announce last month that we will invest over \$30m to support cyber capacity-building in vulnerable countries – particularly across Africa and the Indo-Pacific.

Our work with Interpol will help countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Kenya, support joint operations against cybercriminals.

Elsewhere, UK funding will help build national emergency response teams to protect countries against these threats.

We could of course do none of this without our partners in the private sector, and, of course, in academic and civil society.

But, in all of this, as we join here together today, the Security Council also has a pivotal and an important role to play.

Where malicious activity poses risks to international peace and security – by exacerbating conflict or causing humanitarian suffering – the Security Council must be ready to respond.

The Council should respond just as it would to threats posed by conventional means.

Madam President, we have the chance to grasp the opportunities of cyberspace and ensure it remains a force for prosperity and progress for all.

To do that, it is vital that we work together to counter those who would risk our collective security.

And let me assure you of this: the United Kingdom is fully committed to protecting a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace for generations to come.

Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) chair appointments

The Anglian (Eastern) RFCC chair and other RFCC chair reappointments have been announced.

Following a recruitment campaign the Department for Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Powell OBE as the new Anglian (Eastern) RFCC chair.

Richard's appointment will run from 1 July 2021 for four years until 30 June 2025.

We have also reappointed six RFCC chairs for a further term when their current terms end on 30 June 2021. These appointments will run from 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2025, unless stated otherwise:

- Eddy Poll, chair of Anglian (Northern) RFCC
- Shirel Stedman, chair of English Severn and Wye RFCC
- Martin Hurst, chair of Southern RFCC
- Vij Randeniya, chair of Trent RFCC
- David Jenkins, chair of Wessex RFCC (until 31 August 2024)
- Colin Mellors, chair of Yorkshire RFCC

The appointment followed procedures set out in the [Ministerial Governance Code for Public Appointments](#) which came into force on 1 January 2017. There is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if significant) to be declared. Richard has not declared any significant political activity during the past five years.

RFCCs help to provide governance for the [Environment Agency's](#) flood and coastal erosion risk management functions and cover all flood risks that are not the responsibility of the water companies. They have three main purposes:

- to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines
- to promote efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that optimises value for money and benefits for local communities
- to provide a link between the Environment Agency, lead local flood authorities, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to engender mutual understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area.

All chair posts attract a remuneration currently set at £17,941 for a commitment of five days per month.

Richard Powell OBE:

Richard is an environmental and charity advisor working on the climate change and sustainability agenda's as well as charity business planning and governance.

Richard previously spent 28 years as Regional Director of the RSPB and Regional Director for the National Trust in the East of England. During this time, he oversaw the acquisition of 1,000's of hectares of land and managed project teams to create over 10,000 hectares of new nature reserves.

Richard is Chair of Wild Anglia the Local Nature partnership for Norfolk and

Suffolk and Chair of Norfolk and Suffolk European Structural and Investments Funds Committee, together with membership of the MHCLG National European Funding Programme Board representing all England's Local Nature Partnerships on the Environment and sustainability. Richard is also a Trustee of Groundwork East and Buglife, Patron of the Papillion Project and Vice Chair of the Northumberland Water Customer Challenge Forum.

Richard was Chair of the Region's Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for nine years, a Founding Board director for the East of England Development Agency working on regeneration of market towns, renewable energy, sustainability and rural affairs. Richard was also Chair of Sustainability East and the Sustainable Development Round Table before that, as well as Vice Chair of the Institute of Environmental Managers and Assessors.

Richard was awarded an OBE for his work in the environment and sustainability in June 2005 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Fellow of the Institute of Environmental Managers and Assessors and awarded Chartered Environmentalist status by the Institute of Environmental Managers and Assessors.

[EU Settlement Scheme: letter from Kevin Foster MP to Directors for Children's Services](#)

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