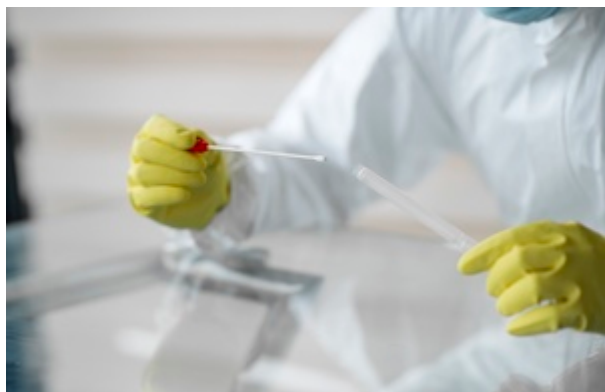


Additional support for Kirklees scaled back as spread of COVID-19 slows

Press release

Extra support deployed in Kirklees on 20 May is being scaled back as latest data shows local enhanced support has helped to slow the initial spread of the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant in the area.



Following efforts led by Kirklees Council and residents living in the area, the rate at which COVID-19 cases are growing in the area has slowed and numbers are now in line with national and regional rates.

From today, guidance on taking particular caution when meeting anyone outside your household or support bubble and minimising travel in and out of the affected areas will no longer apply in Kirklees.

To continue to support this effort, everybody living and working in Kirklees is still strongly encouraged to continue following key behaviours and actions to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This includes Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air and making use of the free, twice-weekly rapid testing offer.

Importantly, all over-18s are advised to come forward for the vaccine as soon as possible, and to get their second dose when able for the fullest possible protection.

Health Minister, Lord Bethell said:

I want to pay tribute to residents and local leaders in Kirklees for all their efforts to suppress this outbreak.

Thanks to them we can safely remove additional guidance, as case rates are slowing and are now similar to those reported nationally. Through surge testing we have identified people with COVID-19 but without symptoms, stopping the spread of the virus and variants of concern, and breaking the chains of transmission.

[Initial findings recommend Turkish rainbow trout tariffs be kept](#)

Press release

TRA initial findings recommend tariffs on imports of rainbow trout from Turkey be extended for five years.



- TRA initial findings recommend tariffs on imports of rainbow trout from Turkey be extended for five years.
- UK and overseas industries have 30 days to review and comment on the findings before a final decision is made.

The Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) has today (Friday 25 June) published its [Statement of Essential Facts](#), setting out initial findings on UK countervailing measures which currently apply to certain rainbow trout exported to the UK from Turkey.

Countervailing measures are placed on imported goods that are being subsidised by foreign governments and which might injure the UK market. They are part of 43 measures transitioned to the UK following its withdrawal from the EU.

The TRA's report recommends the countervailing measures in this case, which have been transitioned into UK law from the EU system, be extended for five years, extending protections to UK rainbow trout farms which could otherwise be damaged by subsidised imports from Turkey.

The TRA's Chief Executive Officer Oliver Griffiths said:

Our job as the TRA is to carry out detailed and impartial investigations of allegations of unfair international trade

practices. Our provisional conclusion published today is that tariffs are needed to prevent British rainbow trout producers from being undercut by subsidised Turkish products.

As part of its assessment, the TRA identified that many Turkish subsidy programmes are still in place and are expected to continue. Whilst there are few imports from Turkey at present, there was clear evidence from Turkish producers that they intended to import if the measures were revoked. The TRA's initial findings therefore recommend that tariffs on these imports be extended for five years.

Concentrated production sites for rainbow trout can be found in Northern Ireland, in north and south England, and in Scotland. Following today's publication, there will be a 30-day period in which interested parties can comment on the report. The TRA will then consider and produce a Final Recommendation, which will be sent to the Secretary of State for International Trade who will make the final decision on whether to uphold the TRA's recommendation.

- [The Trade Remedies Authority](#) is the UK body that investigates whether trade remedy measures are needed to counter unfair import practices and unforeseen surges of imports.
- The TRA is an arm's length body of the Department of International Trade (DIT) and launched on 1 June 2021. Before its launch, staff operated as the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) of DIT.
- Countervailing measures are one of the three types of trade remedies allowed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The other two are anti-dumping measures which counter unfair dumping of imported goods and safeguard measures which address unforeseen surges of imports.
- As part of its work, the TRA needs to assess existing trade remedy measures which were inherited from the EU system to make sure they are appropriate for the UK. It is reviewing 43 measures which were identified as being of interest to the UK and analysing data to assess whether the measures are helping to protect against imports which are causing damage to UK industries.
- This review concerned a countervailing measure applying to certain rainbow trout originating in Turkey. The review was initiated on 4 March 2020 and the investigation covered the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. In order to assess injury, we have examined the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019.
- The measure covers rainbow trout that are either live, fresh, chilled, frozen or smoked whether in the form of whole fish (with heads and gills on), gutted, weighing 1.2kg or less each, or with heads off, gilled or gutted (weighing 1kg or less each), or in the form of fillets (weighing 400g or less each) originating in Turkey.
- As part of its review, the TRA conducted an Economic Interest Test to consider:
 - the damage that the imported rainbow trout are causing to UK producers of those goods
 - the economic significance of affected industries and consumers in the UK and the potential impact of keeping or revoking the measure

- the likely impact on particular geographic areas and groups in the UK
- the likely consequences for the competitive environment and the structure of the UK market in these goods.

Published 25 June 2021

[RAF Puma helicopter detachment returns from Afghanistan](#)

The RAF Puma detachment serving in Afghanistan in support of the NATO Resolute Support Mission since March 2015 has now returned to RAF Benson, as part of the withdrawal of NATO forces from the country.

The three Puma helicopters and around 50 personnel from 33 Squadron and 230 Squadron based at Benson Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) that have been serving in Kabul have now returned to the UK. The aircraft were flown from Kabul to RAF Brize Norton on an Antonov AN-225.

Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heapey said:

The Puma detachment has provided invaluable support to the NATO mission in Afghanistan, helping the UK's wider effort to develop civil society and reduce the threat of terrorism, building the foundations for a peace process.

We remain committed to supporting Afghanistan through the next few months and years, both through defence engagement and diplomatic and development support.

During Operation TORAL, the name given to the UK element of Resolute Support Mission, the Pumas were based at Kabul International Airport. From there, they were able to provide vital airborne transport to UK and NATO forces. This included transporting personnel and equipment around the different urban, mountainous and desert terrains in the Kabul area, as well as supporting the deployment of the NATO Security Quick Reaction Force as needed.

Group Captain Nick Paton, the Puma Force Commander, said:

This is a significant time for the Puma Force as a long running and

rewarding operation comes to a close. The commitment and professionalism of the whole team has been exceptional, whether they've been deployed or provided support from the UK. I'm extremely proud of everyone and they should look back on all that they have achieved with pride.

During the deployment, the Pumas flew 12,800 hours, which is the equivalent of over 533 days in the air. The medium support helicopters also transported 126,000 passengers and moved 660,000kgs of freight.

Air Vice-Marshal Nigel Colman, the Commander of the Joint Helicopter Command, said:

The RAF Puma Force have done a superb job in supporting the UK's mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces since 2015. Their contribution over such a sustained period has been second to none and they can be incredibly proud of the significant part they played.

The detachment has been serving as part of the NATO-led non-combat mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, known as the Resolute Support Mission.

The UK Armed Forces are currently in the process of withdrawing from Afghanistan in line with the NATO mission Resolute Support.

The UK has played a critical role in developing the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) and alongside our NATO allies we have built and equipped security institutions; trained 5,000 cadets, including over 300 women; and supported a stable election process. The ANDSF are now 350,000 strong and we will continue to provide assistance to them, including financial support, and build Afghan institutions' counter terrorism capability.

[Government publishes Events Research Programme report](#)

- Pilots have been run in a structured, scientifically and ethically robust way to enable events in the programme to happen at a scale not previously tested since the start of the pandemic
- [Report](#) finds events with high crowd density and proximity could

potentially pose a greater transmission risk

- Phase three of the Events Research Programme will further examine transmission data and build on evidence base of low case rates from phase one

The government has published the [report](#) of the first phase of its ground-breaking [Events Research Programme \(ERP\)](#) which has helped to understand how the risk of transmission can be reduced at large events when mitigating measures are introduced.

While additional ERP events continue to gather further evidence, no decisions have been taken on the full reopening of mass events. The government will set out its position on this ahead of Step 4 in the roadmap.

The study gathered significant data on behaviour, movement, ventilation and testing and has shown that with mitigating factors, such as social distancing at pinch points, face coverings and staggered entry and exit times, events can be conducted more safely at increased capacities while maintaining a low risk of transmission.

It concluded that:

- Both indoor and outdoor events carry levels of transmission risk but 'pinch points' in venues where attendees may congregate for extended periods carry greater transmission risk
- Large indoor events with high crowd density and proximity may pose a higher potential risk of transmission as a result of close proximity and poor ventilation.
- Mitigations such as face coverings, ventilation, testing, restrictions on food and drink, and social distancing/capacity caps all contributed to reducing transmission risk
- Compliance with social distancing, face covering and testing requirements was generally high across all events where they were required (96.2%* of people in sampled areas were observed wearing face coverings correctly while seated during the event), particularly in indoor environments (98.3%) in comparison to events conducted outdoors or with a substantial open air element (92.1%).
- Low uptake of PCR testing before and after events meant evidence of direct transmission at events was challenging to determine.
- Nearly all CO2 levels recorded at the pilot events were within the bounds of reasonable [ventilation benchmarks](#)** with outdoor spaces clearly better for ventilation than indoors.

The ERP was commissioned by the Prime Minister in February 2021 as part of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown, and is designed to explore how reopening of events can be conducted safely, including without social distancing, whilst limiting the transmission of COVID-19 as much as possible.

The aim of the review was to build an evidence base to inform how the public could return as safely as possible to attend events such as sport, theatre,

live music and business events by conducting pilot events across a range of settings and sectors. Pilots have been run in a structured, scientifically and ethically robust way to enable events in the programme to happen at a scale not previously tested since the start of the pandemic.

The programme involved a total of 58,000 participants at venues across the country including Liverpool, Sheffield and London. It was supported by event organisers, local authority and public health teams, national and local government officials and nine scientific research teams from five UK universities. The work was overseen by an independently-chaired science and ethics board.

The phase one programme required all attendees to prove a negative lateral flow test as the condition of entry into the events. All attendees were also asked to take a voluntary pre and post event PCR test to aid the programme's research. Pilot events tested a range of mitigating factors including staggered entry and exit times and ventilation in venues as well as testing the suspension of non-pharmaceutical interventions such as face masks and social distancing for research purposes.

The report confirms that 28 cases of Covid-19 were recorded from all available data during the ERP's first nine events. The report acknowledges that these numbers reflect the rigorous testing regime in place for attendance at each event and relatively low levels of community prevalence of Covid-19 at the time of running the first phase of pilots. It also acknowledges that uptake of post event PCR tests, used to measure transmission, was also low.

Of these 28 cases, the report has found 11 cases were identified as potentially infectious at an event, and a further 17 were identified as potentially infected at or around the time of an event.

Indoor events including Circus nightclub, which hosted nearly 7,000 people over two nights, saw 10 cases recorded. The World Snooker Championship saw six cases recorded from over 10,000 attendees over 17 days. The BRIT Awards, which saw 3,500 people attend the event at London's O2 Arena, recorded no cases.

All three pilot events held at Wembley Stadium, which saw a total of almost 30,000 people attend the FA Cup Semi Final, Carabao Cup Final and FA Cup Final combined saw eight cases recorded. The ERP's outdoor festival pilot at Sefton Park, in which over 6,000 people attended saw two cases, with the Reunion 5k run at Kempton Park also recording just two cases from nearly 2,000 attendees.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

Our innovative and science led Events Research Programme is helping us to better understand how the risk of transmission at major events can be effectively mitigated.

The findings and learnings will help event organisers plan for

large audiences as we move to Step 4 of the roadmap.

I would like to thank this programme's chief advisers Nicholas Hytner and David Ross, all the event organisers, and the scientists and researchers for their important work.

ERP Chief Advisor Nicholas Hytner said:

These events are so important for our wellbeing, our sense of community and togetherness, and they have been sorely missed.

This programme has shown that through the public demonstrating their status we have been able to track the virus, creating a safer space for the public to get back to the events they love.

The findings from the first phase of this programme will help facilitate the return of what so many of us enjoy: attending exciting and top quality events throughout the country when it is safe to do so.

ERP Chief Advisor David Ross said:

Our number one priority has been to try and get fans back into grounds, theaters and events spaces as quickly and as safely as possible.

Despite the huge challenges presented by the pandemic the events industry has worked tirelessly alongside the Government to try and make this happen.

It has been a huge team effort and the research and data that we are publishing today will be invaluable for anyone hosting an event once the economy fully reopens.

A second phase of pilot events has completed, with group stage UEFA EURO 2020 matches hosted at Wembley Stadium, the Download Pilot music festival, the England v New Zealand test match at Edgbaston and Royal Ascot having taken place this month. Research into the events is still being gathered and analysed by the ERP science team.

The government is currently in live discussions with cultural and sporting events to include them in an expanded third phase designed to further trial testing and vaccine status in the form of the NHS COVID Pass (via the NHS App) to allow crowds back safely and efficiently.

The third phase of the ERP will include Wimbledon Championships, The Open Championship, Goodwood Festival of Speed, Home and Gift 2021, Rugby League's Challenge Cup and 1895 Cup Finals. Latitude and the Grange Opera Festival. Further events will be added in due course.

The pilots will be subject to local and national public health guidance. The findings from the events will feed into the government's review of certification.

The pilots will continue to examine a range of settings, venue types, and activity types so that the data is generalisable, and findings can inform thinking on the reopening of similar settings across multiple sectors.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Phase One events included:

- April 17 – May 3: World Snooker Championships (10,150 participants)
- April 18: FA Cup Semi Final (2,800 participants)
- April 25: Carabao Cup Final (7,800 participants)
- April 28: ACC Business Event, Liverpool (150 participants)
- April 30 – May 1: Circus Nightclub (3,100 and 3,900 participants)
- May 2: Sefton Park Concert (6,100 participants)
- May 11: The BRITS (3,500 participants)
- May 15: FA Cup Final (21,000 participants)
- May 15: Reunion 5K Run (2,000 participants)

[Read the full report.](#)

Scientific studies were conducted across the nine pilots with scientists collecting and analysing significant quantities of data. Teams from the University of Liverpool, Loughborough University, University College London, the University of Edinburgh and Movement Strategies, a company that specialises in people movement and crowd dynamics, undertook research core to the ERP. These studies explored environmental factors such as ventilation and crowd movement, behavioural responses of participants, and evidence of transmission through testing of attendees. [Read the research protocols in full.](#)

*At the time of writing figures on face covering compliance in Wembley stadium's seating bowl for the Emirates FA Cup Final were unavailable. Averages shown throughout this section are averages of individual samples, unweighted.

**As set by the Chartered Institution for Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and based on advice from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE).

[UN Human Rights Council 47: UK statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#)

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