

Queen's birthday virtual celebration 2021 hosted in Santiago

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Louise De Sousa and I am the British Ambassador here in Chile. Welcome to the British Embassy Santiago's 2021 Queen's Birthday Party, celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 95th birthday and marking the anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation in this, the 69th year of her reign.

Wherever you are, thank you for joining this virtual celebration this afternoon. We join you from my residence in El Golf in Las Condes. I know that we have welcomed many of you here in person, and to our embassy just down the road. And we will do so again, as soon as we are able. But for now, we hope that you enjoy this small online event. Here is what you can expect.

In just over 20 weeks – 144 days exactly – the UK will host COP26, the UN Climate Change summit, in Glasgow. The moment Chile officially passes the climate leadership baton to the UK and Italy. We want to use today's event to shine a spotlight on the UK's and Chile's shared efforts to tackle climate change.

I then look forward to leading the toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the governments and people of our two great nations.

And we will take a moment to reflect on and celebrate the life of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, with whom I know many people in Chile also feel a special affinity.

Importantly, in this Embassy, led by the team from whom you just heard, we practice what we preach. I am very proud that this year we secured carbon neutral accreditation under the UN Climate Now initiative and the carbon international standard by measuring, reducing and compensating our carbon footprint. We are officially a Zero Emission embassy.

This has not been an ordinary year. Otherwise, we would all be together celebrating in my garden. But nonetheless, we have been able to carry out valuable work, supported by our many friends. As we prepare to toast Her Majesty The Queen, I wanted to offer a super-fast summary of some of those highlights.

The pandemic

First, regarding our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank the Chilean authorities for working so closely with us in our efforts to help over 1,370 people, from the 14,000 British nationals in Chile at the start of the pandemic, who needed our assistance to return home in March last year.

Today, British and Chilean scientists and medical experts are working together on genomic surveillance to track COVID-19 variants of concern, and

on vaccine development and distribution. Our countries are both proud supporters of the COVAX facility, the multilateral mechanism working to get vaccines to the poorest and most vulnerable in the world. My Prime Minister and Chile's President are leading the drive to agree a new international treaty on pandemic response.

Science has been at the heart of our response to both climate change and COVID-19. Our universities, researchers and businesses are finding the solutions to the most pressing problems. Whether that is establishing the international standards for copper products that reduce infection risks in hospitals and other public buildings, or on protecting the oceans.

Trade

On trade, Chile was the first country in the world to sign a new bilateral agreement to protect our trading relationship as the UK left the EU, an agreement that entered into force in January. I started my appointment in March hosting the Lord Mayor of the City of London for a digital visit to Chile, meeting Finance Minister, Rodrigo Cerda and setting a new level of ambition for our financial relationship, including on green finance and fintech.

Despite the pandemic, in 2020 the UK-Chile bilateral trading relationship was worth over £1.6 billion. Chile remains our third largest trading partner in the region. This is a team effort, and I want to thank the British-Chilean Chamber of Commerce, many of whose members join us online today. Next month, we will hold the first UK-Chile Association Committee meeting, establishing our roadmap to an even more prosperous future.

UK-Chile partnership

We have also worked in partnership with the Chilean government and civil society to support open societies and defend human rights. We were pleased that in February Chile joined the Media Freedom Coalition, first launched by the UK and Canada, to defend and protect journalists around the world.

As we mark Pride month, I am delighted that our Embassy has, for the second year, been recognised for our commitment to LGBTI+ inclusion, the only public sector organisation in Chile to receive EquitadCL accreditation, and a finalist in this year's British Government Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion awards.

Our education, arts, and cultural exchange remains equally strong. This last year has seen us engage more than 2,000 teachers of English across Chile in the first online version of the British Council's continuous professional development programme, supported by the Ministry of Education. Through the Council, we were pleased to support Chilean exhibitions at the world-renowned London Craft Week last year and the London Design Biennale this year.

Our defence partnership with Chile remains one of our most profound and historic relationships too. The pandemic has not stopped the valuable collaboration between our Armed Forces, building on a close relationship

dating back over 200 years.

Throughout this extraordinary year, we have been able to prove that Chile can rely on the UK as a steadfast partner. We share deeply held values as outward-looking democracies who believe that our economies need to drive a sustainable future for our planet and our people, and who are committed to universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. This is a historic year for Chile, and we wish the delegates elected to write Chile's new Constitution every success in agreeing a framework that wins the support of all Chileans and secures a green and prosperous future for Chile.

Our team

We are coming to the toast, and while you all make sure you have something in your glasses, I wanted to say a few words of thanks.

First to the British companies who have sponsored this event and helped make it possible: Diageo, one of the world's largest producers of beers and fine spirits; HSBC; BAE Systems, and BHP. They are also a part of the British team in Chile.

And second, thanks to my fantastic embassy team for pulling this event together and for all their hard work over the past year and for the hard work that that lies ahead.

And now to the toast. To the health and success of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to the government and people of Chile. May our ties and our friendship continue to go from strength to strength.

UK and CPTPP nations launch formal negotiations

UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss will speak with Minister for TPP Yasutoshi Nishimura from Japan, this year's chair of CPTPP, on Tuesday morning [UK time] (Tuesday, 22 June) to formally begin negotiations on the UK's accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

The UK's accession would make CPTPP a truly global free trading area. Accession would strengthen the UK's relationship with these dynamic economies, as the world economy increasingly centres on the Pacific region. UK membership would send a powerful signal about the importance placed on free trade by this dynamic group of countries at this critical time in our history (and help to reinforce the rules-based international system).

Joining CPTPP would build on our recently signed Comprehensive Economic

Partnership Agreement with Japan and help to increase opportunities for businesses in both countries through the diversification of our trading arrangements. UK membership of CPTPP would also help to strengthen the rules-based international system by championing free and fair trade, a core value for both Japan and the UK.

CPTPP is one of the largest free trade areas in the world, accounting for 13% of global GDP in 2019. This would rise to 16% with the UK's accession, adding substantial value to this huge free trade area.

Combined GDP amongst CPTPP members would also increase from almost £9 trillion to £11 trillion with the UK's accession and would send a powerful signal about the importance of free and fair trade helping to reinforce the rules-based international system at a critical time in our history.

UK membership would demonstrate that CPTPP is an expanding partnership, which is open to growing and strengthening with economies that support the ambitions of the high-standard agreement.

The UK looks forward to working with Japan, as chair of CPTPP, when formal talks begin shortly, alongside the wider membership, who have all welcomed the UK's application and supported our accession ambitions.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said

Membership of the CPTPP free-trade partnership would open up unparalleled opportunities for British businesses and consumers in the fast-growing Indo-Pacific.

It's an exciting opportunity to build on this country's entrepreneurial spirit and free trading history to bring economic benefits across the whole of the UK.

UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said

CPTPP already has significant global presence, and our accession would send a powerful signal to the rest of the world that the UK, as an independent trading nation, will continue to champion free and fair trade, fight protectionism and slash tariffs at every opportunity.

It will mean stronger trading links with the Indo-Pacific, which is vital to our goals for trade, investment, supply chains as well as supporting green growth, women's economic empowerment and high standards for British workers.

The launch of negotiations marks a huge milestone in our accession process, and I look forward to talks starting in the coming weeks.

British Ambassador to Japan, Julia Longbottom said

I am delighted the UK has launched formal accession negotiations to join CPTPP. Accession would further deepen our trade and investment relationships, both with Japan and across CPTPP member countries. In data and digitally delivered services, investment and financial services and green growth industries the UK's membership would bring increased opportunities and prosperity to CPTPP countries.

Calling Aussie and NZ tech companies for London Tech Week 2021

The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) is seeking tech companies from Australia and New Zealand who are considering the UK for international expansion. The selected group will join the official hybrid mission to [London Tech Week](#) in September 2021.

LTW is Europe's largest technology festival. The annual event brings together the world's most inspirational founders, global leaders, senior investors and rising talent. In 2020 the festival was held as a virtual event for the first time, attracting over 20,000 attendees from across the globe. The festival hosted over 700 sessions across 11 days, featuring upwards of 750 leading speakers and innovators.

Australian and Kiwi scale-ups who are considering expansion to the UK can apply to one of the following streams:

- creative technology (AR/VR/MR, gamification, adtech, media, eCommerce, sportstech, marketing tech)
- digital health and wellness
- edtech
- future technology (AI, cyber, blockchain/distributed ledger, IoT, robotics, big data, space)
- impact technology (companies making a positive social or environmental impact)

The successful applicants will be invited to join a pre-mission in-person networking event in early September. They will then participate in a series of virtual evening sessions from 20 to 29 September 2021.

Those selected will join a programme curated for ANZ scale-ups. This will include sessions from key players in the UK tech ecosystem, who will provide exclusive insights on market opportunities and guidance on capital raising, R&D and support to set up.

British Consul General and Deputy Trade Commissioner Asia Pacific (Australia and New Zealand), Louise Cantillon said:

The UK tech sector has reached new heights and is the first country in Europe to reach 100 unicorns [tech companies valued at US\$1 billion]. This means the UK now has the largest number of tech unicorns in Europe. With a fantastic track record for supporting tech companies and innovation, the UK is the ideal location for Australian and Kiwi tech companies who are ready to expand internationally.

The UK's Department for International Trade team is delighted to be running this mission again. Despite physical restrictions, this is a great platform for the tech community to come together and for Australian and NZ companies to explore the opportunities the UK market has on offer. Good luck to everyone applying.

DIT's delegation last year was the largest ever from Australia and New Zealand. 130 tech founders and industry representatives joined the mission.

LTW is part of a broader programme of initiatives to increase digital trade and investment opportunities between the UK and ANZ tech sectors. Earlier this year the UK launched the Digital Trade Network (DTN) for Asia Pacific. The network will support UK-ANZ tech collaboration and support UK tech scale-ups in the region.

The LTW application process is open to Australian and New Zealand companies only. Victorian companies need to apply via the Global Victoria application.

Applications to join the mission will close on Friday 30 July 2021.

Find out more [information on LTW and how to apply](#).

Further information

- there are currently 100 UK tech companies valued at US\$1 billion or more
- the UK joins China and the US as the only nations to have triple-digit

unicorn

- in 2021, 13 UK unicorns have already been created, compared to 7 in the whole of 2020, and has increased by 127% since 2017
- the UK has more tech unicorns than Germany (42), France (22) and the Netherlands (18) combined, and is the first country in Europe to reach 100 unicorns
- the UK's 100 tech unicorns have raised almost €28.9 billion (US\$32 billion) in VC investment, as venture capital reached record highs in the first half of this year

About the UK's Department for International Trade:

The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT):

Find out more about [DIT](#).

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[Data strategy to support delivery of patient centred care](#)

- Records will be shared between systems to allow faster, more specialised treatment
- Plan will help power vital research to discover new treatments and insights to save lives

The way data is used across health and care sectors is set to be transformed, giving patients control of their health data and enabling staff to save more lives through improved care and treatment.

The draft strategy 'Data saves lives: reshaping health and social care with data' published today by NHSX builds on the ground-breaking use of data during the pandemic with privacy and security of data at its core.

Under the proposals, patients will easily be able to access their test results, medication lists, procedures and care plans from across all parts of the health system through patient apps, such as the NHS App, by ensuring data is shared safely and more effectively across the system. By improving their access to data, people will also be able to manage appointments, refill medications and speak with health and care staff when needed.

The strategy aims to break down data barriers and give patients confidence that health and care staff have up-to-date medical information, regardless of the care setting, enabling clinicians to make quicker, more informed decisions to deliver better treatment. Improving data collection and the way NHS systems work together will mean staff spend less time collecting and looking for information they need, so they can spend more time with those they are caring for to focus on looking after them.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock, said:

Data saves lives. More effective use of data will deliver better patient focused care. It will free up staff time to focus on patients and allow clinicians to make better, more informed decisions on treatment and support.

The pandemic has taught us we must be bold and the great strides we have made on vaccines and treatments during this time have been made possible by the way we use data.

This strategy seeks to put people in control of their own data, while supporting the NHS in creating a modernised system fit for the 21st century which puts patients and staff in pole position.

So that health and care staff can access the right information when they need it, the strategy proposes a new duty to share anonymous data safely and appropriately across the entire health system. New legislation will also be introduced to require all adult social care providers to provide information about all the services they fund to ensure service users have the best care and experience. This could transform the care of the most vulnerable by ensuring staff have the information they need as soon as they need it, helping to provide the best possible care to the elderly.

In addition, the strategy proposes better use of personal data to analyse key trends in the health of the nation. This could improve the commissioning and planning of services for local communities and allow better preparation to identify, prepare for and respond to future diseases.

The NHS is committed to using data lawfully, with respect, and holding it securely with the right safeguards in place. These protections reflect the strict parameters for the use of data and security standards set out by the

National Data Guardian for Health and Care. Today's new strategy commits the NHS to going even further with a commitment to publish the first transparency statement setting out how health and care data has been used across the sector by 2022.

Minister for Innovation, Lord Bethell said:

The safety of the public will only be improved if the health and care system makes better use of data.

We have already seen how analysing patient data on maternity outcomes has improved care for mothers and babies. Greater sharing of patient information across the health and care system will undoubtedly go on to drive further improvements in patient safety, ultimately saving lives.

The draft strategy proposes:

- putting patients at the heart of their health and care data, with easy access to their own healthcare records
- giving health and care staff easier access to the right information to provide the best possible care through shared records and simplified information governance
- enabling the proportionate sharing of data for the purpose of supporting the health and care system
- giving adult social care high quality, timely and transparent data so they can make individualised choices to personalise care
- modernising data architecture and infrastructure underpinning the health and care system to improve standards, protect data and stay ahead of cyber risk
- supporting innovation for the benefit of patients and staff such as empowering patients to test and monitor changes in their vision remotely using an app, and using AI to assess data from care home worker's reports to predict the likelihood of falls and hospital admissions of patients, enabling appropriate safeguards to be put in place
- building on improvements to speed up access to data during the pandemic, where there is clear benefit for the system as a whole.

The plans have been published in draft ahead of engagement with the sector and the public over the summer.

Patient data has already been vital in enabling quicker, more informed clinical decisions on COVID-19 treatment, saving more lives. Accelerated access to real time data was used to direct resources, such as PPE and ventilators to hospitals and it fuelled life saving research into drugs such as dexamethasone which is estimated to have saved over one million lives.

Matthew Gould, NHSX chief executive, said:

Throughout the pandemic we saw examples of data improving care and

saving lives – from the speed of vaccine development to the discovery of treatments for COVID-19. If we want to continue improving care, we need to transform how we use data.

Patients need to own their data, have access to their data, and have confidence on how the NHS is handling it on their behalf.

This strategy takes this agenda firmly forward, and is good news for patients, staff, citizens and anyone who cares about the future of the NHS.

NHS medical director Professor Stephen Powis, said:

For more than a year, NHS staff have been at the forefront of innovations, based on research and development with patients, to help the country deal with the biggest threat in a century, whether it be trialling new treatments like dexamethasone that has saved a million lives around the world from COVID-19, or delivering the biggest and fastest vaccination programme in health service history, and this latest initiative will ensure that many more life-saving treatments can be developed for patients by the NHS thanks to better access to data.

Sir Patrick Vallance, Government Chief Scientific Adviser, said:

The value of timely and comprehensive healthcare data has been brought to light throughout the pandemic. Data handling by the NHS has been instrumental in our response, from monitoring the virus to supporting the vaccine rollout. This refreshed strategy builds on this ground-breaking use of data and protecting privacy, and will ensure that it remains an asset for future research and improvements in healthcare.

Charlotte Augst, Chief Executive of National Voices, said:

The NHSX data strategy addresses many of the issues we need to get right in order to build a health and care system that knows what matters to people and communities and therefore can respond to those needs and priorities.

Refreshingly, it focuses on the work of health and care professionals in the care they provide, rather than on structures, tech or overblown transformation initiatives. It's unpacking of concentric circles around the patient, the team, the system and the wider research and innovation landscape is a good way of conceptualising what will be gained from better data use, whilst staying focused on what matters most: a better experience of care,

including better access and outcomes.

Professor Martin Green OBE, Chief Executive, Care England, said:

The role of data in social care is evolving at a very fast rate. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become increasingly apparent that reliable data from social care is a necessity to analyse the health and quality of life of the nation.

The sector is starting to produce data at levels previously unimagined, and data is key to driving decisions which will help improve the quality of life of the people that we care for and support.

Dr Clare Gerarda, a GP and former chair of RCGP said:

Better use of data in health and care will be transformational to our NHS, to research, and is vital in our fight to reduce health inequalities and address unnecessary variations in care.

As a GP, data has long been invaluable in helping us to have complex conversations with patients – from explaining about individual risk of disease or to debunking the myth about a link between MMR and autism.

Thanks to increased use of data and digital technologies, the NHS and general practice will come out of the pandemic better equipped to deliver more responsive services to patients, and this strategy will only help strengthen the care we can provide to the public.

Professor Sir John Bell, Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford Medical Sciences Division, said:

Like most scientists, I believe use of data has been critical to advances in patient care and has the potential to enable new breakthroughs whilst the opportunity for data-driven technologies to improve our health is already with us.

Managing healthcare data carefully and sensitively is crucial, and this new strategy is a major step forwards putting the citizen in control of their information whilst setting a clear direction to enable scientists and the NHS to use data better to look after patients now and discover the treatments of tomorrow.

Public engagement, to be held in 2021, will be used to inform how people would like to use and access their data. It will include working with the National Data Guardian, patient groups and system leaders.

Supportive quotes

Dr Simon Eccles, NHSX's Deputy Chief Executive and a practising A&E consultant, said:

Everything we know about how to treat and care for people today has been learnt from the data from previous patients. Researchers, and analysts need safe, quick access to high quality data to provide the insights and better answers for us all.

Our draft strategy, published today, sets out our plans to make more, higher quality data securely accessible for life saving research. We will also build on platforms such as NHS DigiTrials to enable and support best use of data and digital tools in study feasibility, identification and monitoring of research participants to enable faster, more efficient and effective clinical trials.

Martin Landray, Professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford and the clinical trials lead at Health Data Research UK, said:

Within 100 days, the RECOVERY trial found that a low-dose steroid treatment called dexamethasone reduced the risk of death by a third for patients on ventilators. It was the world's first coronavirus treatment proven to save lives. Estimates are that it may have saved 600,000 or more lives during the course of the subsequent 6 or 12 months.

Pre-COVID, it would have taken 100 days to even get permission to go ahead with the trial. We cannot go back. It is a challenge, but one we have to take on, because the future of all of our care depends on robust knowledge on whether treatments work or do not work.

Margaret Grayson, from patient group useMydata, said:

I made 6 friends during my cancer treatment, within 5 years I'd been to their funerals. I want and expect my data to be used for the benefit of future patients like me, so others in a similar situation can have friendships which endure for longer than 5 years.

Data is precious to people and increasing transparency around how the health and care system protects and uses data, as proposed in this strategy, is important to reassure the public that their data is safe.

Professor the Lord Ara Darzi of Denham, Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London, said:

Good data is essential to providing high quality care for patients by guiding decision-making. That is true whether it is for cancer surgeons like me at the frontline or those making crucial choices about how to respond to the pandemic nationally and internationally. By using big datasets and AI, we are now able to detect cancer earlier, improving the chances that people will survive.

Joe Harrison, CEO, Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, said:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the power of partnership and how NHS organisations can work together to deliver the best possible care for patients.

It is vital that we carry this momentum into the way we approach data. Removing unnecessary and unhelpful barriers to sharing between NHS organisations will enable clinicians to safely and securely access the information they need, when they need it, to improve patient care and outcomes.

It is equally important that we give patients access to their own patient record too. We know from our work at Milton Keynes University Hospital that this empowers patients to be active participants in their care and gives them more autonomy over the way their data is used.

The type of transformation that this data strategy sets out is essential if the NHS is to work together to meet growing demand while improving outcomes.

Data sharing helps to increase patient safety, improve patient experience and ultimately saves lives.

Neil Tester, Director of The Richmond Group of national health and care charities, said:

The draft data strategy marks a big step forward on many of the issues people using health and care services, and the professionals who deliver them, have cared about for a long time.

We need a joined-up approach to data to deliver joined-up care. This strategy brings that much closer. It's good to see this draft strategy is built upon what people have said they want to see happen with their data.

The Richmond Group is also pleased to see the strategy focusing on putting people in control of both their data and the care and support they need. I hope people will engage with this to make sure that the final strategy gets this right, and makes data-driven care a reality for everyone, not just those with the best access to and understanding of technology.

Julian Hartley, Chief Executive at Leeds Teaching Hospitals, said:

Improving the quality and use of data is crucial to meet our challenges in the NHS. I welcome the aims of the strategy and it's particularly good to see emphasis on using data to improve patient safety and integrating care.

Adam Steventon, Director of Data Analytics at the Health Foundation, said:

We very much welcome the data strategy. Health data has played a critical role in the last year – from tracking COVID-19 outbreaks and developing treatments, to getting people booked in for their vaccines. It is particularly positive that the government has committed to building analytical and data science capability in the NHS and to improving data on social care. The next steps are to build public trust and demonstrate how their data is improving the NHS and saving more lives.

Professor Sir Rory Collins, Principal Investigator and Chief Executive of UK Biobank said:

For more than a decade, UK Biobank has been able to access data on its 500,000 participants, with their consent, from the NHS. This data – which include hospitalisations, cancers and deaths – have made it possible for researchers to make discoveries that are benefiting patients suffering from life-threatening and disabling diseases. During the pandemic, access to data has saved many lives. Indeed, UK Biobank's recent access to primary care records enabled researchers to identify who is most at risk from COVID-19 and how best to protect them, and demonstrated just how much more could be done to improve patient and public health. By making data the foundation of our health system, we can accelerate medical research and find better ways to prevent and treat common diseases.

Background information

[Read the draft data strategy](#)

Since autumn 2020 NHSX have run workshops and roundtables with

representatives from across the health and social care system.

We are publishing the strategy in draft so the public can comment and offer views before we publish a final version. The public will be able to engage through a range of channels including a survey and/or by attending events. Up to date opportunities will be published on the NHSX website. This survey will close at 5pm on Thursday 22 July.

Data saves lives – case studies

Maternal deaths

Data is central to patient safety and to continually improving the health and care system. [MBRRACE-UK's](#) recent audits of maternal deaths identified an increase in deaths amongst women with epilepsy from a condition known as 'Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy'. By using the data collected about the circumstances of these tragic deaths, the NHS has been able to make sure that pregnant women with epilepsy are better supported, helping keep pregnant women and their children safe.

Marian Knight, Lead for Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audit and Confidential Enquiries (MBRRACE) said:

Around 200 new mothers and 5,000 babies die each year. Sharing data and information about these deaths helps us to identify problems, see patterns and make changes that keep mothers and children safe.

MBRRACE-UK provides the evidence that is needed to shape the delivery of safe, equitable, high quality, patient-centred maternal, newborn and infant health services. We cannot do this important work unless the law supports our continued access to timely and accurate confidential patient information relating to all maternal and infant deaths.

Shielding patients

During the pandemic, data has been crucial to developing the Shielded Patients List. Working together, organisations such as NHS England, NHS Digital, local government, adult social care, and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government used data to advise the people most at risk from COVID-19 on how to stay safe early in the pandemic, and this year the list allowed them to be prioritised for vaccination. Access to real time data during the pandemic has triggered a transformation in the way our hospitals are run and enabled communities to, for the first time, work better together to tackle issues such as inequalities at a population level.

NHS COVID-19 Data Store – improving NHS services

The NHS COVID-19 Data Store was set up during the pandemic and uses cutting edge technology to integrate data into a single platform where it can support

decision-making and improve outcomes for patients at a time of immense pressure. Dashboards and tools have been developed within this data platform to help senior leaders to make strategic decisions and NHS leaders and local government officials with the information they need to make informed decisions.

NHS teams have also been given access to predictive technology to help them save lives by forecasting COVID-19 hospitalisations. Using these forecasts, NHS trusts are able to plan how to use their available capacity for both COVID-19 patients and routine care and operations, with the benefit of advance knowledge of how the need to care for more or fewer patients with the virus might change over the coming one to two weeks.

Data for research – UK Biobank

UK Biobank is a large-scale biomedical database and research resource, containing in-depth genetic and health information from half a million UK participants. It has led to several scientific breakthroughs to improve human health including:

- a University College London (UCL) study into factors increasing risk of dementia. Researchers were able to study participant blood samples to elucidate how genetic makeup affects risk. The diverse participant pool has enabled the research team to [explore ethnic differences in dementia risk](#)
- research into the hypothesis that [‘good’ cholesterol may help in the fight against sepsis](#) which causes 11 million deaths worldwide each year. Researchers were able to access genetic data from Biobank to provide critical information for the study.

The integration of data across a wide range of medical records has enabled researchers to identify individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 across the full spectrum of disease severity. Coupled with the genetic and lifestyle data already available, this rich dataset helps researchers to understand the extent to which genetics, lifestyle and underlying health conditions affect disease severity, and recovery.

[Britain launches negotiations with £9 trillion Pacific free trade area](#)

- Joining CPTPP would hitch Britain to some of the world’s biggest current and future economies, populated by half a billion people and with a

joint GDP of £9 trillion in 2019

- A deal would open new markets for our services industries, lower tariffs on goods like cars and whisky, and create new opportunities for UK farmers
- Our exports to these countries are set to increase by £37 billion, a 65% rise, by 2030

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is home to 500 million people and includes some of the world's biggest current and future economies across Asia-Pacific and the Americas. Joining would give our exporters and services firms better access to these dynamic markets, with almost two-thirds of the world's middle classes expected to be in Asia by 2030.

Our exports to CPTPP countries are set to increase by 65% up to 2030 –£37 billion. Joining would boost this growth and support British jobs. These benefits would increase over time, with the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea all having expressed interest in joining.

UK negotiating teams will be working over the coming months to ensure a good deal for businesses, producers and consumers across Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Membership would lower tariffs on key British exports like cars and whisky in industries employing hundreds of thousands of people and should mean tariff-free trade for 99.9% of our exports.

The deal should also benefit British farmers. With CPTPP countries set to account for 25% of global import demand for meat by the end of the decade, joining would support farmers selling high-quality produce like beef and lamb into fast-growing markets like Mexico.

CPTTP is particularly advanced in both digital and services trade, which plays to Britain's strengths as the world's second-largest services exporter. An agreement would make it simpler for the UK to sell services digitally and cheaper and easier for tech firms to expand abroad.

Joining CPTPP would also open new financial and professional services markets for British firms, making it easier for highly skilled Brits to live and work in member countries.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Membership of the CPTTP free-trade partnership would open up unparalleled opportunities for British businesses and consumers in the fast-growing Indo-Pacific.

It's an exciting opportunity to build on this country's entrepreneurial spirit and free-trading history to bring economic benefits across the whole of the UK.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

This part of the world is where Britain's greatest opportunities lie. We left the EU with the promise of deepening links with old allies and fast-growing consumer markets beyond Europe, and joining the high-standards Trans-Pacific Partnership is an important part of that vision.

Membership would help our farmers, makers and innovators sell to some of the biggest economies of the present and future, but without ceding control over our laws, borders or money. It is a glittering post-Brexit prize that I want us to seize.

CPTPP has strong rules to support workers' rights: members must commit to having a minimum wage and recognising trades unions. It also has strong environmental provisions.

The CPTPP agreement has strong rules against unfair trade practices like favouring state-owned enterprises, protectionism, discriminating against foreign investors, and forcing companies to hand over private information. The UK's joining will strengthen the international consensus against such unfair practices.

The free trade area would uphold the UK's right to regulate in its national self-interest, rather than forcing harmonisation on its members. This is well aligned with Britain's system – a strong rule of law coupled with the freedom to set our own regulations.

Miles Celic, Chief Executive Officer, TheCityUK, said:

The world's economic centre of gravity is shifting towards the Indo-Pacific. Being part of the CPTPP would give UK firms greater access to one of the fastest growing populations of middle-class consumers in the world. This economic shift will increase demand for the financial and related professional services and products in which the UK excels.

Joining CPTPP offers Britain an additional platform to make a case for open market and the liberalisation of services trade, a significant prize for the UK and the global trading system. Membership will help the UK to work more closely with other CPTPP members to develop innovative approaches on key strategic trade priority areas, including data, cross-border payments, regulatory coherence, investment protection, and the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

Gerard Grech, CEO of Tech Nation, said:

We welcome the UK's membership of the CPTPP. There has never been a better time for UK tech on the global stage. The UK was the 5th greatest digital tech services exporter in the world in 2019 and this agreement will boost even more UK tech scale-ups to expand their reach on a truly global scale.

Tech Nation looks forward to working with the UK government to support more UK tech companies to scale and succeed overseas.

Giles Derrington, Head of Public Affairs at Deliveroo – UK and Ireland, said:

As a proud UK tech business with operations in a number of CPTPP member countries, it is great news that the UK is seeking to become a signatory to the deal.

The agreement's innovation and technology provisions will help facilitate digital trade for UK companies operating in places like Australia and Singapore and demonstrates the UK's commitment to supporting companies to compete globally.

The UK has an amazing tech sector that I know can achieve amazing things in these markets through the closer partnerships CPTPP can help create.

Notes to Editors

- UK exports to CPTPP nations are set to increase by 65% (£37bn) until 2030 and, in addition to this growth, comparative static analysis shows an additional increase in trade by £3.3bn as a result of UK accession. The comparative static analysis is not a forecast. reflects the world as it is now and does not take into account future changes such as the projected shift in economic activity to the east of the world or the impact of technology and innovation.
- CPTPP countries accounted for £110 billion worth of UK trade in 2019 and UK trade with CPTPP member countries has grown by 8% annually between 2016-19.
- Accession could also see 99.9% of UK exports being eligible for tariff-free trade with CPTPP countries. British manufacturers will also benefit from greater choice and lower prices on inputs from CPTPP countries.
- CPTPP holds its members to high standards – they are expected to protect firms and consumers, eliminate forced and child labour, and enforce their own laws in these areas, with members holding each other accountable for meeting these rules.
- We will not sign trade deals that compromise our high environmental protections and food standards. We are a world leader in these areas and that will not change.

- Sources: IMF World Economic Outlook: April 2021, ONS UK Trade, all countries, non-seasonally adjusted: Q4 2020