

UK kick starts preparation for trade negotiations with India

Press release

14-week consultation launched to seek views from the public and businesses



Trade Secretary Liz Truss has today kicked off preparations for a trade deal with India, launching a 14-week consultation to seek the views of the public and business.

The UK wants a deal that slashes barriers to doing business and trading with India's £2 trillion economy and market of 1.4 billion consumers. This includes removing tariffs of up to 150% on whisky and 125% on British-made cars.

Wide input from consumers and businesses across all sectors will help the UK craft a deal that includes closer cooperation in future-focused industries such as science, technology and services, creating high-value jobs across the country. Formal negotiations are expected to begin later this year.

The UK also aims to make it easier for services firms to operate in the Indian market, boosting the UK's status as an international services hub. India's growing middle-income population and highly connected youth will be the target consumers for the type of goods and services the UK excels in.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

We're firing the starting gun on a free trade deal with India – the world's largest democracy, fifth biggest economy, a nation of 1.4 billion people and a huge market for British goods like whisky, cars and services.

We want an agreement that pushes new frontiers in industries of the future and helps us build a greener, more innovative and more services-led economy that will deliver higher-paying jobs across the country.

International Trade Minister, Ranil Jayawardena said:

India is one of the world's fastest-growing economies and we share much in common, so we're natural partners.

A trade deal will break down barriers, making it easier for British businesses to sell their wares in India – and secure more investment, better jobs, higher wages, more choice and lower prices here at home.

Before negotiations start, the UK and India must complete a pre-negotiation scoping phase – a period of engagement with businesses and the public. The public consultation, which runs to August 31, includes a questionnaire that will gather information from participants about their experiences and priorities when doing business with India.

The consultation follows the Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) agreed at the virtual meeting between the Prime Minister and PM Modi on May 4, where they launched a '2030 Roadmap' which will provide a framework for UK-India relations.

Background

- Trade between the UK and India was around £23bn in 2019, which both countries want to double by 2030.
- Nearly half a million jobs are supported across India and the UK through investments in each other's economies.
- The Enhanced Trade Partnership creates immediate opportunities for British businesses in India across industries such as food and drink and life sciences by improving market access. Non-tariff barriers on fruit and medical devices will be reduced, allowing businesses to export more of their products to India.
- DIT consults widely across a network of businesses, representative bodies and trade associations, working with partners as well as members of all the Department's Trade Advisory Groups, to seek the broadest possible range of views to inform our negotiating position ahead of launching trade talks.

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[**Government report shows improving**](#)

vaccine confidence among ethnic minority groups

- As Government publishes third report on COVID-19 disparities, the Minister for Equalities and hero GP, Dr Farzana Hussain, issue a joint call for everyone to take the vaccine when they are offered it.
- Evidence shows vaccine confidence has steadily increased among ethnic minorities.
- This follows flexible vaccine delivery, and targeted communications from government and medical professionals, and partnerships with broadcasters.

The call comes as data shows vaccine confidence has steadily increased following government action, with 93% of adults reporting positive sentiment towards the vaccine. However, some groups are still less likely to get the jab. 30% of Black or Black British adults reported vaccine hesitancy, the highest compared with all ethnic groups.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has prioritised people based on age, with older people being offered the vaccination first. As the UK's White population makes up a greater number of those in the older age categories, the percentage of those who have already received vaccinations is higher when compared with ethnic minority groups. As the vaccine is rolled out to younger age groups the Government will continue its targeted action to ensure that ethnic minority people are willing to take the jab.

Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, said:

"We are taking the vital action necessary to protect our families, communities and the country from the scourge of COVID-19. Our positive progress deploying the vaccine and promoting confidence in it has been a tireless, collective effort, from faith leaders, voluntary groups and the NHS all working together in every community to turn back the tide of COVID-19.

"We are not complacent and we will continue to tackle dangerous disinformation and work with trusted partners to promote confidence in the vaccine so everyone takes up their jab when they are offered it.

"Vaccines are the key to unlocking a return to normal life, and this Government will continue to do everything it can to ensure everyone is confident to take them."

Hero GP, Dr Farzana Hussain, whose tireless efforts during the pandemic – including online campaigning and debunking of misinformation, and personally calling scores of patients who have yet to take the jab – have been key to fighting the virus, said:

"It is really important that everyone takes the vaccine – unless all of us are protected, none of us are protected.

“The vaccines are very safe – they have been trialled on hundreds of thousands of volunteers by world-leading scientists, and now millions of doses have been given, just in the UK alone. I urge everyone to take the jab when they are offered it.”

Alongside this the Minister for Equalities will today publish the third quarterly report to the Prime Minister and Health and Social Care Secretary on progress to understand and tackle COVID-19 disparities experienced by individuals from ethnic minority groups.

The report sets out the swift and flexible action Government has taken to protect people, adapting the vaccine programme as it has rolled out to ensure everyone feels safe and able to get the vaccine, without being stigmatised.

Dr Masood Ahmed, Chief Medical Officer for the Black Country and West Birmingham CCG said:

“We have strong, resilient communities and have been able to address vaccine hesitancy by connecting with people, listening to fears, and having meaningful conversations in order to reduce barriers, which is key for longer term sustainable solutions to address wider health inequalities.

“It’s so important that we share learnings to understand and address the health inequalities that COVID-19 has highlighted, and whilst we have had some success in reaching people and communities, there is still opportunity to do more.”

Dr Rohini Mathur, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said:

“This report highlights the positive impact of increasing vaccine confidence in minority ethnic groups across England and points towards the importance of understanding the complex interaction between socio-economic, geographic, and health related factors in explaining disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Further Information:

The report sets out the following next steps:

- The Minister for Equalities to share the findings of her third quarterly report with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.
- Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to consider how to apply the findings of the review of experiences of frontline healthcare workers and the UK-REACH study.
- NHS England’s published data on vaccination uptake by ethnicity should be further disaggregated to provide percentage uptake by vaccine priority group cohorts and sex. This should include levels of unknown ethnicity and an assessment of how this might affect the interpretation of vaccination uptake for different ethnic groups.
- NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI) should publish data about the use of the NHS COVID-19 app by different ethnic groups. This will inform

- activity to increase the uptake and continued use of the app.
- DHSC and NHS should further investigate practical barriers to vaccine uptake by ethnicity to assess and address any intention-action gap.
 - DHSC should ensure that NHS organisations and GPs are provided with clear guidance and protocols about how ethnicity should be requested and recorded in health records.
 - RDU should engage with the Office for Statistics Regulation about priorities for improving the quality (including harmonisation, robustness and reliability) of ethnicity data on health records, drawing on others' expertise as appropriate, and report back in the final quarterly report.
 - The Minister for Equalities and the Minister for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment will continue a programme of engagement in the next 3 months, focusing on promoting vaccine uptake and encouraging asymptomatic testing, particularly for those within higher risk occupations, as sectors reopen.
 - As the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues, the government's Vaccine Confidence campaign will aim to inform, educate and empower those aged 18 to 50 to take up their vaccine. Using the tagline 'Every Vaccination Gives Us Hope' content will take an optimistic tone, aiming to reach and persuade younger audiences, including ethnic minority groups.
 - At each step of the government's roadmap out of lockdown, tailored guidance and communications will continue to be shared through community and media channels to maximise reach and impact.

Communications

- To drive forward uptake of the vaccine, the government has prioritised communications with ethnic minority people across the UK, that includes:
- A partnership with 12 community radio stations, which has delivered key messages about vaccines in 13 different languages to 1.5 million people.
- Television partnerships with 21 multicultural TV networks, delivering 30 second adverts on 43 TV stations in 9 languages, reaching approximately 3 million people each week.
- A Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport social media campaign to tackle false vaccine information, which has been shared with more than 4 million people through community and local networks, reaching people from minority ethnic backgrounds.
- Ethnic minority medical professionals promoting facts and dispelling myths about the vaccines online, including a series of videos with Dr Amir Khan, a GP from Yorkshire, whose video on the vaccine being halal reached more than 330,000 people.
- A programme of Ministerial engagement, including a roundtable with Black African and Black Caribbean Faith Leaders and GPs, recognising the important role that churches play in promoting vaccine uptake amongst their congregations.
- Celebrities and influencers, including Great British Bake Off star Nadiya Hussain, backing the NHS COVID-19 vaccine drive.
- A short film backed by the NHS based on an open letter signed by Sir Lenny Henry and a range of high-profile celebrities encouraging Black adults in the UK to make informed decisions about the vaccine.

Windrush Day 2021 launches with £500k for celebrations

- Charities, community groups and councils across England to receive £500,000 to commemorate the third national Windrush Day
- Funding will support exhibitions, digital archives and programmes for schools on 22 June and beyond
- Activities will place communities front and centre of Windrush Day 2021 as nation pays tribute to the Windrush Generation and their descendants

Communities across the country will receive a share of £500,000 to host events marking Windrush Day, Communities Minister Lord Greenhalgh confirmed today (25 May 2021).

Forty-two projects from across the country will be funded this year as the nation pays tribute to the outstanding contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants on 22 June 2021.

This year's projects have a particular focus on working with schools and recording the memories and testimonies of the Windrush Generation for the future, telling their stories and celebrating how they have shaped Britain's heritage.

Funded projects will hold a rich and wide-ranging series of events, including:

- A recreation of the arrival of MV Empire Windrush at Tilbury with virtual storytelling sessions for children
- A showcase of British Caribbean writers and their contribution to children's literature with digital learning resources for schools in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
- Performance workshops for children and young people on dub poetry and traditional Jamaican dance in Liverpool
- A museum display focusing on the Windrush Legacies contribution to High Wycombe and the furniture industries
- Recording testimonies from the Windrush generation in Harrow about their arrival in the UK as children which will be shared with primary school children of the same age
- A community radio programme and event in Ipswich town centre including a steel band, Windrush lectures and an interactive exhibition

Communities Minister Lord Greenhalgh said:

This year's Windrush Day will be a chance for all of us to come together, either in person or virtually, to applaud the contribution British Caribbean communities have made to all aspects

of our society.

Communities are planning for a brilliant array of events on 22 June, from radio programmes curated by young people, to exhibitions around the country, to workshops in schools, to music, theatre and dance productions.

All of these events will commemorate and record the outstanding legacy of the Windrush Generation and inspire our children so that generations to come will remember the huge contribution they made and continue to make to this country.

This year's successful projects were chosen by an independent panel made up of community and government representatives, including individuals who sit on the Windrush Community Funds and Schemes sub-group.

Chair of the Windrush Community Funds and Windrush Schemes group Paulette Simpson CBE said:

As we approach Windrush Day 2021, I am delighted that 42 projects from across the country will benefit from funding for activities to celebrate and commemorate our Caribbean communities.

This year we have focused on schools in order to share stories about the Windrush Generation and their descendants, so that children will know, and always remember, the enormous contributions the Windrush Generation made and continue to make for this country.

Windrush Day 2021 will build on the success of the past two years, in which nearly 100 projects have benefitted from funding to celebrate the British Caribbean community's culture and heritage.

Successful projects can use their funding to mark Windrush Day 2021 or launch their projects on 22 June to run throughout the year, following the impact of COVID-19.

Windrush Day

2019 saw the first national Windrush Day take place, with activities and events up and down the country. Through educational workshops, theatre performances and historical exhibitions communities honoured that landmark day over 70 years ago when the MV Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks.

The government is committed to building on the success of Windrush Day 2019 and 2020 and embedding 22 June in the national conscience, ensuring we continue to honour and recognise the outstanding resilience, innovation and creativity of the Windrush Generation and their descendants.

The Windrush Generation

Windrush Day marks the anniversary of the arrival of MV Empire Windrush at the Port of Tilbury, near London, on 22 June 1948. The arrival of the Empire Windrush nearly 73 years ago marked a seminal moment in Britain's history and has come to represent the rich diversity of this nation.

Those who arrived on the Empire Windrush, their descendants and those who followed them have made and continue to make an enormous contribution to Britain, not just in the vital work of rebuilding the country and public services following WWII but in enriching our shared social, economic, cultural and religious life.

Overcoming great sacrifice and hardship, the Windrush Generation and their descendants have gone on to lead the field across public life, in business, the arts and sport. Britain would be much diminished without their contribution.

- The MV Empire Windrush docked at the Port of Tilbury on 21 June 1948. However, passengers disembarked a day later on 22 June 1948 – hence why this has come to be known as Windrush Day.
- The [Windrush Day Grant Scheme](#) was launched on 22 November 2018.
- See more information about the [community groups and local authorities that are set to receive funding](#).
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is a devolved department. As such, the Windrush Day Grant Scheme is an England only policy area.

Windrush Community Funds and Schemes sub-group of the Windrush Cross-Government Working Group

The Grant Scheme is overseen by the Windrush Community Funds and Schemes sub-group made up of community and government representatives. The group provides advice to government and helps to ensure that winning bids meet the objectives and requirements of the Grant Scheme.

Windrush Monument

The national Windrush Monument at Waterloo Station will be a permanent tribute to a generation of arrivals from the Caribbean to Britain – from the arrival of MV Empire Windrush in 1948 and in the decades that followed.

The 4 artists shortlisted to design the monument are all of Caribbean descent and include world renowned, established and up and coming artists working across the visual arts.

Over the summer the public will be encouraged to consider the proposals. The winning design is planned to be revealed in Black History Month in October and the monument is expected to be unveiled on Windrush Day 2022.

Enabling UN peacekeepers to perform safely and to the best of their abilities

Mr President, thank you for convening today's open debate and I want to thank our briefers for their insightful remarks.

At the outset, I want to join others in paying tribute to those brave peacekeepers killed or injured in the course of their duties. Addressing the threats facing our peacekeepers requires commitment from all of us. The Secretary-General recognised this in his Action for Peacekeeping initiative; safety and security must remain a central pillar of its implementation.

Just as we ask our peacekeepers to perform to the best of their abilities, and the Secretariat to put in place the required levels of support, it is our duty, as troop- and police-contributing countries, to provide the training and equipment to enable our personnel to fulfil their roles safely.

Thorough and mission-specific pre-deployment preparation is key to understanding and tackling threats. That's why, through our partnerships with other troop contributors and training centres, the UK is providing training and mentoring in counter-IED, peacekeeping intelligence and first aid skills, to help prepare peacekeepers before they deploy. For example, the UK has provided over \$1.4 million of support to the Humanitarian Peace Support School in Nairobi, helping deliver 31 courses to more than 600 personnel from 12 Police- and Troop-Contributing Countries.

Second, giving missions an accurate threat picture allows them to anticipate and mitigate risks, and challenge those targeting them. The deployment of the UK's reconnaissance task group in MINUSMA, Mali, is demonstrating the value of peacekeeping intelligence in connecting the mission with difficult-to-reach communities and improving situational awareness. This contributes to both safety and security and the protection of civilians.

Third, when incidents do occur, peacekeepers should be assured that they will benefit from reliable casualty evacuation, and the right medical care needed within the first crucial minutes and hours. The availability of adequately equipped and performing air support is often key to this. Response times, processes and capabilities must be thoroughly stress-tested to ensure they are robust, dependable and in line with medical needs.

Finally, Mr President, we must be united in our action to hold the perpetrators of attacks against peacekeepers accountable, through adoption of sanctions by the Security Council and the pursuit of justice by host states. It is also the duty of host states to ensure that missions are free to work without violations of their Status of Forces Agreement. We are concerned by

the recent spike in such violations against MINUSCA, in the Central African Republic, and I join others in calling on the authorities to ensure the security and free movement of UN personnel.

Thank you, Mr President.

Correspondence between The Rt Hon Lord Pickles and Alex Chisolm – Permanent Secretary and Chief Operating Officer for the Civil Service

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