

UK pledges £22m to support cyber capacity building in vulnerable countries

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, has announced £22 million of new investment to build cyber security resilience in developing countries and globally, particularly in Africa and the Indo-Pacific.

As part of this the UK, jointly with INTERPOL, is setting up a new cyber operations hub in Africa working across Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda to support joint operations against cyber crime.

Speaking at the National Cyber Security Centre's CYBERUK conference he outlined the UK's vision of being a leading responsible cyber power, working with partners to shape cyberspace according to our values.

In his speech, the Foreign Secretary said:

We are working with like-minded partners, to make sure that the international order that governs cyber is fit for purpose.

Our aim should be to create a cyberspace that is free, open, peaceful and secure, and which benefits all countries and all people.

We want to see international law respected in cyberspace, just as we would anywhere else. And we need to show how the rules apply to these changes in technology, the changes in threats, and the systemic attempts to render the internet a lawless space.

The £22m investment in cyber capacity building will target countries in Africa, the Commonwealth and Indo-Pacific, transforming their resilience by helping build national emergency response teams and promoting future leadership by funding new Chevening scholarships.

The new Interpol desk will work across Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda, creating a regional strategy to support joint operations against cybercrime, and strengthen African states' capability to combat the crime and those behind it. With some of the fastest growing economies in the world, Africa has become a target for opportune cybercriminals.

By creating a central coordination desk within INTERPOL that law enforcement across Africa can use, the UK hopes to improve collaboration across borders to advance intelligence sharing, and ultimately stop the perpetrators of cybercrime in Africa.

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[Global banking giant joins Sellafield's Bus Station project](#)

Barclays has chosen Whitehaven Bus Station as the location for its first Eagle Lab in Cumbria.

The news was announced as the £8.2 million transformation of the landmark building nears completion.

Sellafield Ltd invested £5.7 million to kickstart the bus station redevelopment with developer [BEC](#).

[The Bus Station and Eagle Lab](#)

The project is a cornerstone of the company's Social Impact Multiplied (SiX) programme, funded by its owner the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

The Whitehaven Eagle Lab is the 24th in Barclays' nationwide network.

It will offer co-working, office and meeting space, plus a space where entrepreneurs, individuals and businesses can access innovative tools, curated events, and the right network to innovate.

Entrepreneurs can also access banking services, business expertise, mentoring and coaching.

Jamie Reed, head of corporate affairs for Sellafield Ltd, said:

The opening of the Eagle Lab is a new chapter in the economic development of West Cumbria.

This is the culmination of a vision that began when we unveiled our plans for the bus station in 2017.

I'm thrilled with the transformation of the building and excited to see our community grasp the opportunities it will bring.

The project has been designed to support the NDA group's strategy to deliver sustainable investment to drive long-term economic growth for local communities.

Jon Hope, director of Barclays Eagle Labs, said:

We'll bring our Eagle Labs philosophy to Whitehaven, helping to provide start-ups and scale-ups a home and fostering the connections to help them grow, while our Digital Eagles will provide training in digital skills to help upskill the wider community.

Mike Starkie, Mayor of Copeland, said:

This is an incredibly exciting development.

Barclays choosing to invest in Whitehaven is a real acknowledgement of the exciting opportunities and business environment here.

The Eagle Lab will be a key enabler for our economic strategy for Copeland to become a globally recognised place of innovation and opportunity.

Henri Murison, chief executive of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, said:

Barclays, Sellafield Ltd and BEC are showing what can be achieved away from major urban conurbations right across the north of England.

The Eagle Lab is a real coup for West Cumbria that will help to drive economic growth. The leadership shown by Sellafield Ltd on this agenda as well as in education, regeneration, and economic diversification is an example to businesses right across the country.

Copeland MP Trudy Harrison said:

I'm delighted to welcome Barclays back to Whitehaven.

It's wonderful to see such a prestigious, blue chip brand investing in our community.

The Bus Station is scheduled to open on 25 May. The building will also feature an all-day, 125-seat food and drink venue called The Peddler.

Traffic light system: safe return to international travel

We have made enormous progress this year in tackling the pandemic across Britain. That progress has been hard won and it is important that we do not risk undermining it now. Yet we are also a nation with ties across the globe.

In 2019, UK residents took over 93 million trips abroad, for business, leisure and to visit friends and family. International travel is vital. It connects families who have been kept apart, boosts businesses and underpins the UK economy. It is absolutely essential that any steps we take now, lay the groundwork for a sustainable return to travel. That is why on Friday 7 May (2021), I [announced the first steps towards unlocking international travel](#).

I have confirmed that, from 17 May, the 'Stay in the UK' regulation will cease and international travel will be allowed to restart, governed by a new traffic light system. The system will allow the public to understand COVID requirements when travelling to England. Health measures at the border will vary depending on whether travelling from a green, amber or red country. You can see the [full list of countries in each category](#) on GOV.UK.

The traffic light system

As the virus is still spreading in many parts of the world, people should not be travelling to amber or red countries.

Given the need for caution, the [green list](#) will initially be modest with only the following 12 countries and territories on the initial list when international travel resumes on 17 May:

- Portugal (including the Azores and Madeira)
- Israel and Jerusalem
- Gibraltar
- Iceland
- Singapore
- Australia
- Brunei Darussalam
- Falkland Islands
- Faroe Islands
- New Zealand
- Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

Countries on the green list pose the lowest risk, therefore passengers who have only visited or transited through a green list country will not be

required to quarantine on arrival in England. They will be required to fill in the [passenger locator form](#), provide a [valid notification of a negative test result prior to travel](#) and take a [sequencing test on day 2 after arrival](#).

The Maldives, Nepal and Turkey will be added to the [red list](#) from 4am on 12 May, a sign of our ongoing vigilance in protecting against the virus and from the importation of variants. International visitors who have visited or transited through any red list country in the previous 10 days will be refused entry into England. Only British and Irish citizens, or those with residence rights in the UK, will be allowed to enter and they must [stay in a government approved quarantine facility for 10 days](#).

All other countries will remain on the [amber list](#). Passengers who have visited or transited through an amber country will be required to fill in the [passenger locator form](#), provide a [valid notification of a negative test result prior to travel](#), [quarantine at home for 10 days](#), and [take a test on day 2 and day 8 after arrival](#). Passengers will also have the option to opt into [Test to Release](#) at day 5.

While the number of countries on the green list is initially low, I anticipate it will grow over time as the situation improves globally, meaning further opportunities for international travel will open up.

The risk posed by individual countries will be continuously monitored and the green, amber and red lists will be updated every 3 weeks. The Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) will produce risk assessments of countries and territories. Decisions will be taken by ministers, who take into account the JBC risk assessments, alongside wider public health factors. Key factors in the JBC risk assessment of each country include:

- genomic surveillance capability
- COVID-19 transmission risk
- variant of concern transmission risk

A summary of the [JBC methodology](#) has been published on GOV.UK, alongside key [data that supports ministers' decisions](#).

If the situation in a country changes dramatically, we will not hesitate to act swiftly and decisively to protect the health of the UK public and our progress on vaccination.

Demonstrating COVID-19 vaccination status

From 17 May, people in England who have had the vaccine will be able to [demonstrate their COVID-19 vaccination status](#) for outbound travel using the [NHS app](#) or letter. In due course, the app will allow people to show evidence of negative tests as they travel out of the country.

The government is working with the devolved administrations to ensure this facility is available to everyone across the UK.

Messages to passengers

Given the virus is still spreading in many parts of the world, the public are recommended against travel to amber and red countries, and instead should only travel to countries on the green list.

Reopening international travel while maintaining checks of health measures for every passenger at the border means queues are inevitable. We understand that queues are frustrating but undertaking proper checks is the right thing to do to reduce the chances of a new variant of the virus entering the country.

We have updated the guidance on GOV.UK setting out the requirements of all passengers. We will continue to promote messages on how to prepare for travel via all our usual channels. You should check the GOV.UK [travel abroad](#) page to help plan your journeys.

Future reviews

The traffic light system will be reviewed through a series of checkpoints in June, July and October, taking into account the latest domestic and international data.

The government is committed to giving people the freedom to travel with confidence and supporting the wider travel industry.

[Reserve Forces 30 report published](#)

News story

The findings of an independent study to reform the Reserve Forces for the future has been published.



The RF30 Review, commissioned by the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir

Nick Carter in February 2020, was led by Brigadier the Rt Honourable the Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton. The review was driven by 3 key factors:

- The Integrated Operating Concept, which outlines Defence's renewed commitment to embrace information-age capabilities, conduct persistent overseas engagement, deepen resilience and increase integration across the services
- The imperative to make the UK more resilient to natural disasters including pandemics, and grey-zone activities such as cyber-attacks, which will require greater integration of reservists to bridge the gap between the military and civil sectors
- The ambitions set out in the Defence People Strategy to draw more on the diversity, skills and networks that reservists bring to defence, and to integrate the reserves as part of Defence's People Transformation Programme.

As set out in the Integrated Review and Defence Command Paper, evolving how and when the reserve force is utilised will be vital in planning for the challenges of tomorrow. This review outlines a vision for the future contribution of the reserves to defence and wider government objectives, set out to 2030.

RF30 provides the framework for an empowered reserve force, further integrated with both their regular counterparts and wider defence organisation. This would enable greater access to the valuable skills of the reserves, supporting the delivery of the plans outlined in the Integrated Review.

Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heappey said:

We thank Lord Lancaster for his thorough and insightful review into our Reserve Forces.

The Integrated Review and Defence Command Paper emphasised the importance of adapting to new and evolving threats; our reserves will play a vital role in supporting defence and wider government as we take forward this new direction.

We will now examine the recommendations in detail and respond formally to the report in due course.

The RF30 Review has made 18 recommendations in 4 broad categories:

- 1) Redefining the reserves' relationship with society
- 2) Expanding the role of the reserves
- 3) Unlocking the potential of reservists
- 4) Transforming support to the reserves.

The RF30 Review will now be considered in full, with further work to take place in examining the feasibility of the recommendations in order to develop a defence change programme.

Read the [Reserve Forces Review 2030 report](#).

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[Transport update: proposed alteration and upgrading by Highways England of the existing M25 Junction 10 Roundabout](#)

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