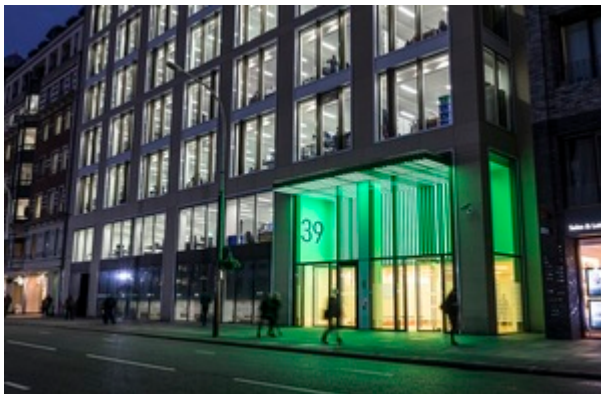


COVID-19 alert level: update from the UK Chief Medical Officers (10 May 2021)

News story

A joint statement from the UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) recommending that the UK COVID-19 alert level move from level 4 to level 3.



Following advice from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and in the light of the most recent data, the UK Chief Medical Officers and NHS England National Medical Director agree that the UK alert level should move from level 4 to level 3.

Thanks to the efforts of the UK public in social distancing and the impact we are starting to see from the vaccination programme, case numbers, deaths and COVID hospital pressures have fallen consistently. However COVID is still circulating with people catching and spreading the virus every day so we all need to continue to be vigilant. This remains a major pandemic globally.

It is very important that we all continue to follow the guidance closely and everyone gets both doses of the vaccine when they are offered it.

Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Chris Whitty

Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland, Dr Michael McBride

Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, Dr Gregor Smith

Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Frank Atherton

NHS England National Medical Director, Professor Stephen Powis

[Imprivata and Iosec abandon merger during CMA investigation](#)

Press release

Imprivata and Iosec have abandoned their proposed tie-up after the CMA found competition concerns.



Based on assurances received from Imprivata that the deal has been abandoned, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has decided not to refer the merger for an in-depth investigation.

Imprivata and Iosec provide secure authentication management solutions to healthcare providers in England. These technologies can give staff protected access to sensitive patient data sourced from a central NHS IT system.

In its initial 'Phase 1' investigation, the CMA found evidence indicating that Imprivata and Iosec are important rivals in this area and that part of the motivation for the takeover was the removal of a competitive threat from the market. Competition between these companies was also expected to grow in the future with the introduction of new products.

The CMA was concerned that, if the merger went ahead as planned, it would have an impact on NHS and other healthcare providers across England and could potentially lead to taxpayers receiving poorer value for money in relation to these services. In addition, the companies' customers, including the NHS, would have limited other options in terms of suppliers.

The CMA announced on 29 April 2021 it would refer the deal to an in-depth Phase 2 investigation unless the parties offered acceptable undertakings to address these competition concerns. As the transaction has been abandoned, the deal will now not be referred.

More information is available on the [Imprivata, Inc./Isosec Limited merger inquiry page](#).

For media enquiries, contact the CMA press office on 020 3738 6460 or press@cma.gov.uk.

Published 10 May 2021

[Geospatial Commission announces up to £4m for second phase of transport location data innovation competition](#)

Press release

Geospatial Commission in partnership with Innovate UK launch phase 2 of its transport location data competition to support the future of mobility for the UK.



The Geospatial Commission today launched the second phase of its transport location data competition, in partnership with [Innovate UK](#). The competition supports the use of location data to spark innovation and support the future of mobility for the United Kingdom.

Following successful completion of phase one in March with 28 winning innovative companies progressing, the second phase of the competition will award funding of up to £500k for the strongest innovations to progress to development and pilot.

These products and services will harness innovative geospatial solutions that can help solve the four contemporary transport challenges:

- **Mobility as a service** – to help better integration of transport types
- **Active travel** – creating safer ways to enable active travel

- **Supply chains** – helping better distribution, storage and delivery
- **Boosting capacity** – increasing efficiency of transport networks

Winners will develop pilots to commercialise and bring ‘market ready’ geospatial solutions to our transport challenges and support the future of mobility.

The competition was launched today during an industry event showcasing the [successful findings from the first phase](#) by Minister for the Cabinet Office, Lord True CBE.

Minister for the Cabinet Office, Lord True CBE said:

Smarter mobility solutions, underpinned by location data, will enable us to make the most of our transport networks by boosting capacity, reducing environmental impacts and decreasing travel times and I look forward to seeing how this second round competition helps to boost the UK’s future of mobility.

Published 10 May 2021

[British Embassy in Rome survey outlines profile of UK nationals in Italy](#)

- The survey offers useful insights to improve communication on citizens’ rights after Brexit
- “Passaparola” campaign launched in Italian for friends and families of UK nationals in Italy

The British Embassy in Rome launched an online survey in March to gain a better understanding of the British population living in Italy. The initiative aims to collect insights into the degree of integration of the British community in Italy and provides first-of-its-kind data to support the Embassy in its ambitious information and outreach plans after Brexit.

The survey results, mainly collected via the Embassy’s social media accounts @UKinItaly (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) will also be used to inform new communication and engagement strategies aimed at British nationals living in Italy after the UK left the European Union. Of the over 30,000 UK nationals in Italy, more than 1,200 took part in the survey, also thanks to the dissemination via newsletters and social media of English-language publications and associations of British residents. Here is a summary of the

main findings.

Northern Italy, especially Lombardy (20%), and Lazio (18%) are home to the vast majority of British nationals living in Italy who can, however, be found in all Regions of Italy: Tuscany (12%), Piedmont (7%), Veneto (6.5%), Emilia-Romagna (5%) and, to a limited extent, also in Abruzzo, Umbria, Puglia, Calabria and Sicily.

6 out of 10 respondents are long-standing residents: almost 20% settled here between 10 and 20 years ago and just under 40% over 20 years ago. However, the flow of Brits choosing Italy as their new home seems to be unbroken, as a large proportion (22%) have been here for only 1-5 years.

Most Britons have settled in Italy to work (34%), while smaller numbers moved to be with their families or retire, 29% and 27% respectively. Only 2% are in Italy to study, which is understandable in light of the fact that a vast majority of UK nationals currently living in Italy (almost 60%) are aged 55+ and 20% fall into the 45-54 age group.

British nationals have also developed deep personal relationships within their communities and are highly integrated. Half of the respondents have Italian family members, while 70% say most of their friends and acquaintances are Italian nationals. These deep roots are also reflected in the language they use on a daily basis: 41% use Italian more often than English.

In terms of how they stay informed, respondents say they use Italian and English language sources equally. 24% browse mainly websites in English but a similar proportion (23%) prefer Italian offline sources such as newspapers (7.4%) and TV (15.6%) over British ones.

In a time when communication and outreach around the rights of British citizens living in Italy before 1 January 2021 are an absolute priority for the British Embassy in Rome, the information gathered on the integration of UK nationals in Italy paves the way for a new Tell A Friend campaign (called Passaparola, in Italian) that addresses their Italian relatives and friends on local media, which are particularly popular in smaller cities and remote areas of the country.

On the day of the launch of the Passaparola campaign, British Ambassador Jill Morris commented: "The findings of our survey are particularly interesting and a testament to the high degree of integration of my fellow nationals in this beautiful country. The decision to use TV, as well as national and local press for our Passaparola campaign stems from the fact that they are deeply rooted in Italy and very familiar with the language of Dante, whose 700th anniversary we celebrated just a few weeks back".

The Embassy publish regular updates on the Living in Italy guide, available at www.gov.uk/livinginitaly, and organises regular virtual meetings on Facebook www.facebook.com/ukinitaly and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/ukinitaly), including live Q&A events and one-to-one advisory sessions advertised on its social media @ukinitaly and on www.gov.uk/government/news/meeting-british-citizens-across-italy. To make sure the harder to reach are covered, the Embassy also partners up with

newspapers and news agencies to place advertisements, as well as companies and organisations throughout Italy to distribute posters and other print information materials.

Light aircraft accident near Headcorn Airfield in Kent – 09 May 2021

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