

UK sends oxygen factories to support India

Press release

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- The UK is sending further life-saving oxygen equipment to India.
- The three oxygen generation units, each producing 500 litres of oxygen per minute, are the size of shipping containers.
- UK medical equipment to India arrived earlier this week, with more to be delivered over the coming week

The UK will send further vital oxygen equipment to India in support of the country's fight against COVID-19.

Three oxygen generation units will be sent from surplus stocks in Northern Ireland to support India by providing more oxygen to those suffering from COVID-19. The oxygen units are each capable of producing 500 litres of oxygen per minute, enough for 50 people to use at a time. Oxygen is one of the main needs of India's healthcare system.

This follows the UK's recent action to support India, with 495 oxygen concentrators and 200 ventilators sent from surplus stocks. The first batch of these medical supplies arrived in Delhi around 01:00 local time on Tuesday 27 April, with the rest due to arrive in Delhi by Friday. The equipment will all then be transferred to Indian hospitals.

The support was sent in response to a request from India and a pledge from Prime Minister Boris Johnson for the UK to do all it can to help. The assistance package has been sourced by the Department of Health and Social Care and funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

We stand with our Indian friends in their fight against COVID-19.

International collaboration is more essential than ever, and this additional UK support package will help meet India's current needs, particularly for more oxygen.

India has this week reported its highest numbers of new daily cases and deaths since the pandemic began and is facing severe shortages of oxygen.

DHSC have worked closely with the NHS, as well as suppliers and manufacturers in the UK to identify surplus life-saving equipment that can be sent to India.

This is the just the latest example of UK-India collaboration throughout this pandemic, to the benefit of both countries and the world.

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[G7 tech leaders agree bold new proposals to boost online safety worldwide](#)

- Declaration signed in digital and tech ministerial meeting ahead of June G7 Leaders Summit
- Principles to improve online safety include commitments on human rights and protecting young people
- Roadmap to digitise outdated paper-based system for global trade among other agreements

Leaders from the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the US and EU signed a declaration containing a series of shared principles on how to tackle the global challenge of online safety, including that online firms should have systems and processes in place to reduce illegal and harmful activity and prioritise the protection of children.

The principles, which have been shaped by the UK's world-leading approach, say that any steps to improve online safety must support the values of open and democratic societies and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The [joint ministerial declaration](#) was signed at a virtual meeting hosted by UK Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden to fire the starting gun on this year's G7 Summit. The agreements are part of the first of seven ministerial declarations due to be signed this year.

Other measures include plans to turbocharge exports by digitising the cumbersome and centuries-old paper-based system for key international trade

transactions and improving the free flow of data.

In a sign of stronger cooperation to address concerns over the market power of big tech platforms, international regulators and policymakers will meet with the UK's Competition and Markets Authority in the autumn to discuss long term coordination and enforcement.

Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

As a coalition of the world's leading democracies and technological powers, we want to forge a compelling vision of how tech should support and enhance open and democratic societies in the digital age.

Together we have agreed a number of priorities in areas ranging from internet safety to digital competition to make sure the digital revolution is a democratic one that enhances global prosperity for all.

The G7 Digital and Tech ministerial meeting is the culmination of ongoing discussions and negotiations around a number of priority areas and in the ministerial declaration published today, G7 member states have agreed to:

- Internet safety principles to guide work to improve online safety. G7 countries commit to protecting human rights online and agree that tech companies have a corporate responsibility for their users' safety. This means they should have systems and processes in place to reduce illegal and harmful activity and prioritise the protection of children. These are based on underlying principles in the UK Government's [Online Harms White Paper](#).
- Develop a framework for the use of electronic transferable records, to address legal barriers and coordinate domestic reforms so companies can use digital solutions for the shipment of goods and trade finance – replacing slow and outdated paper transactions.
- A consensus that a more joined-up approach to regulation and promoting competition in digital markets is needed to better serve consumers and businesses. Regulators have agreed to meet in the autumn to discuss these issues further.
- Cooperation to seize the opportunities and benefits of data free flow with trust for people, businesses and economies. The G7 will build evidence on the impacts of data localisation, promote regulatory cooperation and accelerate the development of best practice approaches for data sharing across a broader set of priority areas. These areas may include transport, science and research, education and natural disaster

mitigation.

- Collaboration on how democratic governments and stakeholders can support the development of digital technical standards that online tools, services and protocols should measure up to, and which, among other things, will guide the development of a free, open and secure Internet.

For the first time the G7 also discussed the importance of promoting security and resilience in critical digital infrastructure, in particular in telecommunications, including 5G and future communications technologies. In the declaration, G7 countries commit to developing their collaboration on this throughout the year.

Building on the momentum from this G7 Digital and Technology track, the UK will also host the Future Tech Forum this September. The Forum will convene like-minded democratic partners to discuss the role of technology in supporting open societies and tackling global challenges, in collaboration with industry, academia, and other key stakeholders.

As is tradition for the host nation to highlight their culture, over the two days of the ministerial track (28 – 29 April) G7 ministers and invited guests will enjoy performances from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and National Theatre. These organisations, and over 5,000 others, have benefitted from the unprecedented £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The talks came after the Digital Secretary separately spoke with his US counterparts yesterday to emphasize the importance of global collaboration to protect people online and drive the international debate in this area.
- The UK is already leading the way internationally with domestic work in the priority areas:
- In coming months Britain will become one of the first countries in the world to [introduce legislation](#) that will hold social media companies to account for tackling a comprehensive range of harms on their platforms.
- Last month the government unveiled a trailblazing pro-competition [Digital Markets Unit](#) to help make sure tech giants cannot exploit their market dominance to crowd out competition and stifle innovation online. Given the increasingly borderless nature of digital markets, the G7's support for this new pro-competition approach is an important step forward to tackle the issue globally.

- As part of plans to build back better from the pandemic and level up communities, the UK is working with international partners to promote the flow of data across borders. It is making use of its independent powers to deepen its strategic international relationships and ensure trade deals include cutting-edge data provisions which reduce barriers to trade and promote data protection standards. The government struck such a deal with Japan which came into force on 1 January 2021 that removes barriers to the free flow of data, including on data localisation, and commits both parties to a legal framework protecting the personal information of users of electronic commerce.
- The UK Government is currently progressing its £250 million [Diversification Strategy](#) to boost innovation in the domestic telecoms market and reduce reliance on a small number of 5G equipment suppliers.
- Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden recently set out his [ten tech priorities](#) which include leading the global conversation on tech, keeping the UK safe and secure online, and championing free and fair digital trade.
- The government also published its groundbreaking [Integrated Review](#) of defence and security last month setting the goal of cementing the UK's position as a responsible and democratic cyber power.
- More information on electronic transferable records:
 - The International Chamber of Commerce estimates that 99 per cent of trade transactions remain paper-based, generating 25 billion documents each year for container shipping alone. The Digital Container Shipping Association estimates that if 50 per cent of container shipping transactions are digitised it could save US\$4 billion per year globally by 2030.
 - Transferable records, like bills of lading, warehouse receipts or promissory notes, are documents which dominate international trade and trade finance and developed out of medieval mercantile customs to ensure consistency across borders. In the UK, a mix of common law and legislative rules prevent the transition from paper to digital, the Bills of Exchange Act 1882 and the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1924 being clear barriers.
 - Enabling businesses to use electronic transferable records will generate efficiencies in time, security or data processing, as well as economic savings. This will strengthen the resilience of our global economic system and play a crucial role in trade recovery across the G7.

- There is clearly work to be done to develop a domestic legislative solution. The UK Government is reforming the UK's laws for the digital age and has asked the Law Commission to make recommendations to solve the legal barriers to using electronic transferable records. This research project is ongoing and we expect a consultation report will be published shortly.
 - In addition, it is important to remember that these are international documents and it is vital for the private sector that these legal documents continue to meet commercial expectations across the globe. This means that the UK must work to socialise these reforms in international fora, promote interoperability between systems and data sets, and encourage regulators to meet and cooperate on relevant issues, such as data protection.
 - Our G7 policy agenda is the subject of negotiation with our partners via the Ministerial tracks and Sherpa network, both in the build up to and after the Summit. The other G7 ministerial tracks include:
 - The Finance Track
 - The Foreign and Development Track
 - The Health Track
 - The Climate and Environment Track
 - The Interior Track
 - The Trade Track
 - Further information on the G7 can be found at the [G7 website](#).
 - Follow the G7 on Twitter and Instagram @G7
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[ESFA Update: 28 April 2021](#)

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[Correspondence between the Prime Minister and Lord Evans on the Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests](#)

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[Speech by the chair of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, Dr Tony Sewell CBE](#)

Thank you, David, and thank you Policy Exchange for organising today's event.

Today is the first in a series of events that commissioners will be taking part in to discuss our report with different think tanks – we welcome the opportunity to be hosted by British Future, Demos, and the Centre for Social Justice in the coming weeks.

This report is about how we really deal with the issue of race and social mobility. We know that education is the best vehicle for this.

Recent data shows attainment score for Black Caribbean was over 5 points lower than average White pupils or over a grade lower in each of the 8 subjects. At the same time the average scores for Indian, Bangladeshi and Black African pupils were above the White British average. The exclusion rates show a similar difference. In 2018/19 Black Caribbean pupils had a permanent exclusion rate of 25 in 10,000 compared to 7 in 10,000 for African pupils.

Extra hours education is something that my own community, the Black Caribbean community, pioneered and their example is one we think the government should seek to emulate. To this day, it is the resourcefulness of Britain's many ethnic minority groups who ensure their children get a rounded educational experience. Arabic, Arithmetic and Art are all features of the diverse

landscape of supplementary education.

Phasing in an extended school day in disadvantaged areas first would give pupils a chance to learn an instrument whose parents cannot afford to pay or make friends for life by joining a rugby team they otherwise would not.

If we all agree that education is the key to unlocking potential then I am confident this is a recommendation which can command broad support, despite the notable challenges we identify in our report.

We also want government to invest in what works to help disadvantaged pupils to succeed, regardless of where they live.

One of the key reasons why students from Black Caribbean background fail is that the family is in need of better resource and support. No this is not a by-word to blame single mothers. Black Caribbean families are 60 percent single parents, Black African 40 and Indian 6. We have recommended that government improve support for families who are experiencing difficulties which can harm their children's future prospects.

It was by dropping the term BAME that allowed us to look at this data in a forensic way. We could now see that Black and White groups had differences within, this was particularly stark when comparing Black Caribbean with Black African. So we recommend the dropping of the term.

In Education it is not just the quantity of time children spend in school that the Commission wants to boost either.

We want new, top-quality curriculum resources to tell the story of how Britain came to be the country it is today.

In the report I say: 'There is a new story about the Caribbean experience which speaks to the slave period not only being about profit and suffering but how culturally African people transformed themselves into a re-modelled African/ Britain.' This was vilely misrepresented as a glorification of slavery. We wanted to not only speak of the inhumanity of slavery but how African people managed to retain their humanity and resist slavery. People like Sam Sharpe who led slave rebellions. We wanted to look at the slave ledgers with awful names like Sambo, who was considered nothing more than an animal and use the data from Caribbean social historians, who tell a story of how these were real people who kept aspects of their African culture in religion, dress, dance and food preparation etc and managed to preserve their humanity. As Bob Marley says:

Old pirates, yes, they rob I
Sold I to the merchant ships
Minutes after they took I
From the bottomless pit
But my hand was made strong
By the end of the almighty We
Forward in this generation
Triumphantly Won't you help to sing
These songs of freedom?

The public culture of Britain is a rich, diverse mosaic of different traditions. Each intricate segment tells its own unique story. But step away and you see that they are each a part of an overall chronicle which binds them together and gives them all a new meaning. It will also reflect the good

and the bad of Empire and how that legacy has materially built modern Britain. We also can think of the sacrifices made by Commonwealth soldiers in both world wars.

Linking the stories of different ethnic groups to a unifying sense of Britishness is an opportunity to remind children of our common destiny and foster more belonging to this country.

The report acknowledges that over 50 years things have significantly improved. Second that race is not the only factor in explaining racial disparities and third that some of the best strategies for change is when we find answers for everybody.

My life has been spent expanding the horizons of young Black people.

I am proud that the charity I founded has supported over 450 state-school students from ethnic minority and low-income backgrounds into STEM degrees at top universities.

It was taking these teenagers some who were written off by society, investing time, hope and energy into them, and then watching them grow and flourish into today's engineers and scientists that made me agree to chair this Commission.

We want to appeal to everybody but specifically to those who have faced and continue to deal with the reality of racism. Our report speaks directly to you. Yes we did find the racism that you experience and our report outlines that reality. Yes the Commission has found evidence that concurs with your pain. Our report not only acknowledges, what we call lived racism but it delivers key recommendations.

So today I call on the government to accept our first recommendation to strengthen the hand of the equality watchdog to strike down racial discrimination. EHRC. Equality and Human Rights Commission.

We point out that affinity bias in hiring often means those from diverse backgrounds find it harder to reach the boardroom.

And we recommend action to tackle it.

We point out the that Black mothers are 4 times more likely to die in childbirth – new research that says Black women 40 per cent more likely to suffer miscarriage which as a man with a Black daughter and wife horrifies me.

And we recommend action to tackle it. The creation of the Office for Health Disparities

Our recommendations provide much of the prose for a new, open-minded, proudly multi-ethnic chapter of the British story.

One that doesn't shy away from what more needs to be done to address racial inequalities, this is by no way a finished project, what we have done here is

given a number of recommendations to significantly move this forward.

Thank you.