

Joint Statement from UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President von der Leyen: 7 December 2020

Press release

A joint statement from UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President von der Leyen.



As agreed on Saturday, we took stock today of the ongoing negotiations. We agreed that the conditions for finalizing an agreement are not there due to the remaining significant differences on three critical issues: level playing field, governance and fisheries.

We asked our Chief Negotiators and their teams to prepare an overview of the remaining differences to be discussed in a physical meeting in Brussels in the coming days.

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DVLA's bilingual online services: behind the scenes

[English] – [[Cymraeg](#)]

If you've ever used DVLA's public online services, you may well have spotted that most of them are also available in Welsh or used them yourself if you

speak the language. As today is Welsh language rights day ('Mae gen i hawl'), it's the ideal time to reveal more about how we developed our 2 newest bilingual online services.

[Welsh language rights day](#), which is promoted by the Welsh Language Commissioner, celebrates the Welsh language services provided by organisations and the rights people have to use them. We definitely had good reason to celebrate our bilingual online services recently, as our 2 latest ones – [change address on your vehicle log book \(V5C\)](#) and [get a duplicate log book \(V5C\)](#) – were the first ones we developed and launched in English and Welsh at the same time.

Here's how we did it

I've worked with the Welsh Language Policy (WLP) team regularly over the last few years as vehicle registration service designer on several big changes, and I'm fully aware of the Welsh Language Act 1993 requirements to provide translations of forms, letters and online services. My first step was to include these requirements from the very start for our vehicle change of address (or VCOA for short) and duplicate V5C services.

We shared the content and structure with WLP Manager Rhianedd Rhys and her team as soon as they were finalised. This meant she could get the translations over to us to integrate into the service as a finished product.

What really helped us achieve this was the great working partnership between my Service Design team, the business analysts for the project and WLP, which ensured we got everything done successfully and on time.



There were a couple of challenges...

Our biggest challenge was around time really and making sure what we sent to be translated was the final wording. Welsh translations tend to be longer than the English equivalent so we did face some issues about length of fields and space on screens to accommodate the additional space needed for the

translations, which can be tricky at times. Nothing we couldn't get sorted together though.

We learned handy lessons too

We certainly learned from VCOA, as we started working on the get a duplicate V5C service within a week of VCOA going live. We structured the project planning more, so when we finalised the screens we passed them for translation more regularly. There were a few last-minute changes because of insight but that is to be expected. It is [agile](#) after all.

Bilingual bonus for users

The signs so far from users are really encouraging. Take-up of the 2 new Welsh services is already on a par with our long-established services like [tax your vehicle online](#) and [driver licensing online](#), which have been around for many years.

And finally...

I'm not a Welsh speaker but was proud to deliver these services in Welsh. It would never occur to me that to do so would ever be an optional extra, so I see it as standard. I would like to recognise the patience, support and delivery of Rhianedd and her team, as we would not have done it on time without them.

I'm absolutely delighted that the Welsh services went live at the same time as the English services," adds Rhianedd. "These end-to-end Welsh language journeys are great news for us and our customers who wish to transact with us in Welsh, and build on the Welsh services we already provide. Thanks to everyone who made this happen!

"Our [Welsh language scheme](#) sets out our commitments to the Welsh language, as agreed with the Welsh Language Commissioner. We have a responsibility to show that we're treating the Welsh and English languages equally. We're very proud that usage of our current Welsh online services has increased year on year, so it was extremely important that these 2 services were launched at the same time as the English ones to make sure our Welsh-speaking customers can use their language of choice.

Da iawn bawb (well done everyone)!

All of our Welsh online services are listed on GOV.UK's [Welsh online services page](#), and you can find them under 'Trwyddedau gyrru' and 'Rhifau cofrestru cerbyd, treth cerbyd a phrofion MOT'.

[[English](#)] – [Cymraeg]

Os ydych chi erioed wedi defnyddio gwasanaethau ar-lein cyhoeddus, mae'n bosibl eich bod wedi gweld bod y rhan fwyaf ohonynt hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg neu efallai eich bod wedi eu defnyddio nhw os ydych yn siaradwr Cymraeg. Gan fod heddiw yn ddiwrnod 'Mae gen i hawl', hwn yw'r amser perffaith i ddatgelu mwy ynghylch sut wnaethom ddatblygu ein 2 wasanaeth ar-lein dwyieithog fwyaf newydd.

Mae diwrnod ['Mae gen i hawl'](#) sy'n cael ei hyrwyddo gan Gomisiynydd y Gymraeg, yn dathlu'r gwasanaethau Cymraeg sy'n cael eu darparu gan sefydliadau a'r hawliau sydd gan bobl i'w defnyddio nhw. Yn bendant roedd gennym reswm da i ddathlu ein gwasanaethau ar-lein dwyieithog yn ddiweddar, wrth i'n 2 wasanaeth newydd – [newid cyfeiriad ar eich llyfr log cerbyd \(V5CW\)](#) a [chael llyfr log dyblyg \(V5CW\)](#) – fod y rhai cyntaf i ni eu datblygu a'u lansio yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg ar yr un pryd.

Dyma sut aethom ati

Rwyf wedi gweithio gyda thîm Polisi'r Iaith Gymraeg yn rheolaidd dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf fel dylunydd gwasanaeth cofrestru cerbydau ar nifer o newidiadau mawr, ac rwyf yn llwyr ymwybodol o ofynion Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993 i ddarparu ffurflenni, llythyron a gwasanaethau Cymraeg. Fy nghanm cyntaf oedd cynnwys y gofynion hyn o'r dechrau gyntaf ar gyfer ein gwasanaethau – newid cyfeiriad cerbyd (VCOA yn fyr) a V5CW dyblyg.

Rhannom y cynnwys a'r strwythur gyda Rheolwr Polisi'r Gymraeg Rhianedd Rhys a'i thîm mor gynted â'u bod wedi'u gorffen. Roedd hyn yn golygu y gallai anfon y cyfieithiadau draw atom fel y gallwn eu hintegreiddio i'r gwasanaeth fel cynnyrch a oedd wedi'u cwblhau.

Yr hyn a oedd wedi ein helpu i gyflawni hyn oedd y bartneriaeth gweithio da rhwng y tîm Dylunio Gwasanaeth, y dadansoddwyr busnes am y prosiect a thîm Polisi'r Gymraeg, a wnaeth sicrhau ein bod wedi gallu gwneud popeth yn llwyddiannus ac ar amser.



Roedd ychydig o heriau...

Ein her fwyaf oedd yn ymwneud ag amser yn bennaf a sicrhau bod y gwaith roeddwn yn anfon i'w cyfieithu oedd y cynnwys terfynol. Mae cyfieithiadau Cymraeg yn dueddol o fod yn hirach na'r cynnwys Saesneg felly wnaethom wynebu rhai problemau gyda hyd y meysydd a'r lle ar y sgrin i gynnwys y lle ychwanegol oedd eu hangen am y cyfieithiadau, a allai fod yn ddyrys ar adegau. Serch hynny, nid oedd dim byd nad oeddwn yn gallu eu datrys gyda'n gilydd.

Dysgom gwersi hwylus hefyd

Roeddwn yn bendant wedi dysgu o VCOA, wrth i ni ddechrau gweithio ar y gwasanaethau cael V5CW dyblyg o fewn wythnos i VCOA fynd yn fyw. Roeddwn wedi strwythuro cynllunio'r prosiect yn fwy, felly wrth i ni orffen y sgriniau roeddwn yn eu hanfon i gael eu cyfieithu'n fwy rheolaidd. Roedd ychydig o newidiadau munud diwethaf yn dilyn mewnwelediad ond mae hynny i'w disgwyl. Dyna beth yw gweithio'n [ystwyth](#) wedi'r cwbl.

Bonws dwyieithog am ddefnyddwyr

Mae'r arwyddion hyd yma wrth ddefnyddwyr yn galonogol iawn. Mae'r nifer sydd wedi defnyddio'r 2 wasanaeth Cymraeg newydd yn barod yn hafal gyda'n gwasanaethau sydd wedi'u sefydlu ers tro fel [trethu eich cerbyd ar-lein](#) a [thrwyddedu gyrwyr ar-lein](#), sydd wedi bod mewn bodolaeth ers nifer o flynyddoedd.

Ac yn olaf...

Nid wyf yn siaradwr Cymraeg (diolch i Rhianedd am gyfieithu'r flog hwn i mi), ond roeddwn yn falch iawn i greu'r gwasanaethau yma'n Gymraeg. Ni fyddai fyth yn croesi fy meddwl ei fod yn ychwanegiad opsiynol, felly rwyf yn ei weld fel cam safonol. Hoffwn gydnabod amynedd, cefnogaeth a gwaith Rhianedd a'i thîm, oherwydd ni fyddwn wedi gallu eu cyflwyno ar amser hebddynt.

Rwy'n hynod falch fod y gwasanaethau Cymraeg wedi mynd yn fyw ar yr un adeg â'r gwasanaethau Saesneg," ychwanegodd Rhianedd. "Mae'r teithiau hyn sy'n gwbl Gymraeg o'r dechrau i'r diwedd yn newyddion arbennig i ni a'n cwsmeriaid sy'n dymuno trafod gyda ni yn Gymraeg ac yn adeiladu ar y gwasanaethau Cymraeg rydym eisoes yn eu darparu. Diolch i bawb a wnaeth i hyn ddigwydd!

"Mae ein [Cynllun Iaith Gymraeg](#) a gytunwyd gyda Chomisiynydd y Gymraeg yn dangos ein hymrwymiad i'r iaith Gymraeg. Mae gennym gyfrifoldeb i ddangos ein bod yn trin y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg yn gyfartal. Rydym yn falch iawn bod ein gwasanaethau Cymraeg presennol wedi gweld cynnydd blwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn yn y nifer sy'n eu defnyddio felly roedd yn bwysig iawn sicrhau bod y 2 wasanaeth newydd hyn yn cael eu lansio ar yr un pryd â'r

gwasanaethau Saesneg. Mae hyn yn sicrhau bod ein cwsmeriaid Cymraeg eu hiaith yn gallu defnyddio'r iaith o'u dewis nhw wrth drafod gyda ni.

Da iawn bawb!

Mae ein holl wasanaethau ar-lein Cymraeg wedi'u rhestri ar [dudalen gwasanaethau ar-lein Cymraeg](#) GOV.UK, a gallwch ddod o hyd iddynt o dan 'Trwyddedau gyrru' a Rhifau cofrestru cerbyd, treth cerbyd a phrofion MOT'.

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[Foreign Secretary meets senior ASEAN diplomats](#)

Press release

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab held a virtual meeting with Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the ten ASEAN member states today.



Topics discussed included the importance of collaboration on COVID-19 vaccine production and distribution, as well as our shared challenge in tackling climate change and how the UK and Association of Southeast Asian Nations can strengthen ties by working together to build back a more sustainable global economy after the pandemic.

Earlier this year, the Foreign Secretary submitted the UK's application to become an [ASEAN Dialogue Partner](#) to join other countries including Australia, India and Japan in areas of common interest.

Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, said:

Whether it's fighting climate change, beating COVID19, or flying

the flag for free trade – the UK is a friend to ASEAN, and that was my clear message today on speaking to all ten ASEAN Ambassadors and High Commissioners to the UK.

We want 2021 to be a historic year for UK-ASEAN relations, and we look forward to building back better and greener together after the pandemic.

The wider Indo-Pacific region is a key partner for the UK. The ASEAN bloc is set to become the fourth largest 'single market' by 2030 and is of increasing geostrategic importance as political, economic and military power shifts towards Asia this century.

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[Alister Jack welcomes coronavirus vaccine rollout to Scotland](#)

By Alister Jack, Secretary of State for Scotland (originally published in the Scottish Mail on Sunday 06/12/20)

Magnificent news for us all that the rollout of the first Covid-19 vaccine to be approved in the western world begins here in the UK.

Inch by painful inch, countries everywhere have been struggling to find an exit from the misery inflicted by this wretched pandemic and now we have a great, tangible leap forward thanks to brilliant scientists who have harnessed the power of their knowledge to bring us a safe vaccine which offers the chance to finally slacken the grip of Covid-19.

It is great news too for the Union. We know the 300-year-old links which bind us as one nation state have a great past, but here now is proof that the self-same Union offers us a great future too.

For make no mistake, all four nations which form the United Kingdom are benefitting equally from our combined strength as one country. From our furlough scheme, Covid testing, vaccine procurement, and now the efforts to get the vaccine to where it is needed, the UK Government has been working tirelessly to support all parts of the country through the pandemic.

The UK Government took advance steps to secure the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine which will be made available to frontline medical staff and some of our most vulnerable citizens from tomorrow.

The figures are astonishing, and a clear indication of the heft this country

can bring to bear amidst a crisis of terrifying proportions. The initial shipments from Belgium will amount to some 800,000 doses and Scotland will quickly get 65,500 of those.

Backing those stellar scientists to the hilt, the UK Government has secured nearly 360 million vaccine doses, representing the world's largest and most diversified vaccine portfolio. This means we have the best chance of securing speedy access to other vaccines once they finish their essential checks for efficacy and safety.

Right from the start, the UK Government has strained every sinew to aid the global search for a vaccine, funding more international research than any other country of comparable size.

We are starting to see real returns on that £230 million investment. Pfizer/BioNTech have delivered a vaccine with an outstanding 95 per cent effectiveness rate and no serious safety concerns – now approved by the regulator. There will be more vaccines to come from other sources – with the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine likely to join us soon on the front line of the Covid fight.

And of course, securing, approving and paying for millions of doses of safe vaccines is one thing – delivering them quite another altogether. The mass vaccination programme we are undertaking now is unlike anything we have seen before and here again the power of the Union is to the fore.

Doses will be distributed fairly across all parts of the UK according to population share. As a result Scotland will be able to vaccinate and protect priority groups such as the clinically vulnerable and frontline health and social-care workers.

It is wonderful that the UK Government has made experts from the forces available for us here in Scotland to help ensure the vaccines reach priority groups swiftly.

It has been heartening to see co-operation on this great endeavour across the United Kingdom. The UK Government has involved the devolved administrations at every stage – in the certain knowledge that full co-operation between Westminster, Holyrood, Stormont and the Senedd is the best for every citizen of these islands.

The conquest of Covid – for that is what we are aiming for – is a real display of what we can achieve together. The Union is firing on all cylinders, delivering fairly in each and every corner of the country.

Of course, we have many miles to go before we can rest, before we can declare Covid under control. That means not relaxing our guard just yet and still obeying the rules around hygiene and social distancing.

Though the approval of this first vaccine is perhaps an early Christmas present, this festive season will still – unfortunately – be lower key this year.

Yet we can now look forward to better times not so very far ahead, and to a time when Covid restrictions can at last be eased off.

I am confident people will ignore any false stories and embrace, at the first chance, the opportunity to protect themselves and their loved ones from a truly dreadful illness.

For my part, I will gladly roll up my sleeve and have the jabs, when my turn comes.

Meantime, we must concentrate fully on the task of rebuilding an economy laid low by an invidious enemy. Here too the Union has proved its worth, with thousands kept in jobs and countless businesses supported by the broad shoulders of the UK and the deep pockets of our Treasury.

Rather than the inward-looking and diminished country the Brexit naysayers said we risked becoming, Britain has in these last months shown not just amazing solidarity within our borders, but maintained engagement with our many friends around the world. The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, developed with UK Government funding, is to be made available to countries in the developing world on a not-for-profit basis in perpetuity. Britain remains a beacon of light in an often dark world.

Many people have made huge sacrifices this year. Much has been done, but we know much remains to be done.

However, let's take a moment to savour this week's good news. We are, in all four nations of our fantastic Union, looking forward to a bright future.

[Marshall Scholarship Winners 2021](#)

Washington (7 December 2020) – The 46 recipients of the 2021 Marshall Scholarships have been unveiled today by the British government. The winners, considered to be among the best and brightest university students and recent graduates in the United States, were chosen following a rigorous selection process and will begin graduate studies at many of the UK's top academic institutions beginning in September 2021.

For the first time in the program's 66-year history, the incoming class will be majority-minority with 52% reflecting minority communities across the United States, including a record number of Black and Latinx scholars. A majority of the class are female scholars and six are first-generation college students.

"Marshall Scholarship classes traditionally represent a diverse mix of cultural, academic, institutional and socio-economic backgrounds, but the 2021 class is truly ground-breaking," said Dame Karen Pierce, British

Ambassador to the United States, “This class, one of the most diverse and inclusive in the program’s history, is a wonderful mirror of modern American society and demonstrates the vital role that the Marshall Scholarship continues to play in maintaining a vibrant US-UK relationship.”

Overall, the 2021 class represents a wide range of academic backgrounds and includes activists for social justice, an elected public official, entrepreneurs, journalists, scientists, and artists. Several scholars will be pursuing degrees related to the urgency of Climate Change and Renewable Energy and will arrive in the UK two months before the country hosts the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021.

“Throughout the life of the Program, Marshall Scholars have regularly pursued academic disciplines which reflect contemporary issues and priorities” said Christopher Fisher, chair of the Marshall Commission. “With this new class, we see Scholars continuing to search for a better understanding of today’s world and how best to meet tomorrow’s challenges. In the face of the most pressing current crisis – the COVID-19 pandemic – we see dozens of Marshall Scholars contributing to finding a solution to the associated health, social and economic challenges, whether in the laboratory, in the hospital or in the formulation of policy and practical responses.

Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic, the program received a record 1,190 applicants from top undergraduate students representing institutions across the United States. Of the 35 US institutions represented in the class, nearly half are from state or public universities, alongside two winners from the US Naval Academy and the US Military Academy. Connecticut College and Georgia State University will send Marshall Scholars to the UK for the first time ever, while Hamilton College and the University of Tennessee each won their first scholarship in over three decades.

The program is principally funded by the British Government, but also benefits from generous support through partnership arrangements with world-leading British academic institutions, allowing winners to pursue graduate degrees in almost any academic subject at any university in the UK. The 2021 class will take up their studies at 14 different institutions across the UK beginning in September next year, ranging from the London School of Economics & Political Science to Queen’s University Belfast in Northern Ireland.

The scholarship program also continues to receive generous support from the Association of Marshall Scholars (AMS), the official alumni organisation of the Marshall Scholarship. The British Schools & Universities Foundation (BUSF) also provides generous support and funds for a scholarship.

The full list of 2021 winners of the Marshall Scholarship are:

Student	US University	UK University
A’dryanna Jenkins	Penn State University	University of Cambridge
Alexander Sojourney	Arizona State University	Goldsmiths, University of London
Amber Stanford	Georgetown University	University of Bristol

Student	US University	UK University
Ann Monk	Connecticut College	School of Oriental & African Studies
Anna Landre	Georgetown University	London School of Economics & Political Science
Annah Chollet	University of Pennsylvania	University of Oxford
Brent Strong	Michigan State University	University of Glasgow
Caroline Yuk	University of Alabama	University of Oxford
Chimene Ntakarutimana	University of Kentucky	University College London
Claire Petersen	Northwestern University	University of Cambridge
Colton Botta	North Carolina State University	University of Edinburgh
Cullen Chosy	Stanford University	University of Cambridge
Daniel Dominguez	Colorado State University	University of Glasgow
Essence Lotus	New York University	Goldsmiths, University of London
Evelyn Wong	Harvard University	University College London
Frishta Qaderi	Brown University	University of Oxford
Humza Jilani	Harvard University	University of Oxford
Isaiah Fleming-Klink	Georgetown University	University of York
Ishmael Maxwell	Carleton College	Queen's University Belfast
John McHugh	Indiana University	University of Oxford
Jorge Ledesma	Harvard University	University of Oxford
Josie Campbell	University of Tennessee	Royal Academy of Music
Katherine Collins	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Cambridge
Kayla Matteucci	Fordham University	University of Cambridge
Keerthana Annamaneni	Yale University	University of Oxford
Kendall Gardner	Tulane University	London School of Economics & Political Science
Kiki Gilbert	Princeton University	University of Cambridge
Langdon Ogden	United States Military Academy	King's College London
Leah Trotman	Agnes Scott College	London School of Economics & Political Science
Madeline Fox	University of Pittsburgh	University of York
Malak Kudaimi	University of California – Irvine	London School of Economics & Political Science
Marla Odell	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Cambridge

Student	US University	UK University
Marquis Palmer	Hamilton College	School of Oriental & African Studies
Matthew Salah	Swarthmore College	University of Leeds
Max Hammer	University of Michigan – Ann Arbor	University of Edinburgh
Maya Ravichandran	Rutgers University	University of Oxford
Naomi Murray	University of California – Davis	University College London
Nataliya Stepanova	University of Maryland – College Park	University of Edinburgh
Nicholas Shafer	University of California – Berkeley	University of Oxford
Nitheyaa Shree Ramesh	Georgia State University	University of Bristol
Patrick Clinch	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill	University of Oxford
Quinn O’Loane	United States Naval Academy	University of York
Sejehari Saulter-Villegas	New York University	University of Bristol
Valencia Scott	University of California – Davis	University of Oxford
Yareqzy Munoz	University of Pennsylvania	University of Manchester
Yumna Navqi	Penn State University	London School of Economics & Political

About the Marshall Scholarship

Named for Secretary of State George C. Marshall, the Marshall Scholarship Program began in 1953 as a gesture of gratitude to the people of the United States for the assistance that the UK received after World War II under the Marshall Plan. Since that time, it has remained uniquely positioned among national scholarships for its prestige and scope: offering talented young Americans the chance to study any academic subject at UK universities of their choice for up to 3 years. This has given rise to an unprecedented breadth of expertise in almost every academic field, producing numerous university presidents, six Pulitzer Prize winners, one Nobel Laureate, fourteen MacArthur Fellows, two-academy-Award nominees, two Supreme Court Justices and a NASA Astronaut.

With over 2,200 scholarships awarded to date, Marshall Scholars are leading the conversation and direction of some of the most critical issues of our time. Notable winners of the scholarship include:

- Supreme Court Associate Justices Stephen Breyer and Neil Gorsuch
- Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Anne Applebaum , Tom Friedman , Jeffrey Gettleman and Dan Yergin
- Ray Dolby , Founder of Dolby Laboratories and 1997 winner of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation
- Dr. Dan Barouch , Leading COVID-19 vaccine researcher and William

Bosworth Castle Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School

- Dr. Nancy Cox , Former Director of Influenza Division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Reid Hoffman , Philanthropist and founder of social networking platform LinkedIn
- Anne McClain , NASA Astronaut who served aboard the International Space Station in 2018
- Jocelyn Benson , Secretary of State for the State of Michigan
- Patrick Hovakimian , Associate Deputy Attorney General, US Department of Justice
- Joshua Oppenheimer , Academy Award-nominated documentary film director of The Act of Killing
- William Burns , Former US Deputy Secretary of State and President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Nancy Gibbs , Former Managing Editor of TIME Magazine
- Roger Tsien, 2008 Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry
- R.F. Kuang , Author of the Poppy War book series and 2020 winner of the Astounding Award for Best New Writer

For media inquiries about Marshall Scholarships and individual recipients, please contact Josh Stanton (Deputy Head of Public Diplomacy at the British Embassy) at Joshua.stanton@fcdo.gov.uk.