

# UK and France able to deploy a 10,000 strong joint military force in response to shared threats

Ten years ago, the UK and France signed treaties at Lancaster House on defence and security, and on nuclear cooperation. This historic commitment has helped establish a long-term partnership and provides a framework for a joint response when mutual interests are at stake.

One of the key goals of the treaties was to establish the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force (CJEF) combining two of the world's strongest militaries to tackle shared threats. The force has reached full operating capacity and can now rapidly deploy over 10,000 personnel in response to a crisis to fulfil a range of tasks including high intensity operations, peacekeeping, disaster relief or humanitarian assistance.

As part of CJEF training, this week British and French paratroopers will come together for Exercise Wessex Storm on Salisbury Plain. This sees soldiers from the French 2e Regiment Etranger de Parachutistes (2e REP) attached to the 2 PARA Battlegroup. Both units regularly train together to maintain their partnership so they are ready to deploy alongside each other.

## **Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:**

Today, the UK and France face a range of security threats of increasing scale and complexity. Having a highly capable, high readiness force is essential if we are to protect both UK security and the security of our NATO allies.

It is testament to our close defence relationship that we have achieved all the milestones set out in the Lancaster House treaties 10 years ago, working together to protect our mutual interests.

As part of the Lancaster House treaties a number of other 10-year goals were set alongside establishing CJEF. These included building a joint nuclear facility, increasing cooperation around the aircraft carriers and developing the UK and French complex weapons sectors. All of these goals have been achieved within the 10 year time frame set by the agreements and will be taken forward further as both nations look to build on the existing work.

The UK and France are deployed around the world together in places such as the Middle East to combat Daesh and Estonia as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence. In Mali 3 RAF Chinooks and 100 UK personnel are deployed in a non-combat role in support of French counter-extremist operations.

The UK will continue to cooperate with our European partners in the future following the UK's departure from the EU. We will continue to be a key player in Euro-Atlantic security and defence through our leadership in NATO, which will always be central to the UK's security, our values and our place in the world.

On November 2, 2010, France and the United Kingdom (UK) signed the Lancaster House Treaties establishing a long-term bilateral nuclear, defence and security partnership. We mark their continuing importance to both our countries today, on their tenth anniversary. In the face of the changing defence and security challenges we both face, the United Kingdom and France share a strong and deep defence partnership, with a permanent and comprehensive dialogue on defence and security issues at all levels and a shared desire to increase ambition across the relationship. Since 1995, France and the United Kingdom, Europe's only nuclear powers, have clearly stated that they can imagine no circumstances under which a threat to the vital interests of one would not constitute a threat to the vital interests of the other. The high level of mutual trust is illustrated by our daily and unprecedented defence cooperation. We are leaders in security and defence. Our two nations invest nearly 40% of the defence budget of European Allies, and more than 50% of the European spending on research and technology. We are proud of our Armed Forces and on this important anniversary we pay tribute to all they accomplish together. We will continue to work alongside each other, through NATO, and in other fora such as the European Intervention Initiative, to address those common challenges and strengthen our collective defence and security.

Over the last ten years our armed forces have worked together to deliver the closer integration envisaged in 2010. We are delighted to announce today that the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force (CJEF) we committed then to develop has now reached full operating capability. This represents the successful conclusion of an extended 10-year programme of development and training. Our Armed Forces are now closer and more interoperable than they have ever been. As a result, we have at our disposal a flexible tool through which we can deploy up to 10,000 or more soldiers, sailors and airmen together on missions covering the full range of operations, from providing help after natural disasters to the most complex high-intensity combat operations. This capability is a unique European contribution to wider Euro-Atlantic security. And we are not resting on our laurels. We are taking forward a programme to consolidate and adapt what we have achieved to ensure it remains fitted to the changing environment, including in areas such as CIS, cyber, space, intelligence sharing and information management. We will also use the CJEF framework to improve further the interoperability of our Armed Forces' future equipment, logistics, engineering, medical and energy systems.

But CJEF is not and will not be the only way we operate with each other. Our people continue to work together almost continuously in different theatres in many ways. The ability to conduct combined military operations remains a fundamental goal. At the moment our armed forces are engaged together in the Levant against Daesh in operations Chammal and Shader as part of the international Coalition. UK personnel have been directly supporting France's

operation Barkhane in the Sahel since 2018 with the deployment of three CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters to Mali. French forces have supported the UK-led NATO enhanced Forward Presence deployment in Estonia and we have both contributed to NATO's air policing missions. Our Air Forces work together daily to protect our airspace against incursions or terrorist attacks. Our Navies work closely, bilaterally and through NATO, on maritime security in the Northern Atlantic and the High-North. When possible we have coordinated and supported each other's maritime deployments further afield, in the Gulf and Indo-Pacific, and we are working to develop this further.

Ten years ago we also set out our goal to have, by the early 2020s, the ability to deploy a UK-French integrated carrier strike group incorporating assets owned by both nations. Since then UK ships and personnel have regularly supported deployments by France's Charles de Gaulle, and the Marine Nationale has supported the Royal Navy's work to sustain UK carrier operating skills and experience. We look forward to HMS Queen Elizabeth working with Charles de Gaulle next year for the first time and to bringing this cooperation to the new level of mutual support and engagement envisaged in the coming years.

Alongside this continuing military and operational cooperation, we continue to work together to deliver new capabilities and equipment. Ten years ago we agreed to take forward a strategy for the British and French Complex Weapons sector, "One Complex Weapons", working towards a single European prime contractor, underpinned by a series of joint Complex Weapons projects. Cooperation on missiles remains at the core of our armament cooperation. In particular:

- the joint Sea Venom anti-surface missile project we anticipated then will soon be entering UK service;
- working with MBDA we have created joint Centres of Excellence on specific technologies in the UK and France reflecting the principle of mutual interdependence, helping us share information more effectively and deliver efficiencies; and
- we have made good progress with the joint concept phase for the flagship Future Cruise/Anti-Ship Weapon (FC/ASW) project and will now be conducting our respective national project scrutiny and approval processes over the winter in advance of a decision on a follow-on joint assessment phase in 2021.

• The depth of our cooperation allows us to share our missiles roadmaps and operational requirements at the earliest stages, with the objectives to examine whether synergies can be found and to analyse whether a future rationalisation of our respective missiles portfolio would be relevant and cost-effective for both parties. The export mechanisms set in the One Complex Weapons intergovernmental agreement have proven effective and there are options for further works in this domain. Likewise, managing exchange of national sensitive information is an increasingly important element in our cooperation. Hence, we renew today our commitment in addressing any issues that might arise due to their direct impact regarding the programme performance, efficiency and cost. The continuing health of MBDA as the primary European Complex Weapons company testifies to our overall success in this area, and we are now developing a Joint Vision to shape deeper cooperation in the next decade.

Our joint Maritime Mine Counter Measures (MMCM) project has made significant

progress in developing a world-leading autonomous mine hunting system. Sea trials conducted on the French and British coasts in 2020 have proved the autonomous vehicles' capability to hunt sea mines. The production contract will be signed later in November and the first operational capabilities will be delivered in 2022. We also continue to work together on Future Combat Air technology, and are considering the scope to work together in other areas in advance of the next UK-French Summit in 2021.

We also continue to make progress under the Teutates Treaty we signed in 2010 with the delivery of the joint nuclear facility at Valduc in France to model performance of our nuclear warheads and materials to secure their long-term viability, security and safety, supported by a joint Technology Demonstration Centre at Aldermaston.

Ten years on from Lancaster House, our Armed Forces are better able to operate together around the world when we ask them to do so than they have ever been. Now we must take this work forward. We commit to building on the achievements of the first ten years of the Lancaster House accords in the decade to come – including at the UK-France Summit in 2021. Thus, France and the UK will continue to consult each other closely and at all levels on key international defence and security matters. Only the preservation of a deep and ambitious bilateral cooperation will allow our two Nations to provide an appropriate response to the current and future threats and challenges.

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## [Torness officers raise funds to remember much loved local resident](#)

News story

Officers based at Torness Operational Policing Unit (OPU), along with other community members, have raised funds to refurbish a bench and dedicate it to the memory of a much loved and respected member of the community.



John Hubball ran the village shop in Cockburnspath before sadly passing away

in 2019 at the age of 58. John was a well-known and much-respected member of the community and Torness officers frequently interacted with him during their patrols.

PC Stuart Boyd, community liaison at Torness OPU, organised a fundraiser for John's wife Sandra so that a bench, which had sat outside his shop for many years, could be dedicated to his memory. Thanks to their fundraising efforts, a plaque has now been added to the bench in John's memory, with the local community council and Torness CNC also mentioned on it in thanks for their fundraising.

The plaque was unveiled on 29 October 2020 and PC Boyd attended on behalf of the CNC. He said: "I was proud to have attended the unveiling on behalf of the officers and staff from the Torness OPU who all supported this worthy cause of remembrance.

"John was a much loved and respected member of this community who went about his work with skill, diligence and always had a laugh and a joke along the way. It is our pleasure to support the communities of Cockburnspath, Innerwick and Dunglass in whatever way we can and we are pleased that there is now a permanent memorial to John. Our deepest condolences remain with his wife Sandra and his surviving family.

"Community policing is a very important aspect of our role in protecting the public and the nuclear site. With good community relations comes co-operation, trust and respect and I am proud to be our local community liaison officer."

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## [National Apprenticeship Awards 2020 regional winners announced](#)

The National Apprenticeship Awards 2020 regional finals commenced this week with virtual ceremonies taking place up and down the country.

The awards kicked off on Monday 2 November, with events to recognise apprentice employers, apprentices, Rising Stars and Champions at ceremonies taking place across England, to celebrate apprenticeships and the benefits they bring to individuals, businesses and local communities.

Back for their 17th year, the National Apprenticeship Awards are a fantastic opportunity to highlight business and individual success in apprenticeships. Particularly poignant this year, given the challenges many employers and apprentices have faced during the pandemic. Each online ceremony will

recognise apprentices that have gone above and beyond to make a difference whilst undertaking their apprenticeship.

Apprentice employers, apprentices and apprenticeship champions from all industries entered the awards – with over 1,100 entries received.

Gillian Keegan, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister said:

“Huge congratulations to all of the regional winners. The National Apprenticeship Awards are a fantastic opportunity to showcase the range of exciting apprenticeships available across so many industries including digital, health, construction and the public sector.

“Apprenticeships are a great way of attracting new talent, helping to make sure employers of all sizes have access to the skills they need to grow. They will play a vital role rebuilding our economy after the pandemic, transforming businesses and revitalising local communities.

“I wish all the winners the best of luck for the final virtual award ceremony in November.”

Apprenticeships are a cornerstone of the [Chancellor’s Plan for Jobs](#) to help the UK’s recovery from the pandemic. Through the Plan for Jobs a total of £1.6 billion will be invested in scaling up employment support schemes, training and apprenticeships to help people looking for a job.

This includes:

- The [Incentive Payment for Hiring a New Apprentice](#), where businesses will be given £2,000 for each new apprentice they hire under the age of 25, and £1,500 for each apprentice aged 25 and over.
- A £111 million investment to triple the scale of traineeships in 2020-21 ensuring more young people have access to high quality training.

Peter Mucklow, director, Education and Skills Funding Agency added:

“Apprentices and apprentice employers are really flying the flag for apprenticeships at this time. We have recently announced the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers and I am now delighted to recognise the winners of the National Apprenticeship Awards in our English regions.

“Today marks the start of a week-long celebration of awards winners, with apprentices at all levels, and employers from a wide range of sectors and industries, all being recognised for their commitment to skills, through apprenticeships.

“Employers and apprentices alike continue to commit to apprenticeships for the many benefits they bring, and I admire that commitment, especially through the difficult period 2020 has brought. I offer a huge

congratulations, not only to the winners and highly commended, but to all entrants to these awards.”

## **Winners and highly commended announced in the North East are:**

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Home Group Ltd. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service is highly commended.
- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year winner is Cumbria Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service. Home Group Ltd is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The AstraZeneca Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Robert Carter from Newcastle Building Society.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Joseph Little from South Tyneside Homes. Nicholas Waddle from Newcastle Building Society is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Tyler Mckeown from Sterling Pharma Solutions. Jessica Clark from WSP is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Jordan Brosnan from Coca-Cola European Partners. Simon Pettett from Wander Films is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprentice Champion of the Year is Paula McMahon from Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd.

## **Winners and highly commended announced in Yorkshire**

## **and The Humber are:**

- The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT Award for SME Employer of the Year is KC Communications.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year is Covance Laboratories Ltd. Wakefield Council is highly commended.
- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year is Sheffield City Council. Anchor Hanover is highly commended.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Wakefield Council. Covance Laboratories Ltd is highly commended.

### Apprentice of the Year winners and highly commended:

- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year is Emma Sisman from Niftylift. Alix Linford from Travis Perkins Plc is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Braidey Greenbank from Croda Europe Limited. Sabreen Anwar from Lloyds Banking Group is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year is Nicola Scott from Asda Stores LTD. Kurt Vardey from Sunbelt Rentals is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprentice Champion of the Year winner is Dorothy Alexander from Anchorhanover. Sally Campbell from Patriot Games Ltd is highly commended.

## **Winners and highly commended announced in the North West are:**

### Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, Award for SME Employer of the Year winner is Crowberry Consulting Ltd. Energus is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is WEC Group Ltd. AJ Bell plc is highly commended.



- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year winner is United Utilities. Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust is highly commended.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. Energus is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The AstraZeneca Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year winner is Rachel Burke from Stockport Homes Group.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Alex Headspith from Science and Technology Facilities Council. Charlotte Callister from Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year winner is Harriet Willsher from IBM UK Ltd. Olivia Grogan from IBM UK Ltd is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Howard Jackson from IBM UK Ltd. Andrew Taylor from McDonald's Restaurants Ltd is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprentice Champion of the Year winner is Neil Wainwright-Farrar from Clarity Travel. Chido Mabanda from RedEye International Ltd is highly commended.

## **Winners and highly commended announced in the East Midlands are:**

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, Award for SME Employer of the Year winner is NetSupport. Hot House Music is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Motus Commercials. Childbase Partnership Ltd is highly commended.
- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year winner is Whitbread PLC. Travis Perkins Group is highly commended.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Childbase

Partnership Ltd. Hot House Music is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The AstraZeneca Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year winner is Aron Marshall from COOP. James Russell from PJ Care Ltd is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Thomas Fearn from Apprentice Team Ltd. Rachael Wragg from Lincoln Cathedral Works Department is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year winner is Ross Irvine from Wincanton PLC. Jack Calvert from Santander UK PLC is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Pym Westrik from Highways England. Heather Marchant from PJ Care Ltd is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprentice Champion of the Year winner is Simeon Powell from Motorpoint. Kerry Bentley from DBC Training is highly commended.

## **Winners and highly commended announced in the West Midlands are:**

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, Award for SME Employer of the Year winner is Crimson Limited. Penny Post Credit Union Ltd (PPCU) is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is The Coventry Building Society. High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd is highly commended.
- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year winner is Mitchells & Butlers. Sandwell MBC is highly commended.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Mitchells & Butlers. Sandwell MBC is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The AstraZeneca Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year winner is John Brookes from Anchor Hanover Harden Hall. Jake Weston-Holmes from Greene King is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Chris Jones from J.C. Bamford Excavators Limited. Chloe Gregory from Voyage Care is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year winner is Manoj Vadher from Royal Mail. Lauren Carroll from Mitchells & Butlers is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Nihal Dhillon from J C Bamford Excavators Limited. Chris Owen from J C Bamford Excavators Limited is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprentice Champion of the Year winner is Laura Bennett from LBU Consulting Ltd. Suzanne Smith from Cygnet Healthcare is highly commended.

## **Winners and highly commended announced in the East of England are:**

- The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, Award for SME Employer of the Year winner is Rose Builders. Impossible Creations Ltd is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Flagship-Group. VINCI PLC is highly commended.
- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year winner is Hilton. Willis Towers Watson is highly commended.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Rose Builders. Hilton is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Rebecca Arnott from PJ Care Ltd. Harrison Reeve from Vinci Construction UK is

highly commended.

- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year winner is Laurie Weatherall from GlaxoSmithKline. James Kimpton from British Telecoms (BT) is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Charlotte Brett from Mid and South Essex Foundation Trust. Lauren Hildreth from NHS Professionals is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprentice Champion of the Year winner is Melissa Garratt from MBDA UK. Barbara Paschalis from University of Cambridge – Department of Engineering is highly commended.

## **Winners and highly commended announced in London are:**

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, Award for SME Employer of the Year winner is Troup Bywaters + Anders. Blue Structural Engineering LLP is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is MTR Elizabeth Line. Bombardier is highly commended.
- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year winner is BAE Systems plc. Cisco Systems Ltd is highly commended.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is MTR Elizabeth Line. BAE Systems plc is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The AstraZeneca Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year winner is Joshua Foord from Sunbelt Rentals. Alex Bruckner from Pets At Home is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Alexander Bor from BP. Jamie Mewburn-Crook from National Physical Laboratory is highly commended.

- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year winner is Joshua Jackson from Breyer Group. Tom Woolford from IBM is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Luke Munday from Accenture. Benjamin Green from Royal Mail Group is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprentice Champion of the Year winner is Jenny Taylor from IBM UK Limited. Elizabeth Obertelli from Breyer Group is highly commended.

## **Winners and highly commended announced in the South East are:**

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, Award for SME Employer of the Year winner is Snow-Camp Charity. Total Carbide Ltd is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Community Homes of Intensive Care and Education Ltd. DAF Trucks Limited is highly commended.
- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year winner is AWE plc. UK Power Networks is highly commended.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is AWE plc. Community Homes of Intensive Care and Education Ltd is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The AstraZeneca Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year winner is Abubakar Siddique from Corps of the Royal Engineers. Jacob Manders from Redding & Redding Ltd T/A Buckingham Ford is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Roseanna Harvey from Cripps Pemberton Greenish. Teya Agnese from The University of Oxford is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year winner is Eleanor Murray from BT. Celine Williams from IBM UK Ltd is highly commended.

- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Max Tavinor from Pearson PLC. Lori French from IBM UK Ltd is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprentice Champion of the Year winner is Alison Galvin from Invotra. Nicola Morgan from Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust is highly commended.

## **Winners and highly commended announced in the South West are:**

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, Award for SME Employer of the Year winner is Combe Pafford School. Spicerack Media Ltd is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Wessex Water. Princess Yachts is highly commended.
- The QA Award for Macro Employer of the Year winner is the Royal Air Force. GWR is highly commended.
- The Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Wessex Water. Combe Pafford School is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The AstraZeneca Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year winner is Maisey Hammond from Stroud District Council. William Piper from the Royal Navy is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Scott Murton from Ministry of Defence – Submarine Delivery Agency. Kieran Fudge from Siemens Healthineers is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year winner is Robbie Adams from IBM UK Ltd. Tobias Cowan from HepcoMotion is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Josh Gatton from Wessex Water. Harry Coburn from Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust is highly commended.

Regional ceremonies take place between 2 and 6 November, with the national ceremony broadcast taking place on Wednesday 25 November.

Watch the National Apprenticeship Awards 2019 national ceremony highlights:

[Watch the National Apprenticeship Awards 2019 national ceremony highlights](#), follow [@Apprenticeships](#) on Twitter and the National Apprenticeship Service page on LinkedIn to keep up to date with all the latest awards information.

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## [Government increases support for self-employed across the UK](#)

- government increases support under the third instalment of the UK-wide Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, with people receiving 80% of average trading profits for November
- grants will also be paid faster than previously planned – with the claims window opening at the end of November rather than the middle of December
- the increase means £4.5 billion of support for the self-employed between November and January
- more businesses will also be able to benefit from government loan schemes which have been extended to the end of January, while firms can ‘top up’ existing Bounce Back Loans should they need additional finance

To reflect the recent changes to the furlough scheme, the UK-wide Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will be made more generous – with self-employed individuals receiving 80% of their average trading profits for November.

And to ensure those who need support get it as soon as possible, payments will also be made more quickly with the claims window being brought forward from 14 December to 30 November.

The changes will ensure that self-employed individuals who temporarily cannot carry out their business or have suffered reduced demand due to the outbreak are supported over winter.

In addition, more businesses will be able to access additional support as deadlines for applications for government-backed loan schemes and the Future Fund have been further extended until 31 January 2021.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

So far we've provided £13.7 billion of support to self-employed people through the crisis – and I've always said we will continue to do everything we can to support livelihoods across the UK.

The rapidly changing health picture has meant we have had to act in order to protect people's lives and I know this is incredibly worrying time for the self-employed. That is why we have increased the generosity of the third grant, ensuring those who cannot trade or are facing decreased demand are able to get through the months ahead.

As SEISS grants are calculated over three months, the uplift for November to 80 per cent, along with the 40 per cent level of trading profits for December and January, increases the total level of the third grant to 55 per cent of trading profits. The maximum grant will increase to £5,160.

This provides broadly equivalent support to the self-employed as we are providing to employees through the government contribution in the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in November and then the Job Support Scheme in the two subsequent months.

So far, the government has provided £13.7 billion of support to self-employed people through the crisis, with the world-leading scheme among the most generous in the world.

In September, the Chancellor announced an extension of the SEISS to provide support throughout the Winter period, with two grants to cover the period until April.

The SEISS continues to be just one element of a comprehensive package of support for the self-employed. In addition to this they can also access other elements of the package which includes Bounce Back Loans, tax deferrals, rental support, mortgage holidays, and other business support grants.

These government backed loan schemes have already supported more than 1 million businesses to access over £60 billion of finance.

### **Further information**

- to be eligible for the Grant Extension self-employed individuals, including members of partnerships, must:
- have been previously eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme first and second grant (although they do not have to have claimed the previous grants)
- declare that they intend to continue to trade and either:
- are currently actively trading but are impacted by reduced demand due to coronavirus
- were previously trading but are temporarily unable to do so due to coronavirus
- This follows the CJRS being extended until December. This provides broadly equivalent support to the self-employed as is being provided to employees through the government contribution in the Coronavirus Job



Retention Scheme in November and then the Job Support Scheme in the two subsequent months.

Please see more information about our [financial support for jobs and businesses](#). (PDF, 127KB, 4 pages).

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## [PM Commons statement on coronavirus: 2 November](#)

Mr Speaker with your permission, I will make a statement on the measures we must now take to contain the autumn surge of Coronavirus, protect our NHS and save lives.

On Saturday evening the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Adviser described the remorseless advance of this second wave.

The extraordinary efforts being made by millions of people across the country especially by those in very high alert areas

have made a real difference, suppressing the R rate below where it would otherwise have been.

But the R is still above one in every part of England

as it is across much of Europe

and the virus is spreading even faster than the reasonable worst-case scenario.

There are already more Covid patients in some hospitals now than at the height of the first wave,

2,000 more this Sunday than last Sunday.

While the prevalence of the virus is worse in parts of the North, the doubling time in the South East and the Midlands is now faster than in the North West.

Even in the South West, where incidence remains low, current projections mean they will start to run out of hospital capacity in a matter of weeks.

And the modelling presented by our scientists suggests that without action, we could see up to twice as many deaths over the winter as we saw in the first wave.

Faced with these latest figures, there is no alternative but to take further

action at a national level.

I believe it was right to try every possible option to get this virus under control at a local level, with strong local action and strong local leadership.

And I reject any idea that we are somehow slower in taking measures than our European friends and partners.

In fact, we are moving to national measures when the rate both of deaths and infections is lower than they were in France.

We are engaged in a constant struggle to protect lives and livelihoods, and we must balance the restrictions we introduce against the long term scars they leave,

whether for businesses and jobs, or our physical and mental health.

No-one wants to impose measures unless absolutely essential, so it made sense to focus initially on the areas where the disease was surging

and not to shut businesses, pubs and restaurants in parts of the country where incidence was low.

I want to thank the millions who have put up with local restrictions, sometimes for months on end.

I want to thank them, and to thank the local leaders who have understood the gravity of the position.

And we will continue as far as possible to adopt a pragmatic and local approach in the months ahead.

But we are fighting a disease Mr Speaker, and when the data changes course, we must change course too.

To those in this House who believe we should resist further national measures,

let me spell out the medical and moral disaster we face.

If we allow our health system to be overwhelmed – exactly as the data now suggests –

then that would not only be a disaster for thousands of Covid patients, because their survival rates would fall,

we would also reach a point where the NHS was no longer there for everyone.

The sick would be turned away because there was no room in our hospitals.

That sacred principle – of care for anyone who needs it, whoever they are and

whenever they need it – could be broken for the first time in our lives.

Doctors and nurses could be forced to choose which patients to treat, who would live and who would die.

And this existential threat to our NHS comes not from focusing too much on Coronavirus, but from not focusing enough.

If we fail to get Coronavirus under control, it is the sheer weight of demand from Covid patients that would deprive others of the care they need.

Cancer treatment, heart surgery, other life-saving procedures: all this could be put at risk if we do not get the virus under control.

And even though we are so much better prepared than before, with stockpiles of PPE and ventilators, the Nightingales on standby, and 13,000 more nurses than last year,

I am afraid the virus is doubling faster than we could ever conceivably add capacity.

Even if we doubled capacity, the gain would be consumed in a single doubling of the virus.

And so on Wednesday the House will vote on regulations which, if passed, will mean that

from Thursday until 2nd December, in England,

people will only be permitted to leave home for specific reasons, including:

- For education;
- For work, if you cannot work from home;
- For exercise and recreation outdoors, with your household or on your own, or with one person from another household or support bubble;
- For medical reasons, appointments and to escape injury and harm;
- To shop for food and essentials
- And to provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer.

Essential shops will remain open and click and collect services will continue, so people do not need to stock up.

But I am afraid that non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues and the personal care sector will all be closed.

Hospitality must close except for takeaway and delivery services.

Places of worship can open for individual prayer, funerals and formal childcare but sadly not for services.

However Remembrance Sunday events can go ahead, provided they are held outside, and observe social distancing.

Workplaces should stay open where people can't work from home – for example in construction or manufacturing. Elite sport will also be able to continue.

Single adult households can still form exclusive support bubbles with one other household, and children will still be able to move between homes if their parents are separated.

The clinically vulnerable and those over 60 should minimise their contact with others.

And while we will not ask people to shield again in the same way, the clinically extremely vulnerable should only work from home.

Mr Speaker, I am truly sorry for the anguish these measures will impose, particularly for businesses which had just got back on their feet,

businesses across the country who have gone to such trouble to make themselves Covid secure,

to install Perspex screens, to do the right thing.

Each of these actions has helped to bring the R down, and their hard work and your hard work will stand them in good stead,

but for now it is clear that we must do more together.

So the government will continue to do everything possible to support jobs and livelihoods

in the next four weeks as we have throughout.

We have protected almost 10 million jobs with furlough,

and we are now extending this scheme throughout November.

We have already paid out £13.7 billion to help the self-employed,

and I can announce today that for November we will double our support from 40 to 80 per cent of trading profits.

My Rt Hon Friend the Chancellor will also extend the deadline for applications to Covid loan schemes from the end of this month to the end of next

to ensure that small businesses can access additional loans if required.

We are not going back to the full-scale lockdown of March and April,

and there are ways in which these measures are less prohibitive.

We have for instance a moral duty to keep schools open now that it is safe to do so, because we must not allow this virus to damage our children's futures.

So schools will remain open, as will colleges, universities, childcare and

early years settings – and I am pleased this will command support Mr Speaker across the House.

It is also vital that we continue provision for non-Covid healthcare so people should turn up to use the NHS, to get their scans, turn up for appointments and collect their treatments.

Mr Speaker let me stress that these restrictions are time limited.

After four weeks, on Wednesday 2nd December, they will expire

and we intend to return to a tiered system on a local and regional basis according to the latest data and trends,

and the House will have a vote to agree the way forward.

We have updated the devolved administrations on the action we are taking in England and will continue to work with them on plans for Christmas and beyond.

And while scientists are bleak in their predictions over the short-term, they are unanimously optimistic about the medium and long-term.

And if the House asks me Mr Speaker what is the exit strategy,

what is the way out – let me be as clear as I can:

it is to get the R down now – to beat this autumn surge

and to use this moment to exploit the medical and technical advances we are making to keep it low.

We now have not only much better medication and the prospect of a vaccine the immediate prospect of many millions of cheap, reliable and rapid turnaround tests – with a result in minutes.

Trials have already shown that we can help suppress the disease in hospitals, schools and universities by testing large numbers of NHS workers, children, teachers and students.

These tests, crucially, identify people who are infectious but do not have symptoms,

allowing them immediately to self-isolate and stop the spread of the disease,

and allowing those who are not infectious to continue as normal.

This means that, unlike in the spring, it's possible to keep these institutions open and still stop the spread of the disease.

And so over the next few days and weeks, we plan a steady but massive expansion in the deployment of these quick turnaround tests

which we will be manufacturing in this country

applying them in an ever-growing number of situations,

from helping women to have their partners with them in labour wards when they're giving birth,

to testing whole towns and even cities.

The army has been brought in to work on the logistics and the programme will begin in a matter of days.

Mr Speaker, we have dexamethasone – the first validated life-saving treatment for the disease, pioneered in this country.

We have the real prospect of a vaccine in the first quarter of next year

and we have ever more sophisticated means of providing virtually instant tests.

I believe that these technical developments, taken together, will enable us to defeat this virus by the spring,

as humanity has defeated every other infectious disease.

And I am not alone in this optimism

but I cannot pretend that the way ahead is easy, or without painful choices for us all.

And so for the next four weeks I must ask the people of this country to come together, to protect the NHS, and to save many thousands of lives.

And Mr Speaker I commend this statement to the House.