

Incoming OSCE Chair-in-Office presents priorities for 2023: UK statement to the OSCE

Thank you, Mr Chair. On behalf of the UK, I warmly welcome you, Minister Osmani to the Permanent Council. Thank you for outlining the priorities for North Macedonia's time as OSCE Chair-in-Office during 2023. Please be assured of the UK's full support for your intention to focus on genuine dialogue and for the agenda you have set out today.

The UK remains a strong proponent of the OSCE. The OSCE's concept of comprehensive security must remain at the organisation's heart and form the basis of everything we do. We have met on an almost weekly basis for the last six months in the shadow of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. We fervently hope that the Russian Government will have seen sense and the war in Ukraine will have ended by the time you assume the role of Chair in Office. But whatever happens we believe that we need and will need the OSCE more than ever as we tackle the many challenges facing us all.

We welcome your intention to provide political leadership across all three dimensions. We note that protracted conflicts and progress towards peace will be topping your agenda. Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, not only continues to pose the most serious threat to the OSCE area but also continues to blight the lives of Ukrainians caught up in the conflict. This must command our full attention and we should be giving our full support to the OSCE structures which contribute towards the peaceful resolution of this devastating conflict.

We note that women throughout the OSCE region have been and are disproportionately negatively affected by conflict and instability. We share your determination to harness effective multilateralism in response. It is vital to ensure women's full, meaningful and effective participation across our work in all three dimensions and to understand the gender based impact of conflict.

We agree that conventional arms control and confidence and security building measures remain crucial for security in the OSCE area. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shown that the measures were not the issue, but that political will was. The UK remains committed to all confidence and security building measures, including the Vienna Document, provided that all participating States fully abide by their commitments under international law, including the Helsinki Final Act and UN Charter.

Mr Chair – transnational threats, including transnational organised crime and cyber security, will remain security challenges in the OSCE area to which we need comprehensive, holistic responses. We also remain committed to strengthening economic resilience, through improved governance and cracking down on corruption which undermines our societies.

In the economic and environmental dimension, Russia's invasion has shown the interconnectedness of energy, food, infrastructure and climate to our collective security, and how the deliberate actions by one country can cause devastating ripples across the world. The UK supports the OSCE's efforts to improve the region's energy security. Furthermore, we must not forget climate change and look forward to increased cooperation in meeting commitments under the [Stockholm Decision](#).

We welcome your intention to initiate a broad debate on the necessity of increased engagement on the respect for fundamental human rights not just because of the ongoing situation sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but also in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its legacy. Your commitment to providing political support to the autonomous institutions will be invaluable to ensure that all participating States implement, and uphold, our human dimension commitments. With democracy and human rights under attack in the OSCE region, we must continue to focus on the most egregious violations of our OSCE commitments using all available OSCE tools and mechanisms. The [Moscow Mechanism](#) has served us well in exposing abuses and violations.

We share your determination to support relevant policies to fight any kind of discrimination and intolerance. The UK was honoured to host the [International Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief](#) in London in July where participants shared practical lessons on how to protect the freedom of religion or belief. We look forward to continuing this work with you.

Your Excellency, dear Minister, in conclusion, the OSCE remains a critical multilateral institution for European and Euro-Atlantic security. At this vital time for our shared security, you can rely on the strong support of the UK in your search for solutions and progress and we wish you and your very capable team here in Vienna all the best as you prepare for your time as Chair-in-Office.

Thank you.

[Government takes further steps to address serious council failures in Slough](#)

- Local Government Minister Paul Scully expands government intervention in failing council
- New powers granted to Commissioners who will be given control over recruitment of senior officers at the Council
- Move comes following report from Commissioners outlining 'unprecedented' challenges at Slough Borough Council

The government will expand its [intervention in Slough Borough Council](#) after persistent failure to deliver best value for local taxpayers, Minister Scully will confirm today (1 September 2022).

A report from the Commissioners submitted in June of this year revealed the Council was facing an “unprecedented” scale of challenge, following years of financial mismanagement, piling debt and poor accounting practices.

The Council was also plagued by governance issues, and despite the best efforts of Commissioners, insufficient progress had been made to deliver proper value for money for Slough’s taxpayers.

To ensure Council staff have the best support possible in place, commissioners are now being granted further powers to oversee the recruitment of the Council’s most senior members of staff.

Local Government Minister, Paul Scully, said:

The people of Slough deserve a council that can deliver for their needs and drive long-lasting improvements and a brighter future.

Given the scale of the challenges set out in the Commissioners report, I am granting further powers to Commissioners to help implement much-needed changes.

I am confident that these expanded powers will support the Council so they can drive forward long-term change and protect hardworking taxpayers.

In July this year, the Levelling Up Secretary confirmed he was minded-to expand the intervention in Slough. Having considered the representations made after this announcement, the decision to expand the intervention has now been confirmed.

Lead Commissioner Max Caller CBE said:

I am grateful to the Levelling Up Minister for confirming the expansion of the Directions and his support for Commissioners’ work at Slough Borough Council.

There is much to do and no easy answers. Getting the right officer team in place quickly is an important step in the Council’s recovery and in delivering best value for Slough’s taxpayers.

On 1 December 2021, Commissioners were sent into Slough Borough Council to address serious financial and management failures at the request of the former Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

On 28 July, the Levelling Up Secretary announced that he was minded-to expand the existing intervention in Slough Borough Council following the

Commissioners' report on the failings in the Council. A period of representations was held which closed on 11 August. The representations received agreed with or were neutral toward the expansion of powers for Commissioners and the Secretary of State has duly granted them.

See all documents on the [intervention at Slough Borough Council](#).

Ukraine Independence Day

What should have been a time of celebration was this year marked by tragedy – 24 August also marked 6 months since Russia invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine.

Since Ukraine's independence in 1991, a proud, internationally engaged country, and one committed to freedom and the principles of the UN Charter, has emerged. Ukraine has become a global exporter of grain – feeding hundreds of millions of people around the world.

But now the country and all it has achieved is under threat. Over the last 6 months, the scale of atrocities against Ukraine's citizens is certain, with extensive violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Officially there have been 12,800 civilian casualties so far, with the expectation that real figures are considerably higher. At least 366 healthcare centres have been attacked, and over 2,200 schools. More than 12.8 million Ukrainians have been forced from their homes – displaced – with 6.2 million people now living as refugees.

The UK, EU and US, and many other countries, have stood by Ukraine in its darkest hour. We will continue to do so. We are committed to championing fundamental human rights, sovereignty, international humanitarian law and democratic values internationally, to help build a fairer, freer world.

Many Namibians will be able to relate to the grave situation in Ukraine, having fought so hard and so long for independence, and freedom from oppression, to become a proud, stable, democratic and peaceful nation.

The war in Ukraine continues to have a huge impact globally, affecting the most vulnerable people living in the world's poorest countries. Since the beginning of the year, we have seen a rise in the cost of living around the world, including here in Namibia. Global food insecurity and the risk of famine is at an all-time high, driven by conflict, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

At present, at least 1.6 billion people worldwide are directly affected by the surge in food and energy prices. In East Africa, millions of people are faced with the worst drought and food shortages in decades. Four consecutive years have seen insufficient rain for harvests. Livestock is dying, and the

price of staple foods keeps rising.

Ukraine's grain exports collapsed after the invasion, which has exacerbated food insecurity around the world. African countries import more than 12% of their wheat from Ukraine.

This war is also affecting the trade of fertilisers. The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that, due to the conflict, Africa faces a fertiliser shortfall of 4 million metric tonnes this year – 33-40% of supply in 2020. Without sufficient supply of fertiliser, Africa could lose \$14-19 billion – one-fifth – worth of food production in the next 2 harvesting seasons, with significant knock-on consequences to food availability.

Recognising the global food crisis, international sanctions on Russia have deliberately not included food or fertiliser exports from Russia to third world countries. The UN-brokered deal to unblock Ukraine's grain exports across the Black Sea is a vital step, and news of a shipment by the World Food Programme transporting grain from Ukraine to the drought-hit Horn of Africa region is a positive sign of progress.

However, to enable a lasting return to global security and economic stability, there must be peace. No country deserves war. But in war time, there are rules: there is international humanitarian law and there is the commitment we made to uphold this through the UN Charter and the important role played by the ICRC. The world needs a free and a safe Ukraine so it can securely return to supplying the world with its food.

Our commitment to a better world, one that is fairer and strives for freedom for all – especially in the aftermath of the pandemic – is a challenge that we all must face together. Ukraine is our friend in this global reconstruction effort, and it is our partner in food security.

As we commemorate Ukraine's anniversary of independence, our respective countries and institutions stand together with Ukraine, both supporting Ukraine to help protect its own people, but also around the world in partnership with those nations who share these same goals.

Strength to you, Independent Ukraine.

Signed by:

HE Charles Moore, British High Commissioner

HE Sinikka Antila, Ambassador of the European Union

HE Herbert Beck, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

HE Sébastien Minot, Ambassador of the Republic of France

HE Alberto de la Calle, Ambassador of Spain

HE Luis Gaspar Da Silva, Ambassador of Portugal

Jessica Long, Chargée d’Affaires a.i, United States of America

Matti Karvanen, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of Finland

[7 new community diagnostic centres to offer more patients life-saving checks](#)

- More than 1.7 million tests, checks and scans have already been delivered by the 92 existing community diagnostic centres
- GP referrals to community diagnostic centres speed up diagnosis times by offering tests closer to home, eliminating unnecessary hospital trips

Seven new community diagnostic centres (CDCs) will open to help bust the COVID backlogs, diagnose patients more quickly and meet future demands on the NHS, the Health and Social Care Secretary has today (1 September 2022) confirmed.

The one-stop shops offer a range of diagnostic checks, scans and tests closer to home. Following a GP referral, patients can get their symptoms checked and receive a potentially life-saving diagnosis for a range of conditions such as cancer, heart and lung disease more quickly. The new facilities will also relieve pressure on NHS staff ahead of a potentially challenging winter.

So far, 92 have already opened in a variety of settings from football stadiums to shopping centres – carrying out over 1.7 million tests. This forms part of the government’s ambition to roll out 160 community diagnostic centres across the country by 2025 to deliver 9 million tests, checks and scans a year, with the programme backed by £2.3 billion of diagnostics investment.

CDCs reduce the number of hospital visits and reduce waiting times for patients by diverting people away from hospitals – so hospitals can focus on treating urgent patients while the diagnostic centres focus on tackling the backlog for tests and checks. They are more convenient for patients and more efficient, with patients less likely to have their tests cancelled.

The new CDCs will be rolled out in:

- Eltham in south east London
- Lancashire
- Leigh in Greater Manchester
- St Albans
- Willesden and Wembley in north west London

Health and Social Care Secretary Steve Barclay said:

Since taking on the role of Health and Social Care Secretary, I have been focused on clearing the COVID backlog and waiting times. Community diagnostic centres are a vital part of our plan to transform the way we deliver tests, scans and x-rays and ultimately reduce waiting times for patients.

Along with speeding up diagnosis times, they will also help tackle health disparities – ensuring that people get treated as quickly as possible no matter where they live, with new centres opening from Essex to Manchester.

NHS national director of elective recovery, Sir James Mackey, said:

These 7 ‘one-stop shops’ are the next step in our elective recovery plan and a welcome addition to the 92 existing community diagnostic centres, which have already delivered more than 1.7 million tests and checks in just over a year.

Our elective recovery plan set out how the NHS will deliver 9 million more tests and checks a year by 2025 and the work of these diagnostic centres, some in convenient spots including shopping centres, are excellent examples of the innovative work being done across the health service to ensure patients get the tests and checks they need as quickly as possible.

GPs refer patients to CDCs where staff use CT scanners, MRI scanners, and other new diagnostic equipment to diagnose people as quickly as possible.

More than 1.7 million tests, checks and scans have already been delivered in the following regions across the country:

- 173,000 in East of England
- 222,000 in London
- 303,000 in the Midlands
- 173,000 in North East Yorkshire
- 260,000 in the North West
- 329,000 in the South East
- 245,000 in the South West

The Finchley Memorial Hospital CDC opened in north London in August 2021 and now offers patients 2 MRI scanners along with 2 obstetric ultrasound machines. Staff carry out a range of scans, blood tests and other cardiology and respiratory services – with more than 50,000 tests so far delivered.

In Dorset, a CDC was constructed on the top floor of Beales department store in Poole to tackle waiting lists in the region, with the first patients walking through its doors in December. The space was once used to sell furniture, and now boasts an eye testing centre, a breast screening unit and 16 clinical rooms that can be adapted for different needs.

In Barnsley, a CDC has been constructed in the Glass Works shopping centre as part of the town's urban regeneration project. Thanks to its public transport links, patients from more disadvantaged areas have improved access to diagnostic services – including breast screening.

As part of the selection process, the government worked closely with the NHS and invited bids from various regions. Analysis was carried out to determine where they would be most beneficial in reducing waiting lists and tackling health inequalities.

A range of measures have been adopted to bring down waiting lists and address the lasting impact of the pandemic. Last week, the Health and Social Care Secretary announced that over 50 new surgical hubs will be opening to offer hundreds of thousands more patients quicker access to procedures.

Backed by £1.5 billion in government funding, they will provide at least 100 more operating theatres and over 1,000 beds – delivering almost 2 million extra routine operations over the next 3 years.

These innovative ways of working will help the NHS carry out the biggest catch-up programme in its history and offer patients the care they need, when they need it.

New CDC locations and opening dates

CDC location	Opening date
Willesden Centre for Health and Care, north west London	Winter 2022 to 2023
Wembley Centre for Health, north west London	Autumn 2023
Leigh, Greater Manchester	Winter 2023
Whitegate Drive Health Centre: 2 spoke CDCs in Clifton and Lancashire	Spring 2023
St Albans	Winter 2023 to 2024
Eltham Community Hospital, south east London	Spring 2023

List of operational CDCs

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
East of England	Basildon and Billericay	Basildon Community Diagnostics CDC	1 Aug 2021	38,788
East of England	Peterborough	Cambridge and Peterborough CDC	1 Jul 2021	35,692
East of England	Norwich South	Central Norfolk CDC	4 Apr 2022	200
East of England	Clacton	Clacton CDC	8 Aug 2021	85,525
East of England	Great Yarmouth	East Norfolk CDC	12 Dec 2021	5,802

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
East of England	Welwyn Hatfield	New QEII Hospital CDC	1 Mar 2022	3,647
East of England	North West Norfolk	West Norfolk CDC	4 Apr 2022	3,375
London	Barking	Barking Community Hospital CDC	14 Jul 2021	22,432
London	Finchley and Golders Green	Finchley Memorial Hospital CDC	2 Aug 2021	50,341
London	Hornsey and Wood Green	Finchley Memorial Hospital CDC (Wood Green)	25 Aug 2022	Not yet reporting activity
London	Bermondsey and Southwark	Guy's Cancer Centre CDC	4 Sep 2021	3,028
London	Bethnal Green and Bow	Mile End Hospital CDC	1 Jul 2021	13,938
London	Ealing and Southall	North West London CDC	19 Jul 2021	11,028
London	Putney	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC	1 Aug 2021	114,844
London	Mitcham and Morden	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (Epsom)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Richmond Park	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (Kingston)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Croydon South	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (Purley)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Tooting	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (St Georges Site: Non-Acute)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Wimbledon	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (The Nelson)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
London	Mitcham and Morden	Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC (The Wilson)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)	Reporting through hub (Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton CDC)
London	Dulwich and West Norwood	Tessa Jowell Health Care Centre CDC	26 Jul 2021	6,884
Midlands	Cannock Chase	Cannock Chase CDC	14 Jul 2021	24,906
Midlands	Stourbridge	Corbett CDC	1 Oct 2021	118,728
Midlands	Coventry North East	Coventry City Community CDC	1 Nov 2021	21,162
Midlands	Derby North	Florence Nightingale Community Hospital CDC	1 Nov 2021	26,017
Midlands	Grantham and Stamford	Grantham CDC	1 Nov 2021	16,485
Midlands	Erewash	Ilkeston Community Hospital CDC	6 Dec 2021	6,533
Midlands	Wyre Forest	Kidderminster Treatment Centre CDC	15 Aug 2021	31,702
Midlands	Leicester East	Leicester CDC	3 Oct 2021	8,708
Midlands	Stratford upon Avon	South Warwickshire CDC	1 Nov 2021	20,737
Midlands	Nuneaton	Warwickshire North CDC	1 Nov 2021	2,339
Midlands	Birmingham	Washwood Heath CDC	13 Dec 2021	3,491
Midlands	Derbyshire Dales	Whitworth Hospital CDC (the new name will be North Derbyshire CDC in 2023)	10 Oct 2021	4,246
North East and Yorkshire	Barnsley Central	Barnsley Glassworks CDC	18 Apr 2022	10,615
North East and Yorkshire	Bishop Auckland	Bishop Auckland CDC	14 Jul 2021	10,575
North East and Yorkshire	Darlington	Bishop Auckland CDC (Darlington Memorial Hospital)	14 Jul 2021	22,039

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
North East and Yorkshire	Durham	Bishop Auckland CDC (University Hospital of North Durham)	14 Jul 2021	20,023
North East and Yorkshire	Blaydon	Blaydon CDC	19 Jul 2021	13,924
North East and Yorkshire	Tynemouth	Blaydon CDC (North Tyneside)	Reporting through hub (Blaydon CDC)	Reporting through hub (Blaydon CDC)
North East and Yorkshire	Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	Humber Coast and Vale CDC	31 Oct 2021	28,265
North East and Yorkshire	Doncaster North	Montagu Hospital CDC	6 Jan 2022	3,308
North East and Yorkshire	North Tyneside	North Tyneside CDC	1 Feb 2022	1,911
North East and Yorkshire	Penrith and the Border	Penrith CDC	4 Oct 2021	14,634
North East and Yorkshire	South Shields	South Tyneside CDC	26 Jul 2021	3,023
North East and Yorkshire	Durham	South Tyneside CDC (Durham Treatment Centre)	14 Jul 2021	14,144
North East and Yorkshire	Hartlepool	Tees Valley CDC	18 Jul 2021	30,869
North East and Yorkshire	Richmond (Yorks)	Tees Valley CDC (Friarige)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)
North East and Yorkshire	Redcar	Tees Valley CDC (Redcar)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)
North East and Yorkshire	Hartlepool	Tees Valley CDC (University Hospital Hartlepool)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)	Reporting through hub (Tees Valley CDC)
North West	Bolton South East	Bolton CDC	5 Nov 2021	9,514
North West	Eastham Wirral	Clatterbridge CDC	14 Jul 2021	27,667

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
North West	Wirral West	Clatterbridge CDC (Arrowe Park)	Reporting through hub (Clatterbridge CDC)	Reporting through hub (Clatterbridge CDC)
North West	Ellesmere Port and Neston	Ellesmere Port CDC	17 Dec 2021	7,454
North West	Liverpool Riverside	Liverpool Women's Hospital CDC	6 Mar 2022	3,036
North West	Manchester Withington	Manchester And Trafford CDC	1 Nov 2021	66,925
North West	Salford and Eccles	Northern Care Alliance CDC – Multi Site	1 Jul 2021	18,323
North West	Oldham West and Royton	Northern Care Alliance CDC – Oldham	4 Jan 2022	5,605
North West	Preston	Preston Healthport CDC	1 Oct 2021	28,905
North West	Rossendale and Darwen	Rossendale CDC	1 Nov 2021	13,918
North West	St Helens South and Whiston	St Helens CDC	3 Jul 2021	34,280
North West	Weaver Vale	Victoria Infirmary Northwich CDC	4 Oct 2021	16,609
North West	Westmorland and Lonsdale	Westmorland CDC	21 Jul 2021	11,279
North West	Blackpool North and Cleveleys	Whitegate Drive CDC	2 Aug 2021	16,082
South East	Aldershot	Aldershot Centre For Health CDC	4 Oct 2021	6,082
South East	Chesham and Amersham	Amersham Community Hospital CDC	18 Oct 2021	61,003
South East	Bexhill and Battle	Bexhill Community Hospital CDC	15 Nov 2021	17,752
South East	Bognor Regis	Bognor CDC	27 Nov 2021	15,574
South East	Dover	Buckland Community Hospital CDC	1 Oct 2021	42,228
South East	Reigate	East Surrey CDC	1 May 2022	1,545
South East	Brighton Kemptown	Falmer Community Stadium CDC	21 Nov 2021	5,399 (as of 7 Aug 2022, no report for 14 Aug 2022)

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
South East	New Forest West	Lymington New Forest Hospital CDC	1 Nov 2021	53,854
South East	Maidstone and Weald and Greg Clark	Maidstone And Tunbridge Wells Hospital CDC	30 Sep 2021	22,702
South East	SW Surrey	Milford Community Hospital CDC	27 Jun 2022	593
South East	Oxford East	Oxford CDC	1 Oct 2021	14,308
South East	Mid Sussex	Queen Victoria Hospital CDC	14 Jul 2021	9,653
South East	Windsor	Slough CDC	1 Oct 2021	9,806
South East	Worthing and Shoreham	Southlands Hospital CDC	7 Nov 2021	10,319
South East	Portsmouth North	St Mary's Community Hospital CDC	25 Oct 2021	14,029
South East	Newbury	West Berkshire Community Hospital CDC	1 Oct 2021	37,956
South East	Woking	Woking Community Hospital CDC	1 Apr 2022	6,185
South West	Weston Super Mare	BNSGG (Phase 1) Weston CDC	8 Sep 2021	3,756
South West	Bath	BSW Banes Locality CDC	22 Nov 2021	49,078
South West	Poole	CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village	10 Dec 2021	11,906
South West	West Dorset	CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village (Outpatient Assessment Clinic Dorchester)	Reporting through hub (CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village)	Reporting through hub (CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village)
South West	Dorset	CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village (Outpatient Assessment Clinic Poole)	Reporting through hub (CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village)	Reporting through hub (CDC Poole at Dorset Health Village)
South West	North Cornwall	Cios Bodmin CDC	13 Sep 2021	10,524
South West	St Ives	Cios West Cornwall CDC	4 Apr 2022	6,219
South West	Exeter	Devon Exeter Nightingale CDC	1 Jul 2021	30,431

Region	Area	CDC title	Live date	Tests, checks and scans delivered as of 14 Aug 2022
South West	Gloucester	Gloucestershire Community CDC	4 Oct 2021	5,571
South West	Gloucester	Gloucestershire Quayside CDC	14 Dec 2021	19,999
South West	Taunton Deane	Somerset Community CDC	24 Jul 2021	86,916
South West	Taunton Deane	Somerset West CDC	26 Sep 2021	20,307

[PM call with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz: 31 August 2022](#)

Press release

The Prime Minister spoke to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz this afternoon.



The Prime Minister spoke to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz this afternoon.

The leaders thanked one another for their friendship and cooperation for the past few months. The Prime Minister pointed to the staunch opposition to Putin's actions and the historic support for Ukraine galvanised through Germany's Presidency of the G7 as evidence of the strong UK-German partnership. He paid tribute to Chancellor Scholz's leadership on this issue and encouraged him to stay the course in his political, military and economic support for Ukraine.

The Prime Minister noted the extreme pressure, particularly in terms of energy prices, the people of the UK, Germany and elsewhere have come under as a result of Putin's barbarism. Chancellor Scholz thanked the Prime Minister for everything he has done for Ukraine in his role.

The Prime Minister expressed his confidence that the UK and Germany will

continue to be close partners on a huge range of issues. He pointed to climate change and defence as areas where our countries are working together to make the world a better and safer place.

The Prime Minister and Chancellor Scholz concluded by wishing one another all the best for the future.

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