

No changes to travel corridor list

News story

People should check latest government advice before travelling.



- no countries removed or added to the list of travel corridors for England today
- all travellers urged to check the latest advice from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) before travelling and will be required to fill in a [passenger locator form](#) before returning home
- the government will not hesitate to remove countries from the travel corridors list rapidly if the public health risk becomes too high

There will be no additions or removals to the [travel corridors list](#) today (3 September 2020).

Ministerial decisions around adding or removing countries from the list take into account a range of factors, including virus incidence rates, information on a country's testing capacity, an assessment of the quality of data available, effectiveness of the measures being deployed by a country to tackle the virus, and an estimate of the proportion of the population that is currently infectious in each country.

The government has made consistently clear it will take decisive action if necessary to contain the virus, including removing countries from the travel corridors list rapidly if the public health risk of people returning from a particular country without self-isolating becomes too high. This means holidaymakers may find they need to [self-isolate on return to the UK](#) and are advised to consider the implications of self-isolation on them and their families before making travel plans.

Passengers who do not comply with the self-isolation measures can face penalties including fines of up to £1,000. The government continues to urge employers to be understanding of those returning from destinations and requiring the need to self-isolate.

Covid-19 has profoundly changed the nature of international travel.

Travellers should always check the latest [advice from the FCD0](#), given the potential for changing coronavirus infection rates to affect both the advice about travelling to other countries and rules about self-isolation on return.

All travellers, including those from exempt destinations, will still be required to show a complete passenger locator form on arrival into the UK unless they fall into a small group of exemptions. If travellers refuse to provide their contact details, they could be fined up to £3,200.

Published 3 September 2020

[Virtual farewell for Guatemalan Chevening scholars](#)

World news story

The British Ambassador hosted a virtual farewell for three Guatemalan scholars going to the UK.



The British Ambassador to Guatemala, Nick Whittingham, sent off successful Chevening Scholarship recipients at a virtual meeting hosted with the awardees and members of the Chevening community in the county.

Every year, a group of outstanding Guatemalan scholars are selected to study different fields at UK universities under the prestigious Chevening Scholarship, funded by the British Government.

The three 2020-2021 scholars are:

- Ana María Guerra Paredes MSc in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Business, Imperial College London.
- María Isabel Amorín Cabrera MSc in Material Chemistry, University of Edinburgh.
- Michelle Álvarez García-Tuñón, MSc in Public Health, London School of

Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Chevening is the UK Government's global scholarship programme that offers future leaders the unique opportunity to study in the UK. These scholarships are awarded to outstanding professionals from all over the world to pursue a one-year master's degree in any subject at any UK university.

Applications for 2021/2022 Chevening Scholarships are open from 3 September 2020. Find more information here: [Chevening Guatemala](#)

Published 3 September 2020

[Platform for Redesign 2020: opening address](#)

Thank you to Minister Koizumi and the Government of Japan for organising this Platform.

To tackle the climate crisis, governments around the world must come together, as we are doing today.

To learn. To unite behind common causes. And to encourage each other to make the most of the opportunities ahead.

We all know that the coronavirus pandemic has caused terrible harm – both human and economic.

But the recovery is a chance for all of us to build back better. To create clean jobs. And to place green growth at the heart of our economies.

That is what we are doing here in the UK.

Since March, we have put the equivalent of 450 million US Dollars into cutting emissions in heavy industry.

And almost US\$1.3 billion driving the move to low-emissions vehicles.

We are confident in this approach to our recovery because we know it works.

Over the past 30 years we have grown our economy by 75% whilst cutting emissions by 43%.

Creating thousands of jobs in new industries in the process.

Our offshore wind capacity is now the largest in the world.

Employing thousands of people directly, and through supply chains.

And the price of offshore wind energy has fallen by two-thirds between 2015 and 2019.

Renewables are now cheaper than new coal and gas power plants in 2 thirds of countries.

As a result, we can say with confidence that the UK will meet its ambition to phase out coal power by 2024.

And from April to June this year we went 67 days without coal.

There are immense opportunities for those developing the technologies the world needs to move to its low-carbon future.

For example, Europe's electric vehicle market grew by almost 50% between 2018 and 2019.

And, globally, renewables are expected to attract 77% of all investment in electricity systems between now and 2050 – worth around US\$10 trillion.

There has never been a better time to invest in the green economy. Or a more important time.

To limit warming to 1.5 degrees, we need to halve global emissions over the next decade.

But we are not currently on track to do so.

People are suffering now as a result of our changing climate. And the window of time we have to act is closing fast.

As incoming COP26 President, the UK believes in bringing together countries across the world, to make progress faster.

We all need to focus on critical areas: clean energy, clean transport, nature-based solutions, adaptation and resilience, and finance.

We need all countries to submit more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions, driving further cuts in carbon emissions by 2030.

And we need all nations to commit to reaching net zero emissions as soon as possible. As we have done in the UK – we will be net zero by 2050.

Ladies and gentlemen. We are at a critical moment for the world's climate.

To limit temperature rises, we must take this chance and unite behind a clean, resilient global recovery.

Platform for Redesign 2020: closing address

I want to start by thanking Minister Koizumi for organising this really remarkable discussion, and I'd also like to thank all the other participants as well.

This event has demonstrated the passion that we all share for meeting our Paris goals, and the benefits of coming together, sharing our experiences, and working towards a common purpose.

This all gives me and the UK great confidence for COP26 next year.

We can all see that, as we recover from the coronavirus pandemic, we have a huge opportunity to build back better – to build our recovery on a fairer, greener, cleaner, and more resilient economy.

And that is the agenda that we will be putting at the heart of our COP26 Presidency next year.

The COP President Designate outlined our progress to date on clean growth in his remarks, so I would like to focus on what comes next.

In the UK, there are almost half a million jobs in low carbon businesses and their supply chains, and there is a real potential to use our recovery to create more jobs in this area.

So in the Summer Economic Statement, our Chancellor announced £3 billion to support measures to reduce greenhouse emissions from buildings, supporting as many as 140,000 green jobs.

We're committed to spending more than £2 billion to the industrial sector over eight years to help them reduce their emissions and energy bills.

And we are committing hundreds of millions of pounds to developing new technologies to help to decarbonise older processes:

We're interested in developing Direct Air Capture, which takes CO₂ emissions immediately out of the air around us.

We're committed also to Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage, which we aim to start deploying by the middle of this decade, and we want to be able to share our findings and collaborate with other partners and friends across the world.

Projects like these allow us to rapidly move towards a decarbonised economy, as is vital to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, and I think also all of this work can pave the way for ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the fight against climate change.

That is our priority for our COVID recovery, and the vision behind our economic policies and the COP Presidency which we very much look forward to next year.

So I am delighted to have heard similar examples from so many countries today.

It is vitally important that all our nation's build on the ideas we are sharing today, and we challenge ourselves to submit more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions and Long Term Strategies that set the path to net zero, ahead of COP26.

The UK has committed in law to being net zero by 2050, and I hope other nations can join us on this journey and make a similar commitment.

Thank you once again Minister Koizumi for this excellent forum, for bringing all of this together, and I look forward to supporting all of your efforts as participants ahead of COP26 next year. I hope we can all work together as we are doing for an ambitious and clean recovery. Thank you very much.

Preparing to Pay

News story

How the Student Loans Company is delivering for students at the start of term. A blog by Paula Sussex, Chief Executive Officer



It is perhaps an understatement to say it has been a tricky six months for the higher education sector. And there will undoubtedly be further challenges to address as the new academic year gets underway. This week marks the start of one of the busiest periods for SLC as we are ready to make more Maintenance Loan and Tuition Fee payments to students, universities and colleges than ever before. This is a critical time as we know students are relying on us to deliver the funding they need to support their higher and further education.

Maintenance Loan payments start this month and continue to the biggest single payment day on 21 September. While we are doing everything we can to ensure that as many students as possible receive their Maintenance Loan payments at the start of term, a combination of unique circumstances; as students, colleagues and universities adapt to an entirely new set of challenges, mean that some students who have applied after the student finance application deadline may not receive their full entitlement straight away.

The good news is that most students who applied for finance before the deadline two months ago will have all their funding in place for the start of term. For those who applied after the deadline – and we appreciate there are a variety of reasons for this – we are working hard to ensure that their basic funding package is in place when their studies begin.

This week we will start to contact students in England and Wales to make them aware of what they need to do to prepare for payment. We'll be letting them know that there are some simple, but really important, steps to take to ensure that their payment is processed as smoothly as possible.

While our focus is on delivering for students, we must also respond to the changing needs of the sector. SLC is acutely aware of the challenges faced by universities and colleges as they begin the new academic year. For example, some universities and colleges have changed the start dates of some courses. Payment dates are based on term start dates so it is important that students are aware that any changes to their course will impact on the date of their first payment too.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our aim has been to be a competent and responsive business, continuing to deliver for our customers despite the challenges thrown up by the pandemic. I am confident the same values will be evident throughout the busy payment period.

I would encourage all students to take advantage of the information and guidance that is available and to remember that if they do experience any issues, SLC is here to help. [Students can get in touch with SLC by phone or via social media](#) and can check their payment status on their online account.

Published 3 September 2020