

Libya: UK response to calls for ceasefire

Press release

Following calls for a ceasefire in Libya, the UK's minister for the Middle East has issued a statement.



Minister for the Middle East James Cleverly said:

The UK Government welcomes today's calls for a ceasefire from President of the Presidency Council Fayez Al-Serraj and Speaker of the House of Representatives Agila Saleh. The Libyan people have been clear: there can be no military solution in Libya.

Now is the time for external actors, on all sides of the conflict, to match the ambition of the Libyan people and commit to a lasting ceasefire, including through the departure from Libya of all foreign forces and mercenaries.

We also welcome the call to resume oil production. The blockade only serves to harm the Libyan people, and we must move forward with resuming production in the interests of all Libyans.

Today's announcement marks an important step on the road towards sustained peace, security and stability. We commend both sides for their approach, and thank the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) for their leadership facilitating the political process and in building confidence.

More than half a billion pounds to help people return home from hospital

- £588 million will provide up to 6 weeks of funded care and support for people being discharged from hospital
- Funding could pay for additional support including domiciliary care, community nursing services or care home costs
- Assessments for those needing funded long-term care or support to resume from September

People needing additional follow-on care after being discharged from hospital – including older people and those with disabilities – will be supported by a £588 million fund to cover adult social care or the immediate costs of care in their own home.

From 1 September, the NHS will be able to access the funding in order to provide up to 6 weeks of additional support so people can receive ongoing help with their recovery and rehabilitation after they leave hospital. This could include support in their home or access to services such as physiotherapy.

NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) assessments will also restart from September ensuring those with complex health needs can continue to access the care they need for free.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock, said:

We know for the majority of people the road to recovery can be quicker when they receive care and support in the comfort of their own home.

This funding will help ensure people can be safely discharged from hospital knowing they will get the vital follow-on care they need to recover fully from treatment.

We're also making sure those with complex health needs continue to receive the best support possible in the community.

Most people will be discharged back to their homes. However, it is anticipated that a very small proportion will need, and benefit from, short or long-term residential, nursing home or hospice care.

It remains the case that no one should be discharged from hospital directly to a care home without the involvement of the local authority, and that all patients are required to be tested prior to discharge to a care home. No care home should be forced to admit an existing or new resident who has tested positive for coronavirus if the home would be unable to cope with the impact of their illness.

Councillor Paulette Hamilton, Vice Chair of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board, said:

We are pleased to see this further injection of funding to ensure that people can leave hospital as soon as is safe and return home wherever possible. We are also reassured by the commitment that no one will go into a care home without having been tested for the virus. Local government has asked for these commitments and will continue to play a key role in making them happen.

New [guidance has been published](#) to help hospitals safely discharge patients into the appropriate setting to maximise their independence and ensure they can remain in their own homes as much as possible.

A comprehensive care and health assessment for any ongoing care needs, including determining funding eligibility, will take place within the first 6 weeks following discharge to make sure individuals have the support they need.

The funding can also be used for urgent community response support to prevent someone being admitted to hospital. This can include providing urgent domiciliary care or nursing support, like basic wound care, in someone's own home, rather than in hospital.

Case managers will ensure people are discharged safely, on time and that they have full information and advice about what is happening. This includes how individuals' needs will be assessed and any follow up support that may be required. This approach applies to anyone discharged from NHS community and acute beds.

The funding is part of the £3 billion provided to protect and prepare health and social care in the event of a second peak of COVID-19 during winter and follows £1.3 billion funding made available via the NHS to support the discharge process in March.

The government has expanded the ONS infection survey to provide extensive, weekly data on the spread of infection, supporting rapid testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 both nationally and in areas of concern.

The new guidance, [Hospital discharge service: policy and operating model](#),

sets out the operating model for all NHS trusts, community interest companies, and private care providers of acute, community beds and community health services and social care staff in England. It replaces the hospital discharge service requirements issued on 19 March 2020 to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These new funding arrangements will apply up until 31 March 2021.

NHS CHC teams will work closely with community health and social care staff in supporting people on discharge pathways 1, 2 and 3, to ensure appropriate discussions and planning concerning a person's long-term care options happen as early as possible during the 6-week discharge pathway. This close working and communication will also ensure time is allowed for the CCG to undertake the full NHS CHC assessment and for local authority staff to undertake Care Act assessments where it is needed.

Further advice for measures to be taken if patients are discharged into the community is provided in [home care guidance](#) and [supported living guidance](#). These guidance documents state that:

- all people admitted to hospital to receive care will be tested for COVID-19, and hospitals should share care needs and COVID-19 status with relevant community partners planning the subsequent community care.
- as set out in the [COVID-19 adult social care action plan](#), any individual being taken on by a home care or supported living care provider should be cared for as possibly COVID-positive until a 14-day period has passed, within their home.
- if a care home provider does not feel they can provide the appropriate isolation for those coming out of hospital, the individual's local authority should secure alternative appropriate accommodation and care for the required isolation period. Costs of providing alternative accommodation are covered by discharge funding provided via the NHS

[BEPPS-DIF takes delivery](#)

News story

An inactive transport package has successfully tested the route and equipment that will be used to transfer waste packages into a new facility at Sellafield.



An inactive transport package in the Direct Import Facility

The team building our Box Encapsulation Plant Direct Import Facility (BEPPS-DIF) at Sellafield have ended the week with a glimpse into the future.

After meticulous planning across BEPPS-DIF; our Silos Maintenance Facility, our Pile Fuel Cladding Silo and our transport teams; an inactive transport package was transported and brought into the Direct Import Facility today (Friday).

This tests the route and the equipment which will ultimately handle an active waste package from a donor plant in the future. Transported to the facility using Sellafield transport via the roadbay and then lifted into the facility, this task gives increased stakeholder confidence but also unlocks months of commissioning within the facility, which has been designed to handle packages for 40 years.

Mike Robinson, BEPPS-DIF senior project manager said:

The team have done an excellent job in the current environment of getting us to the stage where we are able to undertake this work. Seeing a package go into the facility and follow the path as it would as if the plant were active was quite surreal, for a moment providing a window to the future and bringing home the scale and importance of the work that we do every day.

Published 21 August 2020

[Jenrick extends ban on evictions and notice periods](#)

- Ban on evictions continues for 4 weeks taking the total ban to 6 months
- New 6 month notice periods to be in place until at least 31 March 2021
- Once eviction hearings restart, the judiciary will carefully prioritise the most serious cases including those involving anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse

Renters affected by coronavirus will continue to be protected after the government extended the ban on evictions for another 4 weeks, meaning in total no legal evictions will have taken place for 6 months, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced today (21 August 2020).

The government also intends to give tenants greater protection from eviction over the winter by requiring landlords to provide tenants with 6 months' notice in all bar those cases raising other serious issues such as those involving anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse perpetrators, until at least the end of March.

The government will keep these measures under review with decisions guided by the latest public health advice.

When courts do resume eviction hearings they will carefully prioritise the most egregious cases, ensuring landlords are able to progress the most serious cases, such as those involving anti-social behaviour and other crimes, as well as where landlords have not received rent for over a year and would otherwise face unmanageable debts.

The government has taken unprecedented action to support renters during the pandemic, preventing people getting into financial hardship and helping businesses to pay salaries – meaning no tenants have been evicted since the start.

As a result, according to independent research, 87% of tenants have continued to pay full rent since the start of the pandemic, with a further 8% agreeing reduced fees with their landlords.

The vast majority of landlords have shown understanding and leadership, taking action to support tenants.

With coronavirus still posing an ongoing risk to public health, the government will continue to take action where necessary to further protect households in both the private and social rented sector are supported over winter, helping to keep them safe.

Today's extension to the stay and 6 month notice periods will ensure those most at risk are protected. If tenants are unable to afford their rent we encourage them to speak to their landlord to agree a solution, and some households may decide to consider moving.

Government will continue to work with the judiciary and stakeholders to ensure that the courts are prepared for eviction cases to be heard safely.

Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick MP said:

I know this year has been challenging and all of us are still living with the effects of COVID-19. That is why today I am announcing a further 4 week ban on evictions, meaning no renters will have been evicted for 6 months.

I am also increasing protections for renters – 6 month notice periods must be given to tenants, supporting renters over winter.

However, it is right that the most egregious cases, for example those involving anti-social behaviour or domestic abuse perpetrators, begin to be heard in court again; and so when courts reopen, landlords will once again be able to progress these priority cases.

Case listing, including prioritisation, is a judicial function and we are working with the judiciary through the Master of the Rolls' Working Group on possession to consider the categories of serious cases that would be prioritised when hearings resume. Further detail on those categories will be set out in due course and we will engage with key stakeholders on this.

[Independent polling for the National Residential Landlords Association](#)

recently found that 87% of private tenants have paid their rent as normal throughout the pandemic so far. An additional 8% said that they had agreed a reduced rent, a rent-free period or made some other agreement with their landlord or letting agent.

The extension to the ban on evictions and prioritisation of the most serious case applies to courts in England and Wales

The intention to extend notice periods to 6 month applies to England only.

On 5 June the government announced that the suspension of housing possession cases in the courts had been extended by a further 2 months.

To support those on Universal Credit or Housing Benefit in the private rented sector, Local Housing Allowance rates have been set to the 30th percentile of rents in each area. For those who require additional support Discretionary Housing Payments are available.

As announced at the spending round for 2020/21 there is already £180 million in Discretionary Housing Payments for Local authorities to distribute for supporting renters with housing costs in the private and social rented sectors.

We remain committed to bringing forward reforms to provide greater security to tenants, but it is only right that this is balanced with an assurance that

landlords are able to recover their properties where they have valid reasons to do so. This is vital to ensuring the future supply of good quality housing in the rented sector.

We will bring forward legislation in due course, once the urgencies of responding to the pandemic have passed, to deliver a better deal for renters and a fairer more effective rental market.

Acting CEO of HM Courts and Tribunals appointed

News story

Kevin Sadler appointed Acting Chief Executive of HM Courts and Tribunals Service from today (21 August 2020).



Susan Acland-Hood has been appointed as a Second Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education on a temporary basis, Kevin Sadler has been temporarily appointed as Acting CEO of HM Courts and Tribunals Service.

Kevin is currently Deputy Chief Executive at HM Courts and Tribunals Service and will start as Acting CEO from today (21 August 2020) for six weeks. He was previously Chief Executive of the Tribunals Service and has worked in the Department of Social Security, Cabinet Office and Department of Work and Pensions. He also held roles in the Department for Constitutional Affairs where he oversaw change and restructuring across the former department and ran the project to create the Ministry of Justice.

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