

# Lesotho: call for bids for COVID-19 community fund

World news story

The British High Commission Maseru is inviting NGOs and established community-based organisations to bid for small grant funding of up to M100,000 for COVID-19 projects.



# UK Government

Projects requiring an amount larger than M100,000 may be considered with prior agreement with the British High Commission Maseru.

The bidding process is competitive. Only the strongest bids will be selected. Selected projects should start by 15 August 2020 and all activity must be completed by 31 December 2020. Funding will be paid out on completion of activities and project reports.

## **Objectives**

The projects should meet one of the following objectives:

1. Reduce the spread of coronavirus in a particular area or amongst a target population in Lesotho.
2. Assist a particular area or target population to manage the negative

health, social or economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

3. Support the development of government policy or processes to meet the two objectives above.

## **Selection criteria**

Bids will be judged on:

- their potential impact (including the scope of the project and the likelihood of achieving that impact)
- their value for money
- their sustainability including the potential for the project to be scaled up or replicated elsewhere
- the capacity of the bidding organisation including a track record of previous successful projects

A project bidding form can be obtained by emailing [BHC.maseru@fco.gov.uk](mailto:BHC.maseru@fco.gov.uk). Project forms must be returned to the British High Commission by 5 August 2020.

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## **UK Statement to the WTO General Council on the Director General Selection Process**

I would like to reiterate the United Kingdom's thanks to the Director General, for his service to the World Trade Organization and its Members, and in support of rules-based free and fair trade.

The United Kingdom also places on record its strong support of Ambassador Walker's efforts to run consultations in line with expedited deadlines, as necessary for this selection process. Many thanks for outlining the precedent on the process so clearly. We stand ready to work within those timelines.

We wish to thank Ambassador Walker for his excellent organisation of last week's Hustings process, to provide candidates the opportunity to present their credentials to the Membership.

The United Kingdom was delighted to nominate Dr Liam Fox for the position of the next Director General of the WTO. Dr Fox has proven himself a passionate advocate of multilateralism, and fully committed to the WTO's rules-based trading system. With decades of experience in global politics, as both a

Cabinet Minister and Secretary of State for International Trade, he is equipped to both lead and modernise this Organisation. Dr Fox is a strong proponent of trade as the key to global prosperity and security and is well placed to ensure that the benefits of free trade truly work for all countries and citizens.

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## UK statement to the WTO Trade Negotiations Committee

Thank you, Chair.

Chair, this Organization has been facing a number of difficult challenges for a number of years. The pandemic has hit us hard, as individuals, and as a group. The United Kingdom commends you and the Secretariat for the early steps you took to keep staff and delegates safe, and then to build platforms which have allowed our work to continue in an inclusive way, in virtual then in hybrid format. This has moved us a long way from the standstill we experienced in the spring.

The United Kingdom would like to reiterate the importance of forging ahead with ongoing work at the WTO, reinstating a fully functioning dispute resolution system, and aiming for ambitious outcomes in ongoing negotiations.

The fisheries subsidies negotiations, as well as the initiatives on e-commerce, domestic regulation on services, investment facilitation for development and MSMEs offer the WTO a dynamic, new and constructive framework for addressing the key trade issues of our time.

On fisheries subsidies, we welcome the draft consolidated text circulated by Ambassador Wills, the Chair of the Rules Negotiating Group, as an important step toward meeting our collective commitment to agree on disciplines to harmful fisheries subsidies this year.

The United Kingdom has long advocated for ambitious outcomes on e-commerce, and this remains a top priority for our industry stakeholders. The pandemic has shown how dependent the global economy is, and will continue to be, on digital trade. We are pleased, therefore, that the joint initiative on e-commerce has continued its work, in small groups and in plenary, to streamline text around specific issues. We commend the co-convenors and the facilitators for their efforts to maintain the pace of negotiations, and we urge all Members to work together to ensure as broad a participation as possible, so the outcomes benefit developed, developing and least-developed Members.

The United Kingdom is also committed to the success of the Joint Initiatives on Services Domestic Regulation and Investment Facilitation for Development.

The goals of liberalising global services trade, and ensuring transparency and predictability for services suppliers and investors, have become all the more important in the context of the current crisis. We welcome the good progress made on outstanding issues in the domestic regulation reference paper in informal consultations and hybrid meetings, thanks to the dedicated efforts of members and of the Chair, and we are keen to continue working with others to reach a finalised text well before a rescheduled MC12. We are pleased to support language on non-discrimination between men and women, which will increase women's ability to access the benefits of trade, and support a sustainable and equitable recovery from the current economic crisis.

Thank you, Chair.

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## [Environment Agency appeals for information on abandoned trailers in Bromsgrove](#)

Press release

An investigation by the Environment Agency has begun into 4 abandoned trailers full of waste that have appeared around Bromsgrove in the space of a week.



One of the abandoned trailers full of waste that have appeared around Bromsgrove in the space of a week

Officers are now appealing to members of the public for any information into this illegal dumping which all happened within 5 miles of each other in North Worcestershire.

The trailers all appear to be similar and therefore Environment Agency

officers believe they are all linked to the same waste criminals. It is believed that the first reported sighting of an abandoned trailer was on Sunday 12 July.

The trailers and their loads of waste containing household, commercial or industrial rubbish have all been abandoned in laybys next to major roads in the area.

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency, said:

We are appealing to members of the public who may have any information, however small, about the abandoned trailers full of waste to contact us as soon as possible to help with our investigation. They can call the 24-hour Environment Agency hotline or anonymously to Crimestoppers.

The trailers are all in laybys on major roads and so we are hopeful that there may be witnesses to this criminal activity.

We urge homeowners and businesses to check someone is registered to take their waste away as they could be breaking the law if their waste isn't managed properly.

To report illegal waste activity, or if you suspect a company is operating illegally, call the Environment Agency 24/7 on 0800 80 70 60 or report it anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Notes to editors

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Last updated 22 July 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 22 July 2020

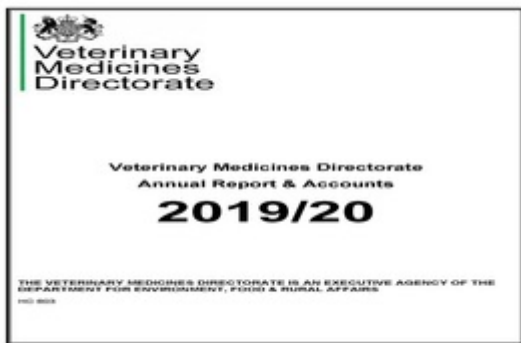
First published.

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# [VMD's Annual Report & Accounts 2019/20](#) [Published](#)

News story

We have published our independently verified Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20



We have published our independently verified [Annual Report and Accounts](#) setting out our performance against our 2019/20 priorities and targets and the management of our accounts.

#### Highlights:

- achieving a 100% overall performance against our published standards
- working with partners we helped achieve a 40% reduction in the use of antibiotics in agriculture to help combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- achieving Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) designation as an AMR Reference Centre as part of an initiative with the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). The UK is the first country in the world to achieve this
- successfully completing our readiness project for Brexit including making the necessary legislative changes, giving guidance to stakeholders, updating internal processes, developing new IT services and robust contingency plans
- completing the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded review of the regulatory landscape in Sub-Saharan Africa as a basis for further work to improve veterinary medicines regulation capability in the region
- achieving re-certification to international ISO:9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 27001 (Information Security) standards

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