

Celebrating 70 years of partnership with a cool contest!

World news story

To mark the platinum wedding we are happy to announce a contest on our Instagram channel. Full terms and conditions below.



This week, Britain and Israel celebrate 70 years since the establishment of their diplomatic relations. To mark the occasion together with our wonderful embassy followers, we are holding a competition: We want you to send us an original image (painting, photo, collage, etc. – be creative) that symbolizes this relationship. Let your imagination go wild because we have cool prizes. Competition ends on Friday 22 May at 12 Israel time.

Prizes

- First Prize – Fuji Instax Mini instant development camera AND change our cover photo to the winning image
- Second prize – JBL portable speaker

Participation:

Share a photo to Instagram, tag the embassy account [@UKINISRAEL](#), AND email it at ukinisrael@gmail.com. The photos will be uploaded to a special album on our Facebook page.

British Ambassador to Israel Neil Wigan will choose the Winning Picture!

Please note the terms and conditions:

Please tag just one photo from each Instagram account and email address. Family who would like to send photos of several family members (more than one photo) are invited to indicate this in the body of the email. Abusive content will be deleted and the advertiser removed from the page.

General Terms:

- Images submitted will be original images only and a participant in the competition is prohibited from making use of any image protected by intellectual property rights. The embassy disclaims any responsibility for infringement of intellectual property rights of any kind and a participant breaching such rights shall indemnify the embassy for any damage caused to the embassy as a result of such breach
- Without derogating from the generality of the foregoing, the embassy reserves the right to use any available means to identify the originality of the images, for the purpose of preventing counterfeiting or intellectual property rights infringement. The embassy's determination, at its sole discretion, as to the originality of the images, shall be final and irrefutable and shall be binding for every purpose and intent
- The embassy is not and shall not be liable for anything related to the prizes and/or their use and/or their quality and/or related or associated services and/or to any damage resulting from use thereof. The responsibility of the embassy is limited solely to conducting the competition and awarding the prizes as set forth in this document
- Responsibility for participating in the competition shall be solely with the participants. The embassy shall not be liable for any damage caused to any of the participants and/or any other third parties in connection with the participation in the competition
- The embassy may publish the names of the winners and the prizes they have won, by means of advertisements and/or in newspapers and/or social media platforms. Each participant in the competition confirms that by participating in the competition, he/she agrees to the disclosure, by any means mentioned above, of his/her name, winning and prize
- The winner will be notified by email and/or DM on Instagram/Facebook within 28 days of the closing date. If the winner cannot be contacted or do not claim the prize within 14 days of notification, we reserve the right to withdraw the prize from the winner and pick a replacement winner
- Prizes are not and cannot be converted into money and/or converted into any other benefit and/or paid in kind. Embassy employees and their family members are prohibited from participating in the competition. Any tax and/or levy and/or fee imposed, if imposed, on the award of the prizes to the winners shall be borne by the winners.

The embassy may, at its sole discretion, amend this document and/or extend the competition period.

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CMA blocks sports-fashion merger

Following an in-depth Phase 2 investigation, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has concluded that this transaction would lead to a substantial lessening of competition nationally. This would leave shoppers with fewer discounts or receiving lower quality customer service.

It is obvious that coronavirus (COVID-19) has led to retailers facing uncertain and challenging trading conditions and the CMA has considered how this might affect the competition concerns surrounding this transaction. While it is significantly affecting the sector, the CMA has not found evidence that the impact of coronavirus would remove its competition concerns. However, the CMA does believe that the continuing uncertainty means that JD Sports should be allowed sufficient time in which to sell Footasylum, given the additional challenges associated with coronavirus.

In reaching this final decision, the CMA analysed a wide range of evidence looking at how closely these firms compete as well as competition from other retailers, whether they are online-only or also have stores, and the constraint from suppliers like Nike and adidas. This evidence included more than 2,000 of the companies' own internal strategy and decision-making documents, which showed that JD Sports and Footasylum monitor each other's activity closely. Additionally, the CMA conducted two large surveys of together more than 10,000 of the companies' customers. These surveys showed that many JD Sports and Footasylum shoppers see the other firm as their next best alternative. For example, more than two thirds of Footasylum's in-store customers said that they would shop at JD Sports if they could no longer shop at Footasylum – substantially higher than for any other retailer. The CMA also found that Footasylum store openings negatively impacted footwear and clothing sales at nearby JD Sports stores. The evidence generally showed a consistent picture: JD Sports and Footasylum are close competitors.

Although JD Sports is a larger retailer than Footasylum, they have millions of customers in a fast-growing sector. Therefore, the loss of competition between them is important. Both companies are among a small number of retailers that sell the latest sports-inspired casual footwear and clothing across the UK, typically to younger, trend-conscious consumers. Shoppers can buy footwear and clothing from other retailers and suppliers, so the CMA ensured it carefully examined the level of competition from these rivals – both now and in the foreseeable future – but found that it was not sufficient to stop shoppers being worse off after the merger.

During Phase 2 investigations, decisions are made by independent inquiry groups chosen from the CMA's panel members who come from a variety of backgrounds, including economics, law, accountancy and business. In this case, the Group has decided that the only way to address the competition concerns is for JD Sports to sell Footasylum, in full, to an approved buyer.

Kip Meek, Chair of the CMA inquiry group, said:

Our investigation analysed a large body of evidence that shows JD Sports and Footasylum are close competitors. This deal would mean the removal of a direct competitor from the market, leaving customers worse off. Based on the evidence we have seen, blocking the deal is the only way to ensure they are protected.

This decision comes at a very difficult time for retailers and we have been careful to consider the effects of coronavirus. However, we need to make sure we think about the impact of this merger on shoppers, both now and in the foreseeable future and we do not see the effects of the current crisis changing the competitive dynamics in a way that diminishes the substantial lessening of competition which we need to remedy.

We never take decisions to block mergers lightly, but in this case the evidence has shown it is necessary for JD Sports to sell Footasylum, so that they can continue to compete against each other as independent businesses.

For more information, visit the [JD Sports / Footasylum merger inquiry case page](#).

For media queries, contact the CMA press office on 020 3738 6460 or press@cma.gov.uk.

[Truss opening statement, call with the US Trade Representative](#)

The opening of formal trade talks between the United Kingdom and the United States is the beginning of something significant.

Not just a closer commercial relationship – though an accord between two of the world’s biggest economies’ is certainly that – but a key first step in building a deeper relationship across the board.

Britain and America are linked by language and law, habit and history. Our friendship is not some alliance of convenience. It rests, rather, on shared values and principles.

As Winston Churchill put it at his meeting with President Roosevelt on the deck of HMS Prince of Wales in 1941 ahead of the signing of the Atlantic Charter – “the same language, the same hymns, the same ideals”.

One of the ideals we share is that people should be free to buy and sell, sign contracts and choose their job without obstruction.

That ideal has not only elevated and enriched both our countries but produced a world order which has generated unprecedented levels of prosperity and freedom.

Every day, a million Britons turn up to work for American-owned companies; and, every day, a million Americans turn up to work for British-owned companies. Each country is the other's main investor.

Why? Because we are a natural economic zone. We don't just speak the same language.

We share the same values regarding the role of markets and property. We have similar accounting methods, similar regulatory objectives, similar consumer tastes.

What we have not had, until now, is a formal trade agreement. But, as Britain leaves the European Union, that can finally change.

We don't just want any trade agreement. We want an agreement that will work for small business, an agreement that works for consumers and workers, and an agreement that will benefit all regions and nations of the UK.

Freer trade makes its participants better off: we all know that. But a free trade deal between Britain and America will also create a new force for freer trade in the world.

Coronavirus poses a serious threat to the long term health of the global economy.

Many are arguing for increased protectionism and restrictions. This free trade agreement will push in the other direction setting new standards for free trade that are balanced, transparent and advanced.

Together, we are an awesome force. And we are just getting started.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): letter to councils on the re-opening of household waste and recycling centres

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Eastbourne Doctor wins PM award

News story

NHS Doctor from Eastbourne awarded Prime Minister Boris Johnson's daily Point of Light.



An NHS doctor from Eastbourne who designed digital flashcards to help healthcare workers wearing PPE communicate with their patients has been awarded Prime Minister Boris Johnson's daily Point of Light.

Dr Rachael Grimaldi, who is currently on maternity leave, was moved to help her colleagues on the front line after hearing heart-breaking stories of how patients were unable to understand clinicians through layers of PPE. Her digital flashcards break down the barriers between carers and patients by displaying messages about the patient's condition and treatment on mobile devices such as phones and tablets. Rachael's pioneering technology, already available in 10 languages and in read aloud mode for visually impaired patients, is now being used in over 50 countries.

In a personal letter to Rachael, the Prime Minister said:

This pernicious disease had left many patients unable to hear the words of doctors and nurses who are compelled to speak through masks and visors. But your digital flashcards have harnessed the power of technology to restore that vital communication. Because of you, patients can once again hear critical information on their condition and benefit from those precious words of empathy and compassion which provide such care and comfort in the most difficult moments.

I am lost in admiration to hear that your innovation has already

been adopted in fifty different countries and is being translated into thirty different languages, including a “read aloud” mode for blind patients. It will surely continue to assist healthcare around the world long after we have defeated this pandemic.

Reacting to the Prime Minister’s announcement, Rachael said:

I am absolutely delighted to have received this award, it is an honour to be recognised in this way. This has truly been a team effort bringing the concept to fruition and I am very grateful to friends, family, colleagues, businesses, services and organisations for donating their time, expertise and support. The dedication and commitment of all to improving patient safety and care has been tremendous.

The Prime Minister’s UK daily Point of Light award was first launched in April 2014 to recognise outstanding individuals making a difference where they live. Rachael is the 1365th person to be recognised. As Britain unites to fight the spread of coronavirus, the award is focusing exclusively on people serving their community through the pandemic.

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