

# [HMRC to accept service of legal proceedings by email](#)

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has requested that, where possible, new legal proceedings and pre-action letters should be served via email rather than by post.

This is to ensure that, during the pandemic, we can protect our staff by reducing the handling of paper documents where possible.

## **For new legal proceedings**

New legal proceedings in England and Wales which are required to be served on the Solicitor for HMRC can be sent by email to [newproceedings@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:newproceedings@hmrc.gov.uk).

## **Pre-action letters**

Any correspondence which is required to be sent to the Solicitor for HMRC in compliance with any pre-action protocol to the Civil Procedure Rules, including the Pre-Action Protocol for Judicial Review, can be sent by email to [preactionletters@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:preactionletters@hmrc.gov.uk).

Unless you are requested to do so, please do not send hard copy duplicates.

## **Attachments**

If you are including attachments with your email, please ensure they:

- are in a common format such as PDF or MS Word
- do not exceed 10mb (in total)

If you are likely to exceed the 10mb limit, please split the contents into smaller emails. If this is not practical, you should serve the principal documents (such as the claim form and particulars of claim) and ask HMRC to contact you to make alternative arrangements to serve the remaining documents.

## **Other correspondence**

These email addresses are for the service of new proceedings and pre-action letters only.

Any other correspondence sent to these email addresses will be deleted unread.

For all proceedings (including in the Supreme Court) an HMRC lawyer will be allocated the case, and all subsequent service should be effected on their, or any nominated successor's, HMRC email address.

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## [Team spirit pays off for Distington residents](#)

- 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.

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## [Covid-19: Temporary changes to the Statutory Residence Test](#)

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## [Direction issued to the Chief Regulator of Ofqual](#)

Published 3 April 2020

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

### 1. 22 October 2020

Added 'Direction to the Chief Regulator of Ofqual about appeals for summer 2020 GCSEs, AS and A levels'.

2. 9 April 2020

Added 'Direction to the Chief Regulator of Ofqual about vocational and technical qualifications, and other general qualifications'.

3. 3 April 2020

First published.

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## [Last chance to 'wave goodbye' to Mercury mission](#)

The manoeuvre will slow down the BepiColombo spacecraft and bend its trajectory towards the centre of the Solar System as the spacecraft approaches Earth at 12,700 km, allowing scientists to test some of the instruments onboard.

The flyby at 5.25 am (BST) on 10 April is the first of nine gravity assist manoeuvres awaiting BepiColombo during its 7-year journey to Mercury, although this is the last time we will see the spacecraft from Earth.

Rosemary Young, Science Programme Manager at the UK Space Agency, said:

The UK built X-ray spectrometer instrument onboard BepiColombo will eventually tell us so much more about the planet's chemical composition but before then the spacecraft must undertake a complex orbit manoeuvre to get there. It will be passing the Earth on Friday before gravity slings it towards Venus and onwards to Mercury.

This distance to Earth is so close that it will be possible to see it through telescopes and even binoculars from southern Europe. It's a final chance to wave BepiColombo goodbye!

The European Space Agency's (ESA) mission control centre in Germany is preparing for the gravity-assist flyby which will be performed with limited personnel and enforcing all social distancing rules in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

### [BepiColombo's journey to Mercury](#)

Launched on 20 October 2018, BepiColombo is the first ESA mission to Mercury, the least explored planet in the inner Solar System, and will provide new

insight into how the planet closest to the Sun formed and evolved. The spacecraft will travel 9 billion km and is designed to survive extreme temperatures, from +450 to -180 degrees.

In October, the spacecraft will perform the first of two flybys at Venus. The final six orbit-tightening manoeuvres will use the gravity of BepiColombo's destination, Mercury, to arrive in late 2025. Much of the spacecraft was built right here in the UK by our growing space sector, which employs more than 40,000 people across the country. The mission is an outstanding example of international collaboration between the European and Japanese space agencies. The UK's involvement is managed and funded by the UK Space Agency.

The UK's contribution to the mission:

- The UK Space Agency funded, and University of Leicester designed and built the Mercury Imaging X-ray Spectrometer (MIXS). This instrument will use novel X-ray optics to determine small-scale features on Mercury and find out what the planet's surface is made of.
- Airbus Defence and Space provided spacecraft structures, electrical and chemical propulsion systems and the systems which will separate the spacecraft modules on arrival at Mercury.
- QinetiQ supplied the innovative electric propulsion system. A beam of charged particles are expelled from the spacecraft to propel it forward. Ion propulsion produces low levels of thrust very efficiently compared with conventional chemical rockets.
- Thales Alenia Space UK supplied the Remote Interface Units that acquire sensor data and telemetry as well as driving the thrusters that control the spacecraft.
- UK teams also provided a hardware contribution to the Finnish led Solar Intensity X-ray & particle spectrometer (SIXS).

The UK continues to be a leading member of ESA, which is independent of the EU, having committed a record investment of £374 million per year in November 2019. The UK space sector employs 42,000 people and generates an income of £14.8 billion each year, while supporting £300 billion of wider economic activity through other industries with satellite services such as navigation, communications and Earth observation.