

Win for British farm as cabbages allowed into Malaysia

Lincolnshire cabbages can now be enjoyed by Malaysian consumers. This follows an intervention by the Department for International Trade (DIT) which could benefit vegetable producers throughout the whole of the UK.

DIT has worked with Naylor Farms to release around 25,000 round cabbages from the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services.

Naylor Farms have been growing vegetables near Spalding, Lincolnshire, since 1909 and recently secured a three year contract to export 10,800 tonnes of round cabbage to Malaysia.

Four shipments of fresh cabbages had been held up at the border because of a gap in regulations.

The Department for International Trade worked with Naylor Farms to get temporary approval for their cabbages to be imported into Malaysia.

The Malaysian government has also formed a committee to review their food import regulations, including those that apply to vegetables.

Trade Policy Minister Conor Burns said:

By getting rid of red tape, we can open up markets and create new opportunities for British businesses to sell their produce around the world.

It is great news that we've been able to release these cabbages so quickly and I hope the Malaysian government will make a permanent change to their regulations so that Malaysian consumers can continue to enjoy Great British vegetables.

Simon Naylor of Naylor Farms said:

This has been a massive step forward for Naylor's. I wish to thank the Department for International Trade for their assistance in working our way through the process of importing our products to Malaysia. This has not only been a step forward for us but also for other companies wishing to import their goods to Malaysia so it has been a win-win situation for everyone.

This is part of DIT's work to lower market access barriers in key economies around the world to make it easier for British businesses to trade internationally.

Market access barriers make British exports less competitive than locally produced goods and services. In some cases, they can prohibit imports entirely.

A study by the OECD suggests all G20 economies could see increased exports by more than 20% in the long term, if trade barriers were halved globally.

British businesses can directly report barriers preventing them from trading online [here](#). The tool ensures British businesses can flag these issues and the government's trade experts can work with countries around the world to resolve them.

[Whirlpool washing machine recall update](#)



Whirlpool's recalls remain active and so consumers should still register their affected product for a resolution. This is the final update to the published recall data received by OPSS from the company.

Any enquiries should be sent to opss.enquiries@beis.gov.uk.

Whirlpool has been regularly updating the Office for Product Safety and Standards on the progress of its washing machine recall programme following the announcement made on 17 December 2019 when consumers were advised to contact Whirlpool. The latest data, as of the end of 5 October 2021, is published below. This is based on Whirlpool's management information and has not been independently verified by OPSS.

Under the recall, consumers with an affected washing machine are entitled to a free replacement or repair. Old machines will be removed, and replacements installed, at no cost to the consumer.

The reported status of the washing machine recall programme is as follows:

1) 277,715 potentially affected customers have come forward since the recall

campaign was announced on 17 December 2019, of which:

- 209,956 have been identified as having an affected machine and been fully resolved
- 7,792 have been identified as having an affected machine but have not yet been resolved
- 61,465 have been identified as not having a machine with the affected lock mechanism

2) 206,206 cases of the affected machines have been fully resolved, of which:

- 201,237 machines have been replaced (free of charge)
- 3,750 machines have been modified with replacement parts

3) 3,359,301 visits have been made to Whirlpool's designated recall website.

4) 47% of the estimated population of 590,000 machines potentially affected by the safety issue have been registered.

5) The average time taken from a customer making a decision to each resolution type is as follows:

- 9.3 days for a product exchange
- 11.7 days for modifications with replacement parts

6) The average time taken from a customer registration to resolution is 48.1 days.

Published 7 February 2020

Last updated 17 November 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 17 November 2021

Updated figures provided.

2. 20 October 2020

Updated figures provided.

3. 9 July 2020

Updated figures provided.

4. 16 March 2020

Updated figures provided.

5. 7 February 2020

First published.

UK shares expertise in government communications with Paraguay



GCSI and the British Ambassador meet with the Presidential Delivery Unit.

The brief visit follows a packed programme, during which the delegate from GCSI Stephen Young met with several Ministers and government officials.

Mr. Young met with Minister Carlos Pereira of the National Secretariat of Planning (STP); Minister Rene Fernandez of the National Anti-corruption Secretariat (SENAC); Minister Alejandro Peralta Vierci of the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications (MITIC); and officials from the Ministry of Trade and the Investment and Exports Network (REDIEX). The round of calls included a meeting at the Presidential Palace with Minister Hugo Cáceres and the Presidential Delivery Unit.

Stephen Young from GCSI converses with Minister Carlos Pereira from the STP.

On the second day of the visit, the British Embassy and MITIC through its Vice Ministry of Communications hosted a workshop by GCSI. The workshop aimed state communicators and akin professionals in the government, and had over forty people in attendance.

The objective of the workshop was to strengthen communication from a strategic approach so that information on government actions effectively reaches citizens. Techniques on communications during crisis, tips on preparedness and tools for internal communication were some of the topics discussed.

Participants of the workshop got a group photo at the end of the day.

On the visit, Mr. Young reflected:

It was a great opportunity and privilege to meet with various Paraguayan government Ministers and officials to discuss the key areas that are currently impacting their society.

We look forward to future collaboration in communication strategies with the Paraguay Government.

Published 7 February 2020

[Traffic bulletin: A52 bridge closure latest](#)

Specialist teams have been working around the clock carrying out investigations into damage that has been discovered underneath the road.

During planned maintenance works, it was discovered that water damage had corroded some of the steel works underneath the road.

Highways England has closed the eastbound carriageway, which carries traffic out of the city centre, while this damage is thoroughly investigated and these investigations will be continuing across the weekend.

Head of service delivery at Highways England Adrian Oulds said:

Whilst we know that the structure itself remains safe we need to fully assess the extent of the water corrosion before opening this busy road up to traffic. We are striving to get the bridge partially open early next week.

We appreciate road closures are frustrating for people but the safety of the public and road users is always the priority for Highways England.

We are grateful to drivers for their patience and would urge them to allow extra time for journeys and avoid the area if possible.

To alleviate congestion, Highways England has stepped up its traffic officer patrol service in the area to help motorists with the diversion route.

We're also working closely with the emergency services to ensure medical and emergency access can be maintained while the road is closed.

Free recovery is also in place for vehicles travelling in the area while the

closure remains in place.

The diversion route is in place from A52 Queens Drive junction to A52 Nottingham Wheatcroft junction, with motorists advised to leave extra time for their journeys throughout the day and the weekend.

Further information can be found by visiting [the Traffic England website](#) or by following Highways England's regional Twitter feed @HighwaysEMIDS

People can also call Highways England on 0300 123 5000.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

Harry Potter Book Night in Asuncion fills fans with magic



A fan gets her photo taken in Harry Potter attire

Last Thursday 6 February Harry Potter fans came together to celebrate the Triwizard Tournament, theme of this year's Harry Potter Book Night. Children and adults alike spent a magic evening at the Books store, celebrating with games and laughs.

Fans had a photo booth with robes, wands and a wizard hat to get their picture taken. The bookstore offered their countless book collections of Harry Potter-related adventures. Trivia contests among the public and a book reading marked the eventful night.

Ambassador Matthew Hedges read a fragment of Chapter 19, "The Hungarian Horntail" in Spanish, much to the delight of the many children in attendance. He explained the importance of sharing this chapter with the fans because it features dragons:

It is a pleasure to me to share with you this chapter were we learn about these magical creatures, among them a Welsh Green.

As you know, the Welsh flag has a dragon in it!

HMA Matthew Hedges reading to the fans.

Fans also had the chance to test their knowledge of the series by answering a series of questions based on "The Goblet of Fire", fourth book in the series and the one in which the Triwizard Tournament takes place. At the end of the night, the decisive question that led to a winner was "What was the price of the Triwizard Tournament?" A hint: it's not just the Triwizard Cup!

BOOKS and the British Embassy in Asuncion look forward to hosting the event again next year.

The event was an opportunity to showcase UK's film, literature and creativity.

Published 7 February 2020

Last updated 7 February 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 7 February 2020

Added translation

2. 7 February 2020

First published.