

## PM meets Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas: 21 December 2019



The Prime Minister met Prime Minister Jüri Ratas of Estonia today, during a visit to meet British troops stationed in the country over Christmas.

He thanked Prime Minister Ratas for the support and hospitality Estonia has shown in hosting British Armed Forces personnel at the Tapa military base.

The leaders discussed the close partnership between the UK and Estonia, in particular our joint security and defence cooperation. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the UK's unconditional commitment to Estonia's regional security through NATO.

The two leaders discussed the need to work together to address shared global challenges and the Prime Minister invited Prime Minister Ratas to attend the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow next year.

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## PM call with Prime Minister Abe: 21 December 2019



The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Abe of Japan who congratulated him on his success in the general election and expressed his condolences to the victims of the London Bridge attack.

The leaders agreed to continue to strengthen the alliance between our countries, including on security and defence, and by working together to pursue an ambitious trade agreement that builds on the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

They also discussed the importance of our continued cooperation on global issues, including climate change, and looked ahead to the COP26 summit that the UK is hosting in Glasgow next year.

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## **PM call with Prime Minister Abiy: 21 December 2019**



The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Abiy of Ethiopia, who congratulated him on the result of the general election.

He also thanked the Prime Minister for the UK's continued development assistance to Ethiopia.

The Prime Minister said that Ethiopia is an important partner for the UK, and the leaders agreed to work together to strengthen our economic partnership and cooperation on regional security.

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# Funding boost for the great British pub

- Communities Secretary backs the great British pub this Christmas with a new £1.15 million fund
- New funding will benefit an estimated 100 communities to either own their local pub or benefit from new, pub-based community services and facilities
- Community backed pubs help to combat loneliness ahead of Christmas

Regulars across the country will be raising a toast to the Great British Pub this Christmas with over £1 million of new government money for community pubs, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced today (Saturday 21 December).

The funding will help an estimated 100 new groups to take ownership of and save their local or support their essential community services based in pubs in rural and remote areas.

Secretary of State for Communities Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick said:

The Great British pub is one of the cornerstones of British life.

From the Rose and Crown, to the King's Arms, our pubs remain at the very heart of our cities, towns and villages.

This new funding will boost the number of community-owned pubs and pub-based community services. It will offer sustainability and create valuable new jobs in the process, both in our great pubs and within our great communities.

Pubs run by the community and for the community help bring people closer together. Importantly, they are a space for older, vulnerable and more isolated residents to access important local services and feel part of their communities.

The £1.15 million fund will support community pubs through two key programmes. £650,000 will be allocated to the second [More Than a Pub](#) programme.

More Than a Pub provides small grants and specialist advice for community groups at the start of their journey to community ownership. It also supports groups later in the process who require specialist professional advice with

larger grants and loans to help with business planning, conveyancing, architectural help or financial advice.

£500,000 will be allocated to Pub is The Hub to enable a range of projects providing new, pub-based community services from post offices and shops to libraries and allotments. This will increase the services available in rural and remote communities and help sustain pubs as community assets and businesses.

John Longden, Chief Executive of Pub is The Hub said:

We welcome the government's recognition of the wider social role that licensees, as small business owners, and their staff can play in supporting and providing additional services and activities to support their local communities.

Pubs run by good licensees are part of our national identity and can strengthen the fabric of all communities, particularly in rural areas where they support issues such as loneliness or social isolation.

Vidhya Alakeson, Chief Executive of Power to Change, said:

This additional investment from MHCLG is very welcome. Community controlled pubs are so valuable to the people who use them, offering a huge range of crucial services including lunch clubs for vulnerable people, training and development, gardening and cooking classes and parenting groups. Every penny counts in supporting this thriving, but fledgling, sector.

## **Case Study**

The Dog Inn at Belthorn near Blackburn has been supported by the Government supported More Than A Pub and Pub Is The Hub Programmes.

In the past, the village of Belthorn had over ten pubs, a shop, tearoom, chip shop, newsagent and community centre. But, by November 2015, all those community amenities had disappeared.

At the end of 2015, the residents of Belthorn took the collective step to bring the heart of the community back into the village via The Dog Inn by co-locating all the services and amenities that had long since disappeared.

The residents of Belthorn benefitted from a Pub is The Hub grant of £4,000 to create a community café, as well as helping the community to purchase equipment to make presentations in the community meeting room where village group meetings are now held. Work is also underway on a community garden and allotments by the pub.

As a result of the funding, the Belthorn now boasts a vibrant village committee, a history society group and a craft and chat group all of which meet regularly in The Dog Inn.

### **Note to Editors:**

- This new funding builds on a series of measures introduced by the Government to make sure that pubs remain a valuable national asset.
- Having already abolished the unpopular beer and alcohol duty escalators, cut business taxes for pubs and thousands of communities have taken advantage of the right to protect their locals from closure by listing them as assets of community value.
- The first More Than a Pub programme helped over 40 communities to take ownership of their local pub.
- The Keep It In The Community platform has identified over 4,000 assets of community value in England of which around half are pubs.
- Today's announcement follows latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures, highlighting the net gain of 320 pubs in the year to March – the first increase since 2009.

More than a Pub: The Community Pub Business Support Programme is a comprehensive package of business development support, advice, and loan and grant funding to help establish locally owned pubs in England that will contribute to the local community. Jointly funded by MHCLG and independent business charity Power to Change, Government support for More Than a Pub now totals £2.5 million. It is delivered by the Plunkett Foundation.

Pub is the Hub was set up in 2001 with the support of HRH the Prince of Wales to help improve community services and activities primarily in rural and remote areas. The organisation is staffed mostly by volunteers and works with pub licensees, local authorities, local communities and industry partners helping hundreds of pubs across the country provide a wide range of services and facilities for their local communities. The government has supported Pub is The Hub with over £1 million of funding since 2013.

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## **Almost 1 in 3 are considering donating to a charity for Christmas instead of giving a gift**

The Commission is issuing advice to help the public give safely to charity during the festive period, as findings reveal that almost a third of the public say they are considering donating to a charity for Christmas instead of giving a present.

The Commission welcomes the findings and is encouraging the public to follow

some simple steps to ensure that their donations reach their intended causes.

Findings from research, carried out by YouGov, found that 28% of those surveyed are considering donating to charity for Christmas this year instead of giving presents and that:

- over half of those are driven to do this by a desire to support specific causes
- 28% per cent want to do this to give back to society generally (highest amongst 45-54 year olds (34%))
- 10% said this as they are conscious of the environmental impact of gifts and want to reduce waste; the highest number of these respondents are London-based (18%)
- 3% said donating is easier than buying a gift

Further analysis of the findings shows that women are more likely to consider swapping Christmas presents for charity donations than men\*, though men are twice as likely to do this because it is easier than shopping for Christmas gifts. Households with 3 or more children were also more likely to consider donating to charity for Christmas than giving a present than any other group\*\*.

At this time of increased giving, the Commission wants to ensure donations do not end up in the wrong hands. The Commission is urging people to follow its top tips for giving safely (see below).

**Helen Stephenson CBE, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission for England and Wales said:**

We already knew that the British public are generous, and so I am thrilled that almost 1 in 3 of us are considering giving to charity instead of giving presents this Christmas. I want to make sure this benefits legitimate charities, so it's really important that people give with their heads as well as their hearts by carrying out some simple checks.

Swapping presents for donations is a purposeful step for many and we want to help people who will be thinking carefully about who to give to. There's a charity for every cause – our online register allows the public to access key information about registered charities, including how they spend their money, what they do, and who their trustees are. I encourage everyone to use this tool to inform their choice.

**The Commission's top tips for giving safely are:**

- make sure the charity is genuine before giving any financial information. You can do this by [checking the charity's name and registration number](#). Most charities with an annual income of £5,000 or more must be registered

- check whether street collectors are wearing a proper ID badge and that any collection tin is sealed and undamaged
- never feel under pressure by a fundraiser into making a donation immediately. Ask the collector for more information if in doubt
- carefully review collection bags for clothing and household goods to check whether they are from a genuine charity
- check whether fundraising materials are genuine. They should feature the charity's name, registered number and a landline contact number (check their [contact details on the register](#))

After making these checks, if you think that a collection or appeal is not legitimate, report it to the police. You can also [complain about a charity to us and the Fundraising Regulator](#).

Read the full results of the survey:

MS Excel Spreadsheet, 273KB

If you use assistive technology (such as a screen reader) and need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email [usability@charitycommission.gov.uk](mailto:usability@charitycommission.gov.uk). Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.

## Ends

## Notes to Editors

1. \*1 in 3 women said they would consider doing this versus almost 1 in 4 men.
2. \*\*38% of households with 3 or more children said that they were likely to consider donating to charity for Christmas than giving a present
3. The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England Wales
4. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2077 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 16th – 17th December 2019. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).