

Russia-Ukraine and UK energy: Factsheet

Is the Government confident that gas supply will not be disrupted?

Yes. The current situation facing the UK is not a question of security of gas supply, but of high gas prices set by international markets.

Unlike other countries in Europe, the UK is in no way dependent on Russian gas supply. Our single largest source of gas is from the UK Continental Shelf and the vast majority of imports come from reliable suppliers such as Norway.

There are no gas pipelines directly linking the UK with Russia and imports from Russia made up less than 4% of total UK gas supply in 2021.

Great Britain's highly diverse supply sources include pipelines from the UK and Norway continental shelf, interconnectors with the continent, and three Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals, providing Britain with one of the largest LNG import infrastructures in Europe. Germany, for example, has no LNG import terminals.

What are you doing to diversify supply?

The UK's exposure to volatile global gas prices underscores the importance of our plan to generate more cheap, clean renewable energy and nuclear power in the UK to reduce our reliance on expensive fossil fuels.

Thanks to the £90 billion investment we've been making in renewable energy since 2012, we already have one of the most reliable and diverse energy systems in the world.

As the Business and Energy Secretary has said, the more clean, cheap and secure power we generate at home, the less exposed we will be to expensive gas prices set by international markets.

It is vital European countries on the continent reduce their reliance on Russian gas both through alternative supplies, including the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market – an increasingly important component of the global energy supply chain – and accelerating the transition to net zero.

This is a priority for our engagement with key international partners and we continue to work alongside them to achieve this.

What is the Government doing to mitigate any further energy bill increases for consumers?

The energy price cap has insulated millions of customers from volatile global gas prices during the winter months and will continue to do so.

We are taking decisive action to help more than 27 million households with rising energy costs, with a £200 reduction on bills this autumn and a £150 non-repayable reduction in Council Tax bills from April. This £9.1 billion package of support means the majority of households will receive a £350 boost to help with the financial pressures felt this next year by families right across the country.

This comes in addition to the existing £12 billion of support we already have in place to help families with the cost of living.

What is the Government doing to mitigate any further price rises for industry and businesses?

We remain absolutely determined to secure a competitive future for our energy intensive industries and in recent years have provided them with extensive support, including more than £2 billion to help with the costs of energy and to protect jobs.

Ministers and officials continue to engage constructively and regularly with industry and our priority is to ensure costs are managed.

Unlike other countries in Europe, the UK is in no way dependent on Russian gas supply. We meet around half of our annual gas supply through domestic production and the vast majority of imports come from reliable suppliers such as Norway.

There are no gas pipelines directly linking the UK with Russia. Our single largest source of gas is from the UK Continental Shelf and the vast majority of imports come from reliable suppliers such as Norway. There are no gas pipelines directly linking the UK with Russia and imports from Russia made up less than 4% of total UK gas supply in 2021.

Should the public expect fuel prices at the pumps to rise?

The global price of crude oil has increased sharply over the past year, increasing petrol prices in countries across the world. This is a global trend and not just in the UK.

But we will do everything we can to mitigate that and to help the people of this country, but it is one of the reasons why the whole of western Europe must end its dependence on Russian oil and gas.

The £12 billion in support that we've already announced to help with the cost of living includes a freeze on fuel duty for the twelfth year in a row – the longest sustained freeze in British history.

Changes in crude oil prices are the major driver of changes in fuel prices and our own analysis shows that changes in crude oil price feed through gradually over the course of 6-7 weeks.

We are in regular contact with the industry and making it clear that industry should not take advantage of increased demand to put up prices sooner than

necessary.

Can we expect to see disruption to UK fuel refineries as a result of the sanctions or disruption to fuel being imported to the UK?

The UK is a significant producer of both crude oil and petroleum products.

In the case of diesel, UK demand is met by a combination of domestic production and imports from a diverse range of reliable suppliers beyond Russia including the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, and USA.

Like other countries, the UK holds oil stocks in the unlikely event of a major oil supply disruption.

The level of oil stocks prescribed by the International Energy Agency (IEA) is accepted and adopted around the world as being sufficient to ensure resilience in the event of a major global supply disruption.

UK oil reserves are significantly above the 90 days required by the IEA.

What else is the Government doing to help address the cost of living?

We recently confirmed plans to go ahead with existing proposals to expand eligibility for the Warm Home Discount by almost a third so that three million vulnerable households will now benefit, as well as the planned £10 uplift to £150 from October.

We're providing support worth around £12 billion this financial year and next to help families with the cost of living. We're cutting the Universal Credit taper to make sure work pays, freezing alcohol and fuel duties to keep costs down, and providing targeted support to help households with their energy bills.

The further £12bn of support we are providing includes:

- The National Living Wage will increase to £9.50 an hour this April, providing an extra £1,000 pay for a full-time worker – this has risen every year since it was introduced in 2016.
 - A freeze on fuel duty for the twelfth year in a row, meaning the average driver has saved £1,900 since 2010.
 - Cuts to the Universal Credit taper rate and uplift to work allowance will put an extra £1,000 extra a year into the pockets of two million low-income families.
 - The £500m Household Support Fund supporting millions of households in England with essentials over the coming months.
 - The Cold Weather Payment which provides £25 extra a week for poorer households when the temperature is consistently below zero.
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Trade Secretary visits Tokyo to deepen UK-Japan trade and investment ties

- International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan visits Tokyo to strengthen UK trade and investment with a key G7 partner nation.
- Both countries agreed deeper cooperation on digital trade, climate action and clean energy transition.
- The UK's Indo-Pacific tilt is helping to increase our trading relationship with Japan, worth £24.6bn in the last year to September.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan visited Tokyo on Thursday 24 February to engage in high-level meetings that further the strong relationship between the UK and Japan.

The UK and Japan held the inaugural Ministerial Joint Committee of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), our bilateral Free Trade Agreement, which entered into force on 31 December, 2020.

Ministers discussed how to build on the strong foundations of CEPA and agreed to establish deeper cooperation on digital trade and digitisation, plus post-COP26 climate goals and clean energy transition.

International Trade Secretary Trevelyan and Foreign Minister Hayashi re-emphasised the value of the agreement in delivering for businesses and committed to continued close cooperation to ensure our thriving bilateral trade relationship. Trade between the UK and Japan was worth £24.6bn in the year to end Q3 2021 and continues to go from strength to strength.

The Ministers also discussed the troubling situation in Ukraine, expressing deep concern about Russia's assault. They condemned Russia's actions in the strongest possible terms and committed to working together and with partners to take further measures against Russia.

The visit demonstrates the benefits of the UK's tilt to Indo-Pacific and comes less than a week after the announcement of the launch of the United Kingdom's CPTPP Market Access negotiations.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

It is an honour to visit Tokyo as part of this significant visit that is demonstrating the trading power of Global Britain and putting our Indo-Pacific tilt into practice.

Japan is a key trade and economic partner to the UK. We share many global challenges and I'm excited our two island nations can work together to build on our trade agreement through digital trade and support other countries in the region to adapt to the challenges of climate change.

In meetings with Japan's CPTPP Minister Yamagiwa Daishiro and with Economy and Trade Minister (METI) Hagiuda Koichi, International Trade Secretary Trevelyan thanked Japan for its support for the UK's accession to CPTPP and discussed progress on securing accession to the £8.4 trillion trade bloc, which the UK is keen to complete by the end of this year.

Japan is CPTPP's largest economy and the UK's 12th largest trading partner. It is also the second largest investor in the UK among non-EU countries, with £102bn in investment stock.

In a busy schedule during the one-day visit, International Trade Secretary Trevelyan also met Japanese business leaders and CEOs from finance, manufacturing and technology sectors.

[PM call with NATO leaders: 25 February 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed a NATO leaders meeting.



The Prime Minister addressed a NATO leaders meeting this afternoon, to update allies on the UK's next steps following the appalling bombardment of Ukraine.

The Prime Minister told the group that a catastrophe was engulfing Ukraine, and President Putin was engaging in a revanchist mission to over-turn post-Cold War order. He warned the group that the Russian President's ambitions might not stop there and that this was a Euro-Atlantic crisis with global consequences.

The Prime Minister urged leaders to take immediate action against SWIFT to inflict maximum pain on President Putin and his regime. The UK would introduce sanctions against President Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov imminently, on top of the sanctions package the UK announced

yesterday, he said.

The Prime Minister added that the world must make certain President Putin would fail in this act of aggression. Ukraine was showing strong resistance. He added that there could be no normalisation of relations with Russia after this act.

The Prime Minister outlined details of the UK's new offer to NATO across its eastern flank. The UK stood ready for any further request from NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe to go further with military support to NATO from UK Armed Forces, he said.

NATO should have primacy in the future of European security and it was vital that it was strengthened now, the Prime Minister added.

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[Daily struggles of the Syrian people should serve as a dire warning to the international community](#)

Thank you Mr President, and may I start by thanking our briefers, Special Envoy Geir Pederson and ASG Joyce Myusa – and welcome you to your role.

Today we are reminded of the long-term consequences of war.

After nearly 11 years of conflict in Syria, where we have seen appalling violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, 14.6 million Syrians require humanitarian assistance.

The decimation of civilian infrastructure has left 76% of the population unable to meet the most basic needs. This means chronic malnutrition, rising bread prices, families camping in freezing cold conditions and the stunted growth of young children – levels of suffering that will take a generation of recovery.

So, as we look at the horror of the unfolding situation in Ukraine, the daily struggles of men, women and children in Syria should serve as a dire warning to the international community. The untold suffering of millions, leading to mass displacement, regional instability and economic shock, serves no purpose.

The need for a continued and consistent humanitarian response in Syria is clear: assistance needs to be delivered through all modalities possible. Security Council resolution 2585 needs to be implemented in full and, as we

look ahead to July, the renewal of the UN's cross-border mandate remains essential. The UK supports all efforts to improve cross-line access and improved early recovery efforts.

But to end the conflict and bring lasting peace in Syria, a UN-led political process, as set out in resolution 2254, remains essential. The UK welcome's Special Envoy Pederson's continued efforts and the intention to reconvene the Constitutional Committee talks in Geneva in the second half of March. The Syrian regime must engage meaningfully with this process. We urge all parties, including the regime's backers, to redouble their efforts to find a way forward.

I thank you, Mr President.

[Foul-mouthed landowner fined for obstructing and abusing Environment Agency officers](#)

Press release

A man from County Durham has been ordered to pay £1,251 in fines and costs for obstructing and abusing Environment Agency officers who wanted to conduct a site inspection.



Michael Cliff, 57, of Bishop Auckland, appeared at Peterlee Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 22 February where he pleaded guilty to four offences brought forward. These charges included failing to allow an inspection by Environment Agency officers and causing them alarm and distress through threatening behaviour and abusive words.

He was fined a total of £320 for the offences and ordered to pay legal costs and a victim surcharge amounting to a total of £931.

The Prosecuting solicitor for the Environment Agency told the court that on Tuesday 27 April 2021, two Environment Agency officers attended Beckfield Stables in response to information received regarding burning waste at the site.

Mr Cliff confronted the attending Environment Agency officers, using foul language and threatening behaviour, which forced both officers to leave.

Andrew Turner, Team Manager for the Environment Agency in the North East, said:

Our officers do an important job when investigating reports of waste crime, helping to protect the environment by ensuring people and companies operate within the law. We have a zero tolerance policy on abuse and will take appropriate action on any offences committed against our officers.

In mitigation, Mr Cliff explained that he felt unfairly targeted by the authorities and combined with a decline in health and personal issues, resulted in his short temper and angry nature that day, for which he later apologised.

The court did consider a community penalty for Mr Cliff, however due to his ill health, decided to penalise him with a fine. The Magistrate chairing the hearing commented that the incident "was an expensive loss of temper."

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