

News story: MOD partners with industry to promote UK prosperity

The MOD and Boeing are working together to build UK prosperity, growth, and exports across the country. As part of their commitment to the UK, Boeing signed the UK aerospace industry's Supply Chain Competitiveness Charter, which is designed to strengthen relationships between companies and their suppliers, so that they work together more effectively to raise UK productivity and competitiveness.

Highlights of the joint initiative so far include:

- A new commercial airline hangar to be constructed at Gatwick airport, supporting more than 100 jobs
- Collaboration on a new £100m P-8A operational support and training base at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland, creating more than 100 new jobs
- Boeing facilitated a visit to Seattle for 37 UK suppliers to deepen their relationships with Boeing driving enhanced prosperity in the UK
- Training courses for UK suppliers on how to win additional business with the company, further enhancing the competitiveness of the UK supply chain
- Education partnerships with the Royal Academy of Engineering and the RAF Air Training Corps in Northern Ireland, which reached more than 5,000 young people in the UK last year

Minister Harriett Baldwin said:

Britain's defence industry plays a key role delivering an economy that works for everyone. Across the UK, Britain's defence companies provide highly skilled, well-paid jobs with world class manufacturing exports.

Boeing expects to increase their UK workforce by 50% by 2020. This joint initiative is a prime example of the cutting edge, high-skilled, job-creating investment that our industrial strategy seeks to harness to make Britain one of the most competitive places in the world to innovate, build businesses and deliver secure, long-term prosperity for all.

The government's Industrial Strategy will seek to make fresh choices about how the UK shapes its economy and presents an opportunity to deliver a bold, long term Industrial Strategy that builds on strengths and prepares for the years ahead. Following a period of consultation, the government intends to publish an Industrial Strategy white paper in 2017 that will set out the plan for full and long term delivery.

Marc Allen, president of Boeing International, said:

Boeing's partnership with the UK, which dates back to the 1930s, goes from strength to strength today. Boeing values the UK's aerospace and defence capabilities. In both 2015 and 2016 Boeing in the UK hired, on average, a new employee per day and our relationship with the UK supply chain today has more than doubled in value since 2011.

This growth continues in 2017 and beyond, with further significant announcements to follow in the future, building on our initiative's achievements already in place.

There is much more to come from the strategic prosperity initiative. During their meeting Minister Harriett Baldwin and Marc Allen looked ahead to the next six months of collaboration:

- Boeing will increase bid opportunities for UK suppliers and work with the government to enhance UK competitiveness. The aim is for UK companies to double their supply work with Boeing and win higher proportions of content on future Boeing aircraft.
- Boeing will make the UK its European base for training, maintenance, repair and overhaul across its defence fixed-wing and rotary platforms.
- Boeing will make the UK a base for defence exports to Europe and the Middle East, increasing UK employment and investment.

[News story: Apprenticeship Delivery Board – 12 months on](#)

From:

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26 January 2017

Part of:

Today (Thursday, 26 January) the ADB came together to recognise and acknowledge its achievements in the 12 months since it was formed.

The [Apprenticeship Delivery Board \(ADB\)](#), created to advise on expanding apprenticeships nationally, are working with the National Apprenticeship Service to increase the number of apprenticeship places that employers offer in both the public and private sector. The ADB is a key tool in driving the delivery of 3 million apprenticeship starts during this parliament.

Chaired by David Meller, Chair of the [Apprenticeship Ambassador Network](#) and reporting directly to Skills Minister Robert Halfon MP, members of the board include:

- David Abraham, Chief Executive of Channel 4
- Melanie Hayes, Resourcing and Development Director, Compass Group
- Dr Andrew Parmley, Lord Mayor of London
- Mike Thompson, Head of Employability at Barclays
- Rami Ranger CBE, Chairman of Sun Mark Ltd
- Simon Blagden CBE, Non-Executive Chairman at Fujitsu
- James Wates CBE, Chairman, Wates Construction
- Julie Taylor, Director General, Head Office and Commissioning Services, Ministry of Defence
- Judith Nelson, Retail Sector member

Today's event highlighted the many employers and intermediaries that the ADB have already engaged with, including the likes of Bauer Media, Claire's Accessories, Harris Trust, Prudential and Yahoo!.

Richard Harrington MP, was in attendance and he recognised five employers for their continued commitment to apprenticeships: Deloitte, Screwfix/Kingfisher, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Faccenda, and O2 – whilst also recognising the commitment of the ADB members.

David Meller said:

This is an important milestone for the ADB. In the last 12 months we have engaged with leading employers in England to expand the current apprenticeship programme and to reach out to those not previously involved with apprenticeships. This is just the start of the journey and the very recent announcements on the Industrial Strategy and Institute for Apprenticeships will also be considered and embraced within the ADB brief.

We couldn't have achieved the great things we have so far had it not been for the commitment of the board and today we want to thank them for their support.

[Press release: Avian flu confirmed at a farm near Boston, Lincolnshire](#)

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Part of:

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu at a premises near Boston, Lincolnshire

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu at a turkey rearing farm near Boston, Lincolnshire.

A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

The flock is estimated to contain approximately 19,500 birds. A number have died and the remaining live birds at the premises will be humanely culled. A full investigation is under way to determine the source of the infection.

Public Health England advise that the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency is clear that bird flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers.

[Read the latest advice and information on avian flu in the UK](#), including actions to reduce the risk of the disease spreading, advice for anyone who keeps poultry or captive birds and details of previous cases. Journalists with queries should [contact Defra press office](#).

[Speech: Holocaust Memorial Day 2017](#)

72 years ago the world learned of the liberation of Auschwitz and the full horror of the death camps.

And as we looked at the devastation wrought on the Jews of Europe, we swore that we would never let genocide happen again.

We failed.

Genocide happened in Cambodia.

It happened in Rwanda.

The 20th century ended with genocide in Bosnia.

The 21st century began with genocide in Darfur.

Faced not only with such unimaginable evil, but also with our repeated failure to learn from it, it's easy to ask "How can life go on?"

I find the answer in the words that one young victim of the Holocaust wrote in her diary.

"I still believe people are really good at heart".

Anne Frank was right.

People can be good.

We can be better.

We just need to be reminded of our failings, and not permitted to forget what happens when hatred is left to grow unchecked.

So, life can go on because life must go on.

Because we must remember.

That's why Holocaust Memorial Day is so important.

And that's why I'm so proud to be leading the work on the new [National Holocaust Memorial](#).

It's going to be built right outside Parliament, and concept designs will be unveiled at 10 Downing Street later on today.

The memorial will remind us of those who died and those who survived.

But it will also remind us that the Holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers.

It began with words.

With discrimination.

With ordinary people not standing up to hatred.

And that's a message that's as relevant today as at any time in our history.

A message that must be shared, that must be passed on to our children and our children's children.

Because in the words of Zigi Shipper, one of 112 Holocaust survivors whose testimony has been recorded for the memorial project:

"I beg the young people, whatever you do, do not hate.

"Hate will ruin your life."

Labour tables targeted amendments to Article 50 Bill

Today

Labour has tabled a number of targeted amendments to the Article 50 Bill (the European Union [Notification of Withdrawal] Bill).

The

amendments seek to improve the process, and would ensure Parliament is able to hold the Government to account throughout the Brexit negotiations.

Labour

is also tabling an anti-tax haven amendment to ensure the Prime Minister doesn't use Brexit to weaken Britain's laws concerning tax avoidance and evasion.

Labour

will also support two amendments drafted by Melanie Onn MP which would protect workers' rights and ensure there is no drop in employment protection after the UK leaves the EU.

Labour's

amendments will:

i)

Allow a meaningful vote in Parliament on the final Brexit deal. **Labour's amendment would ensure that the House of Commons has the first say on any proposed deal** and that the consent of Parliament would be required before the deal is referred to the European Council and Parliament.

ii)

Establish a number of key principles the Government must seek to negotiate during the process, including **protecting workers' rights, securing full tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market.**

iii)

Ensure there is robust and regular Parliamentary scrutiny by requiring the Secretary of State to **report to the House at least every two months** on the progress being made on negotiations throughout the Brexit process

iv)

Guarantee legal rights for EU nationals living in the UK. Labour has repeatedly called for the Government to take this step, and this amendment would ensure EU citizens' rights are not part of the Brexit negotiations.

v)

Require the Government to **consult regularly with the governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland** throughout Brexit negotiations. Labour's amendment would put the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) on a statutory footing and require the UK Government to consult the JMC at least every two months.

vi)

Require the Government to **publish impact assessments** conducted since the referendum of any new proposed trading relationship with the EU. This amendment seeks to ensure there is much greater clarity on the likely impact of the Government's decision to exit the Single Market and seek new relationship with the Customs Union

vii)

Ensure the Government must **seek to retain all existing EU tax avoidance and evasion measures** post-Brexit

Jeremy

Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, said:

"Labour

will seek to amend the Article 50 Bill to prevent the Government using Brexit to turn Britain into a bargain basement tax haven off the coast of Europe.

Our

country can do much better than that.

"We

respect the will of the British people, but not the will of this Tory government to impose fewer rights at work and worse public services, while the

largest corporations pay even less tax.

"Labour

will ensure that the British people, through Parliament, have genuine accountability and oversight over the Brexit negotiations because no one voted

to give Prime Minister Theresa May a free hand over our future."

Keir

Starmer, Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, said:

"Now

that Parliament has the right to trigger Article 50, we need to ensure there is

proper grip and accountability built into the process.

“Labour’s amendments will also seek to ensure the Prime Minister secures the best deal for the whole country – including tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market and that there is no drop in workers’ rights.

“Labour’s amendments will significantly improve the Government’s Bill – in particular by ensuring the House of Commons has the first say on the final Brexit deal and that there are regular opportunities to hold the Government to account.

“Labour’s amendments will also seek to ensure the Prime Minister secures the best deal for the whole country – including tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market and that there is no drop in workers’ rights. We will also vigorously oppose any plans to reduce powers to tackle tax avoidance or evasion’.

“The Article 50 Bill will be the start, not the end of the Brexit process and Labour will hold the Government to account all the way”

Melanie

Onn MP,

who has tabled two amendments with Frontbench support on workers’ rights said:

“The Tories can’t be allowed to use Brexit as an excuse to water-down people’s rights at work.

“That’s why I am introducing amendments to protect in British law all workers’ rights which originate from the EU, including maternity pay, equal rights for agency and part-time workers, and the working time directive.

“The British people voted to leave the EU, but I don’t think anyone was voting for more insecure contracts or a less safe workplace.”