

News story: IP and BREXIT: The facts

This guide offers information on the future of intellectual property (IP) laws following the decision that the UK will leave the European Union (EU).

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) continues to contribute fully to the government's work towards exiting the EU. It has a clear goal of ensuring an effective IP regime that supports UK innovation and creativity. The UK will remain one of the best places in the world to obtain and protect your IP.

In March 2017 the Prime Minister formally started the process of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The government has published the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration on the future relationship between the UK and the EU. This has been endorsed by leaders at a special meeting of the European Council on 25 November 2018. As set out in the Withdrawal Agreement, we will continue to protect all existing registered European Union Trade Marks, Registered Community Designs, and Unregistered Community Designs as we leave the EU. We will do so by creating over 1.7 million comparable UK rights, which will be granted automatically and free-of-charge.

The European Union (Withdrawal) Act received Royal assent on 26 June 2018 and is now law. The Withdrawal Act will ensure that the UK exits the EU with certainty, continuity, and control. It is in no one's interests for there to be a cliff edge, and so the laws and rules that we have now will, so far as possible, continue to apply. The government has been clear that the Withdrawal Act and any further secondary legislation made under the Act will not aim to make major changes to policy or legislation beyond those which are necessary to ensure the law continues to work properly on day one.

The government published a White Paper on the Future Relationship Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on 12 July 2018, setting out an important vision for elements of the future relationship between the UK and EU on intellectual property. In particular, the White Paper proposes that the UK should continue to participate in the unitary patent system and the Unified Patent Court that underpins it.

Furthermore, the UK looks forward to exploring other arrangements on IP cooperation that will provide mutual benefits to UK and EU rights holders. This will all require negotiation with the EU and we look forward to discussing the possibilities with our European partners.

A scenario in which the UK leaves the EU without an agreement (a 'no deal' scenario) is highly unlikely. However, in the event of a 'no deal' scenario, the government has published a series of technical notices. This information helps businesses and citizens understand what they need to do, so they can make informed plans and preparations.

The technical notices on intellectual property were published on 24 September

2018:

The notices cover the government's plans for continued recognition of existing rights in the UK by recreating protections in UK law. This applies both to registered and unregistered rights. They also cover wider mechanisms and arrangements relating to IP, such as cross-border copyright and exhaustion.

For these mechanisms and arrangements, the government intends to provide continuity where possible. However, businesses and other stakeholders might need to consider whether and how the changes required will affect them.

Statutory legislation and business guidance

To prepare the UK's statute book for its exit from the EU the UK government will be passing technical changes through statutory legislation in Parliament over the coming months, using powers under the EU Withdrawal Act 2018.

Where appropriate, the government may publish detailed guidance alongside these legislative changes and will work closely with business representatives, trade associations and stakeholders on the implications.

To ensure UK copyright law functions properly if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, we have introduced [The Intellectual Property \(Copyright and Related Rights\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018](#). This legislation was laid in Parliament on 26 October 2018.

We have published guidance on the [changes to UK law in the event of no deal](#). This complements the recent 'technical notice' on copyright and EU exit and covers the impacts on UK right holders, businesses, cultural heritage institutions and other organisations, and consumers. (insert hyperlink to document when available)

Please note this document is meant for guidance only. You should consider whether you need separate professional advice before making specific preparations.

Trade marks

The existing UK system for protecting trade mark rights will remain largely unaffected by the UK's decision to leave the EU. While the UK remains a full member of the EU then EU Trade Marks (EUTM) continue to be valid in the UK. When the UK leaves the EU, in any scenario, an EUTM will continue to be valid in the remaining EU Member States and UK businesses will still be able to register an EU trade mark, which will cover all remaining EU Member States.

We recognise that owners of existing EU trade marks want clarity over the coverage of those rights when the UK leaves the EU. In any scenario, including one which does not involve a deal between the UK and the EU, the government will seek to minimise disruption for business and to provide for a smooth transition. For existing EU trade marks, this means that for all scenarios, the government aims to ensure continuity of protection and avoid

the loss of those rights. In doing so, our overall objective is to provide maximum clarity and legal certainty for right holders and third parties. The government is looking at various options and is discussing the best way forward with users of the system.

In addition, the UK is a member of the international trade mark system called the Madrid System. This allows users to file one application, in one language, and pay one set of fees to protect trade marks in up to 113 territories including the EU.

UK businesses will continue to have access to the Madrid System when looking to protect their trade marks.

For our future relationship with the EU, the UK looks forward to exploring arrangements on IP cooperation that will provide mutual benefits to UK and EU rights holders. Such arrangements will all require negotiation with the EU and we look forward to discussing the possibilities with them, including on trade marks.

Designs

The UK system for protecting registered and unregistered designs is not affected by the decision to leave the EU.

While the UK remains a full member of the EU, Registered Community Designs (RCD) continue to be valid in the UK. When the UK leaves the EU, an RCD will cover the remaining EU Member States.

We recognise that owners of existing RCDs want clarity over the coverage of those rights when the UK leaves the EU. In any scenario, including one which does not involve a deal between the UK and the EU, the government will seek to minimise disruption for business and to provide for a smooth transition. For existing RCDs this means that in all scenarios, the government will aim to ensure continuity of protection and avoid the loss of those rights. In doing so, our overall objective is to provide maximum clarity and legal certainty for right holders and third parties. The government is looking at various options and is discussing the best way forward with users of the system.

Once the UK leaves the EU, UK businesses will still be able to register a Community Design, which will cover all remaining EU Member States.

The government has ratified the Hague Agreement and has joined this international system in a national capacity. The Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs allows for registration of up to 100 designs in over 68 territories through filing one single international application.

UK businesses will continue to have access to the Hague System when looking to protect their designs.

Unregistered designs

While the UK remains a member of the EU, designs, two- and three-dimensional designs (including, for example, clothing designs and patterns) can be automatically protected in the EU as 'unregistered Community designs'. This gives a design 3 years protection from copying.

Once the UK leaves the EU, unregistered protection for designs will continue to exist through the UK unregistered design right which provides a longer term of protection for a different scope of design features. In addition to this, where the UK does not have existing domestic legislation to protect certain types of rights, it will establish new schemes, which will preserve the full scope of the unregistered Community design right in the UK.

Rights of representation

The UK government recognises the concerns IP professionals have about their future rights to represent clients before the EU Intellectual Property Office. We welcome views on how to address these concerns and are involving stakeholders in consideration of these issues.

In the meantime, the UK and EU have agreed that UK practitioners who are representing clients before the CJEU and EUIPO in cases that are pending at the end of the implementation period will be able to continue acting in those cases until their conclusion.

As set out in our White Paper, the UK will be seeking to establish a joint practice arrangement whereby UK and EU legal representatives will be able to jointly support clients with cases before EU institutions, including before the EUIPO and the CJEU.

For our future relationship with the EU, the UK looks forward to exploring arrangements on IP cooperation that will provide mutual benefits to UK and EU rights holders. Such arrangements will all require negotiation with the EU and we look forward to discussing the possibilities with them, including on registered and unregistered designs.

Patents

European patents

The UK's exit from the EU will not affect the current European patent system, which is governed by the (non-EU) European Patent Convention.

UK businesses can continue to apply to the European Patent Office for patent protection which will include the UK. Existing European patents covering the UK are also unaffected.

European patent attorneys based in the UK will continue to be able to represent applicants before the EPO [see EPO and CIPA: no impact of Brexit on UK membership of EPO](#) for more information.

Supplementary Protection Certificates

While the UK remains a full member of the EU, businesses can continue to apply for and be granted Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) for patented pharmaceutical and plant protection products using the current SPC system. Existing UK SPCs granted under that system continue to be valid.

Once the UK leaves the EU, UK businesses will still be able to apply for SPCs in all remaining EU Member States under the existing system.

As far as the UK's own SPC regime is concerned, our intention is to provide maximum certainty and clarity for businesses operating in this important area of innovation. We will do this by maintaining the current SPC legal framework in the UK as we leave the EU.

Unified Patent Court

The UK ratified the Unified Patent Court Agreement (UPCA) on 26 April 2018. Our ratification brings the international court one step closer to reality.

The UK intends to stay in the Unified Patent Court and unitary patent system after we leave the EU. The UPC and unitary patent project are an important means of simplifying the protection of innovative products throughout Europe. This Agreement sets the bar for the level of constructive cooperation that the UK seeks with European partners in the future.

The Agreement on the Unified Patent Court (UPC) is an international treaty. The international court will have jurisdiction over patent disputes across its contracting states.

It will deliver a single judgment in cross-border disputes between private parties over patents granted under the current intergovernmental system, including the future Unitary Patent.

Copyright

While the UK remains in the EU, our copyright laws will continue to comply with the EU copyright directives, and we will continue to participate in EU negotiations.

The UK is a member of a number of international treaties and agreements protecting copyright. This means that the majority of UK copyright works (such as music, films, books and photographs) are protected around the world. This will continue to be the case following our exit from the EU. When we leave the EU, certain cross-border copyright mechanisms will no longer work in the way they are intended.

For our future relationship with the EU, the UK looks forward to exploring arrangements on IP cooperation that will provide mutual benefits to UK and EU rights holders. Such arrangements will all require negotiation with the EU and we look forward to discussing the possibilities with them, including copyright.

Enforcement

The UK is widely seen as a world leader in enforcement of IP. By working in partnership with law enforcement and industry, the government can deliver an IP environment where legitimate businesses thrive and consumers are protected.

For the time being the UK's enforcement framework remains unchanged. We are still part of the EU and we continue to play a part at the EU Observatory, and in bodies like Europol. The process for intercepting counterfeits and other infringing goods at the border remains unchanged. We also continue to play an active role in the follow up to the review of the Enforcement Directive, and the Commission's work on tackling commercial-scale infringement.

The UK is ready to engage constructively to establish an approach to enforcement cooperation that best suits the needs of the UK and EU and facilitates frictionless trade in goods to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. This may involve sharing information and research on IPR enforcement, working closely with the EU Observatory on the infringement of IP Rights.

Exhaustion of IP rights

While the UK remains a full member of the EU, intellectual property rights remain exhausted after the first sale of a good, with the right holders permission, within the territory of the European Economic Area (EEA).

The UK looks forward to exploring arrangements on IP cooperation that will provide mutual benefits to UK and EU rights holders and we are ready to discuss issues the EU wishes to raise in the negotiations on our future relationship, including exhaustion of IP rights.

The IPO is keen to hear your views on these issues. Please speak to your usual contact or email EUenquiries@ipo.gov.uk and we will ensure your comments are taken onboard.

[News story: Making a success of Brexit](#)

Following the outcome of the EU referendum, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is working closely with the Government to analyse the best options and opportunities available for the safe and effective regulation of medicines and medical devices in the UK.

While negotiations continue, the UK remains a full and active member of the

EU, with all the rights and obligations of EU membership firmly in place. Working with our partners, stakeholders and customers, our focus remains: protecting health and improving lives.

Medicines regulation

Playing a full, active role in European regulatory procedures for medicines remains a priority. We contribute significantly in both the centralised and decentralised regulatory procedures, including new rapporteur and reference member state (RMS) appointments, and maintain our programmes for implementing EU legislation as required by our obligations as a Member State. We are also fully engaged in European and national scientific advice services and in delivering our EU inspection-related duties.

Devices regulation

Our role in regulating medical devices and in vitro diagnostic (IVD) devices remains integral. We oversee the essential work of the five UK Notified Bodies; together they are responsible for assessing the majority of devices currently placed on the EU market. Our preparations to implement proposed new Regulations for Medical Devices and IVDs continue.

Vigilance and market surveillance

We maintain our role in vigilance, market surveillance and taking direct action, where needed, to protect patients and public health, and we continue to co-ordinate with other Competent Authorities, across Europe and internationally, in these and other areas.

Future regulatory partnership

On 4 July the UK Government gave a clear, public statement of its desire to retain a close working partnership in respect of medicines regulation after the UK leaves the EU, in the interests of public health and safety. The statement, published in the Financial Times, by the Secretary of State for Health and Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy laid out the three principles which will underpin the development of a post-Brexit regulatory system for medicines and devices: patients should not be disadvantaged; innovators should be able to access the UK market as quickly and simply as possible; and we will continue to play a leading role in both Europe and the world in promoting public health.

These principles and the government's position were developed further in a [speech by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health, Lord O'Shaughnessy](#), at the BIA/MHRA conference in London on 14 July.

The commitment to continuing the close working relationship with our European partners with respect of medicines regulation and protecting public health globally is also reiterated on page 14 of the [Governments Collaboration on science and innovation 'A Future Partnership Paper'](#) published in September

2017.

More broadly, as part of the [guidelines](#) adopted for the second phase of the negotiations at the European Council meeting on December 15, the European Council reconfirmed its desire to establish a close partnership between the UK and EU.

EMA/EU & CMDh notices to Marketing Authorisation Holders

We are aware of the recent notices to Marketing Authorisation Holders issued by the EMA/EU-27 and CMDh advising of preparations MA holders may want to consider ahead of the UK's exit from the EU.

Until the exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the EU and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. We therefore continue to play a full role in the network and to undertake our work as a Reference Member State (RMS) in the decentralised procedure, and as (co-) rapporteur in the centralised procedure. If, however you do want to consider preparation for any potential changes to marketing authorisation or RMS, please see the information provided by the [EMA](#) and the [HMA](#).

Whatever the outcome of the negotiation we will continue to collaborate with all involved to deliver the current speed of authorisations, access to new and innovative medicines and devices and to continue to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of all medicines and devices, to safeguard an uninterrupted level of public health protection.

On 23 August 2018 the government published guidance for businesses and citizens on how to prepare for exiting the EU if there's no deal.

This guidance is in the form of a series of technical notices, a number of which relate directly to the work of the Agency:

A further 3 technical notices are also related to the work of the Agency and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

[Guidance for marketing authorisation holders](#) in the event of a no-deal Brexit has been published by DHSC.

We have also published our [letter to industry, and accompanying guidance](#), covering the conversion of existing approved Community Marketing Authorisations to UK Marketing Authorisations (MAs) and a [letter providing Product Licence numbers and the actions](#) that companies are asked to take.

[A letter to suppliers of medical devices and clinical consumables](#) about contingency planning for a no-deal Brexit has been published by DHSC.

In January 2019 we published information on [how to make regulatory medicines submissions to the MHRA](#) if the UK leaves the EU with no deal.

MHRA consultation on EU exit no-deal legislative proposals

We ran a [consultation](#) on the regulatory processes which would have to be modified in the event of the UK not securing a deal with the EU after the UK's exit, with no Implementation Period.

We responded to this consultation, in the form of a [further guidance note](#) on the regulation of medicines, medical devices and clinical trials if there's no Brexit deal, on 3 January 2019.

Customers, partners and stakeholders approaching MHRA continue to have access to our internationally recognised expertise and we maintain the highest quality services. For further information, please get in touch with your usual contact points in the Agency.

Essential maintenance to Companies House online services

1. 17 November 2022

There will be maintenance work taking place, which may affect Companies House services, between Saturday 19 November and Monday 21 November.

2. 15 November 2022

Maintenance window scheduled for Saturday 19 November from 8am to 10pm may cause disruption to online services

3. 8 November 2022

New maintenance window between 8pm and 9pm this evening (Tuesday 8 November)

4. 5 October 2022

Maintenance work will affect our online services from Friday 14 October to Monday 17 October.

5. 8 September 2022

Essential maintenance to our web services

6. 7 September 2022

Potential disruption because of essential maintenance work.

7. 8 August 2022

Changed date

8. 25 July 2022

Edited to change date of maintenance work to 1 August.

9. 13 July 2022

Maintenance work will affect our online services on Saturday 16 July.

10. 20 June 2022

Maintenance on Saturday 25 June and Sunday 26 June 2022.

11. 13 June 2022

Maintenance work will affect our online services on Saturday 18 June and Sunday 19 June.

12. 6 June 2022

Weekend maintenance work will affect our online services on 11-12 June and 18-19 June 2022.

13. 30 May 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Saturday 4 June 2022.

14. 19 May 2022

Disruption to Companies House online services from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 21 May 2022.

15. 10 May 2022

Added Find and update company information to list of affected services.

16. 9 May 2022

All Companies House online services will be unavailable from 8am to 8pm on Sunday 15 May 2022.

17. 4 May 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Saturday 7 May.

18. 8 April 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Sunday 24 April.

19. 23 March 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Saturday 26 March.

20. 7 March 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Saturday 12 March.

21. 22 February 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Thursday 24 February.

22. 17 February 2022

Our Report a PSC discrepancy and Apply to strike off and dissolve a company services will be unavailable on Sunday 20 February.

23. 14 February 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Sunday 20 February.

24. 8 February 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Thursday 10 February.

25. 28 January 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Wednesday 2 February.

26. 13 January 2022

Maintenance will affect our online services on Saturday 22 January.

27. 1 December 2021

Maintenance will affect our online services between 7am and 9am on Saturday 4 December.

28. 14 November 2021

Our Webfiling service and XML Gateway will not be available for about 2 hours from 8:30pm on Sunday 14 November.

29. 8 November 2021

Maintenance will affect our online services from Friday 12 November to Monday 15 November.

30. 3 November 2021

Maintenance scheduled for Saturday 6 November has been cancelled. You may experience disruption when using our online services from 8am to midday on Sunday 7 November.

31. 2 November 2021

Maintenance will affect our online services on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 November.

32. 20 October 2021

Maintenance may affect our online services from 7am to 5pm on Saturday 23 October.

33. 11 October 2021

Maintenance may affect our online services from 7am to midday on Saturday 16 October.

34. 28 September 2021

Maintenance may affect our online services from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 9 October.

35. 22 September 2021

Maintenance on Saturday 25 September will affect Companies House Direct (CHD).

36. 6 September 2021

There may be disruption to our online services from 3am to 4am on Sunday 12 September.

37. 3 August 2021

Maintenance will affect our online services from 9am to 1pm on Saturday 7 August.

38. 2 July 2021

Maintenance will affect our online services on Saturday 10 July.

39. 24 June 2021

There may be some disruption to our online payment services from 3am to 4am on Sunday 27 June. Customers may experience disruption of up to 15 minutes when attempting to make payment on our online services during this period.

40. 20 May 2021

There may be disruption to some of our online services from 8pm on Monday 24 May to 6am on Tuesday 25 May.

41. 12 May 2021

There may be disruption to some of our online services from 10pm on Monday 17 May to 4am on Tuesday 18 May.

42. 11 May 2021

Maintenance will affect some of our online services from 8am to 4pm on Saturday 15 May, and 8am to 4pm on Sunday 16 May.

43. 6 May 2021

Maintenance may affect some of our online services from 8pm on Saturday 8 May to 6am on Sunday 9 May.

44. 1 April 2021

Maintenance will affect our online services from 8am to 4pm on Saturday 17 April.

45. 25 March 2021

Our WebFiling service and XML gateway (software filing and search) may not be available from 8pm on Friday 26 March to 6am on Saturday 27 March, and from 8pm on Saturday 27 March to 6am on Sunday 28 March.

46. 22 March 2021

Maintenance on Wednesday 24 March will affect our online filing and software services.

47. 18 March 2021

Updated as scheduled maintenance has been cancelled

48. 15 March 2021

Maintenance will affect our online filing and software services on Saturday 20 March.

49. 1 March 2021

Online filing and XML gateway will not be available on Saturday 6 March.

50. 17 February 2021

Possible disruption to our online and software filing services between 8am and 10am on Saturday 20 February.

51. 8 February 2021

Moving our XML database to the cloud on Saturday 13 February as part of the cloud migration work.

52. 2 February 2021

Maintenance on Sunday 7 February will affect Companies House service (CHS).

53. 18 January 2021

Maintenance on Saturday 23 January will affect confirmation receipts for online filing.

54. 14 January 2021

Maintenance scheduled for Saturday 16 January cancelled.

55. 11 January 2021

Maintenance on Saturday 23 January from 8am to 8pm will delay confirmation receipts for online filing.

56. 7 January 2021

Maintenance may affect our online services on Saturday 9 January.

57. 22 December 2020

Maintenance may affect our online services from 7pm on Thursday 31 December to 7am on Friday 1 January 2021.

58. 9 December 2020

Maintenance from 8am to 2pm on Saturday 12 December.

59. 8 October 2020

Maintenance from 7am to 12pm on Saturday 10 October.

60. 30 September 2020

Maintenance to Companies House Service (CHS) from 9am to 3pm on Saturday 3 October.

61. 11 June 2020

Maintenance work will affect our online services from 8am to 12pm on Sunday 14 June.

62. 27 May 2020

Maintenance cancelled for Sunday 31 May.

63. 26 May 2020

Planned maintenance to Companies House Service at 8am on Sunday 31 May.

64. 8 April 2020

Maintenance to the online extensions service at 8pm on Wednesday 8 April.

65. 3 April 2020

Maintenance to the online extensions service at 9am on Sunday 5 April.

66. 2 April 2020

Maintenance to extensions service at 8pm on Thursday 2 April.

67. 1 April 2020

Maintenance to extensions service at 8pm on Wednesday 1 April.

68. 5 March 2020

Maintenance planned for Saturday 7 March and Sunday 8 March.

69. 11 November 2019

Maintenance work to CHS on Thursday 14 November.

70. 5 November 2019

Maintenance planned for Saturday 9 November.

71. 31 October 2019

Maintenance to CHS on Monday 4 November.

72. 16 October 2019

Maintenance for Wednesday 16 October cancelled.

73. 11 October 2019

Maintenance on Wednesday 16 October.

74. 3 October 2019

Maintenance for Saturday 5 October cancelled.

75. 1 October 2019

Added translation

76. 30 September 2019

Planned online maintenance on Saturday 5 October.

77. 31 July 2019

Maintenance on Saturday 3 August.

78. 1 May 2019

Maintenance on Saturday 4 May 2019.

79. 10 April 2019

Maintenance on Friday 12 April and Saturday 13 April.

80. 25 March 2019

Maintenance extended to 7am Wednesday 27 March.

81. 21 March 2019

Maintenance on Monday 25 March to Tuesday 26 March.

82. 21 February 2019

Maintenance on Saturday 23 February 2019.

83. 29 January 2019

Maintenance on Sun 3 Feb and Sat 16 Feb.

84. 22 January 2019

Maintenance on Saturday 16 February.

85. 16 January 2019

Maintenance to our online strike off service from 19 to 20 January.

86. 11 January 2019

Maintenance for Sunday 13 January cancelled.

87. 9 January 2019

Maintenance to our services on Sunday 13 January 2019.

88. 28 November 2018

Maintenance on Saturday 1 December.

89. 19 November 2018

Maintenance on Wednesday 21 November.

90. 12 November 2018

Maintenance on Wednesday 14 November.

91. 7 November 2018

E-billing service unavailable from 9am to 1pm on Sunday 11 November.

92. 5 November 2018

Maintenance on Saturday 10 November and Sunday 11 November.

93. 2 November 2018

Maintenance scheduled for Saturday 10 November and Sunday 11 November.

94. 26 October 2018

Maintenance planned for Saturday 3 November 2018.

95. 26 October 2018

Issue with our phone lines.

96. 26 October 2018

Maintenance planned for Saturday 3 November 2018.

97. 21 September 2018

Essential maintenance planned for Tuesday 25 September.

98. 22 August 2018

Essential upgrades to our incorporation services on 8 September 2018.

99. 5 August 2018

Issues with WebFiling, CHD and WebCheck

100. 1 August 2018

Maintenance window

101. 23 July 2018

Maintenance window

102. 19 July 2018

Essential maintenance

103. 27 June 2018

Essential maintenance notice

104. 6 March 2018

Maintenance message

105. 4 March 2018

Updated as office reopen.

106. 2 March 2018

Update to our opening times.

107. 1 March 2018

Updated to include press contact details.

108. 1 March 2018

Companies House offices closed due to weather.

109. 7 February 2018

CHS issues.

110. 23 January 2018

Notice about issues with our finance systems.

111. 8 January 2018

CHS issues resolved

112. 8 January 2018

Problems with CHS

113. 18 December 2017

Possible disruption to Companies House Service

114. 1 December 2017

Power issues now resolved.

115. 1 December 2017

Update.

116. 1 December 2017

Issue at our Edinburgh office.

117. 9 November 2017

Maintenance planned for 11 November.

118. 3 November 2017

Maintenance cancelled.

119. 30 October 2017

Planned maintenance 4 November.

120. 30 October 2017

Maintenance planned for 4 November.

121. 23 October 2017

Alert about service maintenance.

122. 11 October 2017

Essential maintenance message

123. 25 September 2017

Additional maintenance required

124. 18 September 2017

Update to article

125. 21 June 2017

Planned maintenance 25 June 2017

126. 18 April 2017

Planned maintenance successfully completed and all services back on line.

127. 13 April 2017

CHS now not available from 4pm on 13 April

128. 11 April 2017

Added note that Follow won't be available during the maintenance.

129. 20 March 2017

Essential maintenance from 11:59pm on Thursday 13 April to 7am on Tuesday 18 April.

130. 6 December 2016

Planned maintenance completed successfully.

131. 30 November 2016

Maintenance planned between Friday 2 December to Sunday 4 December

132. 11 October 2016

Essential online maintenance between 7am-8pm Saturday 15 October 2016

133. 18 April 2016

Planned maintenance message removed.

134. 4 April 2016

First published.

[News story: Update: air strikes](#)

against Daesh

Updated: Updated with new strikes.

Summary

- Monday 15 October – Tornados destroyed a Daesh observation post in eastern Syria.
- Wednesday 17 October – Tornados demolished another terrorist observation post in eastern Syria.
- Sunday 21 October – Typhoons struck a Daesh strong-point which was firing at the Syrian Democratic Forces.
- Monday 22 October – Tornados bombed a base for a terrorist improvised explosive device team in eastern Syria.
- Wednesday 24 October – Tornados destroyed an armed truck, and two strong-points which were firing at the Syrian Democratic Forces.
- Friday 26 October – Tornados bombed a further two strong-points with which the Syrian Democratic Forces were engaged in a firefight.
- Sunday 28 October – a Reaper attacked a group of terrorists caught in the open in eastern Syria, whilst Typhoons collapsed the entrance to a cave containing stockpiled weapons in northern Iraq.

Detail

Royal Air Force aircraft have continued to provide support to the Syrian Democratic Forces' operations against the last significant pocket of Daesh-held territory in the Euphrates valley of eastern Syria. On Monday 15 October, two Tornado GR4s were tasked with the destruction of a terrorist observation post which had been identified to the south-east of Hajin. A single Paveway IV guided bomb was released and this scored a direct hit on the observation post, destroying it. A further such observation post was identified to the north-east of Abu Kamal on Wednesday 17 October, and was again dealt with effectively by a Paveway attack delivered by a Tornado flight. As normal, the Tornados were supported by a Voyager air refuelling tanker, based alongside them at RAF Akrotiri.

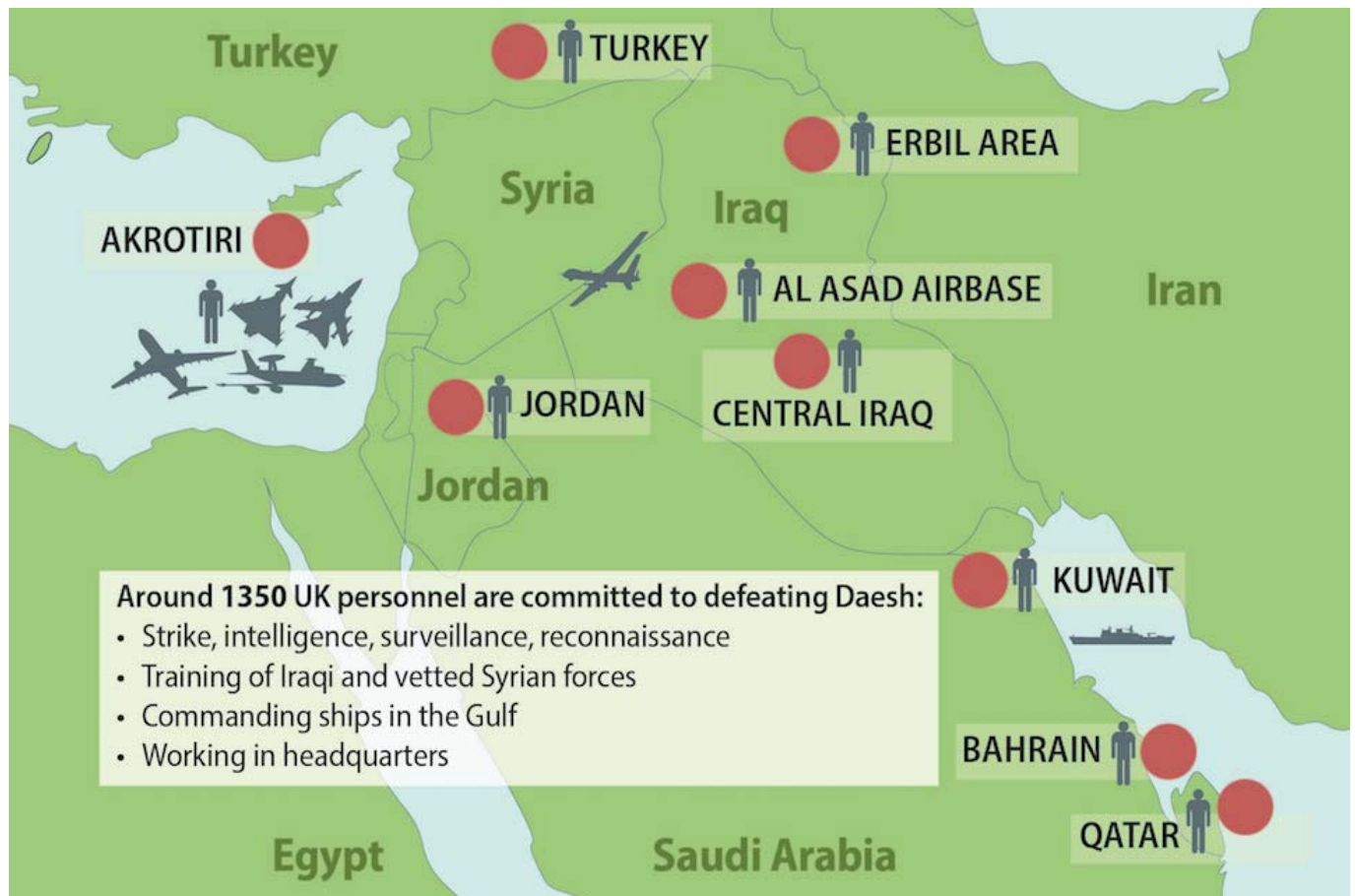
Typhoon FGR4s provided further support to the SDF on Sunday 21 October. That evening, an SDF advance came under fire from a Daesh strong-point some five miles north-east of Abu Kamal. The Typhoon flight conducted a carefully planned attack with a single Paveway IV, which struck the strong-point and immediately eliminated the threat to the SDF.

Intelligence identified a small building north-east of Abu Kamal as a base for terrorists planting improvised explosive devices. Two Tornados carried out an attack with a Paveway IV on Monday 22 October, which destroyed the target and caused a number of secondary blasts as the explosives inside detonated. On Wednesday 24 October, another Tornado flight provided further close air support to the SDF in the same area. Our aircraft struck a truck, armed with a pair of anti-aircraft guns, with a Paveway; the attack also

accounted for a number of terrorists close to the vehicle. The SDF then encountered two successive Daesh strong-points, both of which engaged the SDF at short range. Despite the proximity of the SDF to the two targets, the Tornados were able to strike both of the terrorist positions with Paveway IVs.

Despite very challenging weather, Tornados again supported the SDF north-east of Abu Kamal on Friday 26 October. The SDF reported being in close combat with Daesh positioned in two strong-points. The Tornados had to bomb through cloud, unable to see either the target or the friendly forces close by, but the SDF reported both targets to have been hit accurately by the Paveway IVs. On Sunday 28 October, a Reaper conducted armed reconnaissance over the Abu Kamal area, and carried out a successful attack with a Hellfire missile, striking a group of terrorists spotted manoeuvring through fields. In northern Iraq, a Daesh stockpile of weapons had been identified in a set of caves on a hillside thirty miles north-west of Kirkuk; a Typhoon flight was able to collapse the entrance to the caves using Paveway IVs.

UK contribution to the fight against Daesh



Map of UK forces committed to Operation Shader

Campaign against Daesh

Typhoons and Tornados were working further north, near Hajin, and used Paveway IVs and a Brimstone missile to deal with four Daesh mortar positions and a weapons stockpile.

A Reaper's crew successfully targeted Daesh fighters who had positioned themselves beneath trees in the Hajin area on Sunday 7 October, hitting them with a Hellfire missile. Closer to Abu Kamal, Typhoons meanwhile destroyed a terrorist command post.

Despite bad weather, our aircraft were able to provide effective close air support to the SDF at both the northern and southern ends of the Hajin pocket on Thursday 11 October. North of Hajin, a flight of Typhoons and a flight of Tornados used Paveway IVs to destroy three Daesh-held buildings which the SDF had encountered. In the south, close to the border with Iraq, a second pair of Tornados bombed two groups of terrorists spotted in the open; one of the attacks also destroyed the extremists' vehicle.

A Daesh armed truck was spotted north-east of Abu Kamal on Friday 12 October, and was destroyed by a direct hit from a Paveway IV dropped by a Typhoon flight. A pair of Tornados conducted one attack through thick cloud, striking a tunnel – again to the north-east of Abu Kamal – then delivered a second successful attack with two Paveways against a Daesh-held building near Hajin. On Saturday 13 October, Typhoons bombed a Daesh strong-point north of Hajin, whilst Tornados struck a second such defensive position north-east of Abu Kamal. The Tornados also attacked a mortar position and a Daesh command post in the same area, using Paveway IVs.

Our aircraft were able to attack successfully three known terrorist command and control locations on Sunday 14 October, all in and around Hajin. Typhoons dealt with two of the targets, including one where a Daesh attack planning team were reported to be present at the time, whilst Tornados destroyed the third.

Details of previous airstrikes can be found [here](#).

For more information see [Daesh: UK government response](#) page on GOV.UK

[Update: air strikes against Daesh](#)

Published 29 January 2016

Last updated 13 October 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 13 October 2022

Update: RAF Reaper strike on Daesh terrorist in Iraq

2. 2 July 2022

Update: RAF Reaper strike on Daesh terrorists in Iraq

3. 16 December 2021

Updated strike statement

4. 27 November 2021

Updated on Saturday 27 November.

5. 20 September 2021

Updated strike statement

6. 25 June 2021

Added content under useful information heading.

7. 17 May 2021

Updated Strike Statement

8. 8 April 2021

Updated strike activity.

9. 23 March 2021

Update on latest strikes

10. 15 March 2021

Updating strike statement

11. 18 February 2021

Updated strike statement

12. 30 January 2021

Updated strike statement

13. 14 October 2020

Updated air strikes

14. 12 September 2020

We are updating with new strikes information

15. 15 July 2020

Updated strike statement

16. 29 May 2020

Updated strikes

17. 5 May 2020

Updated strikes

18. 25 April 2020

Updated detail on airstrikes against Daesh

19. 27 September 2019

Updated strike

20. 16 September 2019

Updated strikes

21. 13 August 2019

Updated strikes

22. 1 July 2019

New strikes

23. 29 April 2019

Updated strikes

24. 25 March 2019

Updated strikes

25. 4 March 2019

Update to strikes

26. 25 February 2019

Updated strikes

27. 22 February 2019

Fresh strikes

28. 10 January 2019

Updated strikes

29. 20 December 2018

Updated strikes

30. 20 December 2018

Updated with new strikes

31. 26 November 2018

Update

32. 30 October 2018

Updated with new strikes.

33. 16 October 2018

Updated strike statement.

34. 3 September 2018

Updated strikes

35. 3 August 2018

Update

36. 26 June 2018

Update to strikes

37. 15 June 2018

Update to strikes

38. 25 May 2018

Updated Friday 25 May 2018

39. 9 May 2018

Update on strikes

40. 8 May 2018

Update to strike.

41. 4 April 2018

Update to strikes

42. 13 February 2018

Updated 13 February 2018

43. 6 February 2018

reformatted

44. 6 February 2018

Reformatted

45. 23 January 2018

Updated 23 January 2018

46. 15 January 2018

Update to strike statement

47. 8 January 2018

Update.

48. 11 December 2017

Updated 11 December 2017

49. 28 November 2017

Update to strikes

50. 14 November 2017

Update to strikes

51. 10 October 2017

Update to strike statement

52. 30 September 2017

Update to strike statement

53. 31 August 2017

update to strike statement

54. 22 August 2017

Update to strike statement

55. 8 August 2017

Update to strike statement

56. 31 July 2017

Update to strike statement.

57. 31 July 2017

Update to strike statement.

58. 31 July 2017

Update to statement

59. 31 July 2017

Update to strike statement.

60. 25 July 2017

Update to strike statement.

61. 17 July 2017

Updated strike statement.

62. 13 July 2017

Update to strike statement.

63. 10 July 2017

Updated strike statement.

64. 6 July 2017

update

65. 6 July 2017

update

66. 3 July 2017

update

67. 30 June 2017

update

68. 12 June 2017

update

69. 6 June 2017

Strike update

70. 30 May 2017

Strike update

71. 22 May 2017

Strike update.

72. 16 May 2017

update

73. 9 May 2017

update

74. 2 May 2017

update

75. 24 April 2017

update

76. 19 April 2017

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77. 10 April 2017

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78. 4 April 2017

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79. 28 March 2017

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80. 28 March 2017

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81. 21 March 2017

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82. 13 March 2017

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83. 9 March 2017

update

84. 6 March 2017

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85. 28 February 2017

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86. 23 February 2017

Latest strike update

87. 16 February 2017

Latest strike update

88. 11 February 2017

update

89. 2 February 2017

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90. 30 January 2017

update

91. 24 January 2017

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92. 20 January 2017

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93. 17 January 2017

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94. 12 January 2017

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95. 9 January 2017

update

96. 4 January 2017

Latest strike update

97. 3 January 2017

update

98. 2 January 2017

update

99. 2 January 2017

latest update

100. 28 December 2016

Updated strike update.

101. 22 December 2016

update

102. 15 December 2016

Latest strike update.

103. 12 December 2016

Update

104. 5 December 2016

Updated with video.

105. 5 December 2016

Updated information on air operations against Daesh.

106. 28 November 2016

update

107. 25 November 2016

update

108. 24 November 2016

Video added

109. 21 November 2016

update

110. 17 November 2016

update

111. 14 November 2016

Update

112. 10 November 2016

update

113. 7 November 2016

Update

114. 2 November 2016

Update

115. 28 October 2016

update

116. 25 October 2016

Update

117. 21 October 2016

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118. 21 October 2016

change to caption

119. 19 October 2016

Update

120. 17 October 2016

update

121. 10 October 2016

Update

122. 6 October 2016

update

123. 6 October 2016

updated

124. 6 October 2016

update

125. 3 October 2016

Update

126. 3 October 2016

Update

127. 28 September 2016

Update

128. 23 September 2016

Amended to reflect latest strike update.

129. 14 September 2016

Amended to provide the most recent update.

130. 7 September 2016

update

131. 2 September 2016

Operational update

132. 26 August 2016

Updated strike statement

133. 22 August 2016

Operational update

134. 12 August 2016

update

135. 8 August 2016

Strike update

136. 3 August 2016

update

137. 25 July 2016

Strike update

138. 20 July 2016

Update

139. 14 July 2016

Operational update.

140. 11 July 2016

Strike update

141. 7 July 2016

Strike update

142. 5 July 2016

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143. 30 June 2016
- Operational update.
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