

# PM meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Zayed of Abu Dhabi: 10 December 2020

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson hosted the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi for a working lunch at Downing Street today.



The Prime Minister hosted the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, for a working lunch at Downing Street today.

The leaders expressed their continued commitment to the relationship between the UK and the UAE and to strengthening our countries' shared prosperity. The Prime Minister welcomed the significant investments made by the UAE across the UK.

They agreed to step up ties in a range of areas including green technology, infrastructure and defence.

Ahead of the UK hosting COP26 next year, the PM and Crown Prince agreed on the importance of tackling climate change and discussed how to work more closely together to boost renewable energy production.

The leaders also spoke about regional security and foreign policy issues and the Prime Minister reiterated his support for the UAE's recent agreement with Israel to normalise relations.

The Prime Minister invited the Crown Prince to visit the UK again next year to build on our partnership further.

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# Research and analysis: Avian influenza (bird flu) in Europe, Russia and in the UK

Preliminary and updated outbreak assessments for avian influenza (bird flu) in Europe, Russia and in the UK.

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## Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal annexation of Crimea: UK statement

Thank you Mr Chair. We share the concerns expressed today by the EU and other international partners on Russia's continued violation of OSCE principles and commitments in illegally annexed Crimea and in eastern Ukraine. Following the anniversary yesterday of the Normandy Four leaders' Summit held in Paris, my statement will focus on two key commitments made at the summit: prisoner exchanges and the opening of new Entry Exit Checkpoints.

However, I would like to start by thanking the Albanian chairpersonship for rightly keeping a high focus on the conflict instigated and fuelled by Russia at this year's Ministerial Council. The UK welcomed the opportunity to join international partners for a discussion, hosted by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kuleba, on Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. We were also proud to join 34 other co-sponsors in putting forward a draft decision on strengthening OSCE monitoring at the uncontrolled segment of the Ukraine-Russia border; we regret that Russia refused to engage constructively on the text.

The UK continues to welcome the significant reduction of violence since the strengthened ceasefire came into effect on the 27th July, which was a key commitment of the Paris Summit. However, we were concerned to see that the SMM's weekly report of 8th December registered a two-fold increase in the weekly total of ceasefire violations, compared with the previous week, and more than a three-fold increase in the number of explosions. We were also saddened to read in the SMM's recent reporting, for the first time since the 27th July, of two civilians who have sustained injuries due to shelling, as well as of the first damage to civilian property recorded by the Mission. We must not be complacent.

Less progress has been made on other key commitments. As the holiday season approaches, we cannot forget those who remain in detention, separated from their families. At the Paris Summit, all sides agreed to promote the release

and exchange of detained persons associated with the conflict. The prisoner exchanges in December 2019 and in April of this year clearly demonstrated what is possible when there is political will; however, there have been no further exchanges since and progress appears stalled. We remind Russia of its commitment and urgently call on it to match the political will Ukraine has shown on this issue.

We would also like to highlight the urgent need to make progress on another key Paris Summit commitment to open new Entry Exit Checkpoints. EECPs are essential for Ukrainian civilians to access jobs, education, pensions, medical care and to see their families. It is entirely unacceptable that a month after the agreed opening date, the Russia-backed armed formations are blocking the opening of the two new checkpoints at Shchastia and Zolote. We call again on Russia to use its influence to ensure that there is a simultaneous and coordinated opening without any further delay.

We are also deeply concerned by reporting of international organisations that the majority of entry-exit checkpoints remain closed on the non-government controlled side under the pretext of COVID-19 measures. As a result, the number of people crossing the line of contact continues to fall, with only around 21,000 crossings recorded by the UNHCR in October, compared to over 1.4m crossing during the same period last year. While reasonable precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the pandemic should not be used as a pretext for unnecessary limitations on freedom of movement.

The UK reiterates our support for the Minsk agreements and our firm commitment to see the peaceful resolution of the conflict in full respect of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We welcome the work of the Normandy Four and the Trilateral Contact Group in this regard, and we thank Ambassador Grau and her team for their efforts to make progress on the issues I have addressed today. We call on Russia to engage productively, and match the political will demonstrated by Ukraine, so that real progress can be made.

We repeat our call on Russia to withdraw its military personnel and weapons from the territory of Ukraine; to cease its support for the armed formations it backs; to stop access restrictions and intimidation of the SMM in areas held by Russia-backed armed formations and to reverse all unilateral measures that undermine the Minsk agreements.

The UK strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, including its territorial waters. We do not and will not recognise Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. The UK has consistently stood with Ukraine in opposing all instances of Russian aggression towards Ukraine and we will continue to do so, including through sanctions with our international partners.

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# Detailed guide: Risk assessments for your environmental permit

When you need to do an environmental risk assessment, when the Environment Agency will do it for you, and how to do a risk assessment.

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## Highways England – helping you this Christmas

Some 778 miles of roadworks on England's motorways and major A-roads will be removed from the road network from 6am on Sunday 20 December to 12:01am on Monday 4 January 2021.

Where essential roadworks must continue, speed limits will be set at 60mph where possible.

To make journeys better for everyone, plan your route, check traffic conditions before setting out, make sure your vehicle is ready for the drive ahead and allow plenty of time for your trip.

As well as keeping roadworks to an absolute minimum, Highways England's traffic officers will help you stay on the move by changing their working hours to meet peaks in traffic volumes.

Highways England's customer service director, Melanie Clarke, said: "We want to help you see loved ones this Christmas, so we'll be doing everything we can to make journeys as smooth as possible and to minimise any disruption.

"We'll remove roadworks wherever possible and to help reduce the chance of breaking down, we're reminding drivers to carry out simple vehicle checks before setting off on journeys."

Before setting off remember to:

**Check fuel:** make sure you have enough fuel to get to your destination.

**Check tyres:** check your tyre pressure and the condition of your tyres, including the spare. Look out for cuts or wear and make sure the tyres have a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm, which is the legal limit.

**Check engine oil:** use your dipstick to check oil before any long journey and top up if needed. Take your car to a garage if you're topping up more than usual.

Check water: make sure you always have good visibility by keeping your screen wash topped up so you can clear debris or dirt off your windscreen.

Check lights: check your indicators, hazard lights, headlights, fog lights, reverse lights and brake lights. If they're not functioning properly, you're putting yourself at risk. Also, light malfunctions can be a reason for your vehicle to fail its MOT.

As well as checking your vehicle, if you're:

- towing: make sure you have the correct licence and insurance to tow the weight of your load and it's correctly connected and secured.
- driving on the motorway: follow the motorway signage, including the red X signals. Lanes are closed for a reason and drivers ignoring red X signs put themselves and others at risk.

Highways England will step up works to ensure the roads are prepared for bad weather, putting over 400 patrols on duty to rapidly respond to disruption.

Over 200 Highways England staff will also be working over Christmas to provide 24/7 cover in Highways England's seven regional operations centres to keep traffic flowing.

Information about [traffic conditions](#) is on our website and on Twitter. We can also be contacted on 0300 123 5000.

Get [journey planning advice](#), including making sure vehicles are ready for the road.

Get information about [how to avoid tailgating](#) by giving fellow road users enough space.

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

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