

UK welcomes Guatemala's participation in the Climate Ambition Summit

World news story

Guatemala is joining several countries around the world to call for actions against climate change in the fifth anniversary of the historic Paris Agreement.



The UK is co-hosting the “virtual” Climate Ambition Summit on Saturday 12 December, which will coincide with the fifth anniversary of the historic Paris Agreement. The summit calls on countries around the world to submit ambitious NDCs or other climate plans as we head towards the UN COP26 climate talks, which the UK Government is hosting in Glasgow next year.

President Alejandro Giammattei will speak on behalf of Guatemala outlining internal commitments to tackle climate change and underlying the country's high vulnerability to extreme weather, as experienced recently with the impact of two hurricanes. Each party to the Paris Agreement determines what domestic action it will take and communicates it in a Nationally Determined Contribution –NDC-.

NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement goal, set at COP21 in 2015, to hold the global temperature rise to well below two degrees and pursue best efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. Together, these plans will determine whether the world will achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

The UK is leading the way in tackling climate change globally by announcing ambitious new emissions target, setting the UK on the path to net zero by 2050. The new plan aims for at least 68% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the decade, compared to 1990 levels. The UK's path to meeting this target is backed by a Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution, which will create and support up to 250,000 British jobs by 2030.

The British Ambassador to Guatemala, Nick Whittingham, said:

I'm deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life and destruction caused by the hurricanes. We want to work together with Guatemala ahead of the COP26, highlighting the need for a global commitment to tackle climate change, but also by creating jobs and prosperity at the same time.

You can follow the 2020 Climate Ambition Summit [here](#).

Published 8 December 2020

[Animal medicine seizure notice: Parcel addressed to Bordon, Hampshire](#)

News story

Details of a seizure notice served following a parcel addressed to premises in Bordon, Hampshire stopped by Border Force at Heathrow Airport.



The following veterinary medicines were detained and subsequently seized at Border Force, Heathrow Airport following an attempt to import.

This parcel was addressed to residential premises in Bordon, Hampshire and was shipped from Thailand. The parcel contained:

- 2 bottles of Synulox ready to use injection (40ml)
- 1 bottle of Oxytocin Tec 20 (100ml)

These products are non-UK veterinary medicines and are labelled for use in both companion and food producing animals.

These medicines were seized under Regulation 25 (Importation of unauthorised veterinary medicinal products) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013.

Education Secretary makes key children's sector appointments

The Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has named Dame Rachel de Souza as his preferred candidate to be the next Children's Commissioner for England, following approval by the Prime Minister.

Dame Rachel de Souza will now go on to attend a pre-appointment hearing before the Education Select Committee, on a date to be confirmed by the Committee.

Mr Williamson has also appointed Annie Hudson as the new Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, a key oversight role in children's social care.

The independent panel of experts was established in July 2018 to review serious child safeguarding incidents, when children have died or suffered serious harm, or where abuse or neglect is suspected. Ms Hudson will take over from Interim Chair Karen Manners QPM, whose appointment ends on 24 December.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

It is more important than ever before to have experienced and dedicated colleagues working with us in a shared ambition to protect and defend the most vulnerable children.

Annie Hudson's impressive and proven leadership in children's services makes her best placed to drive the important work of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

I look forward to finalising the appointment of Dame Rachel de Souza as the next Children's Commissioner, where she will bring her considerable experience of raising outcomes for every child to this essential role.

I am grateful to Anne Longfield and Karen Manners for their service, acting as a champion for the children in this country who need the most support.

The Children's Commissioner serves a six year term and current Commissioner Anne Longfield OBE will continue in her role until 28 February 2021.

Dame Rachel de Souza is currently the Chief Executive of the Inspiration Trust – a multi-academy trust of 14 academies based in Norfolk and north Suffolk, which aims to turnaround poorly performing schools. She was appointed a Dame in the New Year’s Honours in 2014 for her services to Education.

Following her pre-appointment hearing, the Education Select Committee will publish their recommendations, which the Education Secretary will consider before deciding whether to finalise the appointment.

Formerly Director of Children’s Services at both Lambeth Borough Council in London and Bristol City Council, Ms Hudson is an experienced children’s services leader. She also comes with a wealth of experience on several national boards, including as a member of the What Works Centre for Children Social Care advisory board and as a trustee at The Social Care Institute for Excellence and Oxfam GB.

Incoming Chair of the Panel, Annie Hudson, said:

I feel immensely privileged and excited to have been appointed to the role of Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. I want to do all that I can to make sure that the Panel’s work has a very clear and positive impact on safeguarding practice and, most crucially, on the lives of children, young people, and their families.

Anne Longfield OBE will continue in her role as the Children’s Commissioner for England until 28 February 2021.

[Guidance: Forest reproductive material news](#)

Sign up to the forest reproductive material (FRM) newsletter – for trade news, including information about any legislation or regulatory changes.

[Official Statistics: Agricultural](#)

statistics and climate change

Agricultural statistics for England as they relate to climate change.