

## [Press release: Lord Ahmad: “The UK has an unbreakable bond with the Commonwealth”](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon attended a service to mark Commonwealth Day on 11 March 2019.

---

## [Press release: Lord Ahmad: “The UK has an unbreakable bond with the Commonwealth”](#)

Today (11 March) people across the world celebrate Commonwealth Day as the family of 53 nations enters its 70th year.

To mark the occasion, the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of State for the Commonwealth, Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, attended a service at Westminster Abbey alongside Her Majesty The Queen, senior members of the Royal family, representatives of all 53 Commonwealth countries, schoolchildren, performers and athletes.

Minister of State for the Commonwealth, Lord Tariq Ahmad, of Wimbledon said:

The UK has an unbreakable bond with the Commonwealth; a unique network bound together with the ties between people, common values and shared history.

Our common vision for the 2.4 billion people who make up this family of 53 nations is the opportunity for all citizens to thrive regardless of race, religion, gender or any other status.

As Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth, the UK is working with our partners to tackle the great challenges of our time: to ensure quality education for all, to protect our oceans, tackle malaria and boost international trade.

Commonwealth Day celebrations are being held across the country. Many will

recognise the huge contribution of the Commonwealth diaspora to the rich fabric of the UK: from Ministers to doctors and nurses, to business people, athletes, and teachers.

Last year's Commonwealth summit brought together representatives from all 53 countries where Commonwealth Leaders made commitments to build a fairer, more prosperous, more sustainable future for its 2.4 billion citizens, 60% of whom are under 30.

## **Further information**

---

# **[News story: Develop advanced materials with South Korea: apply for funding](#)**

In a bid to encourage international partnerships, £2 million is available through Innovate UK and the Korean Institute for the Advancement of Technology (KIAT) for organisations to develop game-changing and disruptive research in advanced materials and the Internet of Things (IoT).

The funding competition is under the EUREKA network.

## **International partnerships**

The competition aims to encourage collaborative, business-led research and development projects with a clear direction towards a new product, industrial process or service.

Projects must focus on one or both of the following:

- advanced materials for transport, prioritising materials development
- the Internet of Things, with an identified industry or vertical sector application

Proposals must demonstrate:

- a clear game-changing or disruptive innovation
- considerable benefit to the UK and South Korean economies and/or national productivity
- definition of where intellectual property can be used and shared between participants and countries
- a route to market within 2 to 3 years of project completion

## **Business-led progress**

Business must lead the project. Research and public sector organisations and charities can be partners on the project but cannot lead in the UK. They can

share up to 30% of total eligible UK project costs but are not eligible to receive funding.

Partners must be separate legal and non-linked entities to ensure that projects encourage genuine international collaboration, rather than internal company research.

Guidance for South Korea will appear on the [KIAT website](#).

## Competition information

- the competition opens on 18 March 2018 and the deadline for registration is at midday on 5 June 2019
- businesses of any size are eligible to apply
- up to £350,000 including VAT is available
- projects must include one UK-based business and one South Korean-based business
- an online briefing event will be held on 8 April 2019

---

## [Press release: Universal Credit pilot to launch in North Yorkshire](#)

Benefit claimants in Harrogate who still receive old style benefits will be the first people moved onto Universal Credit Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Amber Rudd has announced today.

Amber Rudd has previously confirmed that up to 10,000 claimants across the country who are on the old system would be moved to Universal Credit under a pilot scheme to start in July 2019 once regulations have been passed in the House of Commons.

More than 1.6 million people currently claim Universal Credit, but these are new claimants or people who have had a change in circumstance. All new claimants in the United Kingdom now go straight onto Universal Credit.

The process of moving people from the old system to the new system is known as 'managed migration'.

All those in Harrogate moving to Universal Credit will be personally supported by Jobcentre Plus staff to ensure they get the best possible service.

The goal of the pilot is to learn as much as possible about how to help people to move onto Universal Credit. We will increase numbers as slowly and gradually as necessary, expanding to further locations as required.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Amber Rudd said:

Moving people from the old and outdated benefits system to Universal Credit is a positive and important moment.

Once on Universal Credit people will benefit from a more personal service and can expect to receive up to 6 benefits combined into one, making it easier for them to manage their money.

But the switch needs to be done carefully which is why we are taking a step-by-step approach to this, starting in Harrogate.

I want to be sure that the switch to Universal Credit is a hassle free process for claimants and everyone receives the personalised service they deserve.

The Department for Work and Pensions will begin to move a small number of people from existing legacy benefits (income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits) to Universal Credit.

As already confirmed, claimants will also receive transitional protection, to avoid cash loss at the point of moving to Universal Credit.

Harrogate was chosen after careful consideration because of a range of factors, including the local jobcentre's significant experience of Universal Credit.

And additional support will be put in place at Harrogate Jobcentre Plus including bespoke support that will also be on hand for vulnerable claimants, including home visits.

The completion of the moving legacy benefit claimants to Universal Credit is set to finish by December 2023.

Amber Rudd has already made changes to improve the fairness of Universal Credit, in January, including that the department would stop the introduction of a retrospective benefit limit on families with more than 2 children.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 3267 5141

Follow DWP on:

---

**[Press release: Universal Credit pilot](#)**

## to launch in North Yorkshire

The Work and Pensions Secretary has announced that benefit claimants in Harrogate will be the first to move from old style benefits to Universal Credit.