

Speech: Matt Hancock speaking at the Digital Colloque in Paris

C'est l'un de vos penseurs les plus célèbres, Voltaire, né ici, qui a dit autrefois: où est l'amitié, est la patrie.

[One of this city's most famous thinkers, Voltaire, once said friendship is our natural soil]

Et l'amitié entre le Royaume-Uni et la France n'a pas seulement duré à travers les siècles, mais est devenue de plus en plus forte.

[And the friendship between the UK and France has not only endured, but has grown stronger and stronger over time.]

Il y a cent cinquante huit ans, nos deux pays ont signé le premier traité de commerce moderne, déclarant au monde notre attachement à l'ouverture et à la prospérité.

[158 years ago, our two nations signed the first modern trade agreement, showing the world our commitment to openness and prosperity.]

Il y a cent ans, lors de notre plus grand défi, nous combattions côte à côte. J'aurais l'honneur de joindre la commémoration de la bataille d'Amiens le mois prochain.

[And a century ago, we were at each other's side during our toughest times, as I will see first hand when I attend the Commemoration for the Battle of Amiens next month.]

Cette amitié continue jusqu'à nos jours. Le président Macron a récemment désigné notre capitale la sixième plus grande ville de France, en raison des quatre-cent-mille Londoniens nés ici en France.

[This friendship has continued right up until the present day. President Macron recently described our capital as France's sixth largest city, due to the 400,000 Londoners that were born here in France.]

Mais c'est le progrès que nous avons réalisés ensemble, voisins, grâce à la technologie, dont je veux vous parler aujourd'hui.

[It's the progress that we have forged, together, through technology, that I want to talk about today.]

Si vous voulez, je peux continuer en anglais. Oui, vous le voulez...

Our two nations have worked on some of the world's most pioneering inventions, like the Channel Tunnel and the Concorde.

And we have found common ground on issues, both big and small, because we

share value.

When we were working on Concorde, there was a disagreement about whether or not there should be an 'e' on the end of its name. The spelling was even discussed at the British Cabinet.

Eventually there was a compromise. The French spelling would be used but it would be announced that the 'e' stood for England, Europe and the entente cordiale.

The British Minister for Technology was then asked why the E stands for England when the nose of the plane was made in Scotland. He paused and replied 'The E also stands for Ecosse...'

On both sides of La Manche, we are continuing to embrace new technologies and the benefits that they bring.

And in the UK we are seeing our own tech renaissance, as we are increasingly recognised across the world as a place where ingenuity and innovation can flourish.

We have a tech landscape that combines major players like Uber and Apple, alongside thriving new start ups and scale ups.

The results have been exhilarating. The UK is the home of four in ten of Europe's tech unicorns.

And London is the AI capital of Europe.

And we want to keep this momentum going. A few weeks ago, during London Tech Week, we announced a landmark package of support.

This includes support for our Digital Catapult and it's great to see the leadership of the Digital Catapult here and engaged in the relationship with France.

And opening up our visa system to support accelerators with a new start-up visa, to help bring business founders to the UK.

And a 2.5 billion pound Patient Capital Fund to help promising UK companies to go global.

I want the message to go out loud and clear: we want to be the natural home for the world's top tech talent.

And my fundamental belief that brings me here is that this is strengthened by strong neighbours.

And I admire the great work that Monsieur Mahjoub and President Macron have been doing on this.

I've seen it first hand. For instance, take a great French company that is competing on a global scale as a platform.

Deezer is a real French tech success story and it has now expanded to 180 countries across the world. And as a platform, it is taking on the American giants globally.

And at the other end of the scale, Station F shows the energy that is being put in to fostering the tech pioneers of the future.

One of the things I like to say about the UK is we're at our best when we're combining the best of the old and the best of the new. And here in France you do this brilliantly too.

And I strongly believe at the core of my being that this is great news for us all. Because the strength of European tech ecosystems is no zero sum game.

A strong France begets a strong Britain. They are two sides of the same coin.

So I am thrilled, for instance, that this year Samsung has announced both a new world-leading AI centre in Cambridge and a research and development hub here in France.

And that Entrepreneur First, the London based start up accelerator, is opening a new international office here in Paris. And over breakfast I was talking to a company that wants to do the same in the other direction.

Partnerships like these show the strength and depth of our tech industries.

And just as has been the case throughout history, this prosperity been underpinned by a constant exchange of ideas.

Victor Hugo's career was inspired by a six shilling copy of Shakespeare's King John.

And Charles Dickens' most celebrated works were inspired by his frequent trips to Paris.

We need to summon this spirit for our newest frontier. Making sure technology is harnessed for the greater good.

And the path that we chart over the next few years is so important in making this happen.

Over centuries, our nations have been beacons for liberal values like freedom, consent and the rights of the individual.

And I want our two nations to be working together, to make sure these values are writ large and in the underpinning architecture of new technologies as they are developed.

In the UK we have recently established our new Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation.

A world-class advisory body to make sure data and AI delivers the best possible outcomes for society, in support of its innovative and ethical use.

I am delighted that Roger Taylor, who is leading this, is here today.

This is not a trade off between the ethical use of modern technology and the innovative use of modern technology.

Get it right and strong ethics underpin strong innovation. And an architecture that thinks in advance about how the technology will be made and used for the good of humanity will lead to more and not less innovative use of this technology.

And this is an issue for us all, transcending borders and nation states.

We will only retain what makes technology great if we work together, to keep it great and working for humanity.

So I was delighted to see that a new agreement is being signed today, between the UK's Alan Turing Institute, our cutting edge research institute, and France's DATA I A.

They are both doing vital work in data science and AI and this agreement is the first stage in a closer and stronger working relationship.

And of course, the free flow of data is just as important as its ethical use.

Data is such an important part of our infrastructure. For AI systems, data is the experience needed to be able to develop and interact usefully with the world around us.

So transferring data across borders is essential for a prosperous modern economy.

In the UK, we have applied GDPR standards, to give citizens control over their data, ensure common rules and help our businesses trade abroad.

We will maintain these standards when we leave the EU. Not because we have to but because we want to, because we think that they are a strong basis for the protection of data.

And on that basis, we are seeking a deal that supports cross-border data flows. And I'm delighted that France is such a strong supporter of that goal too and I am confident that we will reach it.

And a word on regulation. Ultimately freedom exists in a framework of rule of law and of norms.

Some of these norms are statutory, like regulations, but many of them are also designed by and come from society. The norms and standards that we abide by in able to interact.

And this is as important for the new technology today and tomorrow, as it was for the old etiquette of the last centuries.

The norms and standards of behaviour, both at a high ethical level, and at a

technical detailed level, do not always have to be borne of Government, but they strengthen our ability to work together and to innovate together.

This co-operation is crucial, socially and economically. But I just wanted to mention something even bigger than that.

Liberal democracies must stick together in the face of threats from around the world.

These threats are now not only physical, but to our technology, and ultimately they threaten our way of life.

And so believers in the freedom and dignity of humankind must progress together.

We seek to ensure that this technology is advancing so fast, and giving so many benefits, works for the benefit of humankind, within a democratic structure.

Au cours de l'histoire, les nations qui saisisaient les technologies de leur époque sont celles qui gagnent

[Because throughout history, the nations who get the technology right in their era are the nations who succeed.]

Le défi majeur de notre époque est celui des technologies basées sur les données: une technologie extraordinaire qui transforme notre économie et notre société de façons inattendues.

[And in our era, our challenge is these data-driven technologies that are transforming our economy and society beyond recognition.]

Si nous gagnons, deux voisins travaillant en partenariat, nous poserons les fondations de notre future productivité, prospérité, et de meilleures conditions de vie pour tous.

[If we get them right, and work with other nations to do so, it will lay the path for productivity, prosperity, and a better quality of life.]

C'est pourquoi ce colloque est si important, rassemblant nos éminents chercheurs et dirigeants afin d'aborder des questions fondamentales et de saisir les opportunités qui nous attendent.

[That is why this colloque is so important. Bringing together some of our greatest minds, to discuss the big issues and opportunities that lie ahead.]

Donc s'il vous plaît: continuez à créer, à innover et surtout, à rendre l'impossible possible.

[So please keep creating, innovating and making the impossible possible.]

C'est nous qui avons développé ces technologies. C'est donc à nous d'assurer qu'elles fonctionnent pour toute l'humanité.

[Because technology was forged by humankind. So we need to make it work for humankind.]

Ca c'est notre mission, ensembles.

[This is our mission, together.]

News story: Civil news: HPCDS tender cancellation after JR decision

We have cancelled the 2018 Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme process as a result of the Administrative Court decision on 22 June 2018.

What did the court decide?

The Administrative Court has quashed both the:

- MOJ's decision to move to fewer larger contracts
- decision to launch the procurement process for Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) contracts

The judicial review proceedings were brought by the Law Centres Network against the Lord Chancellor (case number C0/5321/2017).

Was cancellation the only option?

Our move to cancel the 2018 HPCDS procurement process in its entirety is in line with the rules for the procurement process. These are set out in the 'Information For Applicants' document.

What does this mean for organisations awarded a HPCDS contract?

It means that we will not proceed with the award of any contracts under that process.

What will happen to HPCDS services?

We will publish further information regarding the next steps for HPCDS contracts as soon as possible.

Further information

[Civil 2018 contracts tender](#)

[Press release: CMA demands pricing action from energy company](#)

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has today issued [legal directions](#) to Daligas, a London-based company that provides energy to small businesses (SMEs) and domestic customers.

A previous CMA Order had required all energy companies supplying Microbusinesses to provide an online tool so SMEs can access accurate energy quotes to compare with other firms, and potentially switch to a better deal. More than 20 energy firms that offer energy to SMEs are already complying with the Order, issued as part of the CMA's investigation into the energy market.

The CMA has issued the directions after Daligas failed to respond to several reminders to meet this requirement.

By failing to provide this information, Daligas is also in breach of one of Ofgem's licensing conditions.

Andrea Gomes da Silva, Executive Director of Markets and Mergers at the CMA said:

Small businesses are vitally important to the UK economy. As a result of the CMA's investigation into the energy sector, these companies have a right to be given accurate pricing information so they can compare their energy deal with other suppliers and potentially switch to a better offer.

By not allowing companies to access this information in a timely way, Daligas is breaching its legal obligations, which is why we have issued these formal directions.

The company must now comply within the next month, or we will take it to court. We also want to remind other companies that we can and will take action if they fail to comply with CMA orders.

Anthony Pygram, director of conduct and enforcement at Ofgem, said:

Providing an online tool to create a quote for small business customers ensures they have the correct information they need to be able to compare suppliers and choose the right one for them.

We have written to Daligas to remind them of their licence obligations and our expectation that they will comply with the

CMA's Directions.

When a supplier does not comply with their licence obligations, Ofgem has the powers by statute to impose financial penalties and for suppliers to accept commitments or undertakings relating to future conduct or arrangements.

Notes to editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries and enforcing competition and consumer law. For CMA updates, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
2. Daligas is in breach of the Energy Market Investigation (Microbusinesses) Order 2016. This order provides measures to increase price transparency for microbusiness customers and make it easier for them to switch supplier.
3. All information on the CMA's energy investigation is available on the case page. The Microbusiness Order was published in December 2016.
4. Directions are a formal enforcement instrument used to ensure that an Enterprise Act 2002 remedy imposed by the CMA, in this case the Order, is complied with fully. The firm has one month to comply with the direction, as failure to do so may lead to action before courts.
5. Directions have been used before to ensure compliance with a market remedy. A list of directions can be found on the CMA's website.
6. Media enquiries should be directed to press@cma.gov.uk or 020 3738 6460.

[Speech: PM speech at NHS 70 reception: 4 July 2018](#)

I am delighted to welcome you all to Downing Street to help mark what is a very special birthday of a very special institution.

In my line of work there are not many ideas from 70 years ago that are

unquestionably supported today, but that is undoubtedly the case with our National Health Service.

In a world that has changed almost beyond recognition, the vision at the heart of the NHS – of a tax-funded service that is available to all, free at the point of use with care based on clinical need and not the ability to pay – still retains near-universal acceptance.

And that tells us a lot.

Not just about the principles behind the NHS, powerful though they are.

But also about the people who, for 70 years, have turned those principles into practice on daily basis.

People like you.

There are the doctors, nurses, midwives and all the other health professionals on the front line – and the staff who support them, from porters to ward clerks to receptionists.

Across the country there are thousands of GPs, dentists, optometrists and others providing care under the NHS umbrella.

Then there are the patient advocacy groups, the volunteers, the researchers...

Many of you here today have been a part of the NHS family for 40 years or more.

That's an amazing achievement, and I know Jeremy – a man who knows a lot about long service – will be presenting you with commemorative badges to mark that later this evening.

Others among you are, through your innovations, shaping the future of the NHS and of healthcare itself.

Some of you are just setting out on what I hope will be long and rewarding careers.

Yet all of you share one common trait.

Every day, you get up and go to work so the NHS can continue to do what it has done every day for 70 years – provide the British people with some of the best healthcare in the world.

I want that to continue.

But for that to happen we must recognise that the NHS conceived by the likes of Beveridge, Willink and Bevan was created to serve a very different country in a very different time.

Today, thanks to the NHS, people are living longer – but that brings with it an increase in dementia and other conditions associated with old age.

Childhood obesity risks burdening the next generation with a lifetime of ill-health.

And our understanding of mental health has progressed significantly – it can no longer be treated as somehow “less serious” than physical ailments.

The NHS of yesterday was simply not designed or equipped to deal with these kind of issues.

The NHS of tomorrow must be.

That’s why, last month, I set out the priorities that will guide our long-term plan for the future of our NHS.

A plan that will put the NHS on a sustainable path for generations to come.

At its heart is new investment: an extra £394 million per week in real terms by 2023/24.

But, important though that is, we all know that good healthcare is about more than money.

So I have asked the NHS itself to draw up a 10-year plan to make sure every penny of the new funding is well-spent, and that leaders are accountable for delivery.

Frontline staff like you will be involved in the plan’s development, so it delivers for patients and for the Health Service.

I know that you got into medicine and healthcare because you want to make a difference, you want to help people get better or manage their conditions.

Yet too often we see bureaucracy getting in the way of care, with process being put before patients.

So the plan will highlight what changes we could make so that you can concentrate on putting patients first.

I know that there is fantastic, innovative work going on right across the country.

That the answers to many of the challenges we face can already be found in the best of what the NHS does today, for example in bringing different teams together to provide care closer to home.

So the plan will make it easier to share this best practice, letting everyone learn from what works and avoid what doesn’t.

I know that your dedication to your work is total.

But I also know that, sometimes, you can be frustrated by staff shortages, and that you rarely enjoy the flexibility or work/life balance that many people now take for granted.

We have already removed the cap on the number of foreign doctors and nurses who can come here each year, to relieve some of the immediate pressure on staff numbers.

The plan will go further, investing in the workforce and introducing modern working practices so that the NHS is not just one of the biggest employers in the world, but also one of the best – managed in a way that works for patients and staff alike.

Finally, I know that those of you who have worked in the NHS for many years will have already seen enormous changes in medicine.

In the past 40 years alone we've heralded the arrival of synthetic human insulin, IVF and the HPV vaccine.

More change is coming.

As we stand here today, scientists are working to harness the power of genomics, Artificial Intelligence and more.

Healthcare does not stand still – and nor should the NHS.

So the plan will help the Health Service embrace the technology of tomorrow so it is fit to face the challenges of the future.

Everyone in this garden, everyone in No 10, everyone in this city and beyond will have their own story of what the NHS has done for them.

And that's because it's not the Labour Health Service or the Conservative Health Service – it is the NATIONAL Health Service.

It belongs to all of us.

It is there for all of us.

For 70 years it has been a great British achievement of which we can all be proud.

In the years to come I want to make it greater still.

And, whether you are just starting out or have already given a lifetime of service, I look forward to working with you to make that happen.

[Press release: Environment Agency confirms Blue Green Algae in three](#)

Locations across the Lake District

Following hot, dry, weather across Cumbria, the Environment Agency has confirmed reports of Blue Green Algae in three locations across the Lake District.

Ullswater, Coniston and Killington Lake have all tested positive for potentially toxic Blue Green Algae which can have a negative effect on the appearance, quality and use of the water.

Throughout the summer months, the Environment Agency test water samples and confirm if Blue Green Algae has been found. They then inform landowners of the blooms, so they can take the necessary steps to warn the public of any potential dangers. This could may be the local authority, or a private landowner.

Jim Ratcliffe from the Environment Agency says:

As always, if people see any environmental impacts due to dry weather, such as fish in distress, or Blue Green Algae, please report it to the Environment Agency incident line on 0800 80 70 60 open 24/7, so we can investigate and take appropriate action to protect people and the environment.

If our sampling confirms Blue Green Algae is present in a lake or river, we inform the landowner, and they are encouraged to take the necessary steps to inform users of the water, by way of posters, notices or other means.

The Environment Agency continues to work with water companies, businesses and farmers across the country to provide advice, helping to balance the needs of water users and minimise impacts on the environment of any dry weather.

Water bodies affected by Blue Green Algae, or Algal Blooms may be green, blue-green or greenish brown and can produce musty, earthy or grassy odours. Blooms can also cause foaming on the shoreline, which can sometimes be confused with sewage pollution. During a bloom, the water also becomes less clear, blocking sunlight and stopping plants in the water from growing.

Blue Green Algae naturally occurs in inland waters, estuaries and the sea. Blooms can form when their numbers become excessive. Once algal numbers are high, the bloom is likely to persist throughout the season, declining only on the onset of winter conditions.

Bloom and scum forming blue-green algae can produce toxins. Toxin producing blooms are called Harmful Algal Blooms. These toxins can be harmful to wild animals, farm livestock and domestic pets. In humans, they have been known to cause rashes after skin contact and illnesses if swallowed. Not all blue-green algae blooms and scums are toxic, but you can't tell just by looking at them, so it's best to assume they are.

For further information visit

www.gov.uk/government/publications/algal-blooms-advice-for-the-public-and-landowners/algal-blooms-advice-for-the-public-and-landowners.

Water is a precious resource and it is always helpful, in terms of future supplies and protecting the environment, for everyone to follow advice on saving water from their water company and use water wisely– especially during a period of dry weather.

Advice on what to look out for, and the effects of blue-green algae, can be found at www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/policies/algae.