

Press release: PM statement following COBR meeting on Hurricane Irma: 8 Sept 2017

I've just chaired the government's emergency committee COBR, looking at the further support we can provide to the British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean with these terrible hurricanes and the devastating impact they're having.

I heard direct from Governors in the region including the Governor of the British Virgin Islands, where Hurricane Irma, the eye of the hurricane ran directly through the capital of the British Virgin Islands.

I also heard about the work that RFA Mounts Bay and the troops and military personnel on Mounts Bay have undertaken already and will be doing in the future.

In Anguilla they have made the airfield serviceable, they have restored power to the hospital, they have rebuilt emergency shelters. Our military personnel, our troops, have been working around the clock there and we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Those troops from RFA Mounts Bay are now assisting the Governor of the British Virgin Islands who has declared a state of emergency there. They are also working to ensure that the airfield there is serviceable so that military aircraft can be flown in with further supplies.

Every effort is being made to ensure that as much as possible can be done in advance of Hurricane Jose which is the next hurricane reaching that area.

At the COBR, I also heard directly from our Consul-General in Miami about the support that is being given to British nationals living in Florida and also British tourists in Florida, and we are of course working with the US authorities to ensure that every support is available and everything can be done before Hurricane Irma reaches Florida.

And we are also working in the region, in the Caribbean, internationally with other partners – with the French and with the Dutch – and we are responding to a French request that we provide British military support to their efforts.

But I also know that many families are finding it very difficult to find information and hear from and contact loved ones in the region. The [Foreign Office has set up a specific hotline](#) that people can contact to get information and support. And I would encourage anybody who is worried about families in the region to contact that Foreign Office hotline.

Press release: Angling championship aids Tees research

The Environment Agency has joined forces with expert anglers to collect valuable fisheries data for the River Tees.

The fifth annual River Tees Championship – a fishing survey match organised by the Environment Agency – saw 46 anglers take part.

Areas of the middle River Tees not normally fished were surveyed during the competition last Sunday, 3 September, from Croft to upstream Piercebridge.

The results were good, with all sorts of species caught and recorded during the valuable event.

Phil Rippon, Environment Agency Fisheries Technical Specialist said:

Despite low river levels making fishing conditions difficult, a variety of species were caught, including dace, chub, perch, bream and trout, with all sizes and numbers logged.

The data alongside our own surveys, will help us and our partners to better target habitat and fisheries improvements as well as helping us to understand about the distribution of fish species in the Tees.

Our thanks to the angling clubs and landowners who supported the survey, and to the organisers.

The winner of this years' championship was Ant Smith who caught 21lb 7oz of Bream, Dace and Chub. All fish were safely returned to the river.

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Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Norway: Richard Wood

2015 to present FC0, Head of Northern and Central Europe Department 2014 to 2015 Washington, Counsellor (Foreign and Security policy) 2014 FC0, Head of Sanctions and Economic Diplomacy, Prosperity Directorate 2012 to 2014 FC0, Deputy Head, International Organisations Department 2011 to 2012 Basra, Consul General 2007 to 2011 Cape Town, Consul General 2002 to 2007 New York, UK Mission, First Secretary (Human Rights/Social Development) 2001 to 2002 FC0, Head of Future of Europe/Nice Treaty Bill Team, Europe Directorate 1998 to 2001 FC0, Press Officer for Africa, News Department 1993 to 1998 Cape Town/Pretoria, Second Secretary (Internal Politics) 1991 to 1993 FC0, Desk Officer for Single Market/Presidency/Gibraltar, Europe Directorate

News story: Changes to the publication of geographical breakdowns of data

For the academic year 2017 to 2018 and beyond, Ofqual will release publications based on data for England only.

Ofqual is changing how it publishes geographical breakdowns of data in Official/National Statistics outputs. For the academic year 2017 to 2018 and beyond, publications will be based based on data for England only.

The responsibility for publishing data for learners in Wales and Northern Ireland will pass to Qualifications Wales (the Welsh regulator) and CCEA (the regulator in Northern Ireland) respectively.

This separation of statistics is necessitated by changes to the qualifications and regulatory systems in the three jurisdictions. The divergence means that joint reporting of statistics does not remain appropriate. Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA are working together to ensure a smooth transition, in consultation with the UK Statistics Authority.

For the remainder of the academic year 2016/17, Ofqual will publish data tables for learners in Wales and Northern Ireland without commentary, alongside revised publications that discuss the data for England only.