

# Mobile roaming cap to benefit Brits abroad

Press release

The UK has signed an agreement to cap charges for using data and making calls and texts in Norway and Iceland.



The UK has marked the first meeting of the UK-EEA EFTA Joint Committee, by signing a decision to cap charges for using data and making calls and texts in Norway and Iceland.

The cap is a world-first in an FTA, keeping costs low for holidaymakers and business travellers to Norway and Iceland.

## **International Trade Minister Conor Burns MP said:**

This news builds on the landmark trade agreement between the UK and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, and is the first of its kind world-wide showing how the innovative trade deals we negotiate are bringing real benefits to British travellers.

I look forward to working with businesses across the UK to take advantage of deals that banish barriers, boost jobs and save money.

Our trade deal with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein signed last year aims to boost critical sectors like digital, financial, and professional business services, slash tariffs on top-quality British exports and support jobs in every corner of the UK.

The new FTA allows UK mobile operators to offer their customers surcharge-free mobile roaming in Norway and Iceland by creating a mechanism to cap the rates operators charges each other.

## **Background:**

- Once this decision is in place, the UK will then implement secondary legislation which will be in place early next year. We will work with Mobile Operators to ensure that the savings secured from this cap are filtered down to consumers.
- Liechtenstein is not party to mobile roaming provisions due to their capacity. However, there is an option for this to be extended to them at a future date.

Published 22 September 2022

---

## [AAIB Report: Britten Norman 2B-26 \(J8-VBI\), aircraft departed runway on landing](#)

News story

On landing at John A. Osborne Airport in Monserrat, a Britten Norman 2B-26 (J8-VBI) veered off the right side of the runway, 29 September 2021.



On landing, the pilot was unable to maintain directional control and reported the left brake was 'spongy'. The aircraft veered off the right side of the runway and impacted the bank of an adjacent drainage ditch. One passenger suffered minor injuries as a result.

An inspection of the braking system revealed a slight brake fluid leak from one of the pistons in the left outboard brake calliper. This would have prevented full brake pressure being achieved on the left brakes, resulting in an asymmetric braking effect. Also, difficulty in maintaining directional control was caused by use of the incorrect braking technique on landing.

The investigation identified shortcomings with the operator's manual and procedures, and with regulatory oversight. As a result, one Safety

Recommendation was addressed to the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority to ensure that the operations manual complies with the regulations.

[Read the report.](#)

Media enquiries call: 01932 440015 or 07814 812293

Published 22 September 2022

---

## **FUSION22 conference: Coming to London's Science Museum**

Press release

The world of fusion is coming to London's Science Museum at a new international conference.



FUSION22 takes place on Tuesday, October 18 at the Science Museum, London.

- FUSION22 takes place on Tuesday, October 18 at the Science Museum, London
- First of its kind global conference will showcase the goals and vision of the international fusion community
- Attendees can join virtually or in-person, and choose from a wide range of panel sessions and keynote speeches; registration is open to all at [fusioniscoming.com](https://fusioniscoming.com)
- Fusion promises safe, sustainable, low carbon energy for future generations

A new international conference at London's Science Museum will showcase the goals and vision of the global fusion community.

FUSION22 will explore the exciting developments in fusion that could lead to

near limitless and low carbon energy in the future. It will also address the challenges the industry is facing to help accelerate the pace of development.

The hybrid event on Tuesday, October 18 will cover a range of thought-provoking panel sessions and keynote speeches, including:

- WHERE DOES FUSION FIT IN? What does the future of global energy supply look like and what is the problem fusion will solve?
- WHAT FUSION NEEDS: What are the challenges we face in getting fusion on the grid and how can we overcome these?
- WHERE ELSE WILL FUSION TECHNOLOGY BE USED? Where is fusion technology likely to have the biggest impact outside of energy?
- HOW DO WE ENSURE FUSION WORKS FOR EVERYONE? What can we do to make sure the benefits from fusion energy act as a 'force for good' in the world?
- HOW WILL FUSION BE FUNDED? What is required across public and private funding to ensure fusion makes it to market?

Prof. Ian Chapman, UK Atomic Energy Authority Chief Executive, said:

"We are thrilled to be bringing FUSION22 to the iconic Science Museum this October. It's a unique opportunity to showcase the many exciting developments happening in the world of fusion right now, and hear from the people striving to deliver safe, sustainable, low carbon electricity to the grid.

"It's never been clearer that changes are needed to protect the planet for future generations, and fusion energy offers so much potential. But it's also one of the greatest scientific and engineering challenges of them all. FUSION22 brings us together to face these challenges head on, because together we believe fusion is coming."

FUSION22 is organised by UKAEA and the UK Fusion Cluster founding partners. Confirmed speakers include:

- Scott Hsu, Senior Advisor and Lead Fusion Coordinator, U.S. Department of Energy
- Dennis Whyte, Director of the MIT Plasma Science & Fusion Center
- Heike Freund, Chief Operating Officer, Marvel Fusion
- Tony Donné, Programme Manager of EUROfusion
- R. David Edelman, Chief Policy & Global Affairs Officer, TAE Technologies, Inc.
- Carly Anderson, Partner, Prime Movers Lab

There are a limited number of places to attend in person, with the virtual event open for all. Registration is now open for both at [fusioniscoming.com](https://fusioniscoming.com).

Published 22 September 2022

---

# UK government takes next steps to boost domestic energy production

To bolster the UK's energy security, the UK government has today lifted the moratorium on shale gas production in England, and confirmed its support for a new oil and gas licensing round, expected to be launched by the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) in early October.

In light of Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine and weaponisation of energy, the government is taking concrete steps to increase home-grown sources of energy, reduce the UK's reliance of foreign imports, and explore all possible options to boost domestic energy security. To do so, it is appropriate to pursue all means for increasing UK oil and gas production, including through new oil and gas licences and shale gas extraction.

Business and Energy Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg said:

In light of Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine and weaponisation of energy, strengthening our energy security is an absolute priority, and – as the Prime Minister said – we are going to ensure the UK is a net energy exporter by 2040.

To get there we will need to explore all avenues available to us through solar, wind, oil and gas production – so it's right that we've lifted the pause to realise any potential sources of domestic gas.

The new licensing round is expected to lead to over 100 new licences, as [previously announced by the Prime Minister](#), forming part of the government's plans to accelerate domestic energy supply. Under the new licensing round, which follows the outcome of the Climate Compatibility Checkpoint, the NSTA is expected to make a number of new 'blocks' of the UK Continental Shelf available, for applicants to bid for licences.

These licences will enable developers to search for commercially viable oil and gas sources within the areas of their licences. Developers will still need to seek regulatory approval for any activities conducted within their licensed area, such as drilling or construction of infrastructure.

Increasing energy supplies with a new licensing round and lifting the moratorium on shale gas production will help boost the UK's energy resilience, and help achieve the ambition to make the UK a net energy exporter by 2040.

The government is today formally lifting the pause on shale gas extraction and will consider future applications for Hydraulic Fracturing Consent with the domestic and global need for gas in mind and where there is local support. Developers will need to have the necessary licences, permissions and

consents in place before they can commence operations.

The decision comes alongside the publication of the British Geological Survey's scientific review into shale gas extraction, which was [commissioned earlier this year](#). The review recognised that we have limited current understanding of UK geology and onshore shale resources, and the challenges of modelling geological activity in relatively complex geology sometimes found in UK shale locations.

There have only been three test wells which have been hydraulically fractured in the UK to date. It is clear that we need more sites drilled in order to gather better data and improve the evidence base and we are aware that some developers are keen to assist with this process.

Lifting the pause on shale gas extraction will enable drilling to gather this further data, building an understanding of UK shale gas resources and how we can safely carry out shale gas extraction in the UK where there is local support.

We are scaling up renewables, nuclear, and lower carbon energy sources, to boost Britain's energy security in the long term, and reduce our exposure to high fossil fuel prices set by global markets outside our control. However, there will continue to be ongoing demand for oil and gas over the coming years during this transition, with oil and gas needed to maintain the security of the UK's energy supply. Making the most of our own domestic resources under the North Sea will make us less dependent on foreign imports.

- The Written Ministerial Statement formally lifting the moratorium is available shortly (link to be added in when available).
- The government's support for the licensing round follows the introduction of the new [climate compatibility checkpoint](#) that opened in late 2021, the checkpoint is a new measure enabling ministers to review the awarding of new licences in light of the UK's climate change objectives.
- Read the [government response to the Climate Compatibility Checkpoint consultation](#).
- Also published today is the government's response to the [consultation](#) on the UK Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment 4 (OESEA4) Environmental Report. The government has taken account of the responses received during the consultation period in making the decision to adopt its draft plan/programme for licensing and leasing areas for future offshore energy developments. This will pave the way for future licensing or leasing for offshore oil and gas, offshore gas and carbon storage, offshore renewables, and offshore hydrogen, in relevant waters of the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS).
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process of appraisal through which environmental protection and sustainable development are considered and factored into decisions relating to government plans and programmes (such as those for offshore energy infrastructure). It is a statutory obligation designed to ensure that environmental factors are taken into account at the broader plan-making stage. Further [information on the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) stages](#)

[and process is available here.](#)

---

## UK tech companies eye Singapore as gateway for regional expansion

21 September 2022, Singapore – This week Singapore hosts a major delegation of 24 cutting-edge British companies exploring growth opportunities in Asia Pacific. They work on diverse projects including driverless vehicles, lawtech, cybersecurity and deeptech.

They are spending a week in Singapore hosted by the British High Commission and will engage with Singapore Government agencies including the Cyber Security Agency; Defence Science and Technology Agency; GovTech; the Infocomm Media Development Authority and the Ministry of Law.

These activities form the first UK-Singapore Digital Economy Dialogue, a forum to promote the benefits of digital trade, deepen our partnerships at both the government and business levels, and ensure that regulation keeps up with the pace of innovation.

The visiting companies intend to use the all-new UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement (DEA) to support their expansion into Asia Pacific.

The DEA is the most innovative trade agreement in the world, and is the first Digital Economy Agreement between a European nation and an Asian one. UK-Singapore trade is already worth over £17bn per year.

Tech Nation, the UK's leading growth platform for tech companies, is co-leading this week by organising a delegation and creating a programme of 90 meetings with corporate partners and investors.

### **Lawtech: a bright spot for future growth**

Ten lawtech companies are visiting Singapore from the UK to explore business opportunities in Asia Pacific.

'Lawtech' is commonly used to describe technologies that support, supplement or replace traditional methods for the delivery of legal services or legal transactions by law practice entities or lawyers.

The UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement is the first trade agreement in the world to contain specific commitments on lawtech. The UK's lawtech sector is valued at £11.4bn, according to Tech Nation research. The UK has the largest legal services market in Europe – and is second globally only to the US.

The DEA brings together two leading nations on legal services, and will help



firms identify collaboration opportunities in both markets more easily.

It has specific provisions that promote electronic contracts and signatures; secure international data flows; and ensure protection of key proprietary information.

The DEA gives businesses greater confidence and assurance about the rules of the road when it comes to trading digitally between the UK and Singapore, both now and in the future.

**Kara Owen, British High Commissioner to Singapore said:**

I am excited to host 24 UK tech companies at the British High Commission, Singapore. They are keen to use the all-new UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement to support their expansion into Singapore and the region.

The agreement is a marker of our ambition to break down trade barriers in areas including lawtech, data flows and cyber security. UK-Singapore trade is already worth over £17 billion per year, and this is only set to grow.

**Natalie Black, His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Asia Pacific said:**

I am delighted to welcome a cohort of cutting-edge UK tech companies to Singapore to meet new partners, customers and investors and identify growth opportunities in the region.

Singapore is a gateway to the rest of Southeast Asia, which has a digital economy projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2030. The region has the demographics and openness that scaleups are looking for.

Our UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement will make the most of this opportunity – bringing together two high tech nations in a living agreement that keeps up with the pace of digital innovation.

**Gabriel Lim, Permanent Secretary (Trade and Industry), Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore Government, said:**

We welcome the visit of UK tech startups to Singapore, in conjunction with the inaugural Digital Economy Dialogue under the UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement. This is an opportunity to bring together industry stakeholders to explore how we can leverage this cutting-edge agreement and help our businesses, especially startups and SMEs, to seize new growth opportunities across our combined and growing digital markets.



**Samantha Evans, Director of International at Tech Nation said:**

Tech Nation are thrilled to be bringing the third cohort of leading UK tech companies on our International Growth Programme to Singapore. While here, the companies will be meeting with over 90 corporates and investors as they look for partnerships and opportunities to land and expand into this exciting market.

As part of the UK government's Digital Trade Network, we have already supported over 300 UK tech scaleups derisk and accelerate their growth into Asia Pacific – with the majority looking to scale into Singapore first.

Given the demand from British tech to grow into this region, we look forward to continuing our work with the UK and Singaporean governments to support even more scaleups with their success here.