

Red Arrows to stay in Lincolnshire following RAF Scampton closure

News story

The Red Arrows are set to stay in their home county of Lincolnshire and move to RAF Waddington after the closure of their current base RAF Scampton.



With their planned new headquarters a short distance away from their current home, the aerobatic team will still take to the skies above Scampton to practise their world-famous displays.

The Ministry of Defence will look at options for preserving the rich history of RAF Scampton after its closure. During the Second World War, the base was home to 617 Squadron which famously took part in the Dambusters raids in 1943.

A safety assessment deemed RAF Waddington to be the best possible home for The Red Arrows, and the relocation, which was first announced in 2018, will now move into the assessment and planning stage.

The move forms part of Ministry of Defence (MOD) plans to invest £4-billion in its estate over the next ten years, to meet military requirements with modern and efficient facilities and infrastructure.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said:

As we saw during the recent VE Day celebrations, the Red Arrows have a proud and prominent place in British culture and have long demonstrated the best of what the UK Armed Forces offer with their world-renowned skills, discipline and teamwork.

It is good news that we have an excellent base for them at RAF Waddington, and I am delighted that they will be able to continue to practice their extraordinary aerobatic talents above RAF Scampton in their home county of Lincolnshire.

Air Vice-Marshal Warren James said:

I am delighted that we now have confirmation that the Royal Air Force Aerobatics Team – The Red Arrows – will remain in the heart of Lincolnshire. The Royal Air Force remains committed to the strong links it has with the county and a considerable amount of work has been carried out to secure a suitable future home location.

The Red Arrows are a highly skilled and professional team showcasing the very best of the British precision and leadership for industry on a global scale, and inspiring next generation interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through an air and space power lens. The announcement of this move will provide much needed stability for their future endeavours.

The Red Arrows were formed in 1964 and have flown almost 5,000 displays in 57 countries. The team consists of 9 pilots who fly in their trademark diamond display in BAE Systems' Hawk Jets, reaching maximum speeds of 645 mph.

Published 19 May 2020

[Government urges public to make a difference and join the police](#)

TV commercials highlighting policing's central role in the community will air today, alongside fresh social media adverts designed to attract applicants from a variety of backgrounds.

The campaign aims to capitalise on the community spirit shown by the British public during the coronavirus pandemic, which presents an unprecedented opportunity for people to make a difference by joining the police.

Thousands of additional officers have already been recruited and are supporting the emergency services' response to the virus.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Getting more police officers on the streets to keep us all safe is an absolute priority for the British people – and this government.

The heroic efforts of officers up and down the country have been crucial in protecting the NHS and saving lives during this

pandemic.

There's never been a better time to join the police to make a difference in your community.

The Home Secretary recently held a call with new recruits from Lancashire Constabulary, who told her that they had the "best job in the world" and that a career policing was "more important than ever" in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 3,000 additional officers joined the police's ranks from the beginning of the campaign to the end of March 2020, putting the government on track to meet its target of 6,000 by March 2021.

Since then police forces have been reporting an increase in applications amid the coronavirus pandemic.

West Midlands Police has seen record numbers apply to be student police officers, 75% higher than its normal average, with as many women applying for this role as men – a first in the force's history.

Chairman of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Martin Hewitt, said:

This TV commercial is an exciting first for policing, informing a wide TV audience that we continue to recruit for police officers. We want everyone to know that we are open for recruitment.

The pandemic has presented everyone with new challenges but it is essential that we continue to build our policing capacity by attracting and training new police officers. Now is a great time to consider whether you could make your difference by joining our ranks.

The College of Policing has also recently announced the rollout of new online assessment centres, which will ensure that recruitment continues at pace during the coronavirus outbreak.

The online assessment process will take candidates through situational judgement tests, briefing exercises and interviews. Forces are already trialling this platform and the service will be available to forces in England and Wales from June.

New recruits are receiving prioritised training so they can be safely deployed to the frontline and support the police's emergency response in 7 to 8 weeks, rather than the usual 12 to 16.

Tanya Wilkins, Detective Chief Inspector at West Yorkshire Police, said:

Being a police officer was a childhood ambition and I am proud to wear the uniform.

No two days are ever the same, each day you learn and expect the unexpected. But the thing I love most about my job is helping other people and making a real difference.

I would encourage anyone, from any background, to consider joining and serving within the policing family.

Larger businesses to benefit from loans of up to £200 million

- loans under the expanded scheme will be made available to large businesses affected by coronavirus from next week
- changes also mean companies receiving help through CLBILS and the Bank of England's Coronavirus Corporate Financing Fund will be asked to agree to not pay dividends and to exercise restraint on senior pay

Businesses will be able to benefit from larger loans under the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS), the government announced today.

The maximum loan size available under the scheme will be increased from £50 million to £200 million to help ensure those large firms which do not qualify for the Bank of England's Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) have enough finance to meet cashflow needs during the outbreak.

The expanded loans, which have been introduced following discussions with lenders and business groups, will be available from 26 May.

John Glen, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said:

We're determined to support businesses of all sizes throughout this crisis and our loans and guarantees have already provided over £32 billion to thousands of firms.

Today we're increasing the maximum loan to £200 million to make sure companies get the help they need.

Businesses have benefitted from over £32 billion in loans and guarantees to support their cashflow during the crisis. This includes 268,000 Bounce Back Loans worth £8.3 billion, 36,000 loans worth over £6 billion through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, and £359 million through the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme, alongside £18.7 billion through the CCFF.

Companies borrowing more than £50 million through CLBILS will be subject to restrictions on dividend payments, senior pay and share buy-backs during the period of the loan, including a ban on dividend payments and cash bonuses, except where they were previously agreed.

These restrictions will also apply to CCFF participants that wish to borrow money beyond 12 months from today. This will ensure that the money is used to keep the company going through the crisis. The Bank will also publish a list of companies who have benefitted under CCFF on 4 June.

Further Information

- borrowers under CLBILS will be able to borrow up to 25% of turnover, up to a maximum of £200 million
- lenders who wish to offer larger loans will need to undergo further accreditation checks

The restrictions in place will include:

- Dividends: Borrowers cannot make any dividend payments
- Share buyback: Borrowers agree any share buybacks
- Executive pay: Borrowers cannot pay any cash bonuses or award any pay rises to senior management (including the board) except where they were a) declared before the CLBILS loan was taken out, b) is in keeping with similar payments made in the preceding 12 months, and c) does not have a material negative impact on the borrower's ability to repay the loan.

Further information on CLBILS can be found:

<https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-schemes/clbils/>

Further information on CCFF can be found:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/covid-corporate-financing-facility>

UK Global Tariff backs UK businesses and consumers

The Government has this morning (19 May) announced the UK's new MFN tariff regime, [the UK Global Tariff \(UKGT\)](#). This will replace the EU's Common External Tariff on 1 January 2021 at the end of the Transition Period.

Our new tariff is tailored to the needs of the UK economy. It will support the economy by making it easier and cheaper for businesses to import goods from overseas. It is a simpler, easier to use and lower tariff regime than the EU's Common External Tariff (EU CET) and will be in pounds (£), not euros. It will scrap red tape and other unnecessary barriers to trade, reduce

cost pressures and increase choice for consumers and back UK industries to compete on the global stage.

The Government is taking a common-sense approach to our new tariff schedule by streamlining and simplifying nearly 6,000 tariff lines, and lowering costs for businesses by reducing administrative burdens. The changes include scrapping unnecessary tariff variations, rounding tariffs down to standardised percentages, and getting rid of all “nuisance tariffs” (those below 2%).

We are also getting rid of the EU’s complex Meursing table, allowing us to scrap thousands of unnecessary tariff variations on products – including over 13,000 tariff variations on products like biscuits, waffles, pizzas, quiches, confectionery, and spreads.

The UKGT also expands tariff free trade by eliminating tariffs on a wide range of products. The UKGT ensures that 60% of trade will come into the UK tariff free on WTO terms or through existing preferential access from January 2021, and successful FTA negotiations will increase this.

This will lower costs for businesses, ensuring they can compete on fair terms with the rest of the world, as well as keeping prices down and increasing choice for consumers.

The Government is maintaining tariffs on a number of products backing UK industries such as agriculture, automotive and fishing. This will help to support businesses in every region and nation of the UK to thrive. Some tariffs are also being maintained to support imports from the world’s poorest countries that benefit from preferential access to the UK market.

The UKGT was designed following widespread engagement with businesses across the UK. As it will come into force on 1 January 2021, it’s important that businesses can familiarise themselves with the new tariff regime ahead of this date.

We are backing UK industry by:

- Maintaining tariffs on agricultural products such as lamb, beef, and poultry.
- Maintaining a 10% tariff on cars.
- Maintaining tariffs for the vast majority of ceramic products.
- Removing tariffs on £30 billion worth of imports entering UK supply chains. 0% tariffs on products used in UK production, including copper alloy tubes (down from 5.2%) and screws and bolts (down from 3.7%).

UK consumers will also benefit from more choice and lower costs on numerous goods thanks to zero tariffs. These include, for example:

- Dishwashers (down from 2.7%).
- Freezers (down from 2.5%).
- Sanitary products and tampons (down from 6.3%).
- Paints (down from 6.5%) and screwdrivers (down from 2.7%).
- Mirrors (down from 4%).

- Scissors and garden shears (down from 4.7%).
- Padlocks (down from 2.7%).
- Cooking products such as baking powder (down from 6.1%), yeast (down from 12%), bay leaves (down from 7%), ground thyme (down from 8.5%) and cocoa powder (down from 8%).
- Christmas trees (down from 2.5%).

We will promote a sustainable economy by cutting tariffs on over 100 products to back renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon capture, and the circular economy. The following are all dropping to zero tariffs:

- Thermostats (down from 2.1%).
- Vacuum flasks (down from 6.7%).
- LED lamps (down from 3.7%).
- Bike inner tubes (down from 4%).

Almost all pharmaceuticals and most medical devices (including ventilators) are tariff free in the UKGT. However, some products used to fight COVID-19 maintain a tariff. To ensure those working on the frontline can access vital equipment easily, the UK has introduced a temporary zero tariff rate on these products. This relief waives the tariff and VAT for personal protective equipment (PPE), medical devices, disinfectant and medical supplies from non-EU countries. The Government is committed to continuing to waive the tariffs on key COVID-19 items should this be necessary upon implementation of the UKGT in 2021. A list of goods that relief can be claimed on can be found on [GOV.UK: COVID-19 Commodity Codes List](#).

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

For the first time in 50 years we are able to set our own tariff regime that is tailored to the UK economy.

Our new Global Tariff will benefit UK consumers and households by cutting red tape and reducing the cost of thousands of everyday products.

With this straightforward approach, we are backing UK industry and helping businesses overcome the unprecedented economic challenges posed by Coronavirus.

Notes to Editors

[Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate](#)

Scheme set to launch

A new online service will be launched on 26 May for small and medium-sized employers to recover Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) payments they have made to their employees, the government announced today (19 May 2020).

[The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme](#) was announced at Budget as part of a package of support measures for businesses affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

This scheme will allow small and medium-sized employers, with fewer than 250 employees, to apply to HMRC to recover the costs of paying coronavirus-related SSP.

Employers will be able to make their claims through a new online service from 26 May. This means they will receive repayments at the relevant rate of SSP that they have paid to current or former employees for eligible periods of sickness starting on or after 13 March 2020.

Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions, Therese Coffey, said:

We are committed to supporting Britain's small and medium businesses through this pandemic with a comprehensive package of support.

This rebate will put money back in the pockets of millions of employers, ensuring they can hit the ground running as the economy re-opens.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Director General of Customer Services, said:

Our teams have worked hard to deliver this scheme for employers and their employees to ensure they get the support they need. We want employers to be secure in the knowledge they will receive help as they care for their staff during this difficult period.

Employers are eligible if they have a PAYE payroll scheme that was created and started before 28 February 2020 and they had fewer than 250 employees before the same date.

The repayment will cover up to 2 weeks of SSP and is payable if an employee is unable to work because they:

- have coronavirus; or
- are self-isolating and unable to work from home; or
- are shielding because they've been advised that they're at high risk of

severe illness from coronavirus

The current rate of SSP is £95.85 per week^[1]. Employers can choose to go further and pay more than the statutory minimum. This is known as occupational or contractual sick pay.

Where an employer pays more than the current rate of SSP in sick pay, they will only be able to reclaim the SSP rate.

The scheme covers all types of employment contracts, including:

- full-time employees
- part-time employees
- employees on agency contracts
- employees on flexible or zero-hour contracts

Other SSP [eligibility criteria](#) apply.

Connected companies and charities can also use the scheme if their total combined number of PAYE employees is fewer than 250 on or before 28 February 2020. Employees do not have to provide a doctor's fit note for their employer to make a claim under the scheme.

Employers can furlough their employees who have been advised to shield in line with public health guidance and are unable to work from home, under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Once furloughed, the employee should no longer receive SSP and would be classified as a furloughed employee. Where an employee has been notified to shield and has not been furloughed, the rebate will compensate up to 2 weeks of SSP from 16 April 2020.

[1] For the period 13 March 2020 to 5 April 2020 the SSP rate was £94.25 per week