

# Press release: Global health must survive political upheaval: Dr Jeremy Farrar delivers MHRA annual lecture

For science, research, and innovation to provide solutions to global health challenges, people and ideas need to be able to come together to make a difference, Dr Jeremy Farrar OBE, Director of the [Wellcome Trust](#) said at the 12th Annual Lecture organised by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in London tonight, 10 October 2017.

Speaking to an audience of leaders from across the UK life science community, Dr Farrar explained how recent political events in Europe and beyond have shaken the foundations of long established international structures, collaborations and arrangements, which have long been seen as the best way to protect public health.

However, to continue to safeguard global health during this period of international uncertainty, medicines regulators, scientists, and innovators must work together to make sure there is more global cooperation, not less, to achieve solutions which are effective, sustainable and fair.

Dr Jeremy Farrar, Director of Wellcome, said:

Recent world events such as Brexit have created an uncertain future for global health. But the health challenges we face don't respect national boundaries – they require global solutions.

As we enter complex negotiations to leave the European Union, it's vital that we protect regulatory cooperation and create an environment in which medical innovation succeeds not despite the regulatory environment, but because of it.

This is a priority issue, an issue of health security, and all sides should push for it to be dealt with as soon as possible in the next phase of the negotiations.

The Agency's Chief Executive, Dr Ian Hudson, said:

As regulators, we understand the importance of being forward-looking, innovative, and open when facing global health challenges. A deep and close working relationship across the EU has led to significant public health and safety improvements and helped us succeed in the face of crisis.

Playing a leading role in promoting and ensuring public health remains the key priority for our Agency and it is vital to increase

international collaboration and maintain collaborative frameworks to help make sure new, innovative treatments are made available to the UK health sector at the earliest, safest opportunity.

Ends

Notes to Editor

1. The MHRA Annual Lecture is the Agency's flagship event bringing together over 350 senior domestic and international leaders from medicine, government, industry, academia, third sector and world health institutions. This year's event took place on Tuesday 10 October at the [Francis Crick Institute](#).
2. Each year the lecture is delivered by internationally renowned experts to bring their perspective on topics of global importance. This year Jeremy Farrar, Director of one of the world's largest private funders of medical research, the Wellcome Trust, delivered a lecture titled 'Health and disease know no borders: why global health must survive political upheaval'. His lecture follows those by Dr Margaret Chan, WHO, in 2016, and Dr Dan Hartman, Gates Foundation, in 2015.
3. Dr Jeremy Farrar, Director, Wellcome Trust – Before joining Wellcome in October 2013, Jeremy was Director of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam for 18 years. His research interests were infectious diseases, tropical health and emerging infections. He has published over 500 peer-reviewed scientific papers, mentored many dozens of students and fellows, and served as Chair on several advisory boards for governments and global organisations, including the World Health Organization. He was named 12th in Fortune's list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders in 2015. Jeremy was appointed OBE in 2005 for services to tropical medicine, was awarded the Memorial Medal and the Ho Chi Minh City Medal by the Government of Vietnam, and has been honoured by the Royal College of Physicians in the UK and the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is a Fellow of both the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Royal Society.
4. [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe. All our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits justify any risks. MHRA is a centre of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency which also includes the [National Institute for Biological Standards and Control \(NIBSC\)](#) and the [Clinical Practice Research Datalink \(CPRD\)](#). MHRA is an executive agency of the Department of Health.

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## **News story: Charity registration response times**

An update about charity registrations and response times for processing applications.

Our registration team is currently experiencing extremely high demand for its services. In the last year we have seen a record number of new applications for charity registrations, and demand continues to rise.

This is impacting on our published guidelines for [registration decisions and response times](#).

You may have to wait up to 12 weeks before you receive a response from the registration team. We apologise for this and any inconvenience it may cause.

Because of limited resources, we are sorry that we can't provide updates for individual applications in the meantime.

We continue to advise applicants to submit full and complete registration applications well in advance of any deadlines. When applying to register a charity, please let us know if you have any relevant deadlines in the "Special Circumstances" section of the [online charity registration form](#).

You can read our guidance if you want to find out more about [charity registration decisions](#).

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## **Press release: Gravesend company director convicted for providing illegal immigration advice**

Mr Prince Adewale Adeola , aged 53 years of Poplar Avenue, Gravesend, Kent, was today, sentenced to 5 months imprisonment at Woolwich Crown Court, having pleaded guilty to 11 charges of providing unregulated immigration advice.

Mr Adeola is the company director of Vinbrooke Legal Practitioners, 26 Harmer Street, Gravesend, Kent where clients met with him to discuss their immigration issues. Mr Adeola had misrepresented his company as being qualified to provide immigration advice and services. Mr Adeola had

previously been the subject of disciplinary action by his regulator, CILEx, for providing unqualified immigration advice and or services for which he was fined £500.

In sentencing, HHJ Miller, said:

“You knew the regulations in respect of providing immigration advice. Public interest in such matters is obvious, given the desperate circumstances of those seeking immigration advice. The consequences of immigration proceedings are hugely important and in most cases dealing with complex matters. It is right that people who charge for such services must be qualified. In sentencing you, it is your conduct, which will have the most impact on your family.”

Speaking about the decision, the Deputy Immigration Services Commissioner, Ian Leigh, said:

“We have clear standards outlining what we expect in terms of the fitness and competence of regulated advisers. Prince Adewole Adeola chose to operate outside the law. I am delighted with the outcome of this case, and I hope this sends a clear message to other people considering providing immigration advice – either act within the law or you will find yourself in court.”

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## **Press release: Minister Duncan statement on meeting with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza**

FCO Minister of State for Europe and the Americas the Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan said:

I met the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Jorge Arreaza, in London today. Mr Arreaza set out his Government’s view of developments in Venezuela.

I expressed the UK’s profound concern at the continuing deterioration in the political, economic and humanitarian situation in Venezuela. I reiterated the UK’s firm view that the establishment of the unconstitutional Constituent Assembly was an unnecessary and divisive act that was not supported by the majority of the Venezuelan people, and that a strong and independent parliament is key to a successful democracy.

I noted that talks between the Venezuelan Government and Opposition are currently stalled, and called on the government to ensure the appropriate context for restarting talks, including respect for democratic institutions and values. There can be no progress in resolving the crisis in Venezuela

until there are serious, constructive negotiations.

The UK also discussed Venezuela with EU partners today at the Political and Security Committee meeting in Brussels. Together, we are considering a range of possible actions. As I said to Mr Arreaza, we are watching the management of the 15 October Venezuelan State Governors' elections closely, as they are a key test of the Venezuelan Government's respect for democracy.

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## [News story: Baroness Anelay's speech at the UK Accreditation Service Annual Lunch](#)

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today and for what has been a wonderful lunch. I would also like to pay tribute to Lord Lindsay who is a committed and effective advocate for UKAS.

Accreditation is vital for facilitating the trade in goods, and giving consumers confidence in the quality and safety of products. The role of accreditation will be crucial to the future success of the UK, just as it is to supporting the economy now.

I know that officials in my department have been working closely with UKAS and your partners. We value your expertise and feedback on priorities as the UK leaves the EU, including access to EU markets, future domestic regulation and continued participation in international standards and accreditation bodies.

I am aware of the importance of clarity on our future relationship with the EU for you, and would now like to outline the progress that has been made since we started the negotiations.

### **Approach to negotiations**

We are confident that both sides want to achieve the best possible outcome and the strongest partnership for the future – one that works for the UK and the EU.

We have concluded four rounds of talks. They were conducted in a constructive and determined manner resulting in decisive steps forward. We now hope to see flexibility from the Commission in round five, which is taking place this week.

The Prime Minister's speech in Florence last month set out the scale of our ambitions for our future relationship, as well as our proposal for a simple, clear, time-limited period of implementation.

Since that speech and the triggering of Article 50 in March, the UK has published 14 papers to address the current issues in the talks and set out the building blocks of the relationship we would like to see with the EU, both as we leave, and into the future.

These papers offer pragmatic and innovative solutions to issues related to our withdrawal and the future deep and special partnership that we want with the EU. They do not aim to dictate a single approach, but, rather, considered options.

Yesterday, we took a significant step in preparing to leave the EU by publishing Trade and Customs White Papers, which both pave the way for legislation that will ensure the UK is ready on the first day after exit. The trade paper also establishes the principles, which will guide future UK's trade policy as well as the practical steps that will support these aims.

The Government will publish further position papers on other issues in due course, providing more information to business and individuals, and informing our negotiations with the EU.

### **Future economic partnership**

We recognise that we cannot leave the EU and have everything stay the same – the single market is built on a balance of rights and obligations.

In building a future economic partnership with the EU, the Government seeks an entirely new agreement with the European Union. This will not mean membership of the European Economic Area, nor replicating the recent free trade agreement with Canada.

But it will facilitate the most free and frictionless trade possible between the UK and the EU, whilst allowing us to forge new trade relationships with our partners in Europe and around the world.

This new relationship with the EU, should be built from our unique starting point – of our rules and regulations being the same, and our commitment to free trade and high standards.

I recognise that our future customs arrangements will be of importance to many of you here. The summer customs publication sets out two options for the future relationship with the EU.

The first, a highly streamlined arrangement, would reduce customs administration to a minimum. The second, a new customs partnership, would potentially maintain the status quo arrangement by ensuring that EU duties are paid when goods are imported via the UK.

To deliver either of these solutions, innovations in data sharing, mutual assistance, simplified procedures and information technology solutions have been put forward, and work has been carried out to engage with a range of stakeholders in these areas.

Regardless of the outcome of these negotiations, the UK would need new

customs legislation in place by 2019. Responding to calls from businesses for continuity, yesterday's Customs White Paper confirms that the UK's new legislation will, as far as possible, replicate the effect of existing EU customs laws.

## **Goods**

We are also seeking to find the best way for the benefits of our common goods regulatory frameworks to continue enabling free and frictionless trade.

Ultimately we want this to form part of our future economic partnership, but we also recognise that investors, business and consumers want to be able to plan ahead with certainty.

The matter of goods placed on the market prior to the withdrawal date has been a key topic of the opening phase of negotiations. I know this will be of interest to many of you here, and hope that you can support us in seeking this pragmatic solution.

Our recent position paper on this subject set out the UK's principles for ensuring goods continue to be available on UK and EU markets, and that business do not have to duplicate compliance activity – such as conformity assessment – undertaken prior to the UK leaving the EU.

## **Regulatory relationship and dispute resolution**

Maintaining the high standards of our products and services was highlighted as a key priority in the August publication on customs. The Prime Minister emphasised in her Florence Speech last month that we do not only want to protect these requirements but to strengthen them.

Your contribution on this matter is highly valued, as we look to safeguard the quality of regulations and assessment processes while negotiating a deal and considering the UK's future regulatory environment.

We will also continue to drive forward the development of standards and frameworks at a global level.

I am confident that your work carried out through international bodies, such as the European Cooperation for Accreditation, the International Accreditation Forum, as well as through the international standards organisations will be crucial in supporting commercial and technical activities of firms around the world.

We have recognised that a new trade deal will need to be reinforced by dispute resolution mechanisms. This could take inspiration from international treaties such as the Schengen Agreement, the EU Singapore Free Trade Agreement and the EU Moldova Association Agreement.

In terms of civil judicial cooperation, the Government has highlighted cross-border resolution frameworks between consumers and suppliers that make sure there is a clear legal process where standards are not upheld, underpinning commitment to regulations.

Again, existing measures have been explored and we would like to translate some of these directly into domestic law.

The Prime Minister confirmed in her speech in Florence that we are confident that new legal resolution systems can be agreed.

### **Interim arrangements**

The implementation period that the Government intends to negotiate will ensure that companies and assessors have time to adapt to the new relationship. We have made a realistic commitment in advancing this proposal, by defining the limitations that we would reasonably expect on our rights to negotiate trade deals with the rest of the world over this time.

The implementation period will also maintain the existing regulations and customs exemptions, ensuring a smooth transition for businesses.

During the implementation period, people will continue to be able to come and live and work in the UK. There will be a registration system – an essential preparation for the new immigration system required to re-take control of our borders.

The implementation period would be time limited, with its length determined simply by how long it will take to prepare and implement the new systems we need.

### **Repeal Bill**

In terms of bringing forward changes into domestic legislation, the Repeal Bill, formally known as the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, passed Second Reading last month.

This will maximise certainty for individuals and businesses as we leave the EU. The laws and rules that we have now will, so far as possible, continue to apply, providing assurance on legal rights and obligations.

The powers in the Bill will ensure that, whatever the outcome of the negotiations, the statute book can continue to function.

### **Conclusion**

We have made significant progress in setting out our position and the options available for a successful future relationship with our European partners.

The Summer papers have also opened a forum for debate with businesses and wider stakeholders on specific issues. We want a comprehensive deal that takes into account the range of implications from leaving the European Union, and highly value specialist knowledge and analysis.

Together we can work to quickly and effectively resolve areas of disagreement with our European partners, and look to seize the opportunities to forge a new role for ourselves in the world that are offered by our new relationship and ambition for a shared future.

I want to thank you again for your contributions to our work. My colleagues across government, including my department, will welcome further dialogue with you on these important issues, as we progress through the negotiations and forge a new deep and special relationship with the European Union.

Thank you.

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