

[News story: Minister concludes two day tour of Cornwall](#)

Securing an ambitious EU exit deal that works for every part of the UK is the Government's priority, Minister Steve Baker reaffirmed today as he concluded a tour of Cornwall.

Over the course of two days, the Minister took the opportunity to engage with businesses from a variety of sectors across the region – including, fishing, aerospace, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals. He attended business roundtables at Falmouth University and Tremough Innovation Centre, and visited Newquay AeroHub Enterprise Zone and Newlyn Fish Market.

Speaking to business leaders and organisation representatives, the Minister used the visit to hear about the opportunities and challenges that the UK's exit from the EU could pose to the region and how they are preparing.

Minister for Exiting the EU, Steve Baker said:

My visit to Cornwall has been hugely productive and given me a great opportunity to hear about various businesses' priorities for our EU exit.

We are absolutely committed to achieving a deal which works for every region in the UK which is why it is vital that we continue to speak with businesses and organisations from across the country to ensure their views are fully represented as we move through the negotiations.

With the fourth round of negotiations underway, the visit comes as the UK Government steps up its engagement with businesses across the UK to ensure the voices of British businesses are heard and reflected throughout the exit process.

It is the second regional visit that the Minister has done in two weeks, following his trip to the North East last week.

[News story: UK to start new 'trade dialogue' with Colombia, Ecuador and](#)

Peru

The UK Government is today launching a new 'trade dialogue' with emerging markets in South America to strengthen bilateral trade and investment relationships and to seek continuity in our trade relationships post Brexit.

The dialogue will focus on our strong trade links with 3 Andean countries: Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Trade Policy Minister, Greg Hands, is in Lima, Peru today, Wednesday 27th September to meet with his Ministerial counterpart Eduardo Ferreyros whilst Minister for Investment, Mark Garnier met Ecuador's Minister Pablo Campana in London, Monday 25th September.

Greg Hands also announced that the government's export credit agency, UK Export Finance, will double financial support for UK-Peru trade, offering up to £4 billion of financing available to UK exporters and buyers of UK goods and services in Peru.

Minister for Trade Policy, Greg Hands, said:

As we leave the EU, we need to look outwards and be a beacon for free trade by forging independent trading arrangements with growing economies around the world.

That is why, as an international economic department, we are activating new trade dialogues to provide continuity with emerging markets in Latin America. We want continuing access for export opportunities for British businesses.

Minister for Investment, Mark Garnier, said:

The economies of Latin America have already seen steady growth. We want UK companies to take advantage of the opportunities.

The Peruvian Minister for Trade and Tourism, Eduardo Ferreyros, said:

Minister Hands' visit to Peru marks the beginning of what will be a very fruitful dialogue in order to ensure continuity in our preferential trade relationship. The UK is a very important partner for Peru in Europe, and we look forward to boosting our trade and investment ties as new opportunities arise for our businesses.

Background

Total trade in goods and services between UK and all South American countries

totalled £12.4 billion in 2015. The UK's biggest exports to the region include spirits, cars and medical equipment, with the biggest imports including coffee, nuts and fruit.

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox visited Colombia last month, during which he met Trade Minister María Lorena Gutiérrez and announced that support available from UK Export Finance for trade with the country is doubling to £4.5 billion.

UK-Andean Trade ties

The UK supports the current EU – Andean agreement.

[Press release: Institute for Apprenticeships sets out vision on quality](#)

The Institute was established to uphold the quality of apprenticeship standards in England. To support its efforts, it is seeking to bring clarity by defining what an apprenticeship is, what a high quality apprenticeship looks like and how that should be judged. The Institute has today published a [draft 'Quality Statement'](#) which will act as a core reference point for its work and will help shape the wider apprenticeship landscape. Employers, training providers, assessors and members of the public now have the opportunity to offer feedback on the draft statement and suggest any changes.

Antony Jenkins, Chair of the Institute for Apprenticeships said:

Apprenticeships can be fantastic for businesses and learners, but only if they are high quality. It is our duty to make that happen but in order to do it effectively we need to make sure we are all working towards the same goal.

We all have a stake in the delivery of quality apprenticeships, which help to address skills gaps and boost our nation's workforce. So it is right that everyone has the chance to have their say when we think about what that should mean in practice."

The survey period will last three weeks, closing on 18 October. A period of assessment will follow, after which a final statement will be published.

[Find the draft Quality Statement survey](#)

The short document has been drafted in conjunction with groups collectively

monitoring quality and outcomes in the apprenticeship sector – The Quality Alliance. This group brings together the various government bodies whose roles together ensure the quality of apprenticeships. Its membership includes the ESFA (National Apprenticeship Service), Ofsted, Ofqual, HEFCE (The Office for Students), The Quality Assurance Agency and DfE, with the Association of Employment and Learning Providers, the Association of Colleges and Universities UK attending as advisors. The Quality Alliance's role is to monitor quality across the sector and build effective coordination to improve quality where appropriate.

For more information about this release please contact
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[News story: Crime news: contacting the criminal applications team](#)

Calls to the criminal applications team will be diverted to central customer services on 0300 200 2020 from 2 October 2017.

Anyone calling the criminal application enquiry number will be redirected to 0300 200 2020 starting on 2 October 2017.

This redirect affects calls to criminal application enquiries on 0121 232 5500. It will be in place for a limited amount of time before the 0121 number is shut down permanently.

Options when you call

You will need to choose from civil, crime or technical when calling 0300 200 2020.

Crime billing

You should continue to use 0115 852 6000 for crime billing enquiries.

Further information

0300 200 2020 – criminal applications from 2 October

0115 852 6000 – crime billing

[Press release: Sunderland firm fined for waste offences](#)

A Sunderland-based firm has been ordered to pay over £14,700 for breaking environmental laws, which contributed to the illegal dumping of 585 tonnes of waste.

Thompson Waste Ltd runs a waste transfer station at The Parade in Hendon. The company was handed the fine by Sunderland Magistrates' Court on 25 September 2017 after pleading guilty to charges brought by the Environment Agency for failing to comply with duty of care legislation. The legislation requires businesses to ensure their waste is transferred and disposed of legally.

Chris Bunting, prosecuting for the Environment Agency, told the court that a proportion of 585 tonnes of mixed waste, which was dumped illegally in a disused factory warehouse at Lisburn Terrace, Pallion, could be traced back to Thompson Waste Ltd. It cost the landlords of the site over £100,000 to dispose of lawfully.

Investigations showed that between September 2015 and January 2016, the company paid a local man below market rates to remove waste from their site without fulfilling their legal requirement to check it was being taken to a permitted destination. The paperwork completed failed to include required details such as the origin of the waste or an accurate description.

The Court ruled that the company had acted recklessly. In mitigation, Robin Patton, acting on behalf of the defendant, told the Court that the waste represented a tiny fraction of the company's business and that they had co-operated with the investigation.

Thompson Waste Ltd was fined £3,335 and ordered to pay compensation of £5,394 and costs of £6,000.

Rachael Caldwell, from the Environment Agency's Waste and Enforcement Department, said:

All producers and operators have a responsibility to ensure that their waste is disposed of lawfully. Those that don't are as liable for the detrimental impact it has on the environment and local communities as those that dump it.

Thompson Waste Ltd broke the law over several months, showing little regard for the environment. We hope this case demonstrates the importance of environmental compliance. Anyone who breaks the rules will be pursued, and where repeated or significant breaches are found, we will prosecute.

A trial involving other defendants allegedly linked to the illegal waste dumping in Pallion is set to take place next year.

If you see waste crime taking place report it by calling our incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.