

# Press release: Culture Secretary meets Swedish tourism leaders to promote the UK as a go-to destination

More than 820,000 Swedes visited the UK last year, contributing £458 million to the economy. Swedes are drawn to coming to watch Premier League game, going to British pubs, visiting our world-class heritage sites and vibrant cities.

Visitors from Sweden account for the third biggest overseas market for going to a British football match, after Ireland and Norway, with 58,000 people coming to see a match in 2014.

The Culture Secretary met tourism leaders from Scandinavian Airlines, Swedavia, Visit Britain in Sweden and Apollo to see how government can help strengthen this offer for Swedish tourists and encourage more visitors to travel beyond London to see more of the UK.

She heard how the UK is the first choice for a majority of Swedes travelling outside Scandinavia and it is also where young Swedes leaving the country for the first time like to go – thanks to strong cultural bonds.

Speaking as part of a visit to the Nordic countries to promote trade, she championed the UK's diverse culture, top-class sport and international events – the year-long UK City of Culture 2017 celebrations in Hull, the Great Exhibition of the North in Newcastle and Gateshead in 2018, and the UCI World Cycling Championships heading to Yorkshire in 2019.

She pointed to Liverpool, where next year China's terracotta warriors will be seen in the UK for the first time in 25 years, Northumberland's stunning beaches and Durham's cathedral, the shopping options in Bicester as well as the outdoor pursuits on offer in stunning national parks in Wales and Scotland.

Culture Secretary Karen Bradley said:

Tourism from Sweden and the Nordic countries is hugely valuable to the UK and we want to make sure that more of our country benefits from this important market.

We welcome hundreds of thousands of Swedish visitors every year and we are committed to ensuring the UK continues to be a major draw for tourists from across Europe.

The meeting today was about building on our success to date, strengthening ties and seeing what more we can do to encourage more people from Sweden to come and experience the very best of Britain.

In the first three months of 2017, there were 169,000 visits to the UK from Sweden, up from 167,000 in 2016. Spend is on the increase too, in the first quarter of 2017 Swedes holidaying in the UK spent £86 million, up 12% on the same period in 2016. The Nordic market – Sweden, Norway and Denmark – made 2.3 million visits to the UK in 2016 and spent £1.24 billion. The first three months of 2017 saw record numbers of Nordic visitors to the UK, 518,000, up from 507,000 in the same period on 2016.

VisitBritain Nordics Manager Gary Robson said:

Britain has so much to offer holiday-makers from Sweden, from our cool cities and stunning national parks, to our world class shopping, heritage sites and our high-energy sports matches.

By promoting the sheer diversity of incredible experiences on offer, we want to inspire more visitors from Sweden and the Nordic market to book a trip right now to come and discover more of Britain.

Some 54% of Swedish tourists only visit London and the government wants to encourage a greater number to see more of what the whole of the country has to offer.

As part of the government's Tourism Action Plan, launched in 2016, £40 million of investment is going into supporting tourism outside of London, investing in local businesses and attractions across the country to help attract more overseas and domestic visitors.

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## **[Press release: Minister for Asia speaks about the situation in Rakhine, Burma](#)**

The Minister spoke about the situation in Burma during a meeting hosted by Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Tuesday 19 September.

The international community is united by a sense of horror at what is happening to the Rohingya Muslims of Burma. We must come together to deliver a united message.

The UK has shown leadership in coordinating the United Nations Security Council's first press statement on Burma in 8 years. That statement delivered a clear message to the Burmese security forces to stop the violence, allow

aid agencies full access to northern Rakhine and implement in full the [recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission](#).

Yesterday our [Foreign Secretary chaired a meeting](#) of countries committed to resolving the current crisis.

Today I call on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to echo the Security Council's press statement.

Let us be clear: whilst I agree with the Presidents of Turkey and Malaysia that the latest stage of this crisis was triggered by paramilitary activity it is Burma's security forces who bear responsibility for the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine.

So I also ask those countries who have influence with Burma's security forces to use that influence to persuade them to heed the Security Council's call.

I pay tribute to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for accepting Rohingya refugees into her country. And I acknowledge the personal commitment of the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, for her attempts to seek a diplomatic solution to this crisis.

We must keep up the pressure on Burma's civilian government to send a clear message to their security forces to stop the violence, ensure a full investigation of allegations of human rights violations, full access to the UN Fact Finding Mission and commit to ensuring accountability for the perpetrators.

The UK is committed to working with international partners to find a solution to this humanitarian crisis.

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## [Press release: Deputy President of the Supreme Court: Lord Mance](#)

The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of The Rt Hon the Lord Mance as Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the UK.

The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of The Rt Hon the Lord Mance as Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom upon the promotion of The Rt Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond from Deputy President to President of the Supreme Court.

### **Background information**

The Rt Hon the Lord Mance became a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in 2005. He was from 1999 to 2005 a Lord Justice of Appeal and from 1993 to 1999 a Judge of

the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, where he also sat in the Commercial Court.

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## **[News story: Deal to help schools save cash on computer equipment](#)**

DfE offers schools the chance to save on tablets, laptops and desktop devices.

The second in a series of bulk buying deals (sometimes referred to as 'aggregated deals') for schools considering buying new tablets, laptops or desktop devices has now started. Schools could save thousands of pounds by using a deal developed by DfE and Crown Commercial Services (CCS).

To take part, schools will need to [submit their requirements](#) for new devices to CCS at: [aggregation@crowcommercial.gov.uk](mailto:aggregation@crowcommercial.gov.uk) by 6 October 2017. A [video explains the process in more detail](#).

CCS will then work with suppliers to get the best price and notify schools after they award the contract on 10 November 2017. Schools will be able to place their orders for delivery in summer and arrange payment at the agreed price.

We have scheduled future buying opportunities for spring 2018 and we will announce the actual dates later.

Read more about [ordering hardware for schools](#).

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## **[News story: 200 people attend NDA's first stakeholder summit in west Cumbria](#)**

It was the first opportunity for the NDA's recently appointed Chief Executive Officer David Peattie and Chairman Tom Smith to meet collectively with a wide range of individuals, including representatives from all communities hosting the 17 NDA sites.

David Peattie said:

Maintaining strong relationships with our stakeholders is vitally important to the NDA and to me personally.

I am committed to meeting and listening to as many people as possible from the communities around our sites, and those further afield who have a real and genuine interest in our mission to decommission and clean up the UK's nuclear sites.

Davie Peattie, NDA CEO

The event aimed at encouraging discussion about the NDA's work, including how it manages the radioactive waste held on its sites. In 'The Big Waste Debate', UK and international nuclear industry experts shared views alongside renowned academics, authors and critics of the industry.

An exhibition and workshops were set up for local community groups, including charities and small businesses, to share ideas and highlight the achievement of enterprises that had received funding from the NDA's socio-economic budget.

The second day was devoted to discussing support for socio-economic initiatives, which is part of the NDA's mission to decommission and clean up the UK's civil nuclear legacy. NDA representatives explained how it was committed to using all resources available, including financial support, to ensure a positive lasting impact in the communities where it operates.

The NDA's Head of Stakeholder Relations, Bill Hamilton, said:

I'm delighted about how well the event has gone and about the open, honest and constructive dialogue that's happened over the last 2 days.

Our stakeholders come from as far afield as the north of Scotland, Ireland, Austria, the Isle of Man and the south east of England. To get them all together in one place to discuss our decommissioning mission in this way is a first and has been extremely valuable for the NDA.

[Highlights from NDA Stakeholder Summit Day 1](#)