

Press release: Official statement

Clarification on UK travel advice.

The British government provides advice to British citizens travelling to countries across the world. Our aim is to provide practical, accurate and up to date information and advice to help British nationals make informed decisions about their safety and travel abroad.

Recent media stories in Ghana have wrongly suggested that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have issued a new warning with regard to terrorism in Ghana. We have not issued new advice.

Our travel advice for Ghana was last updated on 24 April and can be found at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/ghana. This contains a section on terrorism – something that is standard practice for all travel advice. This advice is similar to that of other countries in the region and around the world.

Press release: Ghana: Applications for Chevening scholarships are now open

The Chevening Secretariat is accepting applications for UK Government scholarships to study in the UK in 2018/2019. Applications for Chevening Scholarships are open between 7 August and 7 November 2017, with applications to be submitted via www.chevening.org/apply

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals with demonstrable leadership potential who also have strong academic backgrounds. The scholarship offers full financial support for future leaders to study for any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural events. There are more than 1,500 scholarships on offer globally for the 2018/2019 academic year, representing a significant investment from the UK Government towards developing the leaders of tomorrow.

Chevening Secretariat Director, Anne Marie Graham, said:

We are looking for ambitious, professional, forward-thinking leaders from any walk of life. Although there is no single personality profile for a Chevening Scholar, all of our scholars do have one thing in common; they were bold enough to step forward and apply.

If you are chosen for Chevening, you will receive a first-rate UK education which can open doors in your career. You will also become part of the global Chevening Alumni network full of dynamic influencers who have shared the same experience as you will, and can offer mentorship or advice.

There is a lot to potentially gain from submitting a thoughtful application, so if you or someone you know has what it takes to be a Chevening Scholar, I would encourage you to apply before the 7 November deadline.'

Chevening Programme Manager, Louise Thomson, said:

Chevening allows you to truly follow your passions by allowing you to choose from over 14,000 eligible courses at over 150 different institutions. Whilst we expect that your experience will be academically fulfilling, you will also enjoy exclusive access to social opportunities to meet new people and travel to new places.

You experience Britain's heritage and history, discuss international policy, and interact with high profile personalities at a range of academic, cultural, and social events.

Recent scholars have visited the Houses of Parliament in London, Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, Mount Snowdon in Wales, Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, and the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland. Some have even visited Hogwarts at the film studio where the Harry Potter films were shot.

It's a challenging year of intense growth for our scholars in the UK. Their academic knowledge deepens, their networks expand, and their ambitions grow, leaving them motivated to return home and strive for progress.'

The call for new applicants follows the selection of 20 scholars from Ghana who won an award to study at a UK university this year. Many of last year's successful applicants have been sharing their stories through the #ChosenForChevening hashtag on Twitter and Instagram.

More information

Visit www.chevening.org/apply/guidance for detailed information on the eligibility criteria and award specifications.

Contact

The British High Commission Accra on 000233 302 213 200 or High.Commission.Accra@fco.gov.uk

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Note to editors

Chevening Scholarships are the UK Government's global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organisations. The scholarships support study at UK universities – mostly one year taught master's degrees – for individuals with demonstrable potential to become future leaders, decision-makers, and opinion formers.

Chevening began in 1983 and has developed into a prestigious international awards scheme. Chevening Scholars come from over 160 countries and territories worldwide (excluding the USA and the EU), and more than 1,500 scholarships were awarded in 2017/2018. There are over 48,000 Chevening Alumni around the world who comprise an influential and highly regarded global network.

The name 'Chevening' comes from Chevening House in Sevenoaks, Kent – currently the joint official residence of the UK's Foreign Secretary.

More information is available on www.chevening.org

[News story: DIO awards overseas consultancy framework contract](#)

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence along with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have worked together to develop an overseas principal support provider (PSP) framework.

Six companies have been selected as suppliers for the framework to deliver multi-disciplinary design and project management services, advisory services, construction technical services, specialist surveys and clerk of the works duties.

The 6 companies that have been awarded a place on the framework are:

- AECOM
- Atkins
- Mott MacDonald
- Ramboll
- Ridge & Partners LLP
- WYG

The successful suppliers will deliver services overseas for the next 4 years and will work on key international projects across the globe. The framework has an estimated spend value of £60 million and demonstrates a commitment

across government departments to work together on overseas procurement.

DIO worked with the Foreign Office, the Permanent Joint Headquarters and other government stakeholders on this innovative approach. The framework helps to deliver the Cabinet Office initiative to ensure consistency and value for money across overseas government projects.

The framework will use mini-competitions among the 6 companies as the primary way of selecting the most appropriate contractor to deliver a project. This will allow departments to share good practice and deliver value for money by ensuring they are all working to the same standards on large overseas projects.

David Graham, Deputy Head of International Projects at the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, said:

We are pleased to welcome these suppliers on board following a successful procurement process. We look forward to working with them, the Foreign Office and other areas of government to lead on projects that support our military personnel who live, train and work overseas.

As the key government departments which manage overseas projects it's essential that we continue to work together to ensure a consistent approach to procurement of project management and other support for our overseas estate.

[News story: Animal medicines seizure: Jodies Cyprus Dog Rehoming](#)

The following products were seized from Jodies Cyprus Dog Rehoming, Shrewsbury, Shropshire as they are not authorised in the UK:

- 221 tablets of Alopiron
- 100 tablets of Zyloric

These products were not obtained in accordance with the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013.

Press release: Home Secretary gives £20 million boost to tackle online grooming

The funding follows a successful regional pilot, led by Norfolk police, which saw dedicated officers operating online in forums and chatrooms, to identify and disrupt offenders.

The year-long pilot led to 43 arrests and 19 people charged, nine of whom were identified as repeat offenders and 11 of those arrested were registered sex offenders. Police estimate that at least 25 children were safeguarded because of their intervention. Among those charged was a male, who travelled from the south coast to London with the intention of raping a 8-year-old girl. He was arrested and charged through the work of the pilot and sentenced to over 5 years' imprisonment.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

Child sexual exploitation has a profoundly devastating impact on the lives of its victims, and it's a national policing priority to take on the threat it poses. We believe this project has shown early promise in tackling these complex crimes through an innovative approach.

Crime as traditionally measured by the independent crime survey for England and Wales is down by more than a third since 2010. However, we know that the nature of crime is changing, and through projects such as this we can help the police to adapt and develop the tools they need to respond to the challenges of the future.

The project will now be rolled out across the country and forms part of a renewed effort to tackle child sexual exploitation and increase protection for vulnerable people in society. This will allow police to build a greater intelligence picture and develop a coordinated approach across the law enforcement network.

National Police Chiefs Council Lead for Child Protection, Chief Constable Simon Bailey said:

The internet is not a safe or anonymous place for abusing children. In collaboration with the National Crime Agency Child Exploitation and Online Protection command, the police service is doing more than ever before to stop the sexual abuse of children.

We are already arresting over 400 offenders and safeguarding over 500 children each month. This increased investment will enable us

to consistently target predatory offenders intent on using the internet to facilitate their criminal behaviour and intervene earlier to prevent children being abused.

This increase in our undercover capability will send a clear message to so-called paedophile hunters: if you have information about child abuse, tell the police. Don't try to take it into your own hands, you could undermine police investigations creating more risk for the children we all want to protect.

If any member of the public has concerns about online grooming, they should report them to their local police, to CEOP at www.ceop.police.uk, or to Crimestoppers. If you think a child is at immediate risk of harm call 999.

The funding is part of £52 million awarded by the Home Secretary from the police transformation fund, which through a police-led process, allocates extra investment to continue the job of reform and shape policing for the future. As well as tackling child sexual exploitation, the funding is focused on greater digitisation and efficiency across policing, making more than £24 million available over three years to help increase productivity and to enhance cyber security. Some of the police-led projects funded include:

- up to £12.4 million for the digital policing programme, including the Digital Evidence Transfer Service. This is designed to allow forces to rapidly transmit the increasing body of digital evidence across the criminal justice system.
- up to £10.5 million for national enabling programmes to deliver a joined up approach to flexible IT access and back office software.
- £3 million for the specialist capabilities programme, which will examine the potential of greater force-to-force collaboration across specialist policing capabilities.