

[News story: Rip off card-charges to be outlawed](#)

The government is unveiling new rules that will mean card-charging in Britain – where people can be charged 20% extra for purchases like a flight just for paying with a credit card – will come to an end in January.

‘Surcharging’ is common practice across the country – with businesses ranging from takeaway apps to global airlines charging people to make card payments or for other services such as Paypal. While many industries have acted to absorb the cost and not pass these on to consumers, these rules will bring an end to the practice entirely.

The rules will also tackle surcharging by local councils and government agencies.

In 2010, the total value of surcharges for debit and credit cards was an estimated £473 million.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Barclay, said:

Rip-off charges have no place in a modern Britain and that’s why card charging in Britain is about to come to an end.

This is about fairness and transparency, and so from next year there will be no more nasty surprises for people at the check-out just for using a card.

These small charges can really add up and this change will mean shoppers across the country have that bit of extra cash to spend on the things that matter to them.

The government has previously capped the costs that businesses face for processing card payments, and will engage with retailers to assess if there is any more that can be done to help.

This action forms part of our wider help for families with the cost of living by helping to raise their incomes and keep more of what they earn.

[News story: CMA CGM Simba and Domingue](#)

report published

MAIB's report on the investigation of the girting and capsizing of tug Domingue while assisting the UK-registered container vessel CMA CGM Simba resulting in 2 fatalities on 20 September 2016, is now published.

The report contains details of what happened and the subsequent actions taken.

Press enquiries

Press enquiries during office hours 01932 440015

Press enquiries out of hours 020 7944 4292

News story: Home Secretary announces £1 million to help communities support refugees

The funding was announced by the Home Secretary to mark the one year anniversary of the [community sponsorship scheme](#) (Wednesday 19 July).

The community sponsorship scheme, which was launched by the Home Secretary at Lambeth Palace last year, enables community groups to take on the role of supporting refugees who have been resettled from the camps in the countries surrounding Syria in the UK.

Since the scheme launched last year, 53 refugees have been welcomed by 10 community groups across the UK. Community sponsors, including charities, faith groups and churches, provide housing for the refugee families, as well as helping them to integrate into life in the UK, access medical and social services, arranging English language tuition and supporting them towards employment and self-sufficiency.

The new 2 year £1 million fund will provide training and support for groups signing up to the scheme.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

"I am delighted that the community sponsorship scheme has got off to such an excellent start.

“The work of the volunteers who have welcomed refugees into their communities over the last year is inspiring, as is the compassion of the many local authorities who have provided their support.

“But this is just the beginning. I hope many more groups, from across England and Wales, will be inspired to get involved. That is why I have announced this funding, to help more communities welcome vulnerable families looking to create a new life and bring real benefits to the places in which they will live and work.”

One year ago Lambeth Palace became the first community group to welcome a refugee family. Since then community groups from Manchester to Cornwall and Wales have also welcomed these vulnerable families into their communities.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

“Last year we welcomed a family of Syrian refugees to live with us here at Lambeth Palace through the community sponsorship scheme. It has been an absolute privilege and joy to get to know this special family over the last year as we’ve supported them to start a new life in the UK. They have been a blessing to us in so many ways.

“It’s amazing to think that we are celebrating the one year anniversary of the scheme. In whatever way you can, I would encourage everyone to get involved with community sponsorship and support refugees. It is truly a life-changing experience.”

The UK scheme has been set up by the government working closely with civil society groups and international partners including the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, which is jointly led by the Government of Canada, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Open Society Foundations, the Radcliffe Foundation, and the University of Ottawa.

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, said:

“The success of Canada’s refugee resettlement program would not be possible without our private sponsorship program. I’m very pleased to see that the UK has already experienced similar success with its own sponsorship model within its first year.

“Through the community sponsorship scheme for refugees, the UK will be able to help bring more vulnerable people around the world to safety. I have no doubt that private sponsorship, which has been so positive in Canada, will also bring long-term advantages for individual communities in the UK and the entire country.”

Community sponsorship is just one way that the UK government is helping to support refugees. The government remains on track to meet its commitment of resettling 23,000 of the most vulnerable refugees through the vulnerable person and children’s resettlement schemes by 2020, with over 7000 refugees resettled as of March this year.

[Press release: PM call with Prime Minister Abadi of Iraq: 18 July 2017](#)

The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Abadi of Iraq this afternoon.

She congratulated him on the recent liberation of Mosul, and commended the bravery and sacrifice of Iraqi forces.

Prime Minister Abadi thanked her and said victory would not have been achieved without the support of the UK and other members of the international coalition against Daesh.

Prime Minister May reiterated the UK's long-term commitment to a secure and unified Iraq, through our ongoing military, humanitarian and stabilisation support.

They agreed on the importance of continuing to work together to defeat terrorism, to ensure Iraq's stability and prosperity. This includes our continued efforts to bring Daesh to justice.

They also discussed the importance of political reform and reconciliation to unite Iraqis and prevent the reemergence of Daesh. Prime Minister May stressed the need to heal divisions, help citizens rebuild their lives and give all Iraqis a stake in a better future.

[Speech: Africa's Young Commonwealth](#)

Good evening everyone. I am delighted to be with you tonight.

I was appointed just last month as Foreign Office Minister with responsibility for the Commonwealth.

Ghana was an obvious choice for my first official visit to a Commonwealth country. Not only because your country was the first African member-state to join the Commonwealth family, 60 years ago this year; but also because of the close relationship our two countries have long shared.

It means that we see Ghana as one of our closest Commonwealth allies, one that will join us in building a Commonwealth that is truly fit for the 21st century. Crucially, from your point of view, we want it to be an organisation that truly represents its young people.

That's why I want to talk to you about the United Kingdom's plans for the Commonwealth Summit next year, and why they matter to you.

The Summit is a great family celebration that takes place every two years. Heads of the 52 Commonwealth governments get together and discuss the issues of the day.

Next year it is the UK's turn, so in April we will be hosting meetings at great historic venues, from Windsor Castle to Buckingham Palace.

But it's not all about pomp and ceremony. We want this Summit to have a real impact and to make a real difference to people's lives, right across the world.

The United Kingdom is a passionate supporter of the Commonwealth.

Why? First, because it is a unique institution, with vast global reach and influence. It has already achieved great things – just look at the impact it had on the Paris Climate Change agreement, when the Commonwealth heads of government came together in Malta in 2015 to push for a global agreement to tackle climate change. We strongly believe that the Commonwealth has huge further potential as a force for good.

But that's not the only reason. We also passionately support the Commonwealth because we believe that it quite literally represents the future. It is home to a third of the world's population and two thirds of them, like many of you, are lucky enough to be under the age of 30. You represent the future not just of your country and the Commonwealth, but of the entire planet.

That is why our bold ambition for the Commonwealth Summit is to re-invigorate and re-energise the Commonwealth. We want it to be an organisation that works for the benefit of all its citizens and the wider world: men and women, rich and poor, old and young.

And especially the young. Your voices and your opinions are as important to us as the views of the political leaders of the 52 member states. The organisation could – indeed we think it should – have a real impact on your futures. That is why we want you to play a part in re-shaping it.

You may ask why it needs re-shaping. To answer that question, let's step back in time for a moment.

60 years ago, and for the rest of the 20th century, the Commonwealth family offered support for newly independent countries – like Ghana.

Today the world has changed. Greater demands are being placed on governments – and on the planet. We face new challenges. Technology, globalisation, automation, conflict, terrorism, demographic change, climate change...

So the world is changing, and the Commonwealth must adapt and change too. Now is the time to realise its as yet untapped potential as a global force. For that to happen we, the member states, must agree to re-vitalise, re-energise and re-new the organisation. We must build an institution capable of meeting

the new challenges of our rapidly changing world.

We see four key priorities for this revitalised institution:

The first is improving prosperity. The Commonwealth can help by boosting trade and investment between member countries. Our shared language and legal traditions are unique advantages that we should make more use of. Ghana, one of Africa's fastest growing economies, is well placed to help boost trade and to benefit from it.

If we can succeed in improving trade and business links around the Commonwealth, it means it will be easier for young people like you – it's no secret that Ghanaians are some of the most enterprising people on the continent – to set up businesses and sell their products abroad.

The second key priority is acting on climate change. It will affect us all, one way or another. In Ghana's case, rising global temperatures pose a real threat to cocoa production. Your exports would be severely affected. That is why, as we did in 2015, we must continue to work together to implement the promises we all made in Paris to increase the resilience of Commonwealth countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change.

We also hope that other African Commonwealth countries will follow Ghana's example and ratify the Paris agreement.

The third priority is keeping our people safe. We still face the same threats that we did when the Commonwealth was founded – inter-state conflict, civil war, insurgency.

But the threats have also multiplied and become more sophisticated. We now also face violent extremism and terrorism. We suffer cyber attack, both state-based and criminal. And we know that organised crime operates, not on street corners but on the dark web, across borders and jurisdictions. We believe the Commonwealth could play more of a role in tackling these new security challenges.

Our fourth priority is to build a fairer future, based on our shared values of good governance, democracy and human rights.

The organisation has a good record here – seven of Africa's least corrupt countries are in the Commonwealth, and our election monitoring work is the envy of the world. [I might add that your country is one of the strongest democracies in Africa, having held seven consecutive democratic elections.]

Young people here can play a vital role in promoting the benefits of an open, tolerant and democratic society.

These four priorities inform our approach to the Commonwealth Summit next year.

And we want young people like you to be at the heart of them all, because it is your futures we are talking about. Your prosperity, your security, your human rights, your world.

We can't do this without you. We need you to get involved with the Commonwealth, to help us build an organisation that can rise to the challenges of the future, and represent your interests on the world stage. As a leading African democracy we hope that Ghana, and young Ghanaians, will work with the UK and help us to realise our ambitious vision for the Summit.

I look forward to working with you to build a better future for the Commonwealth and the world. Thank you.