

UK donates equipment to Peru to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

News story

The donation of 60 ventilators and 40 monitors by the UK government will strengthen the care of patients with COVID-19 in Peru.



Ambassador Harrison, with the Prime Minister Violeta Bermúdez and the Minister of Health Óscar Ugarte, during the handing ceremony.

Today (19 February), the United Kingdom government donated 20 mechanical ventilators, 40 non-invasive ventilators and 40 monitors to the Ministry of Health of Peru to contribute to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The donation, valued at two million soles (520 thousand pounds sterling), was delivered by the British ambassador, Kate Harrison. She said:

The COVID-19 pandemic is a truly global challenge and we must come together to defeat it and help our countries to recover. I am therefore very pleased that the United Kingdom is able to donate this life saving equipment to the government of Peru. I hope it will help to ensure that fewer families suffer the loss of a loved one at the hands of this terrible virus. We will continue to do all we can to share expertise, resources and information with Peru as we face this shared challenge.

It is necessary to continue complying with safety measures in light of recent increases in cases in Peru. Let's continue with social distancing so that the contagion curve does not rise again

UK Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas, Wendy Morton, said:

International collaboration is key to beating COVID-19. That is why the UK is working in partnership with countries, including Peru, to

bring the virus under control.

I am proud that the UK is providing the life-saving equipment Peru needs at this important time. Only by working together will we be successful in saving lives and ending the pandemic.

The implements for the care of patients with COVID-19 were delivered to the Ministry of Health, who will be in charge of their distribution to the different hospitals across Peru.

The governments of Peru and the United Kingdom have been in constant communication to join forces in the fight against COVID-19, and continue to strengthen the bilateral relationship and joint work between both countries on projects such as the reconstruction of the north of Peru, and commercial opportunities and investment.

This donation ratifies the UK's leading role in the global and scientific response to the COVID19 pandemic. The United Kingdom is also the main donor to the COVAX Facility, which seeks to ensure accessible vaccines to the countries of the world when it is finalised.

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[COP26 President Alok Sharma welcomes Nepal's positive action on climate change](#)

- Alok Sharma's first visit to Nepal as COP26 President to see the effects of climate change on the Himalayan region
- He met with Nepal's Prime Minister Oli, President Bidhya Devi Bhandari, other government Ministers and officials, community leaders and civil society
- Supporting women's voices in climate action ahead of COP26 was a key part of visit

The COP26 President Alok Sharma visited Nepal this week to observe the effects of global warming on mountainous communities first-hand and learn more about the country's ambitious work to tackle climate change.

During his two day visit, Mr Sharma met Nepalese Prime Minister KP Oli, President Devi Bhandari, government ministers, mountain communities and climate activists, including female climate leaders and young climate champions, to better understand the opportunities and challenges around making climate action happen in Nepal.

Mr Sharma congratulated Prime Minister KP Oli on Nepal's recent commitment to net zero by 2050— a crucial step in the global fight against climate change — and they discussed increasing climate ambition ahead of COP26.

President Bhandari and Mr Sharma spoke about the challenges Nepal faces as a highly climate vulnerable country and an extremely low emitter, and how the UK and Nepal can share their experiences to achieve net zero.

They also spoke about how the UK can help amplify women's voices on climate at the COP26 climate summit which will be held in Glasgow later this year.

The UK is already working with development partners to coordinate a \$7.4 billion Green Recovery Support package that will help Nepal build back greener from Covid-19. The package will help Nepal recover sustainably from the immediate impacts of the pandemic, by investing in clean energy, water and projects such as flood prevention, and tree planting, whilst mobilising support for sustainable job creation in agriculture, forestry, and tourism.

Alok Sharma, COP26 President-Designate, said:

As COP26 President it's important to me that I was able to see first-hand the very real impacts of climate change including on the lives of mountain-based communities.

People here are incredibly resilient but it is an injustice that one of the lowest carbon emitters in the region is being hit in this way.

There is clearly a strong understanding of the urgent need for climate action among women and young people here, and I was glad to hear that sentiment echoed by the Government of Nepal.

Globally we must do more to support those on the frontline of climate change. Seeing the British Gurkha projects in action shows how we can improve lives if we work together.

Nepal negotiates with the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group and has been asked by its Chair, Bhutan, to represent the interests of the Hindu Kush Himalaya's at COP26.

The Himalaya supply 1.6 billion people with fresh water and Nepal alone supplies 400 million.

Annual warming in the Himalayan region is twice the global average and glaciers are retreating by up to 60 metres per year. Mr Sharma saw this when he visited the region and spoke with mountain communities about the impacts of climate change on the Himalaya and retreating glaciers.

Access to water is a pressing issue for some Himalayan communities and Mr Sharma met with people who are building resilience against the effects of climate change with the help of a project run by British Gurkha Nepal.

Minister Sharma also met the British Embassy's Mountains and Climate Change Champion, ex-British Gurkha Nirmal 'Nimsdai' Purja who is supporting the British Embassy's year long #ActionIsPossible campaign.

The British Ambassador to Nepal, Her Excellency Nicola Pollitt, said:

I am delighted that the COP President Sharma was able to visit Nepal and see first-hand the severe impacts of climate change on the mountains, on biodiversity, on communities and the region. As COP President, he is uniquely placed to deliver clear messages on the need for climate action in the Himalaya to the rest of the world.

Nirmal 'Nimsdai' Purja, British Embassy Kathmandu's Mountains and Climate Change Champion, said:

I've seen the impact of climate change in the mountains. On K2 as well as on Nepal's mountains. On Manaslu, my team and I were able to boil snow for drinking water in 2012. In 2020, there was no snow to boil. We had to carry water all the way up. If we work together, action is possible.

Ends.

Notes to editors:

1. COP26 President Alok Sharma visited Nepal on 17-18 February 2021.
2. The COP26 summit will take place on 1-12 November 2021 in Glasgow and will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
3. The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26.

[Ending hostilities and averting famine in Yemen](#)

Remarks by Ambassador Barbara Woodward at the Security Council briefing on Yemen

My thanks to Special Envoy Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General Lowcock, and Ambassador King for their briefings.

For Yemen, 2021 started much as 2020 left off: an intractable conflict with what threatens to be the worst famine in decades. But as we have heard, there is an opportunity. Increased US engagement on Yemen, including the reversal of designation, is a welcome milestone. And we fully support UN efforts to broker a deal that ends hostilities, eases economic restrictions, and leads to a comprehensive political process.

However, the Houthis have responded to this push for peace by escalating their attacks against Saudi Arabia and by launching a new offensive on Marib – a city where one million Yemenis have sought refuge.

It will take the collective efforts of this Council to persuade the Houthis to cease this offensive. This conflict will not end without a comprehensive deal involving all of Yemen's key political groups, including the Houthis. In this regard, I welcome the supportive statements that Martin Griffiths received during his recent visits to Tehran and Riyadh, and hope that the Houthis will now receive Martin in Sana'a to discuss the way forward.

While the war rages, as we've heard, millions of Yemenis risk starvation. To prevent famine, the international community and Yemen's key partners must step up at the Pledging Conference on 1 March – or, as Mark said, before that. History – and the Yemeni people – will not look kindly on us if we fail.

UNSC Resolution 2417 makes clear that humanitarian access must not be impeded. In addition, Government of Yemen restrictions on fuel imports are sharply increasing prices, as we've heard, threatening the delivery of basic services, and the lives of Yemenis. Significant external financial assistance to the Central Bank of Yemen is also urgently needed.

Finally, further Houthi delays to the UN mission to assess the SAFER oil tanker are unacceptable. With another vessel potentially identified, I hope the UN can outline in greater detail what more they need from the Houthis for this mission to deploy.

Business support scheme to boost UK space industry has lift off

The up to 10-week Business Accelerator programme, delivered in partnership with business growth experts from Entrepreneurial Spark and The University of Strathclyde, offers free virtual sessions to help companies with their sights set on space to make progress.

Businesses that may not have previously considered the opportunities presented by the space industry can also benefit. Pre-launch activity already involves a nationwide targeting of relevant businesses to alert them to the

possibilities for growth.

The scheme, getting under way in early March, aims to find entrepreneurs from a wide range of sectors to strengthen the UK's space industry infrastructure.

Space has transformed into one of the UK's fastest growing sectors, trebling in size since 2010. The UK space industry now employs close to 42,000 people across the country and generates an income of nearly £15 billion every year – and the government, via the UK Space Agency, wants to accelerate that growth.

Catherine Mealing-Jones, Director of Growth at The UK Space Agency, said:

The space sector is ripe with opportunity, and as the UK recovers from the Covid pandemic this new support programme will bring in diverse ideas and talent to realise that growth opportunity.

A practical approach to how to develop a business, combined with access to experts who can guide success are hallmarks of the programme. This is coupled with an holistic focus on supporting truly sustainable businesses to ensure that the space sector can provide new long-term secure employment right around the country.

Key to this approach is bringing innovators together in existing and new clusters of space-related activity, thereby gathering critical mass which will also benefit adjacent parts of the economy. The relationship with universities is also key and provides a pathway for students into the sector and for vibrant knowledge exchange for business".

The UK is already a world leader in space science, in producing small satellites, and utilising space data; and as part of the government's strategy of achieving 10% of the global space market share by 2030. SMEs in this sector are growing by 30% per annum and there is a real opportunity to get more businesses involved in exploring how space technology can enable their growth.

Sectors targeted include

- manufacturing
- engineering
- robotics
- computer and data science
- autonomous vehicles (self-driving cars)

Businesses of any size can take part. These include those that are:

1. In the space sector already and looking to grow
2. Using space technology as part of their business
3. Open to exploring expansion into the space sector – these may include conservation, archaeology, sustainability, economics, finance, law and lifestyle and health.

Under the scheme, two strands of support are available:

Business Horizons is a series of eight one-off events. The events are one hour each, with a “rich series of orbital activities”. The first event is set for Monday, 8 March.

Leo (which stands for Low Earth Orbit, named after the orbit satellites use to travel the Earth) is a 10-week programme designed to inject pace, with entrepreneurs emerging with momentum and a clear strategy for 90 days of targeted activity to help them make progress in the UK space programme.

Companies of any size are welcome to take part.

Scotland is particularly strong within the UK’s space sector. The Scottish space industry also punches well above its weight and is home to almost a fifth of the total jobs in the UK sector, valued at £880 million in 2017-18.

Sarah Burns, Space Cluster Development Manager of The University of Strathclyde said:

Scotland’s space sector has seen impressive growth over the past years and this business support programme is a great example of how universities play an important role in this growth and the business eco-system. By translating research and innovative ideas into the business and commercial worlds, and as a ‘Place of Useful Learning’, the University of Strathclyde is well-placed to support businesses wishing to explore space as a business opportunity. This programme allows us to engage with the amazing start-ups and businesses that are becoming interested in the opportunities that the space sector can enable in their respective sectors, all of which supports the growth of what is an exciting and rapidly expanding UK space sector.

Mike Stephens, CEO of Entrepreneurial Spark, added:

Space is a truly exciting industry right now, with ground-breaking developments happening all the time. SMEs in this sector are growing by 30% per annum and there is a real opportunity to get more businesses involved in exploring how space technology can enable growth for them. Entrepreneurs have a massive role to play in generating an inclusive economic recovery, and mobilising them in Space sector has the potential deliver this across the whole of the UK. You may not even realise you are using space technology in your business, and the opportunities that are open to you as a result. This is a world-class programme of free support, delivered virtually reaching every corner of the UK. Now is the time for action and our partnership is there to support space entrepreneurs every step of the way.

To find out more about the UK Space Agency's Business Accelerator programme, entrepreneurs and company directors should visit [this link](#).

[Security boss fined for ignoring industry regulator](#)

Press release

A security company director has been fined for failing to provide information to the Security Industry Authority (SIA).



Security Industry Authority

Kevan Warren, of Liverpool, was sentenced at Liverpool and Knowsley Magistrates' Court on 11 February 2021. District Judge Shaw imposed a fine of £230.00 plus a victim surcharge of £32.00. Warren, who is the director of SecureSec Security Solutions Ltd, must also pay costs of £500.00.

Warren, who is also known as both Kevin and Keven Warren, changed his plea from not guilty to guilty at the hearing, at which he represented himself. The Security Industry Authority brought the prosecution after Warren stopped engaging with requests for information under Section 19 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Requests made under the Act place the recipient under a legal obligation to respond; not to do so is a criminal offence.

The SIA originally wrote to Warren on 18 March 2020 with a request for information relating to the contracts undertaken by SecureSec between October 2019 and March 2020. Warren replied the following day, and again three days later, showing that he had received and understood the SIA's request. However, he failed to provide the information and the SIA has had no response from him since 22 March 2020.

Pete Easterbrook, of the SIA's Criminal Investigation Team, said:

It's very important that those within the industry understand that

requests for information from us cannot be ignored. Working within a regulated sector carries certain responsibilities, one of which is engaging with the regulator when we ask you to do so. If you work in the private security industry and ignore a request from us, you could find yourself in court. A conviction will almost certainly mean the end of your career in the industry. If we get in touch, please engage with us for your own sake. Ignoring the regulator is not worth the damage to reputation and livelihood that might follow.

Notes to editors:

1. by law, security operatives working under contract must hold and display a valid SIA licence [read about SIA enforcement and penalties](#)
2. the offence relating to the Private Security Industry Act (2001) that is mentioned in the above news release is:

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Our main duties are: the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities; and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
- For further information about the Security Industry Authority visit www.gov.uk/sia. The SIA is also on [Facebook](#) (Security Industry Authority) and [Twitter](#) (SIAuk).
- Media enquiries only please contact: 0300 123 9869, media.enquiries@sia.gov.uk

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