

# Addressing the global threat of Daesh

- UK stresses Daesh's continued threat on Syria and Iraq and urges that perpetrators face justice.

Remarks by Ambassador Jonathan Allen at Security Council briefing, 10 February 2021

I join others in condemning this morning's attack on 26 UN peacekeepers from Togo serving in the MINUSMA mission in Mali. We wish all those injured a swift and complete recovery.

As the Secretary-General's report underscores, Daesh continues to pose a global threat. Despite territorial losses, the group remains able to inflict deadly harm in Syria and Iraq. We are concerned particularly by the IDP camps highlighted by the Secretary-General's report. The United Kingdom facilitates the return of unaccompanied or orphaned children on a case-by-case basis and subject to national security concerns. But those who have fought for or supported Daesh should face justice for their crimes in the most appropriate jurisdiction – often where those crimes were committed.

Further afield, we're concerned about Daesh's presence worldwide, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Its online recruitment and incitement must also be tackled. The United Kingdom remains an active member of the Global Coalition against Daesh. We co-lead coalition efforts to tackle the propaganda threat.

At the United Nations level, the United Kingdom will continue to advocate for increasing focus on preventing terrorists' misuse of the internet and aviation security, as well as emerging threats beyond Daesh like right-wing terrorism. We will also emphasise the need to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism, and will prioritise prevention and whole-of-society approaches.

I want to conclude by associating myself with the comments of the representative of France in defence of the White Helmets. We're used to hearing these slurs in our Syria debates and have responded in those meetings. It's rather sad to hear it raised in a serious debate on counter-terrorism.

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## New Teaching School Hubs to be rolled out across the country

Every school in the country will have greater access to expert teacher

training and development, under plans announced by the Department for Education today.

The teaching workforce will get best-practice and expert advice on how best to engage with pupils, lesson planning, and classroom management, as part of new teaching school hubs being rolled out across the country.

81 Hubs will be added in all corners of England to provide high-quality professional development to teachers and leaders at all stages of their career, and play a key role in helping to build up trainee teachers as they enter the workforce. This will further level up the quality of teaching, allowing every child to receive a world-class start in life no matter where they are born.

Each hub, all of which will be operational and helping schools from this September, will have its own defined geographical patch and will be expected to be accessible to all schools within that area, serving on average around 250 schools each.

The programme is being rolled out as teachers continue to deliver high quality remote education for pupils, with the current attendance restrictions in schools and colleges remaining in place until 8 March at the earliest.

School Standards Minister Nick Gibb said:

We know teachers are already providing the best education possible for pupils, and this is especially true while schools are closed to most pupils. These new Teaching School Hubs will further support the profession by providing the best possible training and development opportunities.

It is important that teachers and school leaders feel supported in their career. The Hubs will make this substantially easier, with expert practitioners able to give experienced advice to those schools able to benefit from it.

There will be 87 hubs for teacher training and development, built around some of the best schools and Multi Academy Trusts in England. This comes from £65m of new funding, with the Hubs set to run for an initial three years.

The 81 new hubs will be rolled out in addition to the six existing test & learn TSH which were appointed in January 2020. This means there will be nationwide coverage for the first time, and every school in England will now have access to a local centre of excellence for teacher training.

The Hubs will also help in delivering the Early Career Framework reforms when this is available nationally from September 2021, as well as in delivering a reformed suite of National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) including new specialist NPQs. They will also deliver Initial Teaching Training and additional high-quality evidence based professional development.

Richard Gill, Teaching School Council Chair, said:

The Teaching Schools Council congratulates all 81 schools and/or trusts which have been designated as a teaching school hub. They will now join the existing 6 'test and learn' hubs that were announced in January 2020 to form a national network of excellence in teacher training and development.

The work of the TSC has been instrumental in supporting this programme to date and we are proud to be the sector body that will continue to be a key partner in these reforms.

The Department has committed to improving support and professional development for teachers at all stages of their career, particularly for those in their vital first few years of teaching, through the Early Career Framework reforms.

A reformed suite of NPQs, previously announced in 2019 as part of the Teacher Recruitment & Retention Strategy, will also be launched from September 2021. This will ensure these qualifications continue to offer the best possible support to teachers and leaders wanting to expand their knowledge and skills.

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## [Looking to the long-term](#)

News story

GAD has completed actuarial reviews of 2 social security funds in Guernsey. The reports show key drivers of the funds' finances – benefits, migration patterns and earnings.



The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has completed actuarial reviews for 2 of Guernsey's social security funds. These are the Guernsey Insurance Fund and the Long-term Care Insurance Fund.

## **GAD's involvement**

Social security is a long-term undertaking because benefits for current contributors may still be being paid in 60 or more years' time. It is therefore important that policymakers and the wider public have a clear understanding of the financial commitments being made.

GAD looked at the period up to the year 2080. The reports show the contribution rates required to finance the benefits, allowing for the policy on the balance that should be held in the funds.

They also illustrate some of the key drivers of the funds' finances. These include how benefits are increased each year, migration patterns and earnings growth.

GAD Actuary James Thompson led the project. He said: "Decisions on the financing of social security commitments can be complex. These reviews are important in helping policymakers assess the long-term viability of the funds for the people of Guernsey."

## **Policy responses**

The Committee for Employment & Social Security has considered the reports which will be presented to the States of Deliberation, the legislature and government of Guernsey, later this month (February 2021).

The results provide a sound basis on which to build future decisions on benefit rates and contribution levels.

The reports on both the [Guernsey Insurance Fund](#) and the [Guernsey Long-term Care Insurance Fund](#) are available to view on the States of Guernsey website.

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## **[Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus \(COVID-19\): 10 February 2021](#)**

It is five weeks since we set ourselves the target of vaccinating almost 15 million of the most vulnerable people in the country, and the aim was – and is – clear to everyone.

By offering the prospect of protection from Covid to everyone 70 and over, to

all frontline NHS and care staff, to older care home residents and staff and to all those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, we can do the most, the fastest, to reduce the incidence of death and serious illness.

And, with less than a week to go until the target date of Monday 15th, there is no doubt that we have made great strides, with just over 13 million people now vaccinated in our United Kingdom, including 1 in 4 adults in England, over 90 per cent of everyone over 75 and over 90 per cent of eligible residents of care homes for the elderly.

But that still leaves nearly 2 million people – a population roughly twice the size of Birmingham – that we still hope to reach.

And there are people across the country who for one reason or another haven't yet taken up their offer.

So now is the moment to do it, wherever you are – you won't be more than about 10 miles away from a vaccination centre.

So, go online, or get someone to help you or simply pick up the phone and call 119.

And let me appeal to the fantastic social care workers we all rely on to look after our relatives, our parents and grandparents.

If you have not received a letter, please contact your employer and fix it up.

And let me stress that these vaccines are safe and effective, and it was good to see the World Health Organisation today confirm its support for the Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine for use in everyone over the age of 18 and, obviously, anyone over 65, and also supporting the 12-week interval between the two doses. Indeed, they say the longer interval provides greater protection.

And the reason I make this appeal today, for people to come forward in those groups and get vaccinated, is not so we hit some numerical target, but to save lives, prevent serious illness, and so the whole country can take another step on a long and hard road back to normality.

And, as the data comes in, I'll be saying more about that – including setting out the roadmap – over the next two weeks.

I think the people of this country absolutely understand the importance of protecting the most vulnerable first and that is what we are doing.

And, if we can keep the pace up and keep the supplies of vaccines up, we hope to reach everyone in cohorts 1 to 9 by the end of April.

And I want to thank all of those involved for their heroic efforts: the doctors, nurses, military medics, local authorities, transport planners, warehouse operatives, delivery drivers, countless volunteers, often working through the night or even digging out snowed-in vaccination centres, like the

community effort at Alwoodley Medical Centre in Leeds last Saturday so GPs, nurses and their teams could deliver 1,200 doses that day.

And I want to thank the millions of people who have received their vaccinations and, with cases still high and the pressures on our NHS still severe, I want finally thank everyone, all of you who are continuing to follow the rules and urge you once again to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

Thank you.

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## [UK-Peru Trade Dialogue: A new relationship for a global future](#)

News story

Trade ministers from the United Kingdom and Peru met on February 4 2021, to chart a new course for our historically close trading relationship.



1. Trade ministers from the United Kingdom and Peru met on February 4 2021, to chart a new course for our historically close trading relationship.
2. They welcomed the ratification of the UK-Andean Countries Trade Agreement and agreed to use it to find new opportunities to increase trade and investment flows, modernise markets, reduce trade barriers and diversify trade in goods and services, with a specific focus on agribusiness, greening our economies and protecting the environment.
3. Ministers agreed to work together to address the great global challenges that face us:

4. On Covid recovery, Ministers were clear about the continued role of free and open trade in 'building back better' and considered that the UK-Andean Countries Trade Agreement will help the recovery of our businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises. They highlighted UK support to Peru through the International Programme Fund, facilitation of access to vaccines, donation of ventilators and research projects on Covid-19 impact in Peru funded by UK Research & Innovation.
5. On climate change, Ministers recalled the global objective of a rapid transition to low-carbon economies, and reiterated their commitment to promote the sustainable use of natural resources.
6. Ministers discussed UK objectives for COP26 and committed to ensure that trade plays its role in delivering a zero-carbon future. They agreed to pursue trade and investment measures that promote and facilitate access, dissemination and use of best available technologies for clean energy production and use, and for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
7. Ministers agreed on the importance of transitioning energy systems and to address as a matter of urgency any barriers to entry for cutting edge clean technologies, particularly in the energy sector.
8. On market access, Ministers agreed to continue exchanging information on sanitary and phytosanitary legislation, as well as regulatory co-operation, to be precise about the requirements of both parties and avoid unnecessary trade disruptions.
9. On clean and sustainable growth, Ministers agreed the need to encourage the highest environmental standards in our trade policies and agreed to collaborate on promoting the production and export of goods that protect and promote the sustainable use of biodiversity.
10. Ministers highlighted the importance of creating new openings for business expertise and excellence through improving procurement processes and that a double taxation agreement will improve business activities in both countries.
11. Ministers reaffirmed the UK and Peru's shared belief in open and liberalised markets, and they agreed on the need to make sure that its benefits continue to be shared widely.
12. Both Ministers welcomed UK formal notification of application to accede to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

13. Ministers discussed the growth potential of the region and their wish for deeper co-operation in different sectors. Ministers agreed that there is more we can do to expand our trade in digital products and services. They tasked officials to deliver a joint action plan to increase services trade by the end of 2021, including initiatives on agritech and e-commerce.
  
14. Finally, Ministers committed to work together to help maintain free and fair trade as a driver of global prosperity and recovery, including working to reform global trade institutions to embed our shared values of openness, transparency and multilateralism.

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