

UK Government hails new era for UK exporters



International Trade Secretary Elizabeth Truss today (January 30) hosted UK exporters as she hailed “a new era” for British trade.

Speaking at an exporters’ reception hosted by the Department for International Trade, Truss outlined how the Government will help British businesses – both those who export and those who could export – tap into their exporting potential as the UK becomes an independent trading nation.

This support includes:

- A new international marketing campaign to inspire and reassure buyers and inward investors worldwide that the UK is ready, willing and able to trade with them. The new Ready to Trade campaign will see billboard, newspaper and social-media adverts appear in signature locations across 18 cities, 13 countries and airports around the world from February 1.
- Government International Trade Advisers from across the country will join the Export Hub facility in February and March in towns and cities across the UK—from the NEC in Birmingham to the Subsea Expo in Aberdeen—to encourage businesses to export.
- Two new digital trading tools, to be launched on GOV.UK, will help businesses find up-to-date, product and country-specific information to trade with more than 160 countries. The free tools are designed to be quick and easy to use and provide businesses with all the information needed in one place. The ‘Check How to Export Goods’ tool will provide UK businesses with guidance on exporting goods to countries around the world. They can find detailed information on topics including duties and customs procedures. The ‘Trade with the UK’ tool will provide information on tariffs, taxes and rules amongst other topics for overseas businesses exporting goods to the UK.

International Trade Secretary, Elizabeth Truss said:

Today we stand on the cusp of a new era in British trade. UK businesses trading with the world will be the bedrock of our future prosperity.

We will negotiate free trade deals that empower businesses and make trade freer and fairer for all. We will showcase our world-class goods and services and welcome inward investors. Britain is back and is ready to trade.

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[Coronavirus repatriation flight: Ambassador's message to UK nationals in Wuhan and Hubei](#)



In a video message to UK nationals affected by the coronavirus outbreak in China, Ambassador Woodward today said:

I'm sending my heartfelt thoughts to you in Wuhan and Hubei.

We have confirmation from the Chinese authorities that the flight for assisted departure will be due to take off at 7am (0700hrs) on Friday 31 January from Wuhan Tianhe airport.

To all those who are registered for the flight, please carefully follow the instructions we are providing.

The safety and security of British nationals will always be our top priority.

If you are a British national in Hubei, and you need emergency assistance, contact our 24/7 number +86 (0) 10 8529 6600 or the Foreign Office in London on (+44) (0)207 008 1500.

Watch Ambassador Woodward's message

[Ambassador Woodward – “I'm sending my heartfelt thoughts to you in Wuhan and Hubei.”](#)

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Statement from the four UK Chief Medical Officers on Novel Coronavirus

We have been working in close collaboration with international colleagues and the World Health Organisation to monitor the situation in China and around the world.

In light of the increasing number of cases in China and using existing and widely tested models, the four UK Chief Medical Officers consider it prudent for our governments to escalate planning and preparation in case of a more widespread outbreak.

For that reason, we are advising an increase of the UK risk level from low to moderate. This does not mean we think the risk to individuals in the UK has changed at this stage, but that government should plan for all eventualities.

As we have previously said, it is likely there will be individual cases and we are confident in the ability of the NHS in England, Scotland and Wales and HSC in Northern Ireland to manage these in a way that protects the public and provides high quality care.

Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Chris Whitty

Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Frank Atherton

Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, Dr Catherine Calderwood

Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland, Dr Michael McBride

Building Better Building Beautiful

Commission report launch

Firstly, a warm welcome to today's event from myself.

And a big thanks to our hosts – here at the Garden Museum, which is in many respects a fittingly beautiful venue which speaks of the themes in the report being launched today. It's a historic building that has been put to new uses, it champions trees and gardens. Although there is a lack of Nicholas's orchards, that we are all now going to be planting alongside our homes.

There is an emphasis here on stewardship and on leaving a legacy to future generations.

Principles that, I know, resonated very deeply with our friend and former colleague, Sir Roger Scruton, whose absence today, as Nicholas has already said, I think we all keenly feel.

My thoughts are with Lady Scruton and their children, Sam and Lucy, and all of Sir Roger's friends and family.

And I want to pay tribute again to him, as you have already heard from Nicholas who knew him better than I did, Roger was one of the foremost public intellectuals and a very brave man.

Sir Roger rather diffidently described himself as a "token reactionary", but I think he was more than that.

There were few subjects that he did not turn his mind to – from wine to opera, Baroque architecture to Lebanese history, Kant to the Koran, to name a few.

And unlike politicians, who frequently speak on every subject, he did so with wit, with wisdom and with insight. And this his final work, the work that he did with the Commission and which he continued to work extremely hard on in the final weeks of his life. I hope will stand as part of his incredibly rich legacy.

I was pleased that Sir Roger agreed to return to work on the Commission following the New Statesman's article, and the decision to remove him from his post. This was clearly a deeply regrettable episode, and I'm profoundly sorry for the role that the government played in it.

I'm glad it ended well, with a correction from the journalists, and an apology from my Department, and with Sir Roger back in his rightful place, taking forward the work which he so passionate about.

His championing of beautiful homes rooted in real communities runs right through the very impressive report, that I hope you all will read.

It has been a major undertaking.

And I want to thank Nicholas, who I have got to know well the last six months while I have been Secretary of State, and I wasn't to thank all of your fellow Commissioners – Gail, Mary and Adrian – for your tremendous contribution to this alongside your very busy day jobs.

I'd like to give a special thanks to the advisers to the Commission and to Sir John Hayes, who has helped to rile Parliamentary interest as well.

I'm also very grateful to the many professionals and community representatives whose insight and expertise have helped shape the report and it's very good to see many of you here today.

The report you've produced is important, I think it might prove to be the most important report we have seen for many years. It is important for a number of reasons, not least because of the powerful argument it makes that a sense of place still matters – that people need places more than ever.

And arguably, in our fast-paced, globalised world, with the internet upending old industries and occupations, with the shift in power from east to west. With the prevalent sense of anxiety that creates and with identity politics increasingly sowing division rather than bringing people together. These things matter more than they have mattered at any time in our lifetime.

The report recognises that our identities, identities not just as individuals but as communities, go hand in hand with the places and neighbourhoods in which we live and we work.

And that most of us in the end want to live in strong communities where we can see their unique character, their heritage and culture reflected in the buildings, the playgrounds, the parks and the places that we pass in our daily lives.

These are the places that we can be proud of – where families want to raise their children and where people want to grow old together.

That's why beautiful, high-quality homes must become the norm in this country, not the exception.

And why, as your report says, the people who live in and live next door must again play a leading role in helping to raise the bar and setting the standard.

The three main aims that you've set out with great clarity and eloquence I think will help us get there.

Firstly, to demand beauty – not just for exceptional schemes that win awards, or which are the preserve of the wealthy, but for the places everyone lives in and the places we pass by every day.

Second: That we as a society, as individuals and we, as a Government, must have the confidence to say no to schemes which we know in our hearts are bad for the people destined to live in them and the surrounding community.

In doing so, we have to nail the misconception that has grown in recent years that quality is the enemy of supply.

We know we must build more homes – and we are building more – last year we built over 240,000 new homes, more than we have built in any of the last thirty years and I don't want to leave you with the wrong impression – I want to be the most pro-development Secretary of State that this country has ever seen.

But there is plenty of evidence, that far from holding us back, championing quality helps us to go further and go faster.

We know that developments of the highest quality with the most attractive designs are approved more quickly, even with the current system for all its faults. That those homes sell faster and that they are enduringly popular.

So let's build more, but build better and in turning to the report's third aim, the need to promote the lost concept of stewardship – let's ensure that all those with a stake in this agenda take a longer-term, sustainable view of communities as communities that are places that must grow but must evolve, that must adapt but which can do so in a way that works for people.

There is therefore very much to welcome in your report – a bold and meaningful challenge to Government, to local councils and to the development industry.

Some elements reflect the work that's already underway, that was began by predecessors and the work that I have begun in the few months I have been Secretary of State.

I've developed a new National Model Design Code which will set out for the first time a clear model for promoting better design and the style of homes across the country, shaped by what local people actually want.

And we are going to be demanding every part of the country to accept our code or preferably create their own that works for them.

And on sustainability, I too want to see a return to planting more trees. I made it a manifesto commitment that we will expect all new streets to be lined with trees and are working to make this a reality. And I hope local councils and developers embrace that as a great new endeavour to make our streets, towns and our cities more beautiful and more healthy places to live.

We are also consulting on the Future Homes Standard, to ensure that developers embrace new technology and do their bit to tackle the threat of climate change. I want to see zero-carbon homes being built as the standard within five years as we learn again how to build and improve our natural environments that the two things can and will work in harmony.

But I can see that there's more that we need to do to ensure our planning system, with all its flaws and complexities and convolutions favours beauty as the default rather than the exception, with more opportunities for smaller developers, for self-builders, for entrepreneurs, for visionaries for great

stewards of their landscapes.

I will establish a “fast track for beauty” where individuals and developers, who have put in the time to create proposals for well-designed buildings, which use high quality-materials which take account of their local setting; that they can see their developments proceed at pace. It can't be right that those individuals, those people who should be held up as the best and the brightest, people who are setting out to create communities as shining cities on a hill. That those individuals to be held up by the planning system and to be treated like the rest. They should receive an expedited planning process or even be removed from the planning system altogether with new, more sophisticated planning freedoms. And that's what we are going to do. The planning system must reward good design.

So, I will be considering changes may be needed to incentivise developers to raise their standards. And to strive to create beauty.

We will, of course be responding in full to all of your recommendations in due course, and I will work with my cabinet colleagues to implement as much of the report as we can – in the knowledge that there has never been a time, certainly not in my lifetime, when this agenda – good quality homes, communities and places – has mattered more.

The late Kenneth Clark, said in his documentary Civilisation, that the test of a Housing Secretary is not the words spoken in a speech, but the buildings built in his or her time in office.

I am therefore determined, inspired by you, to do all I can to help achieve the goal you've set in the report's conclusion – that we should aspire to pass on our heritage, the best of who we are and what we have, to our successors, not depleted but enhanced. And to do that, to bring about a profound and lasting change in the buildings that we build.

To paraphrase Sir Christopher Wren, that in seeking our legacy, we will ask others to simply look around us.

It only remains for me to thank you, once again, for your all your efforts and to say how much I am truly looking forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you all very much.

[Crime news: police station telephone advice tender is now open](#)



We are inviting applicants to tender to provide telephone advice work in police stations for members of the public detained on suspicion of certain criminal offences.

This is for a single contract running from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021 and the deadline for submitting a tender is 9am on 2 March 2020.

Who can apply?

Organisations wishing to apply will need to submit a response to the:

- selection questionnaire
- CDD invitation to tender

Tender requirements

You can find out more about the procurement process and the requirements applicants will need to meet on our tender pages.

Questions of wider interest will be collated and answered in a document published on our tender pages in the week beginning 17 February 2020.

Further information

[Criminal Defence Direct Services from June 2020](#) – to find out more and download the 'Information For Applicants' document

[e-Tendering system](#) – to submit your tender

help@bravosolutions.co.uk – to email questions about e-tendering technical issues

0800 069 8630 – helpline for e-tendering issues

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