

100 extra Boxer vehicles for the British Army

- Delivering on the Integrated Review and maintaining close UK-German defence ties
- Programme supports up to 1,000 UK jobs

The British Army will receive 100 extra armoured Boxer vehicles, ensuring more vehicles reach the frontline faster and bolstering the programme to a total of 623, as the UK maintains defence ties with Germany, the Prime Minister has announced today.

The modern digitalised armoured vehicles can be used to transport troops to the frontline and can be rapidly reconfigured to fulfil different roles on the battlefield.

The UK and Germany have worked closely together on the Boxer programme for the British Army, with the Boxer build in the UK benefitting from German expertise, data and collaboration.

Now boasting more than 400 Boxer vehicles themselves, Germany has had older variants of the vehicle in service for more than 10 years, including service in Afghanistan. Their success in the German Army means they continue to develop new variants of the vehicle.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

In these difficult times, our deep defence partnership offers reassurance to our people and the wider world, while also ensuring we are ready to respond to new threats.

This joint programme will ensure our militaries have state-of-the-art equipment as the invasion of Ukraine shakes the very foundations of European peace and security.

Boxer production for the British Army is underway. The first 117 vehicles are being built on German production lines, as UK facilities in Telford and Stockport ramp up for the remaining 506 and begin manufacture.

The first Boxer vehicles will arrive in units from 2023, with the overall programme protecting up to 1,000 jobs nationally, enhancing skill sets and creating an ambitious UK apprenticeship scheme.

Defence Procurement Minister, Jeremy Quin said:

This order will accelerate the delivery of the Boxer fleet to the British Army and increase its numbers.

The land equipment upgrade is a vital element of the Integrated Review, on which we continue to deliver. Doing so, alongside our German allies, creates opportunities for both our Armed Forces.

As an addition to the [£2.8 billion contract](#) announced in 2019, manufacture of the additional vehicles will commence shortly. UK production is focused in Telford through Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land (RBSL), and Stockport through WFEL, with supply chain sub-contracts across the UK, including in Glasgow with Thales.

Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Sir Christopher Tickell KBE said:

This is a significant announcement for the Army in enhancing this key capability under the Integrated Review. Boxer will form the core of our modernised Armoured Brigade Combat Teams and it is great news for our service personnel getting more of these excellent platforms as part of delivering Future Soldier, whilst investing in the UK's defence industry and supply chains.

Enhancing and accelerating Boxer production ensures warfighting remains at the heart of the British Army and today's announcement reaffirms our threat-led approach, as outlined in the [Integrated Review](#).

Background

- The UK announced in 2018 that it would re-join the Boxer programme with [OCCAR](#) (Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d'Armement / Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation) to explore options to modernise its vehicle fleet to meet the Army's Mechanised Infantry Vehicle requirement.
 - These extra vehicles will be produced in both UK and Germany whilst full production transfers to the UK. Production will source and sustain expertise and components from the already maturing and expanding UK supply chain, supporting the initial batch of 523 placed in 2019.
 - The UK played a central role in the original design, development and testing of the Boxer, beginning in 1998. In re-joining the programme in 2019, the UK reassumed the rights it had as a project partner.
 - The cost of the additional vehicles will not be published for commercially sensitive reasons.
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Time for UK and Malawi to forge a stronger, forward-looking relationship

World news story

UK Minister for Africa Vicky Ford visited Malawi from 7 to 8 April 2022 to highlight a strong partnership on issues such as health and tackling corruption



Vicky Ford with HE Dr Lazarus Chakwera

On her first visit to Malawi since her appointment as Minister for Africa, Vicky Ford visited UK Aid-funded projects which support women and girls access health services, education and private sector development in the country.

She visited Mchedwa Primary School to learn how FCDO Education Programme was supporting girls by providing bursaries as well as psychosocial interventions and life skills training through Campaign for Female Education (Camfed). The UK is directly investing £36m into girls' education to help ensure all girls can receive 12 years of education. The UK is also supporting the National Numeracy programme early grade learners build strong foundations in mathematics and sciences.

During the visit Minister Ford also:

- Visited Kanengo Industrial area in Lilongwe to see UK-Malawi partnership in promoting environmentally responsible investment in sustainable construction materials by British International Investment (formerly CDC group) and 14 Trees. BII's \$5m investment should unlock jobs, protect the environment and boost Malawi's economic development.
- Visited a family planning clinic to see how the UK is supporting to strengthen the health system and help young women access family planning services even in hard-to-reach areas. With a fertility rate of 4.4,

rapid population growth poses a major challenge to Malawi's prosperity. The UK has played a leading role in tackling this through making family planning services available and accessible, with real success: total fertility has dropped from 5.7 in 2010.

- Met representatives from the business community, heads of Anti-Corruption Bureau and Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nancy Tembo, as well as the President of the Republic of Malawi, HE Dr Lazarus Chakwera where she commended Malawi's strong ethical stance on Ukraine and Malawi's commendable support of human rights in international fora.

During her meeting with President Chakwera, Vicky Ford underscored UK's support for anti-corruption drive and the brave stance that the president has taken against the vice, a move which will free up resources for key services for all Malawians and unlock jobs.

Reflecting on her visit to Malawi, Minister Ford said:

I have been impressed by the strides that Malawi is making to turn around her economic fortunes through instituting wide-ranging public sector and economic reforms. Of course corruption continues to disrupt this process, but I commend the substantial strides taken to fight the issue through increased action, coordination and a whole-of-government approach.

The Malawi Government has effectively dealt with the severe impacts of Covid and the Tropical storms. Malawi is a strong democracy, and the UK remains a steadfast partner that will work together with Malawi to achieve growth, jobs and freedom, and in defending human rights at home and abroad.

The visit to Malawi was part of a regional visit by Minister Ford and includes visits to Zambia and Tanzania.

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[Courts and tribunals opening times over Easter 2022](#)

News story

List of courts and tribunals which will be open over the Easter period.



Crown Courts, magistrates' courts, County and Family Courts, the Royal Courts of Justice and the Rolls Building, and tribunals will close over the Easter weekend. From Friday 15 April to Monday 18 April 2022 and will reopen on Tuesday 19 April 2022.

Some magistrates' courts will be open on Saturday 16 and Monday 18 April 2022 for remand hearings lists only – these are listed below:

North East

- Newcastle Magistrates' Court
- Teesside Magistrates' Court
- Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court
- York Magistrates' Court
- Leeds Magistrates' Court
- Sheffield Magistrates' Court (sitting at Sheffield Combined Court)
- Doncaster Magistrates' Court
- Hull Magistrates' Court
- Grimsby Magistrates' Court

North West

- Chester Magistrates' Court
- Liverpool Magistrates' Court
- Manchester Magistrates' Court
- Barrow Magistrates' Court
- Carlisle Magistrates' Court
- Preston Magistrates' Court

Midlands

- Nottingham Magistrates' Court
- Leicester Magistrates' Court
- Northampton Magistrates' Court
- Lincoln Magistrates' Court
- Birmingham Magistrates' Court
- Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court
- Coventry Magistrates' Court
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Magistrates' Court

- Kidderminster Magistrates' Court

South West

- Southampton Magistrates' Court
- Swindon Magistrates' Court
- Bristol Magistrates' Court
- Taunton Magistrates' Court
- Cheltenham Magistrates' Court
- Poole Magistrates' Court
- Plymouth Magistrates' Court
- Exeter Magistrates' Court
- Cornwall Magistrates' Court

South East

- Chelmsford Magistrates' Court
- Huntingdon Magistrates' Court
- Luton Magistrates' Court (open on Saturday 16 April only. Sitting at St Albans Magistrates' Court on 18 April)
- St Albans Magistrates' Court
- North Kent Magistrates' Court (Medway)
- East Kent Magistrates' Court (Folkestone)
- Norwich Magistrates' Court
- Ipswich Magistrates' Court
- Brighton Magistrates' Court
- Guildford Magistrates' Court
- Reading Magistrates' Court
- Oxford Magistrates' Court
- High Wycombe Magistrates' Court

London

- Bromley Magistrates' Court
- Croydon Magistrates' Court
- Highbury Magistrates' Court
- Thames Magistrates' Court
- Stratford Magistrates' Court
- Uxbridge Magistrates' Court
- Westminster Magistrates' Court
- Willesden Magistrates' Court
- Wimbledon Magistrates' Court

Wales

- Cardiff Magistrates' Court
- Swansea Magistrates' Court
- Newport Magistrates' Court
- Mold Magistrates' Court

Please check [find a court or tribunal service](#) before travelling or for contact details.

Student Loans Company Appoints TCS as Strategic Partner

Press release

The Student Loans Company has appointed Tata Consultancy Services to deliver a range of technical services, capabilities, and enhancements as it transforms its digital services.



The Student Loans Company (SLC) has announced that it has appointed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to support the delivery of a broad range of enhancements to key internal and external business applications and services.

SLC's Strategic Partnership Programme involves working with a small number of skilled partners to modernise, deliver and support its technology estate as part of a technical transformation programme. TCS is a global leader in IT services, consulting, and business solutions and this appointment marks the third successful Strategic Partner appointment, following a competitive procurement process that was launched in June 2021

TCS will provide a range of technical services and capabilities, including established expertise in Commercial-Off-the-Shelf (CoTs) tools and technologies, to help deliver enhancements to critical business applications and services. A key focus for this Strategic Partner will be on enabling the journey to the cloud through the delivery and support of SLC's new Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) technologies and expanding its enterprise integration platform. It will also support a variety of programmes and projects which will involve the uplift or decommissioning of legacy services.

Stephen Campbell, Chief Information Officer, SLC, said: "SLC is focussed on improving the digital services that we offer our customers throughout every stage of their funding and repayment journey. This new partnership with TCS

is a significant part of our technology strategy and builds on the success of our previous Strategic Partner appointments. Its expertise will be invaluable in the successful delivery of SLC's SaaS roadmap, as well helping to develop capabilities and resilience to in-house technical skills that will drive our strategic technology agenda."

Amit Kapur, Head, TCS UK & Ireland, said: "We are pleased to partner with the Student Loans Company in this strategic transformation journey. TCS will help modernise SLC's systems, and adopt new technologies, so they can better meet the needs of their customers and stakeholders."

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[Hiding behind another licence – Front gets found out](#)

Press release

In a recent case, Nick Denton, Traffic Commissioner for the West Midlands, was faced with a case of fronting, where a revoked operator uses another company to hide the fact that they are continuing to operate illegally.



In this case, the operator at public inquiry, Wayne Wood trading as Woodys Haulage had effectively lent his licence to Slumberdreams (UK) a company controlled by Sharez Hussain which does not have an operator's licence. Mr Hussain has been associated with multiple revoked licences, held by Slumberdream Ltd, Slumberzone Beds Ltd, Health Therapy Ltd and Midlands Logistics UK Ltd amongst others. Originally disqualified from holding a licence in 2012 as a result of serious non-compliance, Mr Hussain has since sought to operate through a number of other companies.

The commissioner found that there was no sense in which Mr Wood was the operator of the three vehicles in question. The work of the three vehicles

(bed delivery) was assigned by Slumberdream, the operating cost of the vehicles was borne entirely by Slumberdream and the drivers were instructed and paid by Slumberdream. and Mr Wood bore no financial risk from the operation of the vehicles: he simply collected £425 per week for the use of his operator licence.

The commissioner said “Whether Mr Wood entered into an arrangement which he knew was illegal, or whether he was so naïve and incompetent that he failed to realise that the arrangements amounted to lending his licence, scarcely matters. Neither possibility reflects any credit on Mr Wood. I find that either through deliberate illegal action or through an unconscionable degree of ignorance and negligence, he has lost his good repute. His actions have enabled a long-standing rogue operator to continue to operate HGVs over a significant period of time.”

Mr Wood lost both his operator’s licence and his good repute as a transport manager.

As a consequence of this, he is no longer able to be nominated as the transport manager for Woody1991 Ltd, his son’s company, calling into question the future of a second business.

Further details can be found [here](#).

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