

[PM call with President Zelenskyy of Ukraine: 4 March 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in the early hours of this morning.



The Prime Minister spoke to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in the early hours of this morning about the gravely concerning situation at Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station.

Both leaders agreed that Russia must immediately cease its attack on the power station and allow unfettered access for emergency services to the plant.

The Prime Minister said the reckless actions of President Putin could now directly threaten the safety of all of Europe. He said the UK would do everything it could to ensure the situation did not deteriorate further.

The Prime Minister said he would be seeking an emergency UN Security Council meeting in the coming hours, and that the UK would raise this issue immediately with Russia and close partners.

Both leaders agreed a ceasefire was crucial.

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[£288 million fund opens for green](#)

heating projects

- Next generation of heat network projects in England can bid for funding as government's £288 million green energy scheme opens
- projects where a central energy source provides heat to multiple properties and businesses can play a key role in cutting carbon emissions
- the Green Heat Network Fund will support low carbon technologies, such as heat pumps, and deliver emissions savings equivalent to taking 5.6 million cars off the road for a year

Households and businesses across England are set to benefit from greener heating as a £288 million government funding scheme is opened – boosting the roll out of next generation heat network projects as part of cutting emissions.

Schemes that will deliver clean heating to homes, offices, commercial and public buildings will be able to apply for grants to the [Green Heat Network Fund](#) over the next 3 years, allowing more towns and cities across England to take up this tried and tested technology.

The fund is expected to reduce carbon emissions equivalent to taking 5.6 million cars off the road for a year.

Heat networks offer carbon emissions savings by supplying heat to buildings from a central source, avoiding the need for households and workplaces to rely on individual, energy-intensive heating solutions – such as gas boilers.

Funding will support the uptake of low-carbon technologies like heat pumps, solar and geothermal energy as a central heating source. Applications for grants can be made from 14 March.

Energy Minister Lord Callanan said:

Heating in buildings forms a significant part of the UK's carbon footprint, so changing how we warm our homes and workspaces is vital to meeting our world-leading climate change commitments.

Heat networks are an effective way of reducing carbon emissions and this fund will enable us to accelerate the roll-out of these cutting-edge and green technologies.

The scheme is also expected to fund the delivery of an estimated 9.7 million tonnes of total carbon savings by 2050 with the independent Committee on Climate Change estimating that, with continued support, heat networks could meet nearly 20% of overall UK demand for heating by 2050.

CEO of the Association for Decentralised Energy Lily Frencham said:

We're delighted that the government is invigorating the transition to zero-carbon heating across the UK that uses good old-fashioned pipes and water to transport heat from green energy centres to homes and businesses.

Heat networks offer the most cost-effective tried and tested way of decarbonising our towns and cities and it is great to see government's continued support for the sector through the launch of the Green Heat Network Fund.

Heat networks have a critical role to play in the UK's net zero future – and 2022 will be a crucial year for the heat networks sector.

UK District Energy Association (UKDEA) chairman Simon Woodward said:

The UKDEA is excited to see the launch of the Green Heat Network Fund as another significant measure to help support the growth of the heat network sector.

The Green Heat Network Fund is the successor scheme to the government's Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP), which has provided more than £250 million of funding for schemes across England and Wales since 2018.

More than 20 heat network projects have received HNIP funding, including 2 innovative schemes in the North-East of England, which source their heat from water in abandoned mine shafts and a community-led project in Cambridgeshire, which could be a model for other rural communities seeking to decarbonise their heating.

The Green Heat Network Fund (GHNH) will be open to public, private and third sector applicants in England. It will open for applications on 14 March 2022 and is anticipated to run to 2025.

At present, there are over 14,000 heat networks in the UK, providing heating and hot water to around 480,000 consumers.

The GHNH will be a key part of plans to reduce carbon emissions from heating homes and businesses by 2050 as it succeeds the Heat Networks Investment Project scheme when it closes in March 2022.

Anyone wishing for further information on the GHNH can contact the GHNH team via their mailbox: gnhfcorrespondence@beis.gov.uk.

The Heat Networks Investment Project has focused on accelerating the growth of the heat network market and has permitted fossil fuel sources of heat provided they offer carbon reductions and will be replaced by low-carbon alternatives over time.

The UK government has appointed Ofgem as the heat networks regulator for

Great Britain to ensure consumers receive a fair price and reliable supply of heat.

[Ukraine: what you can do to help](#)

The people of the United Kingdom are standing with Ukraine. Across the country, everyone wants to do their bit to support those who have been forced to flee their homes because of the conflict. Here is how you can help [#StandWithUkraine](#).

Financial donations

If you want to donate money, there are a number of charities providing humanitarian relief in Ukraine.

The UK Government will match public donations to this appeal pound-for-pound up to £25 million.

Make your donation safely

There are lots of organisations across the UK and internationally who have launched appeals, and you may wish to donate through these organisations instead. There are some simple steps you can take to ensure your money is safe and being used effectively:

- Check the charity's name and registration number using the [search the charity register tool](#)
- Most charities with an income of £5,000 or more must be registered, which means they are regulated by The Charity Commission
- Make sure the charity is genuine before giving any financial information
- If in doubt, ask the charity or organisation for more information

Donating essential supplies

One of the best ways to help is by donating cash through trusted charities and aid organisations, rather than donating goods. Cash can be transferred quickly to areas where it is needed and individuals and aid organisations can use it to buy what is most needed. Unsolicited donations of goods, although

well-meant, can obstruct supply chains and delay more urgent life-saving assistance from getting through.

Organisations across the UK are gathering essential supplies, such as clothes, first aid and sanitary products. Many charities and community groups will have lists of items they need.

Charities with experience of responding to disasters are best placed to reach victims on the ground.

The government will be launching a new sponsorship scheme to make sure that Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes have a route to safety.

The scheme will match people, charities, businesses and community groups to Ukrainians who do not have family ties to the UK.

Details of the scheme and how you can apply will be published shortly by the [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#).

The UK Government, Ukrainian Government and others have been sharing messages of support on social media using the hashtag #StandForUkraine

Take care what you share! There is a lot of false information about the conflict circulating online – this is often called misinformation and disinformation. You can do your part to stop the spread:

- Ask yourself – does this look right? Does this sound right? Does this information come from a source I recognise?
- The [SHARE checklist](#) can help you decide if information can be trusted, before you interact with or share it on your social media channels

Cyber security

The National Cyber Security Centre is not aware of any specific cyber threats to the UK in relation to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. However we strongly encourage organisations and citizens to follow NCSC guidance on steps to take when the cyber threat is heightened. Visit the [Cyber Aware website](#) where you find practical steps and tools to help keep you, your family or business more secure online.

[Government announces sanctions against](#)

Russian oligarchs Alisher Usmanov and Igor Shuvalov

- Oligarchs Alisher Usmanov and Igor Shuvalov – worth a combined \$19bn – sanctioned with immediate effect.
- Putin associates now cut off from their significant UK interests including mansions worth tens of millions.
- Pair's assets frozen, both are hit with travel bans and no British citizen or business can deal with them.
- Oligarch Taskforce to target Russian elite expected to be launched next week

Today the Government has announced that a full asset freeze and travel ban has been imposed against Alisher Usmanov and Igor Shuvalov, two of Russia's leading oligarchs with significant interests in the UK and close links to the Kremlin.

Alisher Usmanov has had significant interests in English football clubs Arsenal and Everton. He owns Beechwood House in Highgate, worth an estimated £48m, and the 16th century Sutton Place estate in Surrey.

Igor Shuvalov's assets in the UK include two luxury apartments in central London worth an estimated £11m. He is a core part of Putin's inner circle, and headed up Russia's bid for the 2018 Football World Cup.

The Foreign Secretary will also establish an Oligarch Taskforce of Ministers and officials from departments including the Home Office, Treasury, Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the National Crime Agency. This expert group will coordinate cross-government work to sanction oligarchs, helping build cases against the list of oligarchs it has identified as targets.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

Our message to Putin and his allies has been clear from day one – invading Ukraine would have serious and crippling economic consequences. Sanctioning Usmanov and Shuvalov sends a clear message that we will hit oligarchs and individuals closely associated with the Putin regime and his barbarous war. We won't stop here. Our aim is to cripple the Russian economy and starve Putin's war machine.

These latest sanctions are part of a tough package against Russia, including sanctioning the Russian Central Bank, and banning the Russian State and all Russian companies from raising funds in the UK. The government will also asset freeze every Russian bank. In coordination with the US and other allies, these measures amount to the largest set of financial sanctions in

history.

The government will continue to ratchet up pressure and use sanctions to degrade the Russian economy on a scale that the Kremlin, or any major economy, has never seen before.

Notes to editors

- Alisher Usmanov is founder of USM Holdings which works in sectors including extractives and telecoms. USM Holdings sponsors the Everton training ground and has bought the naming rights for their new stadium. His net worth is an estimated \$18.4bn.
- Igor Shuvalov's positions in the Russian Government include as First Deputy Prime Minister, Government Chief of Staff, and he has twice worked as an aide to Vladimir Putin. He has been chair of the management board of VEB since 2018, one of the banks recently subjected to a full asset freeze.
- Since the invasion, the UK has sanctioned 11 of Russia's leading oligarchs, so with these designations the number rises to 13.
- Overall, 15 oligarchs now sit on the sanctions list with one of them, Mikhail Gutseriev, sanctioned under the Belarus sanctions regime.
- Since the invasion, more than 220 individuals and entities have been caught by our sanctions. This includes individuals, entities and their subsidiaries.
- In total, more than 500 Russian individuals, entities and their subsidiaries across all sanctions regimes now sit on our sanctions list.

[PM appoints new Trade Envoys to boost trade and investment](#)

News story

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has today appointed two new Trade Envoys.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson has today [Thursday 3 March] appointed two new Trade Envoys – David Duguid MP as Trade Envoy to Angola and Zambia, and Yvonne Fovargue MP as Trade Envoy to Tunisia and Libya.

Both individuals will use their knowledge of these rapidly growing economies, helping to boost growth and level up all regions of the UK.

Trade between the UK and these vibrant countries continues to flourish. Trade with Tunisia was £430 million last year, £874 million with Angola and £165 million with Zambia. Total trade between the UK and Libya accounted for £1.1 billion in 2021, an increase of 225% from the year before.

Trade Envoys will be able to capitalise on these developing markets and champion our world-renowned export and investment opportunities, ensuring that British businesses benefit from a truly Global Britain.

UK International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan, said:

Our Trade Envoys continue to play a vital role in building relationships and promoting trade with key markets around the world.

I am pleased to welcome the Prime Minister adding two new additions to our team of Envoys, who have the skills and passion necessary to ensure we make the most of our global opportunities as an independent sovereign nation.

Trade Envoys are parliamentarians appointed by the Prime Minister, drawn from both the House of Commons and House of Lords, and from across the political spectrum.

The role supports the UK's ambitious trade and investment agenda by championing Global Britain and promoting the UK as a destination of choice for inward investment. They also support the UK's economic recovery through the levelling up agenda, by helping business take advantage of the opportunities arising in export markets.

The roles are unpaid and voluntary. These new appointments bring the total number of Trade Envoys who help support the UK's trade and investment agenda to 36, covering 76 different countries.

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