

Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Algeria

2016 – present FC0/Department for International Trade, Head, Trade Diplomacy Unit 2014 – 2016 FC0, Head, Economic Growth and Business Department 2010 – 2014 UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), Director for Trade and Investment, British High Commission, New Delhi 2008 – 2010 UKTI, Director Asia 2006 – 2008 FC0, Head, Engaging with Islamic World Group 2004 – 2006 Riyadh, Deputy Head of Mission and Consul-General 2003 – 2004 UKTI, Director Trade and Investment, Saudi Arabia 2001 – 2003 FC0, Deputy Head, Middle East Department 1997 – 2001 FC0, UK Mission New York, First Secretary (Finance) 1995 – 1997 FC0, Head, Iraq Section, Middle East Department 1993 – 1995 FC0, Head, Conventional Arms Exports, Non-Proliferation Department 1989 – 1993 Kuwait, Third then Second Secretary (Political) 1987 – 1989 Language training (Arabic) 1986 – 1987 FC0, Assistant Desk Officer, Middle East Peace Process, Near East and North Africa Department

Welsh Government look to update 200 year old Taxi licensing

Economy Secretary Ken Skates has urged interested parties to have their say on the proposals, which will seek to address issues raised by drivers, unions, licencing authorities and the Law Commission to better represent modern practices.

Ken Skates said:

“Taxis and private hire vehicles provide a vital public service, connecting people to places when alternative public transport is not always available or viable.

“There are 9200 or so taxi and private hire licenced drivers in Wales, all of which are currently bound by licensing legislation which dates back to the horse drawn hackneys.

“The Law Commission made recommendations in 2014 about how the licensing system can be improved and, as a result of provisions included in the Wales Act 2017, I’m delighted to now be in a position to put to consultation proposals aimed at delivering a simpler, fairer system fit for modern Wales.”

The Law Commission’s review of the law governing taxi and private hire vehicles made 84 recommendations, many of which are reflected in the Welsh

Government's proposals for reform. They include:

- the introduction of national standards for all taxis and private hire vehicles, set by the Welsh Ministers
- Local licensing authorities able to set additional licence conditions where appropriate and remain responsible for issuing licences and enforcement
- Private hire vehicles licencing to include novelty vehicles and stretch limousines, but wedding and funeral cars would continue to be exempt
- providers being able to work across local authority borders more easily with licensing officers provided with new enforcement powers to deal with vehicles and drivers licensed in different areas.
- Tougher penalties on touting are also proposed (actively soliciting customers), including impounding vehicles
- Local licensing authorities retaining the right to limit the number of taxis working in their licensing area
- Improved arrangements for regulating fares

Ken Skates added:

"These progressive proposals will see improvements to the current complicated, outdated and antiquated legislation, reflecting on the needs of twenty first century drivers, licensing authorities and passengers here in Wales. I'd encourage anyone with an interest in the sector to contribute to this consultation."

View:

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-wales>.

[News story: David Mundell MP reappointed Secretary of State for Scotland](#)

The Rt Hon David Mundell MP has been reappointed as Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Secretary of State said:

"I am delighted and honoured to have been reappointed Secretary of State for Scotland.

"The Scotland Office has a key role to play as we face the huge tasks that

lie ahead of us.

“We need to secure the right Brexit deal for Scotland and the whole of the UK, and we also need focus on how we bring back powers from Brussels in a way that works best for the Scottish economy.

“We need to work closely with the Scottish Government, and to do that effectively we will need to forge a much more constructive relationship, one based not on politics and press releases but on what is best for Scotland. I’m confident that can happen. My door is open and I hope, now the election is over, we can reset the relationship between Scotland’s two governments.

“As before, my door also remains open to all those interest groups and business sectors that have a stake in Scotland’s success. I’m looking forward to working with everyone as we look to the future together.”

News story: UAE delegation visits pioneering UK drug rehabilitation services

Leaders from the United Arab Emirates’ National Rehabilitation Centre inspect additional UK centres of excellence looking to do business.

A delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to UK drug rehabilitation services has resulted in the Director General of the UAE’s National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) appointing teams to drive forward detailed negotiations. The UAE intention is to secure active partnerships with the UK this financial year.

UK expertise in drug rehabilitation attracts repeat visits from UAE

This was the second visit recently from senior staff at the National Rehabilitation Centre in Abu Dhabi to see UK drug rehabilitation expertise and services.

Hosted and planned by Healthcare UK, this visit was led by His Excellency Dr. Hamad Al Ghaferi, Director General of the UAE’s National Rehabilitation Centre. The mission included:

- Head of Nursing Dr. Samya Al Mamari
- Dr Shamil Wanigaratne, adviser to His Excellency and clinical psychologist.

UK healthcare centres of excellence

The mission team visited a selection of centres of excellence in the UK drug rehabilitation sector, including:

Contact us at healthcare.uk@trade.gov.uk for more information about UK drug rehabilitation services or to discuss support with exporting.

News story: UK digital health sector sets up wins in Brazil at Hospitalar

In May Healthcare UK and NHS Digital helped build new relationships and trade openings in Brazil when they jointly led an 8 company mission to Sao Paulo to take part in Hospitalar, the biggest healthcare trade event in Latin America.

Following the event, a number of contract negotiations are currently close to completion. Hospitalar 2017 had a strong focus on digital health, and the 8 companies in the UK mission were selected for their strength in this highly innovative, competitive and fast-moving area:

Brazil's healthcare market growth driven by digital

With the largest healthcare market in Latin America, and seventh largest in the world, Brazil is one of Healthcare UK's priority markets. Despite the recent economic downturn, the market for healthcare imports is predicted to grow, reaching £52 billion by 2020.

As is the case around the world, demographic changes are driving demand for digital healthcare solutions in the Brazilian market. As the population becomes older and non-communicable diseases continue to rise, it is becoming increasingly urgent for Brazil to identify smarter investments to provide health services to the population.

The Brazilian constitution ensures that everyone must have access to healthcare, and digital and e-health systems are seen to a key way to achieve this without increasing cost.

UK healthcare exhibitors make an impact in Brazil

Headed up by Healthcare UK's Managing Director, Deborah Kobewka and NHS Digital's Director of Digital Transformation, Beverley Bryant, the UK presence made a significant impact at Hospitalar. Six of the UK organisations had speaker sessions on the main stage, helping to generate a strong flow of traffic and meetings on the UK stand.

The party had meetings with Brazilian government leaders and health officials at city, state and national level, visited the leading cardiothoracic hospital in Sao Paulo (InCor) and leading private hospital Sirio Libanes.

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