



27 July 2021

Welcome to the BEIS Bulletin from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Here's the latest news from BEIS:



New posters for businesses to display to remind staff and customers of continuing covid actions 📄📄

Now that the government has lifted all restrictions under step 4 of the roadmap, businesses are being reminded to remove any outdated covid-secure posters they may still have on display.

Updated workplace posters are available on the [coronavirus resource centre](#) to remind businesses and customers about the new workplace guidance and the behaviours that people should still adopt.

Businesses can continue to display QR posters so that customers can continue to check-in to support the NHS Test and Trace programme.



Business Secretary launches new plans to put UK at front of global innovation race

Kwasi Kwarteng delivered a speech at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre to mark the launch of the Innovation Strategy on Thursday 22nd July, which you can [watch online](#). The strategy sets out plans to cement the UK's position as a world-leader in science, research and innovation and is a long-term plan to boost private sector investment across the UK and create the right conditions for all businesses to turn world-leading science into new products and services. More details can be read in the [press notice](#) and the [Innovation Strategy](#).

The Research & Development People and Culture Strategy was also published on Thursday, setting out how to make the UK the most exciting place in the world for researchers to thrive and pursue cutting edge research. The [press notice](#) and the [People and Culture Strategy](#) are both available online.

New guidance on self-isolation published to protect key infrastructure

Businesses can now apply to exempt certain workers from NHS Test and Trace self-isolation rules under new guidance published last week.

The guidance is not intended to cover whole sectors or job roles, but instead allows businesses to name specific individuals whose absence could cause major disruption to critical services such as food supply, transport or energy.

Employers who believe that an individual should be exempt to prevent major disruption to critical services should apply to the relevant department. Contact details are set out in the guidance on [GOV.UK](#).



New advice on travelling to and from the office

To assist businesses as they prepare for employees to return to workplaces, the Department for Transport has issued updated [guidance for passengers](#) in England on how people can travel safely.

Travellers are advised to plan ahead, regularly sanitise their hands and open a window where possible. Some operators require passengers to wear a face covering, and it's recommended that all passengers do so if they can.

There is a [range of assets](#) that businesses can download and use in employee-facing communications, including intranets, staff bulletins or meetings.



BEIS publishes new consultation on Reforming Competition and Consumer Policy

Last week the department published its proposed reforms to boost competition and protect the public from being ripped off.

Proposals set out in the consultation include new powers for the Competition and Markets Authority to improve enforcement of consumer law and plans to tackle [subscriptions traps](#) and fake online reviews so that consumers can spend with more confidence.

The consultation also sets out new and enhanced powers for the competition regulator to help drive innovation, productivity and growth. Under the plans, the [CMA](#) will be able to wrap up investigations faster and impose stronger penalties on firms that break the law or fail to cooperate with the regulator's work.

You can find out more by reading and responding to the [full consultation](#) or in the [press notice](#).

Other news:

- [Government outlines proposals to make Northern Ireland Protocol sustainable](#)
 - [Read and respond to the Better Regulation Executive's new consultation on reforming the framework for better regulation](#)
 - [Read guidance on how to prepare ahead of the National Security and Investment \(NSI\) Act coming into force in January](#)
 - [Read and respond to the National Security and Investment \(NSI\) Act consultation on the expected use of Government's power to call-in acquisitions where there is a suspected national security risk](#)
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[Useful links:](#)

- [Latest BEIS news and announcements](#)
- [Coronavirus: latest guidance for England](#). See specific guidance for [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Support for businesses and self-employed people during coronavirus](#)
- [See all coronavirus guidance on GOV.UK](#)
- [Use the Brexit checker to get a personalised list of actions for you, your business and your family](#)