



17 August 2021

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

Here's the latest news from BEIS:



Government launches plan for a world-leading hydrogen economy

The Business and Energy Secretary has announced the UK's first-ever Hydrogen Strategy, setting out how the UK Government will work with industry to meet its ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. This builds on the commitments laid out in the Prime Minister's ambitious [10 Point Plan](#) for a green industrial revolution.

Hydrogen could replace natural gas in powering around 3 million UK homes each year as well as transport and businesses, particularly heavy industry, support over

9,000 UK jobs and unlock £4 billion investment by 2030.

You can read more detail in the [press notice](#). ❖❖



Changes to self-isolation rules and increasing vaccine take-up

From Monday 16 August, people who have received two doses of a covid vaccine or who are aged under 18 will no longer be legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case. This means that fully vaccinated contacts will routinely be able to attend work if they do not have symptoms.

Instead of self-isolating, those who are identified as close contacts of positive covid cases are advised to get a free PCR test as soon as possible. Anyone who tests positive following the PCR test will still be legally required to self-isolate, regardless of their vaccination status or age. ❖

To encourage people to take up the vaccine when offered, NHS England is offering large employers access to local health professionals who staff can speak to confidentially to ask questions or raise concerns they may have about the vaccination. There is also a range of messages explaining the vaccine programme that employers can share with staff through internal staff communication networks.

If you would be interested in learning more about the offer from NHS England please contact Howard Wheeler at the Cabinet
Office: howard.wheeler@cabinetoffice.gov.uk



Visit the new Together for Our Planet SME hub

To raise awareness of the actions small businesses can take to reduce their emissions, the Together for Our Planet campaign is asking SMEs to make the new [UK Business Climate Hub](#) ❖ their first port of call on their journey to net zero.

We have created specific guidance for the manufacturing, retail and tech sectors to support them to commit to achieving net zero ahead of the United

Nations Climate Change conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November.

Our [Together for Our Planet digital toolkit](#) has been updated with assets to help promote the new content.



Business Secretary promotes Help to Grow scheme

Last week Kwasi Kwarteng visited Brunel University Business School to meet businesses enrolled on the government's new Help to Grow: Management course helping business leaders to develop their strategic skills, create jobs and boost their business performance.

Brunel is one of several leading business schools across the UK delivering the programme, and the Business Secretary joined a session with local business owners and expert business lecturers to learn more about the value of the programme and the opportunities available to businesses.

You can find out more about the visit by watching some highlights on [Twitter](#). For more information on Help to Grow: Management, including how to apply for a course near you, visit the [Help to Grow campaign page](#).



Government provides multi-million pound boost to protect the world's oceans

The first five programmes to be supported through the £500 million Blue Planet Fund have been announced. The programmes, financed from the UK's overseas aid budget, will tackle plastic pollution and the decline of global coral reefs, as well as using the UK's world-leading expertise to help respond to marine pollution disasters such as the Xpress Pearl in Sri Lanka.

The UK is a global leader in marine protection and the fund is central to the Government's ambition to take further climate and ocean action ahead of COP26. These programmes

will work to restore ocean health, reduce poverty in developing countries and tackle climate change on a global scale.

You can find out more about the programmes in the [press release](#) and on the [Blue Planet Fund's gov.uk page](#), and also watch the Blue Planet Fund [explainer video](#).

Other news:

- [Over 1,340 jobs will be created across the Humber region following £266 million of UK government and private sector investment in offshore wind industry](#)
- [191 employers named and shamed for failing to pay the national minimum wage](#)
- [New advice hub to help disabled people understand their rights at work as part of National Disability Strategy.](#)

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