



Media Release

December 28, 2021

FIVE DAYS FOR THE QUEEN'S BATON TO ARRIVE IN SRI LANKA

December 28, 2021: The countdown is on, as in just five days, the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay will arrive in Sri Lanka; the 25th destination out of the 72 Commonwealth nations and territories that it will be visiting.

On January 3, 2022, President of CGA Sri Lanka - Mr. Suresh Subramaniam and other dignitaries from the Ministry of Sports and British High Commission will officially welcome the Baton at the Bandaranaike International Airport. The Queen's Baton will be carried at the airport by Chinthana Vithanage and Dinusha Hansani Gomes, who have won the medals at the Commonwealth Games.

A busy schedule of activities and events are planned for the Queen's Baton Relay, with opportunities to showcase untold stories from Batonbearers, athletes, and young people who are striving for change in their community.

During its time in Sri Lanka the Queen's Baton Relay will visit Colombo, Kandy and travel up to Hatton.

The Queen's Baton will arrive here having previously visited The Maldives.

Since its inaugural appearance at the Cardiff 1958 Commonwealth Games, the Queen's Baton Relay has been a tradition at the Commonwealth Games.

The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay started at Buckingham Palace on 7 October 2021, when Her Majesty The Queen placed Her Message to the Commonwealth into the Baton and passed it to four-time Paralympic gold medallist and Team England athlete Kadeena Cox, who had the honour of being the first of thousands of Batonbearers to carry the Baton.

The President of CGA Sri Lanka - Mr. Suresh Subramaniam said "I am delighted that Sri Lanka is a part of this extraordinary journey. It's a way to highlight and promote the beauty of Sri Lanka to people across the Commonwealth."

The CGA Sri Lanka's Secretary General Mr. Maxwell de Silva has said "We are looking forward to celebrating the arrival of the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay in our community and are well on

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track with our planning for the occasion. Everyone here is excited to get involved with the festivities and to cheer on the Batonbearers.”

Commenting on the occasion, Maarya Rehman, Country Director, British Council stated, “The British Council has worked in countries across the Commonwealth for decades, supporting the UK’s sectors and international ambitions by building connections through arts and culture, education and the English language.

Our on-the-ground expertise, knowledge and networks with young leaders, education professionals, researchers, artists, leaders and policymakers enable us to provide a unique cultural relations contribution. The 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham provides a unique opportunity to build sports, arts, and citizenship connections throughout the education sector between the host city and country and the geographies of the Commonwealth. Through our Commonwealth Connection global program, the British Council Sri Lanka, provides educational opportunities for young people in schools to learn together and develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Commonwealth and its values, thus allowing young people to feel more ownership and ability to shape their communities.

The project will use school twinning as an approach that enables peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and experience, through which schools collaborate for shared learning and mutual enrichment. The project has 6 schools in the Central Province in Sri Lanka twinning with 6 schools in the West Midlands. An estimated 500+ students in these schools are directly reached through this project. We are delighted to support the local hosting body of the GoSL, CGA Sri Lanka for a successful celebration”.

The British High Commission stated – “We look forward to welcoming the Baton here in Sri Lanka! Find out more about the Queen’s Baton Relay and the journey around the Commonwealth here. This epic journey across the Commonwealth represents hope, solidarity and collaboration for the next generation, and is connecting communities in every corner of the Commonwealth, embracing unique cultures and sharing stories.”

The 16th official Queen’s Baton Relay is an epic journey covering the entirety of the Commonwealth as it will travel to all 72 nations and territories, covering a distance of 140,000 kilometres. For 269 days, the Baton will travel to Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean and the Americas, before it embarks on the final stretch of its journey across England for 25 days.

The Queen’s Baton Relay will complete its journey at the Opening Ceremony of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on 28 July 2022. This is a traditional and fundamental part of the Games and the Opening Ceremony, as the final Batonbearer will pass the Baton back to The Queen. The Queen’s message to the Commonwealth will then be removed from the Baton and read aloud, marking the official start of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

For further information about the Birmingham 2022 Queen’s Baton Relay visit: www.birmingham2022.com/qbr

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NOTES TO EDITORS**About the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay**

The Queen's Baton Relay is a Games tradition that celebrates, connects and excites communities from across Commonwealth during the build up to the Games.

Birmingham 2022 is staging the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay – an epic journey across the Commonwealth, with The Queen's Baton visiting all 72 nations and territories, reaching Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean and the Americas.

The Relay will begin on 7 October 2021 at a special event at Buckingham Palace, where Her Majesty The Queen will place Her message to the Commonwealth into the Baton.

The Baton will travel for 294 days, visiting all 72 nations and territories and connecting communities in every corner of the Commonwealth, embracing unique cultures and sharing stories.

This collective journey will ignite hope, solidarity and collaboration for the next generation, with these stories leaving us all inspired to take on the challenges that matter most to us.

For more information, visit birmingham2022.com/qbr

About the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which will be held from 28 July until 8 August 2022, will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to put the city, the region, and its people on the global stage.

The Games is already proving to be a catalyst for transformation across the West Midlands, attracting new investment and funding, creating jobs and apprenticeships for local people and new opportunities for local businesses, as well as accelerating projects that will ensure the region is ready to host a fantastic sports and cultural celebration.

Birmingham 2022 will be the Games for everyone, bringing people together from across Birmingham and the region, to provide a warm welcome to millions of visitors during the summer of 2022.

Find out more at www.birmingham2022.com

Full schedule of the Queen's Baton Relay international route:**BIRMINGHAM 2022 QUEEN'S BATON RELAY PROUDLY PARTNERED WITH**



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Nation / Territory	Arrival date
1. Cyprus	9 October 2021
2. Malta	12 October 2021
3. Nigeria	16 October 2021
4. The Gambia	20 October 2021
5. Sierra Leone	23 October 2021
6. Ghana	26 October 2021
7. Cameroon	29 October 2021
8. Kenya	2 November 2021
9. Uganda	5 November 2021
10. Rwanda	10 November 2021
11. Tanzania	13 November 2021
12. Malawi	17 November 2021
13. Zambia	20 November 2021
14. Mozambique	23 November 2021
15. Mauritius	27 November 2021
16. Botswana	30 November 2021
17. St. Helena	5 December 2021
18. South Africa	8 December 2021
19. Namibia	14 December 2021
20. Eswatini	17 December 2021
21. Lesotho	20 December 2021
22. Seychelles	23 December 2021
23. Pakistan	27 December 2021
24. Maldives	1 January 2022
25. Sri Lanka	4 January 2022
26. Bangladesh	7 January 2022
27. India	12 January 2022
28. Singapore	17 January 2022
29. Malaysia	22 January 2022
30. Brunei	26 January 2022
31. Papua New Guinea	30 January 2022
32. Solomon Islands	2 February 2022
33. Nauru	5 February 2022
34. Fiji	13 February 2022
35. Samoa	16 February 2022
36. Tonga	19 February 2022
37. Vanuatu	22 February 2022
38. Kiribati	25 February 2022
39. Tuvalu	28 February 2022
40. Niue	3 March 2022
41. Cook Islands	6 March 2022
42. Norfolk Island	9 March 2022
43. New Zealand	12 March 2022
44. Australia	17 March 2022
45. Belize	23 March 2022
46. Guyana	26 March 2022
47. Grenada	30 March 2022
48. The Bahamas	3 April 2022

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49. Turks & Caicos	7 April 2022
50. Cayman Islands	12 April 2022
51. Jamaica	15 April 2022
52. Trinidad & Tobago	19 April 2022
53. Barbados	23 April 2022
54. Montserrat	26 April 2022
55. Dominica	29 April 2022
56. British Virgin Islands	3 May 2022
57. St. Kitts & Nevis	6 May 2022
58. Anguilla	9 May 2022
59. Antigua & Barbuda	13 May 2022
60. St. Lucia	16 May 2022
61. St. Vincent & The Grenadines	19 May 2022
62. Bermuda	22 May 2022
63. Canada	26 May 2022
64. Gibraltar	31 May 2022
65. Falkland Islands	7 June 2022
66. Jersey	10 June 2022
67. Guernsey	13 June 2022
68. Isle of Man	16 June 2022
69. Scotland	18 June 2022
70. Northern Ireland	24 June 2022
71. Wales	29 June 2022
72. England	4 July 2022

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