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22 April 2020

The coronavirus pandemic has caused huge disruption to countries around the world, with many of the migrant agricultural workers who were here returning home to be with their families. Many of those who would have come across for the picking season may not be joining the harvest this year.

The peak season is fast approaching, and I know that growers will be thinking about the workers they need in the fields and orchards to pick fruit and vegetables.

It is crucial that government and industry work together to help the sector recruit local labour and students this year. That is why I am so pleased to be able to launch a new website - developed with industry - to support this effort. The website will act as a central hub to signpost people to the jobs available and to hold guidance and resources so growers, workers and industry can have a single place to go, available here: <https://pickforbritain.org.uk/>

The website includes links to the Governments 'Find A Job' portal, which will give access to a wide reach of potential applicants. The Find a Job website has more than 1.6 million registered users and is available here: <https://findajob.dwp.gov.uk/>. We are also looking to provide links to a wide range of recruitment campaigns organised by labour providers on the Pick for Britain website.

Another industry and Government collaboration is the guidance on best practices to avoid spread of COVID-19 for seasonal workers on fruit and vegetable farms. This has been developed by industry and Government and endorsed by Public Health England. This is an important part of protecting public health this picking season and is available from: <https://ahdb.org.uk/coronavirus/social-distancing-farm-businesses>.

Getting this far has been a fantastic joint effort, and we want to keep up this momentum. Please share these website links with growers and other interested parties so that they post job opportunities they have as soon as possible. We'll be doing even more to publicise this initiative across the picking season.

I'd like to thank you again for your contribution to this important work at such a critical time.

RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP

