

# Government *WORLD*™

*April - June 2025 British Edition*



# Government *WORLD*™

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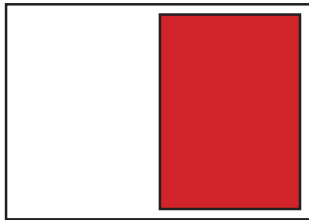
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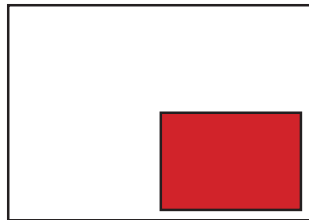
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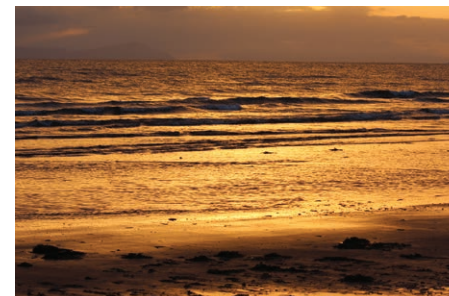
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**ISSN 1744-6996**



*A beautiful sunset sky over the water*



# News Roundup

*Summary of the main news and sports events over the last three months*

By Paul G Bazeley for Government World

## April News Review

On April 2, 2025, which he called “Liberation Day,” Trump invoked the IEEPA to announce reciprocal tariffs on all countries not already sanctioned, implementing a universal 10% tariff by April 5. Plans for additional tariffs on 57 trading partners were halted after a stock market crash. He also imposed 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico, later exempting goods compliant with the USMCA. Trump intensified the trade war with China, with U.S. tariffs peaking at 145% and China’s at 125%.



A subsequent trade agreement saw the U.S. reduce tariffs to 30% and China to 10%, with de minimis tariffs lowered to 54% and China agreeing to resume critical rare earth exports.

Five armed militants carried out a mass shooting in Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, killing 26 tourists and injuring 20 others in the deadliest civilian attack in India since 2008. The attackers primarily targeted Hindu tourists, though a Christian and a local Muslim were also killed. The Resistance Front (TRF), linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, initially claimed responsibility, citing opposition to non-local settlements after the revocation of Kashmir’s special status, but later denied involvement.

UNICEF reported that 332 children had been killed and 609 had been injured by the Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip since the war resumed following



the ceasefire.

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom ruled that legal gender is based upon biological sex for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.



South Korea announced a snap presidential election scheduled for 3rd June 2025. The announcement came after the dismissal of the former president Yoon Suk Yeol.

Pope Francis died at the age of 88 on Easter Monday at Domus Sanctae Marthae in Vatican City. Francis had served as pope and head of the Catholic Church for twelve years. The funeral was held later in the month, with 400,000 people in attendance along with over 130 world leaders.



The first birth of a baby to a woman with a transplanted womb in the United Kingdom was announced. The baby was delivered at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London, with the mother reported to be healthy.

Universal Destinations & Experiences formally announced that they had

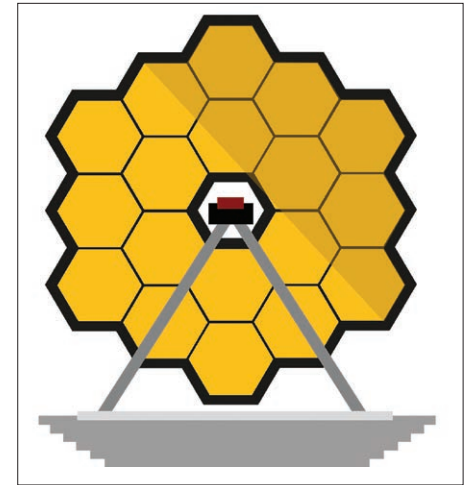


chosen a site near Kempston Hardwick in Bedfordshire, England, as the location for their Universal Studios United Kingdom resort. The theme park is set to open in 2031 officially and will be the largest theme park in the UK.

Three prison officers sustained life-threatening injuries in a mass stabbing and burn attack when Hashem Abedi, the brother of Islamic terrorist Salman Abedi—the perpetrator of the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing—attacked prison officers at HM Prison Frankland in County Durham, England, using hot cooking oil and handmade blades.

A University of Cambridge research team announced that the James Webb Space Telescope had detected dimethyl sulfide—believed to be produced only by living organisms—on exoplanet K2-

18b, located 124 light-years from Earth.



A Blue Origin New Shepard launch vehicle completed a brief sub-orbital spaceflight, carrying six female space tourists. The mission marked the first all-female crewed spacecraft since 1963's Vostok 6, which carried Valentina Tereshkova as the sole passenger and pilot.

The American biotechnology and genetic engineering company, Colossal Biosciences, announced that it had successfully bred three genetically modified wolf pups. The

pups are said to have the approximate anatomical features of extinct dire wolves.



A report by the International Maritime Bureau stated that piracy had risen by around 35% in the first quarter of 2025, with 45 cases. It noted that the Singapore Strait between Singapore and Indonesia was the most heavily impacted.

Ceremonies and events were held to mark the 113th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.



## **April Sports Review**

Rory McIlroy won the Masters golf tournament after a sudden-death playoff against Justin Rose. The win meant that McIlroy became the sixth player, and first European, to complete the modern career Grand Slam.



The horse Nick Rockett, ridden by the Irish Jockey Patrick Mullins, won the 2025 Grand National at Aintree.

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## **May News Review**

India carried out missile strikes on targets in Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam attack the previous month. The strikes sparked a military confrontation between the two nations. In retaliation, the Pakistani Army launched an assault on Poonch, Jammu, resulting in the deaths of 16 civilians and the destruction of



hundreds of homes. The conflict de-escalated after both sides reached a ceasefire agreement.

The papal conclave took place to elect a new pope following the death of Pope Francis. Eventually, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, from the United States, was elected to the papacy and took the name Leo XIV. He became the first pope from North America.

Warren Buffett announced that he would step down as the CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, the American multinational conglomerate holding company, by the end of the year. Greg Abel is scheduled to take over as CEO.

King Charles III visited Canada along with Queen Camilla. The Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, was said to have advised the visit to King Charles as part of

his capacity as the King of Canada. During the visit, King Charles read the Speech from the Throne, the first time since 1977.



The Mexican Navy Training ship ARM Cuauhtémoc collided with the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. The boat was there on a festive visit. Two crew members were killed and over twenty others injured.

The Walt Disney Company announced plans to open a theme park in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It would be the company's seventh theme park and its first in the Middle East.



Magnus Carlsen, the chess grandmaster, and 143,000 players drew an online freestyle chess match on chess.com lasting 46 days. The game set a new record with the largest number of opponents in a chess match.



### **May Sports Review**

Paris Saint-Germain won their first UEFA Champions League title after beating Inter Milan 5-0 in the final.

Crystal Palace beat Manchester City 1-0 in the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium. It is the first major trophy in Crystal Palace's 119-year history.

Tottenham Hotspur won the Europa League final after defeating Manchester United 1-0 in Bilbao, Spain. It is the first trophy for Spurs since 2008.

The Football Association (FA) banned transgender women from women's football in England after amending their

eligibility criteria. The ban will begin the following month.

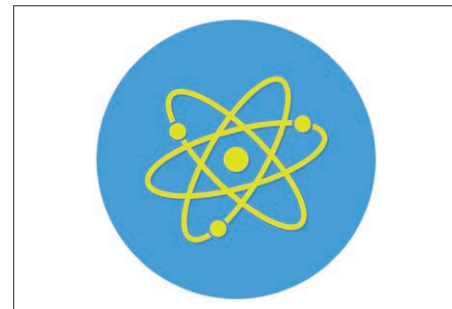


Zhao Xintong, from China, beat three-time champion Mark Williams to win his first World Snooker Championship. He became the first person from outside Europe to win the competition.

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### **June News Review**

The International Atomic Energy Agency found Iran was in breach



of its obligations to limit uranium enrichment and the provision of information on its nuclear materials. Later in the month, Israel launched a surprise attack on key Iranian military and nuclear facilities, including targeted assassinations of senior Iranian officials and airstrikes that crippled air defences. Iran responded by firing missiles at Israeli cities and military sites. The U.S. then escalated its involvement by striking three Iranian nuclear sites, prompting Yemen's Houthi rebels to declare the action a "declaration of war" and launch missiles at Israel.

The UK parliament voted to approve a bill allowing terminally ill adults to end their lives voluntarily. The approval is a step further forward in legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales and will now go to the House of Lords.



An Air India Flight 171, en route from Ahmedabad, India, to London, England, crashed into the hostel block of B.J. Medical College just 30 seconds after takeoff. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, carrying 230 passengers and 12 crew, lost power and thrust shortly after liftoff, prompting a mayday call from the pilots. The crash killed all but one passenger on board and resulted in 19 deaths and 67 injuries on the ground.

South Korean citizens voted in a snap election after Yook Suk Yeol was ousted by the Constitutional Court of Korea.



Lee Jae-Myung of the Democratic Party was elected as the 14th South Korean president. Later in the month, South Korea shut down their loudspeakers across the border to North Korea and stopped its propaganda messages against its neighbours by order of their new president.



The government announced it would invest £14.2 billion to construct the new Sizewell C nuclear power station in Suffolk, England. The decision was made to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels.

Riots erupted in Ballymena, Northern Ireland. Police cars and properties were damaged, with 15 police officers injured. The riots broke out after two Romanian teenagers were charged with the attempted rape of a teenage girl.

MI6 appointed Blaise Metreweli as the new Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, with Sir Richard Moore stepping down in October. Metreweli will become the first woman to lead the agency.

Vietnam formally ended their two-



child policy. The policy had been in effect since 2009, but due to record-low fertility rates and declining birth rates, the country decided to end the policy.

The S&P 500 index, the stock market index tracking the stock performance of the 500 leading companies on the US

stock exchange, closed at a record high of 6173.07 points.

A ban on disposable vapes came into force in the United Kingdom.



### **April Sports Review**

In tennis, Coco Gauff beat Aryna Sabalenka to win the women's French



Open singles final. On the men's draw, Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner in a 5 set thriller to claim his fifth Grand Slam.

The AF Corse Ferrari team won the 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race for the third consecutive year. The drivers of the team were Phil Hanson, Robert Kubica and Yifei Ye.



JJ Spaun won the 2025 U.S Open golf tournament with a score of one-under-par to win his first major title.

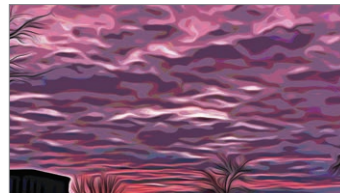
In basketball, the Oklahoma City Thunder won the NBA Finals in 7 games against the Indiana Pacers. It is the Thunder's first championship in their franchise history.

**End**





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# Over £20 million to help drones and flying taxis take to UK skies

April

From: Department for Transport, Mike Kane MP and Lord Vallance

We want the UK to have an advanced aviation ecosystem where everyone can benefit from new technology while tackling emissions.

- drone operations for emergency services and eco-friendly flying taxi services receive over £20 million to make everyday use a reality

- funding will also support the regulatory pathway that could see air taxis in use from 2028

- government, industry and regulator leaders meet to discuss aviation innovation, which will drive growth to propel the government's Plan for Change

Drone services at a commercial scale and flying taxis could soon be a reality as the Aviation Minister confirms over £20

million funding today (1 April 2025) to launch new flight technologies.

The new funding will unlock barriers to growth – which is the priority of the Plan for Change – and maximise opportunities for better and cheaper public services while cutting carbon emissions.

It is designed to advance aviation tech to support healthcare for the NHS, assist police forces in combatting

crime, help inspect and survey critical infrastructure and unlock delivery services for businesses and communities across the country.

As part of this, both the Aviation Minister and Science Minister have today also set out how the Department for Transport (DfT), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the new Regulatory Innovation Office (RIO) in the Department for Science,



Innovation and Technology (DSIT) will streamline regulatory processes to support the commercialisation of the industry

Aviation Minister, Mike Kane, said:

“I want the UK to have the most advanced aviation technology ecosystem in the world.

That means creating a nimble regulatory environment and a culture of innovation so everyone can benefit from cutting-edge transport while tackling emissions, traffic and potentially saving lives.

Our investment alongside the new Future of Flight industry group will bring together tech experts, drone operators, flying vehicle manufacturers and local communities to identify where change needs to happen.”

With safety at the heart of these advancements, the RIO is driving smarter regulation to cut red tape while ensuring high safety standards. It will support DfT and CAA in enabling faster, integration of drones and flying taxi industries, helping businesses grow and innovate.

This includes consulting on the mandatory use of new electronic

conspicuity standards and technologies, which allow aircraft to share their location electronically, helping drones and crewed aircraft fly safely alongside each other. By making approvals quicker and operations more efficient, this will open new opportunities for the industry while maintaining the highest safety standards.

Science Minister, Lord Vallance, said:

“These regulatory reforms for drones – requiring all aircraft to share their location – will make drone operations safer and therefore speed up approvals, allowing them to operate near airports and simplifying their use for delivering medical supplies – while unlocking further commercial opportunities.

This is a practical step to cut red tape and a great piece of progress for the Regulatory Innovation Office, growing the UK’s position as a world leader in

emerging technologies and helping drive the growth that will deliver our Plan for Change.”

In addition, as previously confirmed by the Chancellor, plans are now underway to simplify regulations to enable 2-year airspace change for drone operations. This will enable operators to fly safely for longer and gather data to inform future services.

Other changes will simplify regulations to enable emergency services including firefighters and paramedics to use drone services, as well as noise exemptions for drone trials within the Airspace Change Process, and simplifying the drone operational application process to enable them to get flying faster and easier.

Furthermore, the regulator, drone operators, flying vehicle innovators and local authorities will come together with government at the Future of Flight industry group to help guide the government on its mission to transform technology in aviation.

Part of the government’s Plan for Change, the group will focus on how to unlock the benefits of future



aviation technologies to propel the country's economic growth forward. It will look at how government can harness the potential of technology and create a culture of innovation, with the aim of improving everyday challenges like emergency across the public sector face, while helping cut carbon emissions.

The Minister for Aviation will co-chair the group, alongside Duncan Walker, CEO of Skyports.

Duncan Walker, CEO of Skyports and Co-Chair of the Future of Flight industry group, said:

“This additional government funding is a vital boost for the UK's leadership in next-generation aviation. This investment will accelerate the development and deployment of innovative flight technologies, from complex drone operations to advanced air mobility solutions.

I welcome this commitment, which will not only drive progress towards a more sustainable and connected future but also deliver significant economic benefits, high-value jobs and export opportunities across the UK. I look forward to continuing to work in close partnership with government and the regulator to turn

these opportunities into reality.”

The funding will be divided between the CAA, receiving £16.5 million in 2025 to 2026, to deliver a regulatory programme to enable drones to fly beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) and progress toward routine use of air taxis (eVTOLs) in UK skies.

This includes publishing a piloted eVTOL ‘roadmap’, development of ‘drone pathways’ for industry to follow and consulting on concept of operations for uncrewed traffic management (UTM) and Detect and Avoid (DAA) technology. This will make it quicker and easier for industry to prove the safety of these new technologies, deliver the necessary digital infrastructure and make sure that people, property and other aviation remain safe and secure when these new technologies fly in our skies.

Stuart Simpson, CEO of Vertical Aerospace, said:

“Flying taxis will transform the way we move — making it quicker, quieter and cleaner to travel while connecting communities and supporting essential services.

The UK has an incredible opportunity

to lead the world in this new era of aviation, delivering not just greener transport but real economic growth and skilled jobs.

This latest funding is another welcome step towards seeing that ambition realised and our world-leading aircraft flying in British skies from 2028.”

In addition, the Future Flight Challenge will receive up to £5 million from DfT and Innovate UK, to support industry to turn these new technologies into profitable business that benefits communities and support growth. This will include regional demonstrations and supporting development of commercial drone and air taxi solutions.

Mike Biddle, Executive Director of Net Zero, Innovate UK, said:

“Innovate UK is excited to build on the highly successful work of the Future Flight Challenge by working in partnership with DfT through this joint funding. We look forward to working with industry, end-users, DfT, DSIT and the CAA as we accelerate the transition from innovation to commercial operations.”

# Government calls ‘last orders’ on red tape choking pubs, clubs, and restaurants in major boost to the British night out

April

From: HM Treasury, The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP and The Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP

Outside dining and later opening hours on the menu as government backs British pubs, clubs and restaurants with moves to slash burdensome red tape in the hospitality sector.

- Mayor of London to be armed with new powers to review blocked licensing applications and boost the capital’s nighttime economy.
- Package of measures answers industry plea to give businesses the conditions to



thrive, with the government and British business working side-by-side as part of the Plan for Change.

Pubs, clubs and restaurants are set to be released from burdensome red tape which has stifled business as government ‘backs the British night out’.

Action includes moves to improve the application of licensing laws and strengthening businesses’ competitiveness, giving diners, pub and party-goers more time and more choice to enjoy what British hospitality has to offer.

It includes a landmark pilot that could see more alfresco dining and later opening hours in London, as the Mayor of London is granted new “call in” powers to review blocked licensing applications in nightlife hotspots.

If successful, this approach could be rolled out to other mayors across England, working closely with their own local police

forces.

The package of measures will seize the opportunities on offer in the UK hospitality sector, which employs over three million people and is worth around £62 billion to the British economy. It comes as the government continues to go further and faster to drive economic growth and get more money in working people’s pockets, a key focus of the Plan for Change.

Businesses have long indicated that the current licensing system lacks proportionality, consistency, and transparency - creating barriers to growth and investment for business.

Blockers to growth include businesses being banned from extending licensing hours for late night drinking and anti-competitive blockages from other businesses.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel

Reeves, said:

“British businesses are the lifeblood of our communities. Our Plan for Change will make sure they have the conditions to grow – not be tied down by unnecessarily burdensome red tape.

We’ve heard industry concerns and we’re partnering with businesses to understand what changes need to be made, because a thriving nighttime economy is good for local economies, good for growth, and good for getting more money in people’s pockets.”

Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, said:

“We promised to clear the way to economic growth in our Plan for Change and that’s exactly what we’re doing. We’re already reforming planning to back the builders, not the blockers. Now we want to do the same for the nighttime economy which has been neglected for so long.

Our pubs, restaurants, and live music venues are the beating heart of our cultural life, so it is vital they are given every chance to survive and thrive.

That’s why it’s time to give the Mayor of London new powers to back the capital’s pubs and clubs, as part of our plan to give mayors the tools they need to drive growth. Too often, we have seen the complaints of

a vocal minority of objectors promoted over the need for our country to grow - we are determined to change this.”

Nick Mackenzie, CEO of Greene King and Chair of the British Beer and Pub Association, Kate Nicholls, National Chair of the Institute of Licensing CEO of UKHospitality, Michael Kill, CEO of Night Time Industries Association, and the police are all working with the government to rapidly explore and evaluate better licensing options for businesses right across the UK.

The group aims to transform the licensing system to one that better supports business growth and confidence, creating a better hospitality experience for Britons and visitors, whilst ensuring public safety and



community interests remain adequately protected.

It will report back in six weeks with solutions informing the government’s work to kickstart economic growth as part of the Plan for Change.

Business and Trade Secretary, Jonathan Reynolds, said:

“Businesses in our retail, hospitality and leisure sectors are foundational to our economy and our high streets. They are big employers in every community across the UK, offering accessible jobs and opportunities and providing spaces where communities can come together - they are the glue that binds us together as a society.

These measures will ensure that we support these vital sectors by delivering a business environment as part of our Plan for Change that allows them to operate profitably so that they can provide the jobs, investment and growth communities across the country need.”

In addition to these steps, a new £1.5 million Hospitality Support Scheme has been launched to help get existing projects over the line and fill job vacancies in the sector.

This includes supporting the delivery of hospitality training facilities in prisons, which will help to address skills gaps and provide prison leavers with a fresh start and opportunities on release, reducing unemployment and the £18 billion cost of reoffending.

These new steps are part of the government's wider work to kickstart economic growth, boost productivity and put more money in working people's pockets as part of the Plan for Change.

Nick Mackenzie, CEO of Greene King, Chair of the British Beer and Pub Association and Co-Chair of the Licensing Taskforce, said:

“Licensing regulations provide a clear example of how well-intentioned legislation can inhibit economic growth, with excessive restrictions often limiting premises’ ability to respond to changing circumstances and customer demand.

I am looking forward to working with the hospitality minister as we speak to stakeholders from within the industry and beyond to understand current frustrations and limitations.

I hope that we can address existing concerns and create a licensing system that reduces unnecessary red tape,

accelerates the licensing process and unlocks opportunities for premises to drive economic growth across the UK.”

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said:

“I am delighted that the government is looking to grant London greater powers over licensing.

This significant decision would allow us to do more to support the capital's pubs, clubs, music venues and other parts of the visit and tourist scene. It would boost tourism, stimulate growth and deliver new jobs both in London and across the country.

This is more evidence that we now have a government that wants to work with the capital and recognises the role that we can play in delivering economic prosperity and support Londoners as we build a better London for everyone.”

Kate Nicholls, Chief Executive of UKHospitality and National Chair of the Institute of Licensing, said:

“Cutting red tape and improving hospitality's competitiveness is much-needed to unlock our sector's potential to drive socially productive growth and create jobs. A new and improved licensing system that is fit for the 21st century will be a huge boost to the nation's pubs, bars, restaurants and hotels.

I'm delighted that this expert group will be leading the review and coming forward with solutions that can unlock the high street's potential, in addition to informing the government's Industrial Strategy.”

Emma McClarkin, Chief Executive of the British Beer Association said:

“A review of the 2003 Licensing Act is long overdue. We are currently working with MPs to pass an amendment to permitted licensing hours at times of major national events when Parliament is not sitting. But this is just one example where the current law restricts the ability of pubs to respond to consumer demand and sell beer and other drinks in a responsible manner.

There will be many other simple changes that can be made to the Act that will ease the ability to do business and drive more sales, invest and grow. I look forward to the quick implementation of the recommendations that the taskforce brings forward and urge the government to repeat this exercise across a number of other policy areas where urgent reforms are needed including business rates reform, packaging reform and much needed cuts to beer duty.”

# Wait times slashed for 80,000 thanks to boost in cancer detection

April

From: Department of Health and Social Care and  
The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP

80,000 patients have received a quicker diagnosis or ruling out of cancer in 28 days between July 2024 and January 2025 compared to the previous year.

- Government's record £26 billion budget investment into the NHS sees 80,000 more people having cancer diagnosed or ruled out within 28 days

- Bold action to resolve strikes, increase funding into the NHS and get more teams working out of hours has transformed delivery for patients

- Cancer care at the heart of government plans to reform NHS through Plan for Change, with national cancer plan set to be published later this year

80,000 patients across the country have faced shorter waits for life-changing cancer diagnoses as a result of the government's record investment in our NHS to cut waiting times, latest figures show.

The government's budget fixed the foundations of the economy to deliver a record £26 billion investment in our NHS to get it back on its feet and make it fit for the future as part of the Plan for Change. This investment, together with putting an end to industrial action, tackling waste and bringing in crucial reforms, is already

transforming our NHS.

That includes a new drive to offer more appointments out of hours - which directly contributed to over three-quarters (76.1%) of patients receiving their cancer diagnosis or all clear within 28 days from July 2024 to January 2025, up from 71.8% 12 months earlier.

As one of the biggest killers in the UK, it is vital that cancer patients get quick access to the testing they need. Faster diagnosis is linked to significantly improved cancer outcomes and means more patients can start treatment as quickly as possible.

Today's figures show a clear improvement in performance, demonstrating how proper investment, along with a plan to put patients first, delivers on the commitments

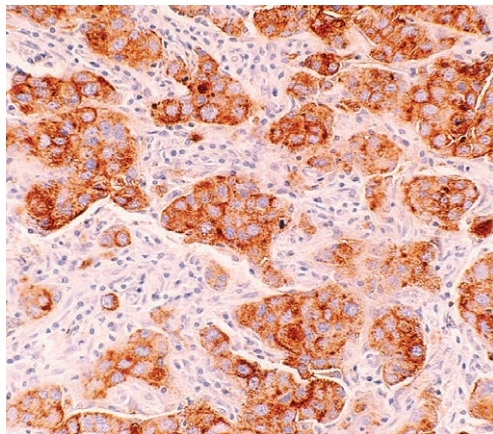


promised by the government to slash waiting lists - putting an end to the misery for many people who have not received the cancer care they require.

Health and Social Care Secretary Wes Streeting said:

“This government made tough decisions at the budget that put £26 billion into our NHS - and patients are already seeing the results.

Too many cancer patients are facing agonisingly long waits for diagnosis and treatment. As a survivor, I know first hand just how important it is to receive timely diagnosis so treatment can begin as quickly as possible.



We are on a mission to drive down waiting times and our Plan for Change is already getting patients seen and treated faster, with 80,000 more diagnosed or ruled out with cancer between July and January.

This is just the start and we will continue driving fundamental reform of the NHS to ensure it is delivering for all patients once again.”

The government is delivering change working people can feel, with waiting lists cut by 193,000 since July - and alongside this, 2 million extra appointments including for chemotherapy, radiotherapy, endoscopy and diagnostic tests also being delivered 7 months ahead of schedule.

But the government is going further and faster. The recently published elective reform plan also commits to going even further for patients, through opening more community diagnostic centres, taking the total to over 170 this year across England.

These sites will all be open for 12 hours a day, 7 days a week by March 2026, located in convenient places across the country to ensure patients have greater access to the tests, checks and scans they require. And on top of this, the government is also committing £1.5

billion to equip the health service with more surgical hubs and scanners to help catch more cancers earlier.

The recently published NHS planning guidance has committed to getting a further 100,000 people diagnosed on time by March 2026, with the government on track to deliver this significantly ahead of schedule.

With 2.8 million people expected to be living with cancer this year in England alone, improving outcomes for patients, including quicker diagnosis, is a key part of the government’s plans to cut waiting times and deliver fundamental NHS reform through the Plan for Change.

Professor Peter Johnson, NHS National Clinical Director for Cancer, said:

“Providing rapid access to tests ensures that people with cancer can start treatment as soon as possible when it is most likely to be successful, and will help to put people’s minds at rest if they don’t have cancer, so it is an important step forward that thousands more patients each month are getting the all-clear or a diagnosis within 4 weeks.

Thanks to the efforts of staff and NHS campaigns encouraging people to get worrying symptoms checked out or to take up our offer of screening, we are seeing more people coming forward than ever, and I encourage anyone who is overdue for a check or who has noticed changes in their body to contact their GP surgery as soon as possible so they can get checked.”

Lord Darzi’s investigation into the NHS highlighted that the rate of improvement for cancer survival slowed substantially during the 2010s, and the government has been steadfast in its commitment to improving outcomes for patients.

Cancer Research UK’s chief executive, Michelle Mitchell, said:

“Waiting for answers can be an incredibly worrying period for anyone affected, so we welcome the government’s commitment to further cut waits for cancer diagnosis and treatment this year.

The UK government has the opportunity to improve things further and faster with their upcoming national cancer plan for England. More people are being diagnosed with cancer than ever before, and our health service needs a long-term plan to be able to properly prepare and

help people live longer, better lives.”

Eve Byrne, Director of National System Change at Macmillan Cancer Support, said:

“We welcome these changes and the positive impact this will have on people living with cancer.

We are looking forward to working with the government to transform cancer care by developing the national cancer plan. This is an opportunity to make sure everybody in the UK can access world-class cancer care, whoever they are, wherever they may be based.”

Alongside the 10 Year Health Plan, the government will also publish its national cancer plan this year, with a call for evidence now live to encourage cancer experts, people living with cancer and medical professionals to help shape its development.

A new UK Collaborative for Cancer Clinical Research is also being launched to provide co-ordination, target investment and maximise opportunities for the UK to lead in clinical research. This will help to unlock innovation and growth.

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# British satellite to map Earth's forests in 3D for the first time to help combat climate change

April

From: Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, UK Space Agency, Kerry McCarthy MP and Sir Chris Bryant MP

Satellite developed by British academics and engineers set to become the first in the world to measure condition of the Earth's forests from space.

- World's first mission to map the world's forests in 3D from space will use cutting edge tech to inform climate change policies and protect future generations.
- Supports UK sector worth around £18.9 billion and likely to attract further investment that can grow the economy



and help drive our Plan for Change.

- Project has supported around 250 highly skilled jobs in Stevenage, bolstering UK's 52,000 strong space workforce.

A satellite developed by British academics and engineers is set to become the first in the world to measure the condition of the Earth's forests from space.

This work will be crucial to helping us understand how tropical forests are changing so we can protect future generations from climate breakdown and accelerate the transition to net zero under our Plan for Change.

From conception to construction, the satellite – called Biomass – has been built in the UK, capitalising on our industrial and academic expertise in space technology while opening up new opportunities to attract future backing

from global investors watching its landmark launch on 29 April.

Throughout construction, it has supported approximately 250 highly skilled jobs at Airbus UK, in Stevenage, where it was manufactured, supporting the local economy and bolstering the UK's 52,000 strong space workforce.

The Biomass satellite will launch from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. Since 2016, the UK has won almost 91 million Euros in contracts for Biomass through its membership of the European Space Agency (ESA).

Conceived by University of Sheffield academic Professor Shaun Quegan, it is a hallmark of British innovation, facilitating jobs in everything from design and development to assembly integration and test. The satellite will create a 3D map of tropical forests

after 17 months, then new (non-3D) maps every 9 months for the rest of the 5-year mission, providing insights normally hidden from human sight because of the difficulty in accessing these environments.

Its revolutionary technology will help scientists capture vital data on the changes to carbon in forests as ecosystems are increasingly impacted by deforestation.

Minister for Space Sir Chris Bryant said:

“The Biomass mission showcases British ingenuity at its very best, from conception in Sheffield to construction in Stevenage.

Britain is not only stepping to the forefront of the space industry, but of global climate action too.



Contributing to such great extent to a European mission set to deliver vital global results is testament to the UK’s industrial and academic expertise in space technology and will attract global investment into our vibrant space ecosystem, helping us boost growth and deliver our Plan for Change.”

Both deforestation, which releases carbon dioxide, and forest growth, which soaks up CO2 from the atmosphere, are crucial parts of climate change.

Data on the biomass of tropical forests is very limited because they are difficult to access.

The Biomass satellite will be able to penetrate cloud cover and measure forest biomass more accurately than any current technology, which only see the top of the canopy. By providing better data it will help create a more accurate global carbon budget and better understanding of carbon sinks and sources which will help in developing and implementing effective strategies to achieve net-zero goals.

Observations will also lead to better insight into the rates of habitat loss and, as a result, the effect this may have on biodiversity in the forest environment.

Shaun Quegan, University of Sheffield’s Professor and lead proposer of the mission concept to the European Space Agency, said:

“It’s been a privilege to have led the team in the development of a pioneering mission that will revolutionise our understanding of the volume of carbon held in the most impenetrable tropical rainforests on the planet and, crucially, how this is changing over time. Our research has solved critical operational scientific problems in constructing the Biomass satellite.

Conceived and built in the UK, Biomass is a brilliant example of what we can achieve in collaboration with our partners in industry and academia. The mission is the culmination of decades of highly innovative work in partnership with some of the best scientists in Europe and the US.”

Dr Paul Bate, CEO of the UK Space Agency said:

“The Biomass satellite represents a major leap forward in our ability to understand Earth’s carbon cycle.

By mapping the world's forests from space in unprecedented detail, it will provide critical insights into how our planet is responding to climate change — helping scientists, policymakers, and conservationists take informed action. We're proud of the leading role the UK has played in this important mission."

Kata Escott, Managing Director of Airbus Defence and Space in the UK, said:

"Biomass is a groundbreaking mission that will advance our understanding of how carbon is stored in the world's forests – delivering crucial data in the fight against climate change. With more than 50 companies involved across 20 nations, the team in Stevenage has shown exceptional leadership in delivering this flagship ESA mission."

Climate Minister, Kerry McCarthy, said:

"The UK is back in the business of climate leadership and protecting the world's forests through emerging and cutting-edge technologies is crucial to tackling the climate crisis.

This innovative tool shows how climate action attract investment in the UK, driving growth as part of our Plan for Change."

# Councils to seize and crush fly-tipping vehicles to clean up Britain

April

From: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Environment Agency and The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP

A new crackdown on cowboy waste operators will tackle soaring fly-tipping and clean up Britain's streets, lanes and rural areas, the Government has announced today (Tuesday 29 April).

Councils will work with the police to identify, seize and crush vehicles of waste criminals. Drones and mobile CCTV cameras will be deployed to identify cars and vans belonging to fly-tippers so they can be destroyed.

Ministers have launched a rapid review to slash red tape blocking councils from seizing and crushing vehicles. Councils currently have to bear the significant cost of seizing and storing vehicles but under new plans, being consider by Ministers, fly-tippers will cover this cost, saving councils and taxpayers money.

In addition, waste cowboys will now face up to five years in prison for operating illegally. Any criminals caught transporting and dealing with waste illegally will now face up to five years in prison under new legislation.

Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Reed said:

Waste criminals and fly-tippers who blight our towns and villages have gone unpunished for too long.

That ends today. The Government is calling time on fly-tipping. I will not stand by while this avalanche of rubbish buries our communities.

Under the Plan for Change, this Government will seize and crush fly-tippers vans' to clean up Britain's streets.

These measures support the

Government's Plan for Change and will help deliver its key mission of Safer Streets for the public, restoring communities' faith in efforts to combat anti-social behaviour.

Waste crime is trashing communities across the country. Fly-tipping has skyrocketed by a fifth whilst the number of prosecutions has fallen by the same amount since 2018/19. The failure to punish these criminals has left our high streets, roads and countryside buried under an avalanche of rubbish.

The Environment Agency will also carry out identity and criminal record checks on operators in the sector so there is nowhere to hide for rogue firms.

It will be handed more resources as they will now be able to fund the cost of policing the industry through permits, boosting their powers and cutting costs for taxpayers. The



reforms will also give them more power to revoke permits, issue enforcement notices and hefty fines.

Philip Duffy, Environment Agency Chief Executive, said:

Waste crime is toxic. Criminals' thoughtless actions harm people, places, and the economy, blighting our communities and disrupting legitimate businesses.

At the Environment Agency, we're determined to bring these criminals to justice through tough enforcement action and prosecutions. That's why we support the Government's crackdown on waste criminals, which will ensure we have the right powers to shut rogue operators out of the waste industry.

Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association (ESA), Jacob Hayler, said:

For too long, criminality has run rampant across the waste sector. These illegal activities threaten the environment; damage communities and undermine legitimate recycling and waste operations. ESA has long campaigned for tighter rules, tougher enforcement and harsher penalties to deter criminals, so we very much welcome today's reforms and hope that they are put to good use driving criminals out of our

sector.

In particular, the proposed reforms to the carriers, brokers, dealers and exemption regimes, coupled with strong and effective enforcement from the regulators, could go a long way to help tackle the scourge of waste crime, with increased scrutiny and accountability making it much harder for criminals to operate in our sector.

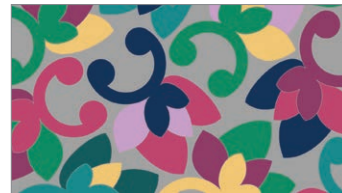
Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of Brent Council, said:

Our residents have had enough of the dumpers who pollute their neighbourhoods with rubbish. These new powers will be a welcome addition to our arsenal, reinforcing our zero-tolerance stance on fly-tipping. We've already witnessed the positive impact of our focused efforts, and I am determined to use every tool at our disposal, including seizing vehicles, to reclaim our streets.

The Government is making available £69 billion to council budgets across England – a 6.8% cash terms increase – and bringing forward the first multi-year funding settlement in a decade, to help fund key responsibilities like tackling fly-tipping.



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# More girls to study maths under plans to improve pathway into AI careers

May

From: Department for Education, The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP and The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP

Government invests £8.2m to boost girls' advanced maths skills and AI careers.

Thousands of the country's brightest girls will get the opportunity to study advanced maths and progress into AI-related careers, as the government invests in the skills young people need for the jobs of tomorrow.

Currently only a third of A level maths pupils are girls, while currently only 22% of professionals working in AI related roles like software engineer or data science are women.

Now through the government's Plan for Change around 7,500 girls will be eligible for support as part of £8.2m of funding announced today to improve participation and teaching of advanced maths. The funding, part of the refreshed Advanced Maths Support Programme, will target

support to thousands of pupils from 400 disadvantaged secondary schools – breaking the link between background and success so all young people have the chance to progress in careers of the future.

Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, said:

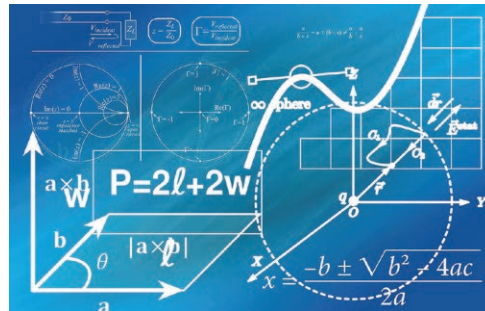
“Today's brightest maths minds are tomorrow's AI pioneers, and this government is opening the door for groups who have so far been left behind in the AI revolution.

Through our Plan for Change we are breaking down barriers to opportunity, backing our young people and going further and faster for AI growth, ensuring the next generation can progress in the exciting careers of the future.”

The updated Advanced Maths Support Programme includes pilot teacher training and student enrichment courses on the key maths concepts and skills needed for AI and this will benefit 450 students and 360 teachers from September.

It marks a crucial step in delivering a key commitment in the government's AI Action Plan – creating a strong talent pipeline and driving greater diversity across the AI talent pool.

It comes as the Education Secretary convenes a group of experts to advise on what changes are needed to the 5-18 education system to improve digital education and give young



people the AI-specific skills they need to thrive in a digital world. The Digital, AI and Technology Task and Finish Group chaired by Sir Kevan Collins, non-executive board member at the Department for Education, will provide recommendations to the department and insights for the Curriculum and Assessment Review so they can draw on this expertise.

Members include Rose Luckin, Professor of Learner-Centred Design at University College London and Dr Sue Sentance, Director of the Raspberry Pi Computing Education Research Centre at the University of Cambridge and Chair of the BCS Schools and Colleges Committee.

Science Secretary, Peter Kyle said:

“AI is the defining technology of our generation, improving our public services, sparking fresh economic growth, and unlocking the jobs of the future. We can only harness that potential if we have a pipeline of talent equipped with the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow.

This package of support will help us deliver our Plan for Change and do exactly that. This is the first step in our plan to give every young person in the country the opportunity to develop the tools which will put them front and centre in delivering our AI-powered future.”

# Reforms to get Britain building will boost economy by billions

May

From: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP

Planning reforms to accelerate the delivery of new homes, roads and railways, and clean energy projects will boost the UK economy by billions of pounds, according to new analysis.

The Planning and Infrastructure Bill's Impact Assessment, published today (Tuesday, May 6) has shown the government's pro-growth changes to get Britain building could benefit the economy by up to £7.5 billion over the

next 10 years.

A growing economy is at the heart of our Plan for Change to improve the lives of hard working people and by making it quicker and easier to build 1.5 million new homes, the reforms will turn the tide of the housing crisis and ensure critical infrastructure – including public transport links and clean energy projects that will protect billpayers – is sped up.

Lower costs for businesses, fewer delays and more certainty as a result



of the Bill's measures could lead to further investment and provide an additional boost to the economy.

Even this assessment is expected to be an underestimate of the true economic value the reforms will have in boosting development. The current assessment also does not account for recent amendments to the Bill to overhaul the pre-application stage for critical infrastructure, which government analysis suggests will add another £1 billion over this Parliament.

This huge boost to the economy is on top of the measures already implemented

in the new pro-growth National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Office for Budget Responsibility recently said the changes to NPPF alone will drive housebuilding to its highest level in over 40 years, and deliver an additional £6.8 billion by 2029/2030.

Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary, Angela Rayner said:

“Getting Britain building will not only boost economic growth but ensure we deliver the homes and infrastructure working people deserve.

This landmark pro-growth Bill will

get spades in the ground and the foundations laid for a new generation of homes, as we deliver on our Plan for Change.”

The analysis has also been given a ‘green rating’ by the Regulatory Policy Committee, which means the assessment is considered robust and fit for purpose by the independent scrutiny body that considers them.

The Bill will help deliver on the Plan for Change by streamlining the building of 1.5 million homes and crucial infrastructure needed to make Britain a clean energy superpower and protect billpayers and reduce future energy shocks.

This will help put money back into the pockets of working people and support the government’s push to make at least 150 decisions on major infrastructure projects this Parliament, with 17 decided so far.

Further reforms tabled at Committee Stage, and not included in the impact assessment, will streamline the pre-application process for windfarms, new roads and other major infrastructure projects.



# Full steam ahead: young people take the drivers seat to improve train services and unlock jobs

May

From: Department for Transport, Heidi Alexander MP, The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP and The Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP

Lowering the train driver age to 18 will help future-proof our railways, support young people in fulfilling careers and boost growth across the country.

- 18 to 20 year olds to benefit from thousands of job and apprenticeship opportunities by the end of this year
- bolstering workforce will help prevent delays and cancellations on the railways
- getting young people into work and improving rail services will help boost the economy as part of the Plan for Change

Young people will be able to take up new careers as train drivers 3 years earlier, to boost the number of drivers needed for reliable services and put more school and college leavers on track to step straight

into work.

Thousands of jobs and apprenticeships will be made available to those between 18 and 20 years old as early as December 2025, offering skilled roles, valuable experience and long-term career opportunities whilst keeping our country moving, driving economic growth at the heart of our Plan for Change.

It will also help build up the rail workforce, preventing delays and cancellations caused by driver shortages, which currently account for 87% of cancellations made the night before a service runs.

The decision to lower the age will future-proof the railways, reducing the over reliance on rest day working by getting more people into the driving seat and ensuring a steady stream of drivers entering the industry.

The average train driver is 48 years old

and rising, with 30% due to reach retirement age by 2029. Bringing young talent into these skilled roles now will bridge this gap, preventing any future shortages and ensuring consistent, reliable services for passengers.

In a profession that is less than 9% female and less than 12% represented by ethnic minorities, this will open professional opportunities to a much wider group of people.

This is yet another initiative to help deliver the government's Plan for



Change by unlocking skilled jobs and safeguarding reliable train services, boosting the economy and improving living standards in the process.

Transport Secretary, Heidi Alexander, said:

“We’re taking bold action to improve train services and unlock thousands of jobs.

We’re committed to getting the economy moving and a big part of that is getting young people into the workforce, putting them on track for a skilled and fulfilling career, which will boost growth across the country and help deliver our Plan for Change.

We’re future-proofing our railways against delays and cancellations caused by a shortage of drivers, ensuring that we can provide reliable, passenger focused train journeys under Great British Railways for decades to come.”

This follows a consultation DfT undertook last year, which received overwhelming support from across the industry and marks a significant step forward for rail reform.

Mick Whelan, General Secretary of ASLEF, the train drivers’ union, said:

“ASLEF has been campaigning for many years for the lowering of the age at which drivers can start training.

This decision – to allow people to leave school, or college, and join the railway in the driving grade at 18 rather than wait until they’re 20 – will increase diversity in the driver’s cab by encouraging more people from ethnic minority backgrounds, more LGBT+ people, and more women – as well as more young people – to drive trains on Britain’s railways.

Because, at the moment, young people who want to become train drivers leave school or college at 18, get other jobs, and we miss out as an industry, as they don’t wait around until they turn 20 to find a career.”

Several other countries have already successfully and safely adopted a lower

age limit, including the Netherlands, France, Germany and Switzerland, with other countries, including Japan, considering a change in law. Transport for London also successfully opened up its train driver scheme to 18 year olds to drive trains on the underground network in 2007.

Everyone who takes on the role of a train driver must undergo rigorous training to ensure they are competent, qualified and fit to do so, ensuring the safe use of our railways for everyone.

Work and Pensions Secretary, Liz Kendall, said:

“This government is determined to widen the opportunities of all young people.

By allowing 18 year olds to take up



careers as train drivers we are literally putting them in the driving seat when it comes to finding secure, well-paid work.

This is a core part of our plan to lower the number of young people not in education, employment or training and builds on our Youth Guarantee scheme to give all 18 to 21 year olds the chance to earn or learn.”

Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, said:

“By opening up this vital sector to more young people, we’re not only creating a pathway to high-skilled careers but also addressing the skills shortages that hold back our transport network and economic growth. This is another step forward in our mission to break down barriers and create new opportunities for young people.

This is our Plan for Change in action: bringing in fresh, diverse talent, tackling skills shortages and helping to grow our economy across every part of the country.”

This is just one of the ways we’re delivering improvements to the railways ahead of the creation of Great British Railways (GBR). Once set up, GBR will bring track and train together, ending

years of fragmentation and waste. GBR will relentlessly focus on driving up standards for passengers and proposals for how it will run, including plans for a powerful new passenger standards watchdog, are currently being considered.

Daniel Mann, Director of Industry Operations at Rail Delivery Group, said:

“Our railways have played a vital role in connecting communities and supporting economic growth for 200 years and train drivers are an important part of this.

Working as a train driver is an incredible long-term career opportunity and we want to open the doors, especially to school-leavers, to encourage a wider and more diverse pool of young people to apply, reflecting the communities we serve. These changes will not only help us to recruit the next generation of drivers, lowering the average age of the workforce, but will also help to ensure a resilient railway for the years to come.”

Mark Phillips, CEO at Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) said:

“To boost economic growth by running more frequent rail services, the industry needs to invest in enabling more young people to start train driver

apprenticeships. Our research determined that 18 year olds are capable of safely becoming train drivers and identified opportunities to improve how the rail industry manages competence for all drivers.

Starting a train driving career could be more appealing at 18 than at 20, as young people can choose it over pursuing a degree or an office job. It is an excellent career choice, offering the opportunity to work independently in a role that carries huge responsibility.”

Maggie Simpson OBE, Director General of the Rail Freight Group (RFG), said:

“Rail freight thrives when the whole network has the skilled people it needs, so we welcome the decision to lower the minimum driver age to 18.

Bringing talent into the cab straight from school can widen the recruitment pool, inspire more young people to choose rail careers and let them build experience earlier but importantly, this is a permissive change. Each freight and passenger operator will decide for itself whether and how to recruit younger drivers.”



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# Red tape slashed to get more teachers into classrooms

May

From: Department for Education and Catherine McKinnell MP

More people will soon have the opportunity to train to teach, as the government cuts apprenticeship red tape as part of steps to get thousands more teachers into the classroom.

As the government steps up work to recruit an additional 6,500 teachers, postgraduate teaching apprenticeship (PGTA) courses will be slashed from twelve months to nine, aligning to the school year and getting newly trained teachers into the classroom sooner.

Courses currently run from September to September, meaning trainees typically have to wait months before kicking off their careers, and making it challenging for schools to support apprentices while training.

The change will be made from August this year and is expected to open up more opportunities to train to teach, as well as accelerating trainees' journeys to the front of the classroom.

The PGTA has seen a 58 per cent growth over the past few years, showing how popular the offer is, giving participants the chance to earn while they learn and gain hands-on experience in the classroom.

More than 1,400 people trained to teach via this route this year, but demand for places currently far outstrips supply, with around 2,800 eligible applicants last year unable to secure a place on a coveted course.

The change supports the government's drive through its Plan for Change to recruit an additional 6,500 expert teachers, and follows early progress on teacher recruitment, with over two thousand more people training to become secondary school teachers this year, alongside a 25% boost in the proportion set to begin training in shortage STEM subjects.

Schools Minister, Catherine McKinnell said:

“Recruiting and keeping high-quality teachers in our classrooms is the single biggest driver of high standards in schools,

which is why our Plan for Change has a clear commitment to recruit an additional 6,500 expert teachers by the end of this Parliament.

Our schools are crying out for more expert teachers, and this government will continue to pull every lever it can to plug the gaps and build on the green shoots we are already seeing.

Bringing teaching apprenticeships in line with the school year is not only logical, it will open the doors for more and more people to become brilliant teachers, shaping the lives of the next generation.”

Apprenticeships are a brilliant way for schools to recruit and train the high-quality teachers they need, while supporting more people to gain the skills and experience they need to become expert teachers and build a successful career in teaching.

The government is offering schools up to £28,000 to cover the cost of training

apprentices in mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, computing, and modern foreign languages – the subjects which have the highest teacher shortages. This means apprentices pay nothing for their training and will earn a salary while they are training before moving on to full time teacher pay salary.

The apprenticeship changes build on wider steps the government is already taking to support teacher recruitment and retention, including last summer's 5.5% pay award and a targeted retention incentive, worth up to £6,000 after tax for early career teachers working in shortage subjects.

Action is also being taken to tackle the systemic challenges that the sector faces which drive high workload and poor wellbeing. This includes improvements to the accountability framework, prioritising SEND reform, reviewing the curriculum through the curriculum and assessment review, supporting schools to use technology effectively and addressing child



poverty.

PGTA apprentice teacher in biology at Outwood Academy Acklam, Dan Harrison, shared his experience so far:

“The National Institute of Teaching’s postgraduate teaching apprenticeship has enabled me to take the leap from my role as a learning manager to being a teacher. It’s been a great way to quickly get to grips with the day-to-day practicalities of the role, while also understanding the underpinning theory of what makes great teaching and applying this to my immediate context.

I’ve really enjoyed being fully embedded in the teaching community at my school and would recommend this as an ideal route for those who are interested in the profession but looking for a way to learn on the job.”

National Institute of Teaching Executive Director of Programmes, Reuben Moore said:

“The potential of teacher apprenticeships is significant, strengthening routes into the profession and helping to reach a range of candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds in hard-to-recruit areas where teachers are needed most.

The hands-on learning offered alongside critical reflection through the apprenticeship route means that trainees can become fully qualified teachers in less time, without

compromising on the quality of teaching or educational outcomes.

We welcome the government’s efforts on removing barriers to this important training route, not only focusing on its impact but the opportunity to grow it further and help ensure that all children have access to an excellent education.”

Courses will still offer the same high-quality content but at a reduced length with trainees gaining Qualified Teacher Status after they have completed the programme, going on to build successful careers in teaching.

As part of the work to drive high and rising standards in schools the government’s landmark Children’s Wellbeing & Schools Bill is also introducing measures to ensure new teachers have or are working towards Qualified Teacher Status, so that children can benefit from high-quality teaching. Parents want to be confident that there is a professionally qualified teacher leading their children’s learning, and we expect the same.

As well as the PGTA, there are a range of apprenticeships available to individuals who are considering entering the teaching profession including a new degree level teacher apprenticeship as well as teaching assistant apprenticeships.

# UK Armed Forces to benefit from ground breaking underwater glue developed with industry

May

From: Ministry of Defence, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and The Rt Hon Maria Eagle MP

An underwater glue could soon be saving lives and providing UK Armed Forces with an operational edge following successful trials in Portsmouth.

The glue, which mimics the way a mussel sticks to a rock in nature, will enable military personnel to repair wetsuits, damaged dinghies and other equipment rapidly in extreme environments, potentially saving lives. It will also make it easier to repair bridges under the water line and could save



the public money by enabling repairs during deployment.

The glue was developed by the Ministry of Defence's Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), working with biotech firm Zentraxa.

Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry Maria Eagle said:

"This unique approach, inspired by nature, demonstrates how the UK is becoming a hotbed for pioneering defence technology.

Our scientists are working with industry to unlock emerging technologies, finding new ways to protect the military personnel who keep our nation safe, at home and abroad.

That's why we're establishing a new innovation organisation, UK Defence Innovation, with a ring-fenced budget of £400 million, to help deliver even more cutting-edge tools like this to the Armed Forces."

The adhesive was successfully demonstrated by British Army divers at Horsea Island, who tested it by gluing various items to an underwater steel wall. It was also tested in simulated sea water in the laboratory and performed well on wet out-of-water surfaces. The glue could have multiple other applications, beyond defence.

Principal Scientist Claire, of Dstl's Engineering Biology project, said:

"Taking something that nature does well and applying it to modern problems is what is engineering biology is all about.

The glue – inspired by nature – will give our Armed Forces a capability that they simply don't have at the moment.

This will bring a new and unique capability to underwater work. It could help divers, it could mean a punctured

dinghy doesn't sink. It could ultimately save lives."

Dstl has supported the project with approximately £300,000 of funding and will collaborate with other parts of Defence in the further development of the glue technology. This will support specialist jobs and demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in unlocking innovation – a core pillar of the Government's plan for change.

Zentraxa Chief Technology Officer Martin Challand said:

"We have taken inspiration from natural organisms that can stick underwater like the marine mussel and then tried to exploit that bio-chemistry into a real world setting.

This is a major milestone for our product – this what we have dreamed of. It is extremely rewarding to see it being used and knowing that in the future it could save lives and it is fantastic to be working together across sectors like this.

If you were in a dingy and you suffered some damage you wouldn't have to get back to shore to fix that. A quick fix in field could enable you to stay deployed or get back safely. This could have a life-saving impact."

# Tech companies urged to join drive to cut crime

May

From: Ministry of Justice, The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP and Lord Timpson OBE

Top tech experts are meeting the Justice Secretary as part of a Government drive to use AI and technology to transform the justice system and cut crime.

- New study shows tags monitoring curfews cut reoffending by 20%
- Top tech experts assemble to address criminal justice challenges
- Ambition to use technology to deliver safer streets as part of Plan for Change

Today around 30 companies including Microsoft, Amazon Web Services and Google will explore how revolutionary tech could be used to tackle violence in prison, better monitor offenders in the community and improve risk assessments of offenders.

The meeting comes as new research shows curfew tags, which keep offenders at home

and off the streets during certain times, can reduce reoffending by 20 per cent. This demonstrates how even older technology is supporting punishment in the community and cutting crime.

The challenge now is to see how newer technology can contribute to help deliver the Government's Plan for Change to make streets safer.

Today's gathering will be chaired by James Timpson, the prison and probation minister, and opened by Lord Chancellor, Shabana Mahmood.

Lord Chancellor, Shabana Mahmood, said:

"We inherited a justice system in crisis, with prisons close to collapse and staff overburdened and under pressure.

We need bold ideas to address the challenges that we face – supporting our staff, delivering swifter justice for

victims, and cutting crime.

Today, we have an analogue justice system in a digital age.

The UK has a world-leading and growing tech sector, and I know our tech firms have a huge role to play in delivering our Plan for Change to make streets safer.”

The roundtable marks the first time key players in the UK’s tech ecosystem will meet with justice ministers to discuss some of the toughest challenges our courts, prisons and probation system face.

Discussion will focus on the potential for even more effective tracking of offender movement, using data to aid probation officers to perform better risk assessments and whether digital platforms can help offenders rehabilitate and integrate back into society, cutting reoffending.

It has been organised in partnership with techUK which is the trade association that brings together companies and organisations to promote digital technology.

techUK CEO, Julian David OBE said:

“We’re honoured to be hosting this roundtable discussion with the Ministry of Justice – It presents an excellent opportunity for the tech sector to highlight

the transformative role that technology is playing in modernising our criminal justice system.

techUK and our members believe that collaboration and open dialogue are essential to fostering innovation and driving meaningful reform - particularly in how offenders are rehabilitated - and that digital tools can be a powerful force in sustaining this positive impact across society.”

Other companies attending include:

- Allied Universal: an industry leader technology and service company for three decades
- Cognizant Worldwide Limited: focuses on modernising technology, reimagining processes and transforming experiences
- TPXimpact: a UK-based company focusing on digital transformation and creating positive change for people, places, and the planet

Microsoft Ltd. UK Public Sector General Manager, Amanda Sleight said:

“We’re thrilled to be part of this groundbreaking initiative with the Ministry of Justice.

Microsoft is committed to advancing the

ethical use of AI technology to reduce the administrative burden on prison and probation staff, allowing them more time to focus on delivering high-quality frontline services, reducing recidivism and helping integrate offenders back into society.”

The aim is for a follow up to this meeting with an event open to the whole of industry to apply to come back and present their groundbreaking ideas and solutions in the coming months.

Earlier this year, the Lord Chancellor set out her vision for the Probation Service, which included a bold new £8 million pledge to introduce new technology to help risk assess offenders and cut back on admin, increasing focus on those offenders who pose the greatest risk to the public.



# Advanced tech boosts fight against animal and plant disease

May

From: Animal and Plant Health Agency

The fight against pests and diseases, which can cost the UK economy billions of pounds, has been stepped up today (Thursday 8 May) with £10m of new funding announced for surveillance projects.

The Genomics for Animal and Plant Disease Consortium (GAP-DC) project led by the Animal and Plant Health Agency will undertake surveillance across animal, plant and aquatic environments, using advanced genome sequencing technologies – a method that reads the complete genetic code of a living organism, including viruses, bacteria, fungi, or animals – to detect, identify and track pathogens with precision.

For example, when avian influenza is found in UK poultry, genome sequencing can help confirm the virus type, trace its spread, and detect any mutations,

supporting disease control measures.

The UK faces significant and growing economic threats from pests and diseases affecting agriculture, livestock, and the environment. Invasive species alone cost the UK economy an estimated £4 billion annually, while plant pathogens and pests contribute to substantial crop losses.

Ash dieback is predicated to cost £15



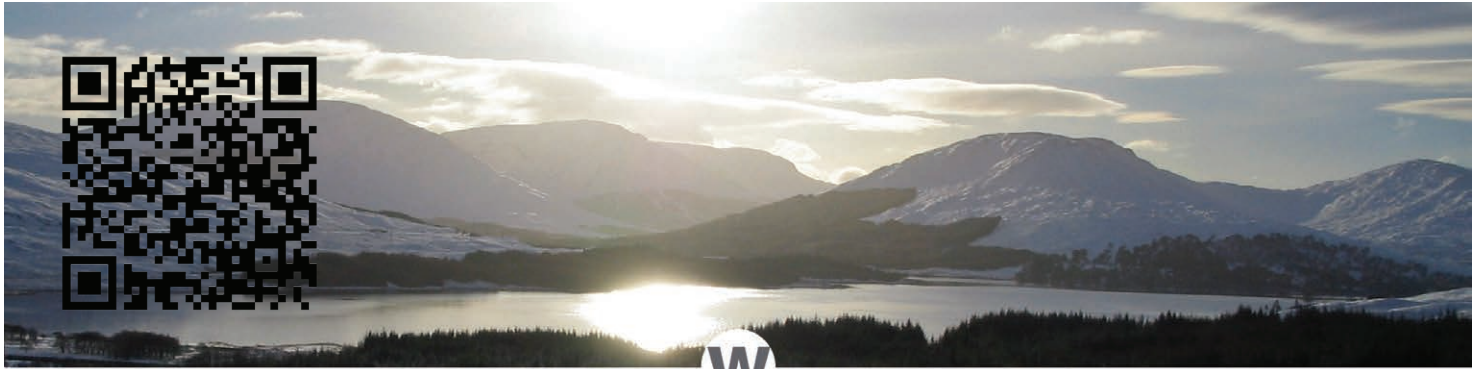
billion to the UK over coming decades and livestock disease such as avian influenza can have devastating financial and societal consequences, and has been estimated to cost the poultry meat sector more than £100m over a two-year period.

APHA Interim Chief Executive Dr Jenny Stewart said:

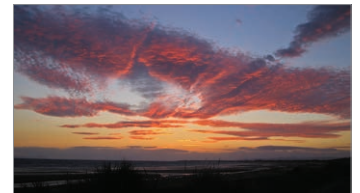
“Disease presents a significant risk to our farmers, global trade and human health.

This vital funding and collaboration with world leading experts will help APHA identify and tackle disease risk more effectively.

This research will lead to significantly advanced surveillance capabilities to protect UK borders from new and existing threats.”



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# Redesigned flight paths to deliver quicker, quieter flights and boost growth

June

Research to be undertaken in collaboration with seven expert partners will include a focus on increasing the speed of pathogen detection at our borders, addressing new and re-emerging disease outbreaks, developing new strategies to control and mitigate endemic disease, and an improved approach to working with stakeholders and the community. It will also investigate disease spillover from wild animals and plants – when a virus moves from one species to other, such as the transmission of the COVID-19 virus from bats to humans.

The £10 million of new funding provided by Defra and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will strengthen pathogen detection across the UK over the next two years and help protect the UK economy, as part of the Government's Plan for Change.

The announcement comes during National Plant Health Week (5-12 May 2025), an annual designated week of action to raise public awareness and engagement on how to keep our plants healthy, led by Defra in partnership with 32 organisations, including the Royal Horticultural Society, the Woodland Trust and the Horticultural Trades Association.

From: Department for Transport

Modernising our airspace will help to reduce pollution from flying and help pave the way for new technologies like flying taxis.

- passengers will benefit from quicker flights and fewer delays, while residents could enjoy quieter take-offs through new government plans
- redesigned flight paths will create more direct and efficient routes, propel airport expansion and turbocharge growth as part of the Plan for Change

- plans will help to reduce aviation's climate change impacts and help pave the way for new technologies like flying taxis to take to the skies, delivering a boost for innovation and jobs

Holiday-makers will enjoy quicker flights and fewer delays as part of new laws set

out today (2 June 2025) to open up new and more direct routes, propel airport expansion and boost growth.

The changes laid in Parliament today will enable the largest redesign of UK airspace since it was first formed in the 1950s, when there were only around 200,000 flights per year, compared to 2.7 million in 2024. The new UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) will be fully operational by the end of 2025 and will be run by NATS (En Route) plc (NERL).

Modernising the airspace will open up capacity, supporting growth and thousands of jobs in the aviation and tourism sectors, as well as reducing delays and emissions per flight resulting from planes circling in the sky while waiting to land.

Redesigned 'skyways' could also allow planes to climb quicker during take-off

and descend more smoothly, reducing noise and air pollution for residents who live along flight routes.

The UKADS' initial focus will be on redesigning London's airspace, with expansion at Heathrow alone expected to create over 100,000 extra jobs, turbocharge economic growth, strengthen the UK's status as a global hub and deliver major benefits for airlines and passengers.

Over a longer timeframe, the UKADS could design routes that support flight paths for new and emerging technologies such as drones and flying taxis, spurring British innovation and delivering highly skilled jobs in the tech space.

The Department for Transport will continue working with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to ensure the swift delivery of these new and improved routes, as well as to ensure independent oversight of the UKADS roll-out.

Aviation Minister, Mike Kane, said:

“Redesigned ‘skyways’ will turbocharge growth in the aviation industry, not least by boosting airport expansion plans and supporting job creation, driving millions into the UK economy as part of the Plan

for Change.

Modernising our airspace is also one of the simplest ways to help reduce pollution from flying and will set the industry up for a long-term, sustainable future.”

The measures will help secure the long-term future of the sector and make it more resilient to disruption. The plans come as global forecasts show a near doubling of passengers and cargo in the next 20 years.

One modernisation measure in the south west of England has already been estimated to save 12,000 tonnes a year, enough to power 7 trips around the world, with further modernisation plans expected to deliver even greater results.

Rob Bishton, Chief Executive of the UK Civil Aviation Authority, said:

“Modernising our airspace infrastructure is key to enabling the growth of the sector and helping mitigate its impacts.

Our work with government and stakeholders on the creation of the UK Airspace Design Service is another important step in the journey to streamline and improve confidence in the ability to deliver airspace change decisions.”

Martin Rolfe, CEO of NATS, said:

“The UK's airspace network is one of the busiest and most complex in the world. We handle a quarter of Europe's traffic despite having only 11% of its airspace, with one of the best safety and delay records anywhere. However, we have to modernise airspace if we are to maintain this level of performance as traffic grows towards 3 million flights per year.

The government's announcement to create a UK Airspace Design Service is a crucial step, building on the work we've already completed in other parts



of the UK. We look forward to working with the government and the CAA to finalise the details regarding the best way to implement the plan and the processes required to ensure UKADS is successful.”

Karen Dee, Chief Executive of AirportsUK, the trade association for UK airports, said:

“The UK’s airspace is a critical piece of our national infrastructure and these proposals will help modernise it, bringing forward new technologies and routing methods that will make it more efficient, cleaner, and provide passengers with a better experience.

Our airspace is some of the most complex in the world and we welcome the new UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) that will bring together all the parties involved to help overcome some of the challenges this creates.

Airports have led the calls for this approach to be adopted and we are pleased that government is fast-tracking it for implementation by the end of the year. Our members, firstly in the London area and then perhaps more widely across the UK, look forward to getting to work with UKADS to deliver the changes that will make our airspace fit for the 21st century.”

Tim Alderslade, CEO of Airlines UK, said:

“Modernising UK airspace is long overdue and these changes will help to speed up a programme that will provide tangible reforms, from a reduction in delays, improved resilience and lower carbon emissions.

This is a major priority for airlines and we look forward to working with Ministers and all parts of UK aviation to complete a once in a generation infrastructure programme as quickly as possible and ideally by the end of the decade, so we can continue delivering for passengers and cargo customers whilst meeting our commitment to net zero.”

Alison FitzGerald, Chief Executive Officer of London City Airport, said:

“We welcome the government’s support



for airport growth and the recognition of the economic and societal benefits that air travel brings to the UK. London and the South East has some of the most complex airspace in the world, and this announcement will help create the conditions for a more modern, efficient, and sustainable airspace system.

Modernising our airspace is essential to unlocking future growth, reducing delays, cutting emissions, and improving the passenger experience. We look forward to working closely with government, industry partners and local communities to deliver these vital changes.”

Heathrow’s Chief Operating Officer, Javier Echave, said:

“This is an important step to making UK aviation more modern, efficient, and reliable for the millions of people and businesses who rely on available airspace capacity. As the UK’s gateway to growth, we are committed to continue working with the government to unlock the economic benefits of an expanded UK airspace, while cutting carbon and noise impacts.”

# Rough sleeping to be decriminalised after 200 years

June

From: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Home Office, Rushanara Ali MP and The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP

The Government has confirmed it will repeal the outdated Vagrancy Act 1824 by Spring next year, to ensure rough sleeping is no longer a criminal offence.

- Government scraps 200-year-old law making rough sleeping a criminal offence in England and Wales.
- The outdated Vagrancy Act 1824 will be axed for good, reflecting modern attitudes, increased financial support for the homeless and the government's mission to get to its root causes.
- New legislation will target real crimes instead such as organised begging by gangs and trespassing—protecting communities without penalising vulnerable people.

After 200 years, rough sleeping will no

longer be a crime as the Government confirms it will formally scrap the Vagrancy Act by Spring next year.

The Act was introduced in 1824 – towards the end of the Georgian era - to deal with rising homelessness which increased after the Napoleonic Wars and Industrial Revolution.

While use of the Act against rough sleeping has significantly declined over the years in line with modern attitudes and greater understanding around the causes of homelessness, it remains enforceable



in law.

The Government will be repealing the Act to ensure rough sleeping is no longer a criminal offence, as it concentrates its efforts on getting to the root causes of homelessness, backed by major funding.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has boosted funding for homelessness services by an extra £233 million this financial year, bringing total investment for 2025-26 to nearly £1 billion. This ambitious support will prevent more families from entering temporary accommodation and tackle rough sleeping head-on.

The Deputy Prime Minister is also developing a new homelessness strategy with other government departments and mayors and councils who all play an important role in

prevention and frontline support. This strategy will be published later this year.

The Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said:

“We are drawing a line under nearly two centuries of injustice towards some of the most vulnerable in society, who deserve dignity and support.

No one should ever be criminalised simply for sleeping rough and by scrapping this cruel and outdated law, we are making sure that can never happen again.”

The Minister for Homelessness Rushanara Ali said:

“Today marks a historic shift in how we’re responding to the rough sleeping crisis, by repealing an archaic Act that is neither just nor fit for purpose.

Scrapping the Vagrancy Act for good is another step forward in our mission to tackle homelessness in all its forms, by focusing our efforts on its root causes.”

Government amendments to the Home Office’s Crime and Policing Bill will focus on real crime and not rough sleeping, with no replacement of previous legislation that criminalised people for simply sleeping

rough.

New targeted measures will ensure police have the powers they need to keep communities safe – filling the gap left over by removing previous powers.

This will include a new offence of facilitating begging for gain and an offence of trespassing with the intention of committing a crime, both of which were previously included under the 1824 Act.

Organised begging, which is often facilitated by criminal gangs, exploits vulnerable individuals, and can undermine

the public’s sense of safety. This offence makes it unlawful for anyone to organise others to beg, like driving people to places for them to beg. It will allow the police to crack down on the organised crime gangs that exploit vulnerable people to obtain cash for illicit activity.

Through our Plan for Change and commitment to the Safe Streets Mission, this announcement demonstrates we are taking decisive action to ensure communities are protected and our town centres are no longer exposed to such harm.



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# Over half a million more children to get free school meals

June

From: Department for Education, Stephen Morgan MP, The Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP and The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP

Over half a million more children will benefit from a free nutritious meal every school day, as the government puts £500 back into parents' pockets every year by expanding eligibility for free school meals.

From the start of the 2026 school year, every pupil whose household is on Universal Credit will have a new entitlement to free school meals. This will make life easier and more affordable for parents who struggle the most, delivering on the government's Plan for Change to break down barriers to opportunity and give children the best start in life.

The unprecedented expansion will lift 100,000 children across England completely out of poverty. Giving children access to a nutritious meal during the school day also leads to higher attainment, improved behaviour and better outcomes – meaning they get the best possible

education and chance to succeed in work and life.

Since 2018, children have only been eligible for free school meals if their household income is less than £7,400 per year, meaning hundreds of thousands of children living in poverty have been unable to access free school meals.

The government's historic new expansion to those on Universal Credit will change this and comes ahead of the Child Poverty Taskforce publishing its ten-year strategy to drive sustainable change later this year. It comes on top of targeted support for families being hit the hardest with the cost-of-living crisis, with urgent action including raising the national minimum wage, uprating benefits and supporting 700,000 families through the Fair Repayment Rate on Universal Credit deductions.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said:

Working parents across the country are working tirelessly to provide for their families

but are being held back by cost-of-living pressures.

My government is taking action to ease those pressures. Feeding more children every day, for free, is one of the biggest interventions we can make to put more money in parents' pockets, tackle the stain of poverty, and set children up to learn.

This expansion is a truly historic moment for our country, helping families who need it most and delivering our Plan for Change to give every child, no matter their background, the same chance to succeed.

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson said:

It is the moral mission of this government to tackle the stain of child poverty, and today this government takes a giant step towards ending it with targeted support that puts money back in parents' pockets.

From free school meals to free breakfast clubs, breaking the cycle of child poverty is at the heart of our Plan for Change to cut the unfair link between background and success.

We believe that background shouldn't mean destiny. Today's historic step will help us to deliver excellence everywhere, for every child and give more young people the chance to get on in life.

The Government is also offering more than £13 million in funding to 12 food charities across England to redistribute thousands of tonnes of fresh produce directly from farms to fight food poverty in communities.

The Tackling Food Surplus at the Farm Gate scheme is helping farms and organisations to work collaboratively to ensure edible food that might have been left in fields instead ends up on the plates of those who need it,



including schoolchildren.

Work and Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall said:

Poverty robs children of opportunities and damages their future prospects. This is a moral scar on our society we are committed to tackling.

By expanding Free School Meals to all families on Universal Credit, we're ending the impossible choice thousands of our hardest grafting families must make between paying bills and feeding their children.

This is just the latest step of our Plan for Change to put extra pounds in people's pockets – a downpayment on our Child Poverty Strategy, building on our expansion of free breakfast clubs, our national minimum wage boost and our cap on Universal Credit deductions through the Fair Repayment Rate.

To ensure quality and nutrition in meals for the future, the government is also acting quickly with experts across the sector to revise the School Food Standards, so every school is supported with the latest nutrition guidance.

This new entitlement will apply to children in all settings where free school meals are currently delivered, including schools,

school-based nurseries and Further Education settings. We expect the majority of schools will allow parents to apply before the start of the school year 2026, by providing their National Insurance Number to check their eligibility.

Schools and local authorities will continue to receive pupil premium and home to school transport extended rights funding based on the existing free school meals threshold.

This is just the latest step in the government's Plan for Change to break the unfair link between background and opportunity, including rolling out free breakfast clubs, expanding government-funded childcare to 30 hours a week for working parents and commitment to cap the number of branded school uniform items.

Nick Harrison, CEO of the Sutton Trust, said:

This is a significant step towards taking hunger out of the classroom. Children can't learn effectively when hungry, so this announcement not only helps to tackle the effects of child poverty, but will also likely help improve education outcomes for disadvantaged young people.

Giving free school meals to all families who are eligible for Universal Credit is also easier for parents to understand, so has the potential to increase take up rates. This is an important milestone in delivering on the Government's mission to break down barriers to opportunity.

Kate Anstey, head of education policy at Child Poverty Action Group said:

This is fantastic news and a game-changer for children and families.

At last more kids will get the food they need to learn and thrive and millions of parents struggling to make ends meet will get a bit of breathing space.

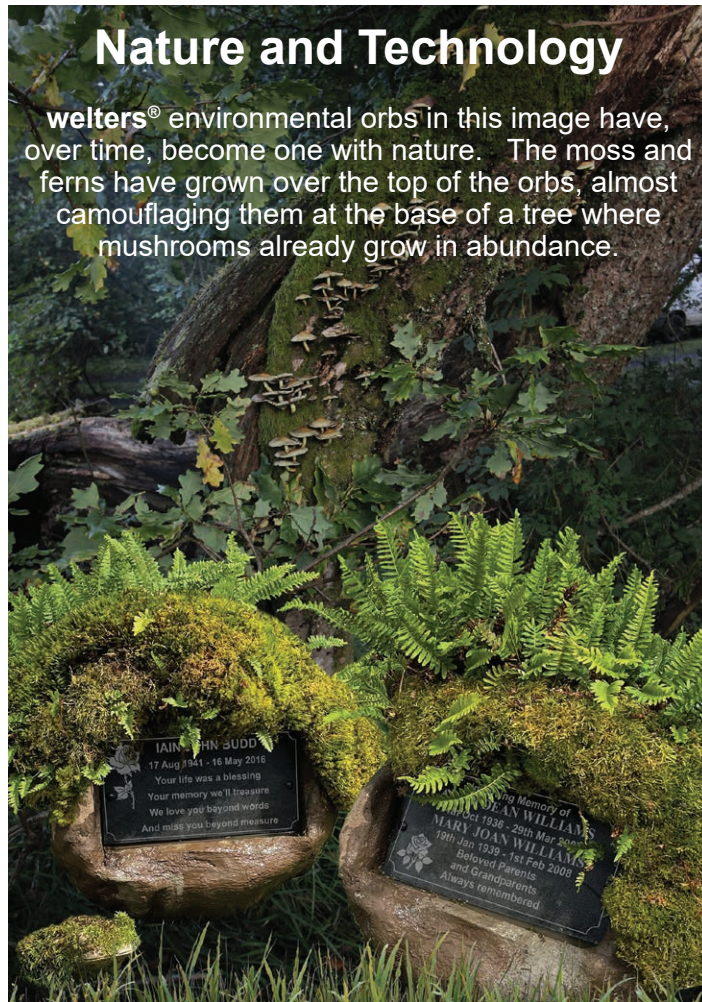
We hope this is a sign of what's to come in autumn's child poverty strategy, with government taking more action to meet its manifesto commitment to reduce child poverty in the UK.

From April 2026 until the end of parliament, millions of households are set to receive a permanent yearly above inflation boost to Universal Credit. The increase, a key element of the Government's welfare reforms to be laid before Parliament, will tackle the destitution caused by years of inaction that has left the value of the standard allowance at a 40 year low by the early 2020s.



## Nature and Technology

welters® environmental orbs in this image have, over time, become one with nature. The moss and ferns have grown over the top of the orbs, almost camouflaging them at the base of a tree where mushrooms already grow in abundance.



# Electronic ID for Cattle mandatory in step forward for UK biosecurity

June

From: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Baroness Hayman of Ullock

Cattle identification and traceability in England will change over the next 2 years, in a major step forward in disease control and trade across the farming sector, Defra has announced today (Monday 2 June).

From Summer 2026, Defra will introduce changes to cattle identification, registration and reporting that will improve the government's ability to respond effectively to disease. These changes will also simplify regulations and support industry to boost productivity, food security and international trade.

New requirements will see Electric ID (EID) mandatory for all new-born calves from 2027, using low frequency (LF) technology. This means animals with eID eartags are able to be scanned when animals are moved, rather than a visual read and manual input of the tag number. Electronic cattle traceability will strengthen the UK's ability to prevent, detect, and respond

to animal disease outbreaks, protecting farmers and the rural economy.

This will be supported by a new cattle movement reporting system which will be easier to use for farmers, markets, abattoirs and regulators alike. This will simplify existing regulations and support the livestock industry to boost productivity, food security and international trade.

This comes as the government announced a £200 million investment in the UK's main research and laboratory testing facilities at Weybridge to bolster protection against animal disease, and the recent announcement that livestock farmers in England can apply for a series of free annual vet visits on farm to check for diseases and receive biosecurity recommendations and tailored animal health and welfare advice.

Biosecurity Minister, Baroness Hayman said:  
"This is a significant milestone in

modernising how we manage cattle health, welfare and traceability in England.

These reforms strike the right balance in supporting farmers with clearer, simpler rules while helping the sector strengthen its productivity, resilience and global competitiveness."

UK Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Christine Middlemiss said:



“Electronic identification is a game-changer for disease traceability. It allows for faster, more accurate tracking of cattle movements, which is crucial in responding to outbreaks and maintaining our high biosecurity standards.

This shift puts England in step with best global practice and today’s early confirmation will provide the livestock industry the clarity it needs to begin preparing now — ensuring that the right tags, readers and systems are available at scale ahead of rollout.”

Defra will also take a more proportionate approach to enforcement, which will give keepers the opportunity to correct issues before further action is considered, as part of a broader move to reduce red tape while strengthening biosecurity.

Following the wide-reaching sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) deal recently agreed at the UK-EU summit, this decision will further benefit livestock businesses in England by reducing trade friction and boosting their ability to export agri-food products abroad.

Today’s changes follow the UK Government’s Cattle Identification Consultation 2023 which has been published today, which signalled strong industry support for the measures introduced.

# First schools install Great British Energy solar panels

June

From: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Great British Energy, Department for Education, Stephen Morgan MP and Michael Shanks MP

First 11 schools across England have installed solar panels backed by Great British Energy, saving a total of £175,000 per year.

- Schools across the country to install new Great British Energy solar panels thanks to government’s £180 million funding to cut bills for schools and hospitals
- 11 schools have installed solar panels, saving £175,000 per year
- Savings will be reinvested in schools as part of the government’s Plan for Change to fix public services – while providing clean power for pupils and teachers

Pupils across the country will benefit from more money for textbooks and teachers, as the first schools are announced in Great British Energy’s rooftop solar rollout

to cut energy bills.

Schools are benefitting from funding for rooftop solar, with the first 11 schools estimated to save £175,000 per year after installing Great British Energy solar panels. The remaining schools set to benefit will be announced this summer, with all schools that are part of the scheme expected to have solar panels installed by the end of the year.

It follows the government’s announcement in March to award £180 million of funding for schools and hospitals to install rooftop solar, marking the first major project for Great British Energy - a company owned by the British people, for the British people.

In England, around £80 million is supporting around 200 schools, alongside £100 million for nearly 200

NHS sites, covering a third of NHS trusts, to install rooftop solar panels that could power classrooms and operations, while giving them the potential to sell leftover energy back to the grid.

Great British Energy's first investment could see millions invested back into frontline services, targeting deprived areas, with lifetime savings for schools and the NHS of up to £400 million over around 30 years.

Schools and hospitals have been hit with rocketing energy bills in recent years, costing taxpayers millions of pounds, and eating into school budgets. This has been driven by the UK's dependency on global fossil fuel markets over which government has no control.

Energy Minister Michael Shanks said:

“Solar panels on school rooftops mean energy bills are cut and money can be invested directly into improving young people's education while helping to tackle climate change for the next generation.

Great British Energy is delivering rooftop solar as part of our Plan for Change that will support communities for generations to come, relieving pressures on our vital public services and ensuring investment

is made in the future of our young people.”

Great British Energy Chair Juergen Maier said:

“Within 2 months we are seeing schools supported by our scheme having solar panels installed so they can start reaping the rewards of clean energy – opening up the opportunity for more money to be spent on our children rather than energy bills.

By partnering with the public sector as we scale up the company, we will continue to make an immediate impact as we work to roll out clean, homegrown energy projects, crowd in investment and create job opportunities across the country.”

Education Minister Stephen Morgan said:

“Through our Plan for Change, this



government is supporting schools to save schools thousands on their bills so they can reinvest money saved into ensuring every child gets the best start in life.

The installation of solar panels will also help pupils to develop green skills, promoting careers in renewables and supporting growth in the clean energy workforce.”

Currently only about 20% of schools have solar panels installed, but the technology has huge potential to save money on bills.

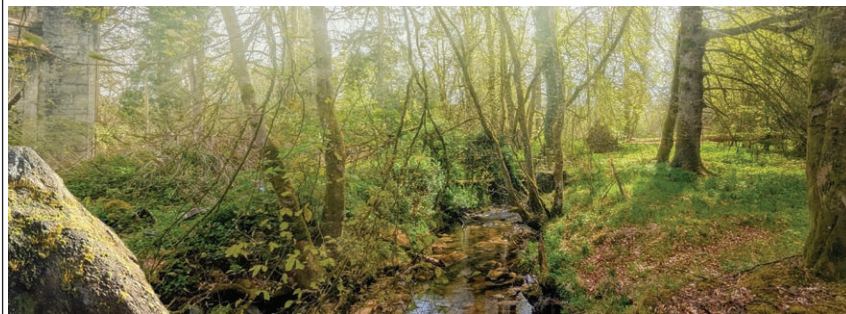
Estimates suggest that on average, a typical school could save up to £25,000 per year if they had solar panels with complementary technologies installed such as batteries.

The funding will support the government's clean power mission as well as helping to rebuild the nation's public services. It forms Great British Energy's first local investment, kickstarting the Local Power Plan and ensuring the benefits of this national mission are felt at a local level, with energy security, good jobs and economic growth.

## Forthcoming articles under consideration

- Knife crime in Britain is getting out of control. What is being done? How can we make Britain's streets safer?
- What work are we currently doing in space and how does it affect Britain and the world as a whole?
- What can parents do at home to improve their child's literacy and their chances in life?
- Some people claim it is more expensive to eat healthily than to eat junk food. Is it true and if so, how can we combat this?

Check out the April - June 2025  
edition of Welters World



considered by our Editorial Department for the Summer edition as alternatives to the final chosen cover

# COVER OPTIONS

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