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Substantial funding package aimed at boosting Northern Ireland's economic growth and supporting businesses

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Today £400 million of new money has been guaranteed by the UK Government in a 'New Deal for Northern Ireland'.

As part of the Northern Ireland Protocol, the UK Government committed to implement this 'New Deal' to help boost economic growth, increase Northern Ireland's competitiveness and invest in infrastructure.

This substantial financial package is aimed at supporting businesses to operate after the Transition Period, whilst also ensuring that Northern Ireland is ready to seize the trade and investment opportunities ahead.

This package comes on top of the £650 million of UK Government investment announced in August to deliver the Trader Support Service, investment in new technology, and our contribution to the PEACE Plus Programme. It is in addition to funding that has been provided to meet costs from the UK's obligations under the Northern Ireland Protocol. The UK Government also committed £2 billion to the NI Executive in January 2020 under the 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement.

Taken together, in a year which has also seen unprecedented increases in UK Government funding for the Northern Ireland Executive, this is the largest new investment the UK Government has committed to Northern Ireland and its trade, in any year, for decades.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis, said:

"The New Deal is wonderful news for Northern Ireland and underlines the UK Government's commitment to supporting and protecting the interests of the people and businesses in Northern Ireland.

"Fostering economic growth and social cohesion is key to building a stable and prosperous future for Northern Ireland and this additional £400 million

will support Northern Ireland after the end of the Transition period enabling NI businesses and its people to innovate and invest.

“As announced at the Spending Review, Northern Ireland will also benefit from more than £100 billion of capital investment across the UK in 2021/22. This includes the Gigabit and Shared Rural Network programmes for better mobile coverage, investment in new green industries and access to a £14.6 billion UK-wide research and development fund.

“I look forward to working with the Executive to deliver all of this funding, to continue to grow the economy, and support people and businesses across Northern Ireland.”

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Stephen Barclay said:

“This significant funding further reinforces the strength of UK action to support Northern Ireland. It builds on £900 million allocated at the Spending Review through the Barnett formula, which can be used to grow the economy, improve public services and support people and business across Northern Ireland. Protecting jobs and livelihoods in Northern Ireland remains a priority for the UK Government.”

Through this ‘New Deal’, we will:

- support initiatives to promote Northern Ireland’s goods and services to export markets from GB and Ireland to the rest of the world
- support the development of systems that will enable supermarkets and other small traders to manage the new trading arrangements and coordinate trade between Northern Ireland and Great Britain *ensure resilience in medicine supply chains
- promote Northern Ireland’s potential as a leader in innovative technology and invest in the skills of the people of Northern Ireland in key growth areas such as cybersecurity, fintech and green/clean technology
- invest in social development across Northern Ireland, strengthening social cohesion and building stronger, safer communities – including by supporting initiatives to enable children from different community backgrounds to be educated together
- improve the flow of goods and travel to and from Great Britain and across Northern Ireland, boosting access to opportunities
- enable Northern Ireland’s businesses to compete in the global market, driving forward future growth and prosperity

Notes to Editors:

- As part of the New Decade, New Approach deal, the UK Government committed to ensuring that there is a New Deal for Northern Ireland at the end of the Transition Period maximising trade opportunities & investment. The UK Government further committed to a New Deal for Northern Ireland as set out in the Command Paper for the NI Protocol in May.

- The UK Government has shown time and time again that they are committed to supporting Northern Ireland, levelling up across the UK and strengthening our Union.
- The £400m New Deal package comes on top of our significant recent investment in Northern Ireland: £2 billion committed in New Decade, New Approach; £650m in August for the Trader Support Scheme, investment in new technology and Peace Plus contribution;
- This is on top of the unprecedented upfront £2.8bn funding guarantee available to help the Executive respond to Covid-19 this year with a further £900m uplift provided at the Spending Review for next year.

Press release: 800,000 trees set to be planted as Green Recovery Challenge Fund projects announced

68 projects to receive a multi-million pound boost for green jobs and nature recovery

More than 10,000 consent applications for financial remedy processed on MyHMCTS

News story

Most online applications submitted by legal professionals are processed and returned to applicants within one week.



The financial remedy consent order service was launched in 2018. It enables legal professionals to submit online an agreed order which sets out the finances of divorcing couples and is part of our work to make divorce simpler.

In 2019 there were over 28,000 consent applications for financial remedy orders. We understand that resolving finances after separating is one of the most challenging aspects of a couple's divorce. Our aim is to reduce unnecessary anxiety by providing their legal representatives with a service that is quick, available at all times and enables progress to be tracked without the need to contact us. This allows couples to move with their lives following their divorce.

Feedback from legal professionals using the service which was mandated in August 2020 has been positive.

Juliet Harvey, Legal Director at Birketts says of the service:

I have found the Financial Remedy service very simple to use. The system guides you through what needs to happen. Being able to check answers before you press 'submit' is great – it's much the same as getting a paper version of the form back for checking and signature before lodging at court. I find the notifications that the application has been received, has been submitted to the Judge and that the order has been approved are a great addition.

I also love not having to chase the court by phone to find out what is happening to my application – either I've had notification from the system to tell me what has happened, or I can log into the portal to check progress.

For my clients, it is a simpler, quicker process. It enables them to move on with their lives more quickly.

Adam Lennon, Head of Family said:

Providing legal professionals with the ability to submit financial remedy consent applications online has been a key part of our plan to use technology to simplify and improve the divorce process.

We are pleased to have reached this milestone, the feedback we have received is a real testament to the way we have worked with the judiciary and legal professionals to develop a system that meets the needs of court users.

People acting for themselves do not have an online service to make their application. From early 2021 we will digitise the paper application at the point of receipt and use the same digital service to ensure that they are dealt with quickly and in line with those submitted online. Next year we will also provide respondent solicitors with access to the information and we will be enabling applications for variation orders.

MyHMCTS is the online case management service for legal professionals. [Create an account](#) to use the financial remedy online service if you are acting on behalf of an applicant.

Guidance for legal professionals on [how to use the financial remedy online service](#) is available on the MyHMCTS website.

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[Detailed guide: Prepare your fisheries business for changes from 1 January 2021](#)

What you need to do as a fisheries business from 1 January 2021.