[Press release: Beavers arrive in Essex to play their part in flood prevention](#)

After an absence of 400 years, the Eurasian beaver is back in Essex, with a pair now released into an enclosure on a historic country estate.

[News story: World-leading UK aerospace designs: get funding for projects](#)

£150 million is available annually for projects that keep the UK aerospace sector at the pinnacle of global performance.

The UK's aerospace sector is among the best in the world, with a [turnover of £35 billion and hosting 123,000 direct employees in 2017](#). To remain at its peak, the UK needs to explore emerging opportunities and markets.

Organisations are invited to express an interest in a competition worth £150 million a year with their innovative ideas for future aerospace design and manufacture. The best projects will then be invited to apply for grant funding.

The investment is part of the £3.9 billion [UK Aerospace Research and Technology (UKART) programme](#), a partnership between government and industry, managed by Innovate UK, the [Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI)](#) and the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#).

Taking flight

This competition provides funding for industrial research or capital investment projects that align with the [UK Aerospace Technology Strategy](#).

Priority areas include whole aircraft design and integration, aerostructures,

advanced systems and propulsion technologies.

Project themes are detailed in the UK Aerospace Technology Strategy, and include:

- improving UK whole-aircraft design and system integration
- future-proofing advanced systems technologies in the UK – specifically, smart, connected and more electric aircrafts
- securing the UK's world-leading position in large, complex aviation structures, particularly wings
- developing more efficient propulsion technologies, including large turbofans

Competition information

- the competition will open on 8 April 2019, and closes at midday on 24 April 2018
- UK-based business, research and technology groups and academic organisations can be the project lead, depending on the project type
- projects can attract a maximum of 50% grant funding. Within that, individual businesses can attract up to 70% depending on funding requests from other partners
- organisations must sign up to the [ATI framework agreement](#)
- an online briefing event will be held on 15 April 2019 where organisations can find out more about the competition and applying

Published 18 March 2019
Last updated 20 March 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 20 March 2019 Corrected competition deadline and other dates and grant funding details.
2. 18 March 2019 First published.

[News story: Colleges to receive £1.8m to boost to help raise standards](#)

Thirteen colleges across England will receive funding totalling £1.8 million to help drive up standards, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Anne Milton announced today (Wednesday 20 March).

[Successful colleges from the second round of the Strategic College Improvement Fund (SCIF)](#) will receive a total of £1.8 million between them from the overall £15m fund.

The SCIF was launched in June 2018, and 63 colleges across England have been successful in securing funding to work with a high performing 'partnering'

college to share their knowledge and expertise to help tackle issues — such as raising the standard of teaching or boosting learner attendance and retention.

Anne Milton, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister said:

> Our colleges have a vital role to play in making sure people of all ages and backgrounds get the chance to learn new skills and go on to have successful careers.
>
> The Strategic College Improvement Fund is designed to help support colleges to improve and make sure their students receive the high quality education they deserve.
>
> I'm thrilled to announce the second round of colleges to receive funding from the scheme. We've seen great success so far and I look forward to hearing how they are all progressing.

Teresa Kelly, Deputy FE Commissioner said:

> I am really pleased that another group of colleges have been awarded a SCIF grant. The initiative is proving to be very popular across the sector and we are beginning to see the real benefits to students that can result from colleges learning from each other through the development of best practice.
>
> Many colleges have fed back to me that they consider that the SCIF initiative is proving to be so successful as it is harnessing what is best in teaching, learning and assessment and enabling teaching staff to enhance the quality of their practice in a wide variety of settings.

Bill Watkin, Chief Executive, Sixth Form Colleges Association, said:

> The Strategic College Improvement Fund has proven to be a well-structured and well-funded programme that has encouraged and facilitated system leadership in the college sector and has enabled colleges to share their strengths and to learn from each other as they continue to raise standards. I hope that this will experience will be repeated and that colleges will continue to benefit from this support in the future.

David Corke, Director of Policy at the Association of Colleges, said:

> Colleges have really valued the opportunity to share successful practice through previous rounds of the Strategic College Improvement Fund and this is contributing to driving improvement

within our sector. All colleges which identify areas for
improvement can benefit from quality improvement peer network and
the learning should then be shared widely in the sector.

A [recent report](#) showed the SCIF has been welcomed by the sector, and the
SCIF's peer-to-peer support model received overwhelming support from the
colleges that took part in the pilot phase. Colleges reported several
positives including how the scheme helped them boost the quality of teaching
and learning, strengthened their collaborative working approaches, raised
aspirations and supported college-wide improvements in culture and
leadership.

The fund is playing a vital role alongside the Government's National Leaders
of Further Education (NLFEs) programme helping to share best practice and
boost standards throughout the further education sector, so more people can
access high quality education and training.

[Press release: UK House Price Index January 2019](#)

The UK HPI shows house price changes for England, Scotland, Wales and
Northern Ireland.

[Press release: UK House Price Index January 2019](#)

The January data shows:

- on average, house prices have fallen by 0.8% since December 2018
- there has been an annual price rise of 1.7%, which makes the average
  property in the UK valued at £228,147

England

In England, the January data shows on average, house prices have fallen by
1.0% since December 2018. The annual price rise of 1.5% takes the average
property value to £244,567.

The regional data for England indicates that:

- the East Midlands experienced the greatest monthly price rise, up by 0.2%
- the North East saw the most significant monthly price fall, down by 3.3%
- the East Midlands experienced the greatest annual price rise, up by 4.4%
- London saw the largest annual price fall, down by 1.6%

Price change by region for England

Region	Average price January 2018	Monthly change % since December 2018
East Midlands	£192,757	0.2
East of England	£288,494	-1.0
London	£472,230	-0.3
North East	£125,233	-3.3
North West	£160,811	-1.3
South East	£321,174	-0.5
South West	£253,926	-1.4
West Midlands	£195,399	-2.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	£160,420	-1.0

Repossession sales by volume for England

The lowest number of repossession sales in November 2018 was in the East of England.

The highest number of repossession sales in November 2018 was in the North West.

Repossession sales	November 2018
East Midlands	40
East of England	14
London	34
North East	88
North West	135
South East	56
South West	38
West Midlands	55
Yorkshire and the Humber	93
England	553

Average price by property type for England

Property type	January 2019	January 2018	Difference %
Detached	£374,666	£364,094	2.9
Semi-detached	£227,582	£223,753	1.7
Terraced	£196,206	£193,477	1.4

Property type	January 2019	January 2018	Difference %
Flat/maisonette	£225,896	£227,369	-0.6
All	£244,567	£241,068	1.5

Funding and buyer status for England

Transaction type	Average price January 2019	Annual price change % since January 2018	Monthly price change %since December 2018
Cash	£230,892	1.7	-0.9
Mortgage	£251,455	1.3	-1.1
First-time buyer	£204,669	1.1	-1.3
Former owner occupier	£278,236	1.8	-0.8

Building status for England

Building status	Average price November 2018	Annual price change % since November 2017	Monthly price change % since October 2018
New build	£302,327	4.1	-2.0
Existing resold property	£244,221	2.8	0.1

Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

London

London shows, on average, house prices have fallen by 0.3% since December 2018. An annual price fall of 1.6% takes the average property value to £472,230.

Average price by property type for London

Property type	January 2019	January 2018	Difference %
Detached	£906,825	£895,418	1.3
Semi-detached	£575,903	£576,806	-0.2
Terraced	£488,242	£490,664	-0.5
Flat/maisonette	£414,742	£425,777	-2.6
All	£472,230	£479,780	-1.6

Funding and buyer status for London

Transaction type	Average price January 2019	Annual price change % since January 2018	Monthly price change %since December 2018
Cash	£496,263	-2.4	-0.1
Mortgage	£464,887	-1.3	-0.3
First-time buyer	£412,620	-1.8	-0.4

Transaction type	Average price January 2019	Annual price change % since January 2018	Monthly price change %since December 2018
Former owner occupier	£533,731	-1.2	-0.1

Building status for London

Building status	Average price November 2018	Annual price change % since November 2017	Monthly price change % since October 2018
New build	£481,586	0.6	-3.3
Existing resold property	£474,851	-0.2	-1.0

Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

Wales

Wales shows, on average, house prices have fallen by 1.3% since December 2018. An annual price rise of 4.6% takes the average property value to £160,232.

There were 57 repossession sales for Wales in November 2018.

Average price by property type for Wales

Property type	January 2019	January 2018	Difference %
Detached	£244,321	£231,777	5.4
Semi-detached	£153,933	£148,028	4.0
Terraced	£122,763	£117,311	4.6
Flat/maisonette	£116,136	£111,683	4.0
All	£160,232	£153,132	4.6

Funding and buyer status for Wales

Transaction type	Average price January 2019	Annual price change % since January 2018	Monthly price change %since December 2018
Cash	£156,391	5.0	-1.2
Mortgage	£162,508	4.4	-1.4
First-time buyer	£137,820	4.4	-1.6
Former owner occupier	£186,545	4.9	-1.0

Building status for Wales

Building status	Average price November 2018	Annual price change % since November 2017	Monthly price change % since October 2018
New build	£211,384	7.5	-2.2

Building status	Average price November 2018	Annual price change % since November 2017	Monthly price change % since October 2018
Existing resold property	£157,392	4.7	-0.4

Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

[Access the full UK HPI](#)

UK house prices rose by 1.7% in the year to January 2019, down from 2.2% in the year to December 2018. This is the lowest annual growth for the UK since June 2013, when house prices increased by 1.5%.

The [UK Property Transaction Statistics for January 2019](#) showed that on a seasonally adjusted basis, the number of transactions on residential properties with a value of £40,000 or greater was 101,170. This is 1.3% higher compared to a year ago. Between December 2018 and January 2019, transactions increased by 0.8%.

House prices grew fastest in Wales increasing by 4.6% in the year to January 2019. House prices in London fell by 1.6% in the year to January 2019.

See the [economic statement.](#)

Notes to editors

1. The UK House Price Index (HPI) is published on the second or third Wednesday of each month with Northern Ireland figures updated quarterly. The February 2019 UK HPI will be published at 9.30am on Wednesday 17 April 2019. See [calendar of release dates](#).

2. We have made some changes to improve the accuracy of the UK HPI. We are not publishing average price and percentage change for new builds and existing resold property as done previously because there are not currently enough new build transactions to provide a reliable result. This means that in this month's UK HPI reports, new builds and existing resold property are reported in line with the sales volumes currently available.

3. The UK HPI revision period has been extended to 13 months, following a review of the revision policy (see [calculating the UK HPI](#) section 4.4). This ensures the data used is more comprehensive.

4. Sales volume data is also available by property status (new build and existing property) and funding status (cash and mortgage) in our [downloadable data tables](#). Transactions involving the creation of a new register, such as new builds, are more complex and require more time to

process. Read [revisions to the UK HPI data](#).

5. Revision tables have been introduced for England and Wales within the downloadable data. Tables will be available in csv format. See [about the UK HPI](#) for more information.

6. Data for the UK HPI is provided by HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Land & Property Services/Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the Valuation Office Agency.

7. The UK HPI is calculated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Land & Property Services/Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. It applies a hedonic regression model that uses the various sources of data on property price, in particular HM Land Registry's Price Paid Dataset, and attributes to produce estimates of the change in house prices each month. Find out more about the methodology used from the [ONS](#) and [Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency](#).

8. The [UK Property Transaction statistics](#) are taken from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) monthly estimates of the number of residential and non-residential property transactions in the UK and its constituent countries. The number of property transactions in the UK is highly seasonal, with more activity in the summer months and less in the winter. This regular annual pattern can sometimes mask the underlying movements and trends in the data series so HMRC also presents the UK aggregate transaction figures on a seasonally adjusted basis. Adjustments are made for both the time of year and the construction of the calendar, including corrections for the position of Easter and the number of trading days in a particular month.

9. UK HPI seasonally adjusted series are calculated at regional and national levels only. See [data tables](#).

10. The first estimate for new build average price (April 2016 report) was based on a small sample which can cause volatility. A three-month moving average has been applied to the latest estimate to remove some of this volatility.

11. Work has been taking place since 2014 to develop a single, official HPI that reflects the final transaction price for sales of residential property in the UK. Using the geometric mean, it covers purchases at market value for owner-occupation and buy-to-let, excluding those purchases not at market value (such as re-mortgages), where the 'price' represents a valuation.

12. Information on residential property transactions for England and Wales, collected as part of the official registration process, is provided by HM Land Registry for properties that are sold for full market value.

13. The HM Land Registry dataset contains the sale price of the property, the date when the sale was completed, full address details, the type of property (detached, semi-detached, terraced or flat), if it is a newly built property or an established residential building and a variable to indicate if the property has been purchased as a financed transaction (using a mortgage) or as a non-financed transaction (cash purchase).

14. Repossession sales data is based on the number of transactions lodged with HM Land Registry by lenders exercising their power of sale.

15. For England, this is shown as volumes of repossession sales recorded by Government Office Region. For Wales, there is a headline figure for the number of repossession sales recorded in Wales.

16. The data can be downloaded as a .csv file. Repossession sales data prior to April 2016 is not available. Find out more information about [repossession sales](#).

17. Background tables of the raw and cleansed aggregated data, in Excel and CSV formats, are also published monthly although Northern Ireland is on a quarterly basis. They are available for free use and re-use under the Open Government Licence.

18. HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales.

19. HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862. It operates as an executive agency and a trading fund and its running costs are covered by the fees paid by the users of its services. Its ambition is to become the world's leading land registry for speed, simplicity and an open approach to data.

20. HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth in excess of £4 trillion, including around £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land Register contains more than 25 million titles showing evidence of ownership for some 86% of the land mass of England and Wales.

21. For further information about HM Land Registry visit www.gov.uk/land-registry

22. Follow us on [Twitter](), our [blog](), [LinkedIn]() and [Facebook]().