

# Press release: Sugar tax revenue helps tackle childhood obesity

Soft drinks manufacturers and traders have paid an extra £153.8 million in tax since April, statistics published by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) reveal.

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## News story: Ministry of Defence Police Officer and Police Dog compete in International Canine Biathlon

Constable Martin Johnson and Police Dog Peppa, from the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Burghfield, successfully competed in the annual International Canine Biathlon that recently took place at Rutland Barracks and was hosted by the 1st Military Working Dog Regiment for the first time since 1986.

Military and police competitors from the UK, US, Belgium and Latvia took part in the event, with the biathlon course designed to prepare dogs and their handlers for the problems they could face whilst on duty or when involved in operations.

Police Dog Peppa. Photo: MOD Crown copyright. All rights reserved

A total of 46 teams and individuals took on challenges across a 10km route. This involved a variety of obstacles and activities including: two skips filled with water, a dog carry for 100 metres, agility tests and an electronic shooting range.

Constable Johnson said:

When preparing for the biathlon, training was key. I had to ensure that mine and my police dog's fitness was up to scratch. I prepared for the event in my own time, using equipment such as wheelbarrows and push bikes. This proved to be a real bonding experience for Peppa and I, improving our understanding of one another and making us an even stronger and more confident dog team.

Jumping high over the hurdles. MOD Crown copyright. All rights reserved

Constable Johnson continued:

Peppa and I achieved a respectable 25th place out of the 40 competitors. I was really pleased with this and was astounded by exactly how fit my dog is! She was ready to go and do more training and running around straight after competing!

Next year's event is due to take place in the United States.

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## [News story: Overwhelming public support for sugar and calorie reduction](#)

A new survey from Public Health England (PHE) shows overwhelming public support for reducing sugar and calories in everyday foods.

The survey, carried out by Ipsos MORI, found around 9 in 10 people support the government working with the food industry (manufacturers, supermarkets and the eating out of home sector) to make everyday foods and drinks healthier. Helping the NHS was named as one of the main reasons for people supporting this work.

This applied to all sectors, and no concessions were made for food consumed in restaurants, coffee shops or cafes, despite this often being labelled as a 'treat'.

These figures come as Duncan Selbie, chief executive of Public Health England, tells the food industry that next year PHE will highlight where progress has not been made on sugar reduction and that this may result in further action from the government.

Speaking at today's, Tuesday 20 November 2018, [Food Matters Live](#) event in London, he will call on every sector of the food industry, in particular out of home outlets, to step up and accelerate its efforts.

The survey explored the public's perception of obesity, and PHE's reduction programmes that have challenged the food industry to reduce sugar and calories by 20% in everyday foods such as breakfast cereals, yoghurts and pizzas, as well as ready meals.

Other notable findings from the survey include:

- over 9 in 10 respondents think obesity is a problem in the UK, and 79% believe it has a negative impact on the NHS

- only cancer (47% of respondents) and mental health (43%) are seen as bigger health concerns for the UK population than obesity (39%)
- people believe the greatest responsibility for tackling obesity lies with individuals and families (90%), the food industry (80%) and the government (72%), underlining a belief in a collective responsibility
- there was support from 87% of people to replace unhealthy products near supermarket tills and checkouts, with healthier ones

Duncan Selbie, chief executive at PHE, said:

Obesity is the pandemic of modern times. Customers are saying they want faster progress from the food industry, and in particular, those businesses that have taken little or no action. We will be publicly reporting on these during 2019.

Dr Alison Tedstone, chief nutritionist at PHE, said:

Severe obesity in ten-to-eleven year-olds is at an all-time high. Plans to improve the nation's diet are often described as 'nanny state' interference, but it's clear people want healthier food and they expect the industry to play their full part in this.

The survey also shows people expect the government to tackle obesity, with 60% believing it could do more. However, the survey was undertaken before the government published chapter 2 of its [Childhood Obesity Plan](#).

In May 2018, PHE reported on progress against the first year sugar reduction ambition of 5%. This showed an overall 2% reduction in foods contributing the most sugar to children's diets, with up to 6% reduced in some product categories.

Next year, PHE will publish further progress towards reaching the 20% sugar reduction ambition by 2020, as well as guidelines for industry to achieve the 20% reduction in calories by 2024.

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**[News story: Blackpool Council joins HM](#)**

# Land Registry's digital Local Land Charges Register

HM Land Registry's digital Local Land Charges Register continues to grow, enabling the digital transformation of homebuying.

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## News story: Blackpool Council joins HM Land Registry's digital Local Land Charges Register

From 20 November 2018, anyone requiring Local Land Charges (LLC) searches in the local authority area of Blackpool Council will need to get them from HM Land Registry rather than going directly to the council.

Blackpool Council is the fourth area to migrate its Local Land Charges data to HM Land Registry's national register, following [Warwick District Council](#), Liverpool City Council and City of London Corporation.

Neil Jack, Chief Executive at Blackpool Council said:

We have been working closely with HM Land Registry to check, update and digitise thousands of local land charges before migration to their central register. Our team have worked hard to assist HM Land Registry make local land charges instantly available online, and this will help to make homebuying and investing in business development in Blackpool simpler and faster.

Karina Singh, Head of Transformation at HM Land Registry said:

I am delighted that Blackpool Council's Local Land Charges data is now included in HM Land Registry's digital register. The creation of the LLC service is one of the key ways in which HMLR is working to transform the conveyancing process by providing easier access to information.

HM Land Registry is working in partnership with a number of local authorities in England to migrate their Local Land Charges data to a central, digital register as part of a phased approach. Once migrated, anyone will be able to get instant online search results via GOV.UK using the [Search for Local Land](#)

[Charges](#) service.

HM Land Registry's business customers can use their existing portal and Business Gateway channels or their usual search providers to access Local Land Charges data for those local authorities which have migrated.

Customers will need to continue to submit CON29 enquiries to the local authority.

[watch our short video](#).

For more information, read about the [Local Land Charges Programme](#).