

# Press release: International trade budget boost for global Britain

The UK's global economic role is prioritised in the [Budget](#) as the Chancellor set out an additional £2 billion of credit for buyers of British products and services. Other measures include more support made available for investors and UK exporters in Europe whilst nationals from 5 of our strongest trading partners will now be able to use eGates at the UK border.

A new UK mission to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will also open, the Foreign Secretary will announce later today (Wednesday 31 October). ASEAN is the world's fifth largest trading bloc, and an important economic partner for the UK.

Ambassadors will work closely with the 9 HM Trade Commissioners, appointed by the International Trade Secretary, who lead on all trade promotion and policy overseas.

In the Budget, the Chancellor announced:

- An additional £2 billion for [UK Export Finance \(UKEF's\)](#) direct lending for overseas buyers of British goods and services, helping exporters succeed in the global marketplace.
- £5 million will be made available to the Department for International Trade (DIT) as it grows its European network to attract investment and help UK exporters land new deals on the continent.
- Nationals from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States will be able to use eGates at the UK border – ensuring business and leisure visitors from these countries have a fast and efficient arrival in the UK.
- HMRC will halve the time it takes companies to become Trusted Customs Traders from 120 to 60 days, delivering the UK's ambition to be a world leader in global customs administration.

International Trade Secretary Dr Liam Fox MP said:

From small businesses taking the first step on their exporting journey to international investors, this global Britain budget will help cement the UK's position as one of the world's best destinations to trade.

The extra £2 billion for UK Export Finance will ensure it continues

to be a game-changer for UK exporters and the additional support for my international economic department allows us to help businesses take full advantage of the limitless global trading opportunities.

Whether it's attracting investment or supporting exports, this Budget will drive the UK's growth and prosperity for years to come.

## **Supporting UK Exports**

- The bulk of support will see UKEF's existing £3 billion capacity for direct lending increase by £1 billion for each financial year 2020/21 and 2021/22, helping UK businesses grow their trading relationships with markets around the world.
- The announcement follows the publication of the government's [Export Strategy](#) earlier this summer and underlines the government's commitment to helping UK exporters take full advantage of international demand for our world-class goods and services.

## **Enhancing DIT's overseas network in Europe**

- DIT provides support for exporters and investors in over 100 markets worldwide.
- £5 million will ensure the department is equipped to help in European markets, aiding exporters' understandings of the practicalities of doing business around the world.

## **UK Mission to ASEAN**

- In a speech on Wednesday 31 October, the Foreign Secretary will announce the biggest expansion of Britain's diplomatic network for a generation, confirming 12 new Posts and nearly 1,000 more personnel. This will include a new Mission to the HQ of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta.
- Ambassadors will also work closely with the 9 HM Trade Commissioners, appointed by the International Trade Secretary, who lead on all trade promotion and policy overseas.

## **Attract Inward Investment**

- The UK has many strengths that attract investors: an open, liberal

economy, world-class talent and business-friendly environment. This has helped win more foreign direct investment than Germany, Italy and Japan combined.

## **Streamlining the UK border**

- Allowing citizens of US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan to use e-passport gates will significantly reduce queuing at major airports.
  - Reducing the time, it takes to become an Authorised Economic Operator or other types of Customs Trusted Traders, will make trade across borders, quicker, cheaper and easier for a wider range of businesses.
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## **News story: Building new, digital visitor experiences: apply for contracts**

People visiting and staying in Northern Ireland will get more out of their trips, with a new competition that is set to invest £200,000 in the most innovative digital ideas.

Funding is from [Tourism Northern Ireland](#), working with [Digital Catapult NI](#) and the [Department for the Economy](#).

## **More interactive and meaningful**

Augmented reality could help visitors with smartphones and other digital devices have more interactive, meaningful and seamless visits.

It could be used to add a digital layer to visits to historic or cultural sites, including bringing to life events from the past. There are also opportunities to improve visits through use of languages, digital games, education and entertainment.

The competition is being run under the SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) programme.

## **Animating the visitor's experience**

This competition is looking for ideas that:

- animate the visitor experience

- improve interpretation and storytelling
- encourage visitors to explore beyond traditional destinations
- increase regional spread by fostering connections with other places and stories within Northern Ireland
- help people of all abilities and language requirements to seamlessly find their way around and between tourist attractions

Between 2 and 5 projects will be funded.

## Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for submissions is at midday on 19 November 2018
- it is open to any organisation that can demonstrate a route to market for its idea
- organisations must complete a written application and email this to [arcompetition@tourismni.com](mailto:arcompetition@tourismni.com)
- up to 8 projects will be invited to an expert assessment panel on 27 November 2018, where a decision will be made about which ones to fund
- winners will be notified in December 2018 and develop and trial their solution by the end of March 2019
- successful projects will attract 100% funded development contracts

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## Speech: My mission to make sure NHS staff feel safe and secure at work

There's a reason nurses are so close to the nation's heart: because you are there for us when we need you.

And there's a reason nurses are so close to my heart. My grandmother was a nurse. She was there when the NHS was born. And she remained a nurse until she died.

For we all know you never stop being a nurse. Not when you leave work. Not when you're at home. Not when you retire. You're the one who looks after your family's health.

You're a nurse because you have the commitment that has shaped this noblest of professions since Florence Nightingale: compassion, cool heads, caring for others no matter how bad the situation, no matter how bleak the prognosis.

Today, I want to talk about our support for nurses, how we need more nurses, and how we've got a plan to make that happen.

But as well as that, I want to address one question head on: how could anyone hit a nurse?

It beggars belief that anyone could even think of attacking a nurse, or a doctor, or paramedic, or emergency worker of any kind, as they go about their jobs of public service. Any attack on a nurse, or an emergency worker, is an attack too many.

And I know I am not alone. There is overwhelming public support for the Assaults on Emergency Workers Act we have brought into law.

It is absolutely right that anyone who assaults an emergency worker faces tougher penalties and longer prison sentences. Because an assault on you is an assault on us – and we will not tolerate it.

So, today I want to talk about how we can tackle violence against nurses and our NHS staff. But it's not the only thing I want to talk about. Because I believe that increasing violence, bullying and harassment against our NHS staff is just one symptom of a system in need of change. A system I am determined to improve.

So let us ask: how are we going to tackle violence against NHS staff?

Now, I must pay tribute to Chris Bryant for all his work on bringing about this new legislation. The support for his Private Members' Bill, from every part of the House of Commons, shows what an important and unifying issue this is.

And I must pay tribute to all the work the RCN has done in calling for this legislation, and then helping us to shape it so that all nurses delivering NHS care, wherever they work and whoever they work for, are protected by this new law. It was the right thing to do. We listened to you, and we did it.

But legislation is just the start, so today I am launching the first ever NHS violence reduction strategy to protect our NHS workforce against deliberate violence and aggression from patients and the public.

I have made it my personal mission to ensure NHS staff feel safe and secure at work and the new strategy, created together with the Social Partnership Forum, will take a zero-tolerance approach to attacks and assaults against our staff.

I want my department to work with the NHS, police forces, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Social Partnership Forum and the RCN to ensure this strategy succeeds so the new law works for you. So you can easily report any incident, so every incident is taken seriously and investigated fully, and so the – often difficult – process of giving evidence doesn't create more work for you.

The NHS has a duty of care to its patients and its staff. So the CQC will scrutinise NHS trusts' violence reduction plans as part of their inspection regime. This isn't about penalising people, but identifying which trusts need support to reduce violence against staff, whether that's by better building design or improved procedures.

Along with more effective and quicker prosecutions, greater scrutiny and

accountability, we're also looking at how we can get better data – and how we can make better use of that data to identify high-risk jobs and areas.

So, we're working with NHS providers to develop a new way of recording assaults and other incidents of abuse or harassment. That way we can better understand the scale of the problem and the solutions we need to devise, because a 'one size fits all' approach isn't going to solve this.

We know that while paramedics may face the greatest danger from drunk young men at kicking-out time on a Friday or Saturday night, that isn't true for a nurse in a mental health trust where most violent incidents occur between 10 and 11 in the morning. Or in the acute sector, where those most likely to be responsible for assaults are aged 75 or over.

We also know that many assaults are carried out by people with dementia, brain injuries or other mental health issues. So prosecution isn't always appropriate or in the best interests of patients or staff.

But together with more effective prosecution and better data, we also need to improve staff training and staff support. The current training in de-escalation and conflict resolution will be reviewed and revised.

And, we're listening to you about the type of support you need. Since launching the #TalkHealthCare public platform in September we have received many new ideas about how we can improve the work environment.

I would urge anyone who has not done so already to share your ideas: your voice will be heard and acted on.

We must work together to solve this, and make the NHS live up to the promise I know it can be: the best place to work in the world.

Tackling violence alone won't do that. That brings me to nursing numbers and morale, which we all know are inextricably linked, but let me take each in turn.

Numbers. Simply put: we need more. And that means more permanent nurses, not more agency workers.

We need a long-term solution that provides the full benefits of NHS employment and makes financial sense for NHS employers.

To create a steady stream of talent we increased the number of training places available for nurses and doctors. There are now more than 52,000 nurses in training, and we have made more funding available to increase the number of training places available to universities.

Now, I know some have been looking back to the old bursary model, but it was in effect a cap on the numbers of people who could enter the profession each year. The latest figures show there were more applications than available places this year.

But we know there is more work to do with universities to get the right

people on to the right courses, and to open up the profession to people from all backgrounds, and ensure they get the support they need to complete their training so they can serve in our NHS.

That is something we will specifically address in the long-term plan for the NHS, but we are also taking action in the short term.

We're helping providers to recruit from abroad by removing doctors and nurses from the cap on tier 2 visas. That's good for the NHS and good for the country.

Health Education England's 'earn, learn, return' schemes are helping overseas nurses come to the UK, contribute to the NHS and take back what they've learned to help their communities.

And, this isn't just about recruiting more, it's about holding on to the excellent and experienced people we already have by making their working lives easier and more fulfilling.

Because we can't go back, we must go forward. I want to work with you on what measures we can take now to get more people into the wonderful profession of nursing.

So we will listen to you; we will work with you. This will involve new money, new ideas, and new ways of working.

The budget allocated £20 billion more each year to the NHS, and repairs and patching up the old system isn't going to cut it. Not if we're to meet the unprecedented challenge of an ageing society. Not if we're to harness the game-changing potential promised by artificial intelligence and genomics.

It's time to trade in the family car for a newer model – one that's got room for everyone. But one that's safer, better and more efficient.

I want you to come with me on this journey because out of my top 3 priorities – tech, prevention, workforce – workforce is the most important.

That means ensuring you feel recognised and valued. That your concerns are addressed and your voices heard.

Morale matters, which is the final thing I want to talk about.

It matters not only because it's better for you to feel happy and fulfilled at work. It matters because it's better for patients too. Both in terms of the treatment they receive and their outcomes.

So, it's not right that nearly 4 in 10 of you reported feeling unwell due to work-related stress last year. And it's not right that more than half of you said you came into work sick because you felt under pressure to do so.

I want this to change. As well as the numbers, it means getting the small things right:

- ensuring you have adequate time for rest and recovery
- that there's somewhere you can go to, someone you can talk to, if you need help
- that we have the best, most up-to-date technology available to cut your workload and make your lives easier

These are all things I am pushing for. And I want you to push me, and my department, if you feel we need to do more.

But, I also have a challenge for you. Something we have failed to address – something vital not just for morale, but that underpins the universal treatment principle on which the NHS was founded: we, must tackle racial inequality within the nursing profession.

Too many black and ethnic minority nurses find it too hard to progress in their careers. Too many black and ethnic minority nurses are paid less than their white counterparts. And too many nurses encounter bias or discrimination because of the colour of their skin, or where they come from.

This is indefensible. It runs counter to the values of the NHS we love, and it must change.

I believe in equality of opportunity and embracing diversity with every fibre of my being. I believe in it, not just because of fairness and because it's the right thing to do, but because of the benefits it brings.

And the data proves it. The Workforce Race Equality Standard numbers show that progress on tackling racial equality has a positive impact for all staff.

Research by Professor Michael West shows that the experience of black and ethnic minority ethnic staff is a good barometer of the climate of respect and care for all staff within the NHS.

We see it in some of the best trusts. By making continuous improvements for BME staff, trusts have seen similar improvements for their entire workforce.

Those are the benefits of racial equality, of embracing diversity rather than merely tolerating it. Those are the changes I want to see, and my challenge to you.

I will work with you to tackle violence. I will work with you to increase nursing numbers. I will work with you to improve morale and give you all the support that you need.

Let us work together to build a nursing profession, and an NHS in which we can all take pride.

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# News story: £200 million to kickstart full fibre broadband across UK

The Government has confirmed that £200 million will be allocated to fund full fibre broadband connections in hard to reach areas across the UK, starting with all primary schools who would otherwise never have had access to high-quality broadband.

This will also allow us to test new approaches to fibre rollout in rural areas, benefiting tens of thousands of homes and businesses across the UK with the Borderlands, Cornwall, and Welsh valleys amongst the first areas to be targeted.

Earlier this year the [Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review](#) (FTIR) outlined plans to ensure that the country's broadband infrastructure is fit for the future. This was backed up by the Chancellor who set ambitious targets for nationwide full fibre coverage by 2033.

The plans will see mostly competitive commercial investment made across the UK however the FTIR identified that around 10% of the country would need additional funding, from whatever source, of around £3 billion.

To ensure that the hardest to reach areas are not left behind an 'outside-in' approach will be needed to connect these areas at the same pace as the rest of the country.

DCMS Secretary of State Jeremy Wright said:

Through our modern Industrial Strategy it's our ambition to have a full fibre Britain that is fit for the future. By changing our approach and investing in the hardest to reach places first, we will ensure that the whole country can reap the benefits of full fibre broadband.

The Rural Gigabit Connectivity Programme is the first step in this process, with funding coming from the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF). The £200 million will trial models for local hubs in rural areas, starting with primary schools, alongside a voucher scheme for funding full fibre connectivity to nearby premises, providing full fibre connectivity to homes and businesses.

## **Making full fibre mandatory for new builds**

Government has also kick started the process of making the provision of full fibre broadband compulsory for all new builds. New build developments are a clear case in which opportunities for boosting full fibre broadband coverage are not being seized. Whilst there are examples of the most proactive developers and network providers delivering good connectivity, sites with no,

or slow, connections are inexcusable.

Minister for Digital Margot James said:

Too many new build homes are built with slow, or no, connections. This needs to change. Making full fibre mandatory for new builds will help us meet our ambitious broadband goals, connect people and places and strengthen our digital society.

Poor connections have a disproportionate impact on residents and communities. When people cannot work from home, pay bills online or run small businesses it is not just the individual who suffers; slow, unreliable connections hamper innovation, stop collaboration between groups and make it harder for local economies and communities to thrive.

To address this, Government plans to ensure delivery of gigabit-capable connections to all new build homes, reversing the trend of new build homes being associated with poor connections. The policy will also enable wider deployment of fibre technology across the UK, and a [consultation](#) published yesterday seeks views on:

- How developers and network operators should share the cost of connecting new build sites to gigabit-capable networks
- Introducing a 'duty to connect' provision upon network operators
- Amending building regulations which will mean all new build sites will be built with the necessary infrastructure in place to support gigabit-capable networks

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## [News story: Jeremy Hunt launches reverse mentoring scheme for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic \(BAME\) staff](#)

To mark the end of Black History Month, the Foreign Secretary has launched a new reverse mentoring scheme at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for ethnic minority staff.

The scheme will see senior figures from across the FCO paired with ethnic minority staff in junior grades within the Department, to help challenge ingrained views on what talent looks like, break down stereotypes and biases, get fresh perspectives and help improve diversity in middle and senior grades.

Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt said:

In the twenty-first century it is essential that our diplomats look more like our country as a whole. Especially when 2 of Britain's greatest assets are our diversity and deep inter-country ties.

Despite the improvements we've made on improving overall diversity, there remains a stubborn problem in improving racial diversity at the Foreign Office at senior grades, particularly amongst black staff.

Our reverse mentoring scheme will be a practical way for us to challenge stereotypes and improve diversity. It will help us use the fantastic people the FC0 employs to forge stronger connections and boost our prosperity.

### [Black History Month video](#)

The announcement comes following the recent publication of a new Foreign Office report, ['Black skin, Whitehall: Race and the Foreign Office, 1945 to 2018'](#) which provides an insight into the history of ethnic minority staff in the department over the last 70 years.

Although ethnic minority staff currently make up 13.4% of Foreign Office staff, 62.5% of those who have declared their heritage have spent over a decade in the lowest grades without progression, compared to 47% of all staff.

The new programme will help leaders understand how biases around race, gender, class and educational background can sometimes mean that they fail to recognise different types of talent, and how these biases can keep ethnic minority staff stuck in the most junior grades in the Foreign Office. It will also help create a network of champions, mentors and coaches required to help move careers forward.

The scheme is part of a suite of measures to improve diversity in the FC0, including ethnic minority representation on the FC0 Board, a continuing schools and university outreach programme, and an exciting new talent programme for ethnic minority staff.

Earlier this year, the Business In The Community (BITC) Diversity Benchmark awarded the FC0 a silver banding for gender, and a gold banding for race. The awards recognised the FC0's strong commitment to creating inclusive workplaces.

## **Background**

## **Further information**