

News story: The Ivory Bill: A Huge Tusk

Government Legal Department (GLD) lawyers have been providing crucial legal advice to the Government, helping bring about legislation for one of the toughest bans on ivory sales in the world.

The GLD legal team, based in Defra, have worked very quickly to progress the Bill. It was introduced on 23 May and it has already completed its stages in the House of Commons, and will be debated further in the House of Lords after summer recess.

The Bill concerns dealing in elephant ivory (including buying, selling and hiring) which, when passed will be an offence punishable by a custodial sentence of up to five years and/or an unlimited fine, or a civil penalty of up to £250,000.

The Ivory Bill follows the result of a consultation which concluded in December 2017, for which more than 70,000 people and organisations responded. Over 88% of responses were in favour of bringing in legislation to ban ivory sales in the UK.

Defra legal advisor Jane Beeko who led on the Bill said:

Since joining Defra last year, I've been fortunate to have had a mixed portfolio, which means I've worked on a variety of interesting pieces of work. This has included advising on the Aarhus Convention which concerns access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision making and access to justice in respect of environmental matters; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the EU Timber Regulations.

Working on the Ivory Bill has been a fantastic experience. It took real team-work to get this Bill through to its current stage, and I feel very proud to work as part of a team producing the legal framework for such land-mark legislation.

Under the proposed legislation, dealing in an ivory item is prohibited under the Bill unless the items fall under one of the following exemptions:

- Pre-1918 item of outstanding artistic value or importance
- Pre-1918 portrait miniature
- Items with a small amount of ivory (less than 10%) and made before 1947
- Musical instruments with less than 20% ivory made before 1947
- Dealings to and between accredited museums

The Bill will continue its path through Parliament in September and if it

faces no opposition could come into effect next year.

[News story: The Ivory Bill: A Huge Tusk](#)

Updated: Corrected musical instrument exemption to:

Musical instruments with less than 20% ivory made before 1975

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[News story: Crack your business productivity puzzle: new funding available](#)

Innovate UK is making up to £3 million available to help make businesses more productive and solve the problems that are holding back their growth.

The fund will allow businesses to work with some of the country's leading analysts and measurement experts to help improve their productivity and competitiveness.

Analysis for innovators

The funding is provided by Innovate UK, the [National Physical Laboratory](#), the [National Measurement Laboratory](#), the [National Engineering Laboratory](#) and the [Science and Technology Facilities Council](#) (STFC).

It comes through the analysis for innovators programme, which aims to help individual companies solve tricky and sometimes long-running technical problems that can affect how well their products, processes or services function.

In 2017, 96% of UK businesses employed fewer than 10 staff. We know that many lack the skills for effective analysis and measurement. This programme aims to address that. By awarding access to expertise and the facilities of the laboratories and STFC, it allows businesses to optimise processes or improve their specifications to unlock new markets.

Grant holders from previous competition rounds have reported benefits including:

- increased productivity
- increased sales

- accelerated time to market
- development of exploitable intellectual property

Businesses must outline the problem they face

At this stage, we are looking for expressions of interests from businesses with a particular analysis or measurement problem.

If successful, businesses will be invited to meet with measurement experts and work with them to develop projects for grant funding in a second stage. These projects should have clear benefits in solving the problem and lead to improved productivity or competitiveness.

We will consider problems that:

- are related to the measurement or analysis of some quantities or properties of an existing process, product or service
- are not solvable by simple 'off the shelf' methods or techniques

A business can apply up to 3 times in this competition. Each application must focus on a different problem.

Competition information

- the competition opens on 22 August 2018, and the deadline for expressions of interest is at midday on 6 September 2018
- UK-based businesses of any size can apply
- stage 1 is looking to identify analysis problems within a business, with stage 2 offering grant funding. We expect most stage 2 projects to be under £50,000 and last up to 3 months, but we could fund projects of up to £200,000
- businesses could receive matched funding for their projects
- you can [register to attend a briefing event or webinar](#) on 3 September 2018 to find out more about the competition and how to submit a quality application

[News story: UK Space Agency Steering Board seeks new Chairperson](#)

Britain's space industry is going from strength to strength and the UK Space Agency – an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy – is driving the growth of the sector.

The Agency's Steering Board provides vital support to the executive board and the new Chairperson will have an important and demanding role, offering a valuable external perspective to the organisation. The Steering Board advises

the CEO and Ministers on the Agency's strategies, operation and performance.

The Chairperson's role is to help provide strategic direction to the Agency. Under their leadership, the Steering Board has collective responsibility to challenge the executive board and exercise oversight on behalf of the sponsoring department.

The Agency's responsibilities include delivery of UK Government's civil space requirements; working with the European Space Agency and other international organisations; agreeing with UK industry how to maximise the benefits of space technologies; working with the scientific community to provide a clear voice on decisions that affect the sector and encouraging young people to study STEM subjects.

The closing date for applications is 11pm on 10 September 2018. [Click here](#) for more information on the role and to apply.

[News story: Civil news: bid deadline is close for HPCDS work in four schemes](#)

The deadline is approaching to submit bids and take advantage of further tender opportunities for HPCDS work in four schemes.

The schemes available are:

You have until 5pm on 7 September 2018 to submit your tender.

Further information

[Civil 2018 contracts tender](#) – to find out more and download tender documents

[e-Tendering system](#) – to submit your tender

[GOV.UK news story 13 August](#)