

News story: The UK House Price Index marks one year of publishing

Today marks the first anniversary of publishing the UK House Price Index (UK HPI) that is calculated by HM Land Registry, the Office for National Statistics, Registers of Scotland and Land & Property Services Northern Ireland. This statistic shows the changes to the value of residential properties in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Throughout the year we've spoken to users and gathered their feedback. In September 2016, users were formally invited to evaluate the report, these responses are captured in the [Summary of responses](#) that is being used to plan index upgrades.

We have made a number of enhancements to the index during the year that is accessed by approximately 1,000 new users each month in addition to more than 6,600 regular users.

Enhancements made since review

In response to your feedback our December 2016 developments included:

- the provision of more details about our methodology in [Calculating the UK HPI](#)
- navigation improvements, such as a new link to our [interactive tool](#) from the UK HPI reports page
- [new links](#) to key sections of the About the UK HPI page, like the revision policy.

In addition February 2017, saw the first publication of our [UK House Price Index annual review](#) that compares the historic performance of the index with the UK HPI throughout 2016.

Today's enhancements

Today's enhancements are:

- we extending our revision period to 13 months from today, following a review of our revision policy (see [Revisions to the UKI HPI data](#)). This ensures the data used is more comprehensive, improving the capture of new builds.

- we will also introduce new revision tables for England and Wales within our downloadable data, so that you can easily identify and evaluate the impact of each change. Tables will be available in csv format.
- new functionality will allow you to toggle between a chart or table, depending on your preference for visual or textual information.

We've updated the information in [About the UK HPI](#) to keep you informed about the process we're undertaking to remove our experimental status. These enhancements take us a step closer towards that goal. Once removed, we can progress with our second phase of assessment as a National Statistic.

Planned enhancements

We are committed to the continued improvement of the index and aim to introduce more enhancements over the coming months. In the meantime, thank you for your valuable feedback. To enable even greater engagement we will soon create an online forum to assist ongoing conversations. In the interim, you can [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

Impact assessment: Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Business Impact Target (BIT) assessments

Updated: Non-qualifying regulatory provisions – Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 9 June 2017 to 20 June 2018 added

BIT assessments. contribute towards the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) target of £470 million savings to business this parliament. The MMO also have a duty to publish new regulatory measures that are exempt from the enterprise act.

These are the first BIT assessments for new regulatory measures introduced by the MMO since May 2015. It also includes information on new regulatory measures that are exempt from the Enterprise Act. Both the qualifying and non-qualifying measures have been verified by the Regulatory Policy Committee.

The publication is a statutory obligation of the [Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act \(SBE\) 2015](#).

News story: Fines of over £168,000 imposed for fisheries offences

On 7 June 2017 Kafish B.V. a Dutch company which owns the UK registered trawler Margriet LT36 and its master, Dutch national Peter Kuyt, pleaded guilty to 14 breaches of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 and the Fisheries Act 1981 at North Tyneside Magistrates' Court.

The court heard that during two separate investigations carried out by the MMO, Vessel Monitoring System data and logbook entries identified that the vessel had committed numerous offences between 2016 and 2017.

The first investigation showed that in 2016 the vessel had, on three occasions committed offences of fishing within a seasonal closure area and on one occasion fishing in a real time closure area.

The second investigation revealed that in 2017 a further eight offences of fishing within a seasonal closure area and another offence of failing to keep an accurate logbook were committed between January and March.

Sentencing the owner and master, District Judge Sarah-Jane Griffiths said "You have acknowledged that these were serious offences and it is surprising to me that after the offences in 2016 were brought to your attention in June you committed a further 8 offences. To me it is clear that by that time at least you knew you shouldn't have been in those areas."

Despite being registered in the UK and, therefore, being required to comply with a UK fishing licence, the vessel is owned by Kafish B.V., a Dutch company. They were fined £66,000, with an additional fine of £80,000 to cover the value of the fish illegally caught, £3,500 costs and a victim surcharge of £170.

The vessel master, a Dutch national named Peter Kuyt, was fined £8,536.33 with an additional fine of £15,000 to cover the value of the fish illegally caught, £741 costs and a victim surcharge of £170.

A spokesman for the MMO said:

"The court in this case has sent a clear message that these were serious offences which were aggravated by the fact that the offences were repeated on numerous occasions.

The size of the fines imposed by the court in this case shows both the scale of damage to the marine environment caused by offences of this nature and the profits made by the perpetrators of these crimes.

Fisheries offences like these are committed at the expense of the legitimate,

law-abiding members of the fishing industry who rely on the sustainability of fishing grounds for their livelihoods and future.

The MMO will always take appropriate enforcement action including pursuing and bringing prosecutions to court to protect the long term viability of the marine environment for future generations.”

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News story: Robotics and AI: apply in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

Innovate UK is making the funding available for robotics and artificial intelligence technologies in applications such as deep mining, nuclear energy, space and off-shore energy.

This is an [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#) activity. It aims to develop robotics technologies that can take people out of dangerous work environments and go beyond human limits.

Demonstrator programme

There is up to £6 million available for projects that stimulate the development of robotics and artificial intelligence demonstrators.

This is the first phase of the competition. Projects should focus on technical feasibility studies of individual technologies, systems or subsystems in extreme or challenging environments.

Phase 2 will run in 2018. This will focus on experimental developments of fully-integrated systems that will be tested and demonstrated in realistic, extreme environments. To be considered to lead a project in phase 2 you must apply in phase 1.

Collaborative research and development

You can apply for a share of £10 million for collaborative research and development (R&D) that results in new and novel systems.

Projects should demonstrate a potential step-change in capabilities. Examples

include:

- innovative materials or systems, for example, actuators, sensors and telecommunications
- improved robotic capabilities, such as structural and radiation tolerance
- improved machine vision systems
- improved situational awareness, navigation, localisation and mapping
- more energy-efficient devices and systems
- miniaturised systems, for example, sensors, components and integrated sub-systems
- systems engineering including verification and validation tools and methodologies
- mission planning and risk management

The focus is primarily on off-shore energy, nuclear energy, space and deep mining, however, other extreme and challenging environments may also be considered. We are particularly interested in projects that cut across sectors.

Part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

[Robots for a Safer World – part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#)

The robots and artificial intelligence challenge is part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

By developing new technologies and systems that can be deployed in extreme environments, this challenge will create a safer working world for people, as well as supporting advances in industry and public services to make them more productive.

Government will invest £93 million in this challenge area over the next 4 years.

Competition information

- both competitions are now open for applications
- in the demonstrator competition, projects should last up to 12 months and range in size up to total project costs of £500,000. The competition closes on 19 July 2017
- in the collaborative R&D competition, projects should last up to 36 months and range in size up to total project costs of £2 million. The competition closes on 2 August 2017
- all projects must be led by a business
- businesses can attract up to 70% of their project costs