

Press release: Northern Powerhouse at the heart of Rugby League World Cup 2021

- Rugby League World Cup 2021 has announced that nearly 90% of the tournament's games, including all three finals, will be held in the Northern Powerhouse
- Tournament backed by £25 million of government funding to maximise benefit to communities
- Northern host locations announced include Newcastle, Doncaster, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool, Trafford and Hull

Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry MP has welcomed news that around 9 in 10 (87%) Rugby League World Cup 2021 tournament games will be held in the North, exceeding the organiser's original commitment to host 80% of the games in the North of England.

In 2016 the government committed £25 million towards the tournament and its legacy with up to £15 million pledged to support the staging of the event and up to £10 million for Rugby League's facilities through large community projects, such as refurbishing changing rooms and installing new artificial pitches, as well as smaller-scale initiatives including supplying new kit or equipment to clubs.

A total of 16 northern towns and cities – including Newcastle, St Helens, Doncaster, Sheffield, Liverpool, Trafford and Hull – will play host to the tournament which will take place over five weeks in October and November 2021.

Leeds will host more games than any other city while Preston has been revealed as the tournament's first training base.

The tournament is anticipated to host a million spectators and is set to be one of the most inclusive and diverse events ever hosted in England. The men's, women's and wheelchair Rugby League World Cups are to be staged together for the first time with all three finals being played in the North.

Government funding for the tournament will focus on four key areas: creating welcoming environments, encouraging more players, building community engagement and cultivating further investment resulting in an innovation fund for the community game.

Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry MP said:

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will firmly put the Northern Powerhouse on the world stage and I am proud we are a partner in this landmark event.

Thousands of visitors will come from far and wide to enjoy the games and organisers predict the tournament will deliver £75 million of economic benefit to the UK through tourism and opportunities for local businesses, with a significant amount coming to cities and regions of the Northern Powerhouse.

The foundations of Rugby League were built in the North before becoming one of this country's greatest sporting exports. Now, thanks to £25 million of government investment, it is coming home to the Northern Powerhouse.

Minister for Sport and Civil Society Mims Davies MP said:

The UK is renowned for putting on some of the biggest and best sporting events in the world and the Rugby League World Cup 2021 will be no exception. This tournament will provide a stage for the world's best players in the men's, women's and wheelchair game to shine in cities and towns across the country.

It is an exceptional opportunity to grow the sport. We are investing £25 million to help put on a fantastic event, reach new fans and improve facilities, so the tournament leaves a real legacy.

Chief Executive of the Rugby League World Cup 2021 Jon Dutton said:

RLWC2021 will be the sport's biggest and best ever tournament and the Northern Powerhouse will play a pivotal role in helping to deliver this global event.

For the first time ever, the men's, women's and wheelchair tournaments will be played concurrently and the North will stage all of the marquee events including all 3 Rugby League World Cup finals and the respective opening ceremonies. The Northern Powerhouse is the perfect setting to host one of world sport's biggest and most inclusive tournaments.

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 and their governing body the Rugby Football League, are official members of the Northern Powerhouse Partners Programme. This network of businesses and organisations share our vision to for harnessing the economic potential of the North, and support the need for the government and business to work together to achieve it.

Full list of Northern Powerhouse game venues/hosts across men's, women's and wheelchair fixtures:

North-west

Bolton – The University of Bolton Stadium will host two men’s games, including an England group game and quarter-final. Liverpool – Anfield will host the marquee quarter-final tie along with the women’s opening ceremony and initial England game. M&S Bank Arena Liverpool will host the wheelchair Rugby League final. Preston – First training base to be revealed. St Helens – The Totally Wicked Stadium will host three men’s group games. Trafford – Old Trafford will host both the men’s and women’s finals as a double-header event. Warrington – The Halliwell Jones Stadium will host three men’s group games. Leigh – Leigh Sports Village will host three men’s group games.

Yorkshire

Doncaster – The Keepmoat Stadium will host three men’s group games. Kirklees – The John Smiths Stadium will host a men’s quarter-final. Hull – The KCOM Stadium will host two men’s games, including a quarter-final. Leeds – Hosting more games than any other city, Elland Road will host a men’s semi-final and Emerald Headingley Stadium will host three men’s games and two women’s games. Sheffield – Bramall Lane will host an England men’s group game. The EIS Sheffield will host a group and both semi-finals in the wheelchair tournament. York – The Community Stadium will host a women’s group game and both women’s semi-finals.

North East

Middlesbrough – The Riverside Stadium will host a significant men’s group game. Newcastle – St James’ Park will host the opening England men’s group game including the men’s opening ceremony

West Cumbria

Allerdale – The Workington Community Stadium will host three men’s group games.

The Northern Powerhouse is our vision for a more prosperous North with well-paid jobs for working people, better transport with faster roads and more efficient trains, high-performing schools and world-beating universities.

The Northern Powerhouse Partners Programme is an essential part of creating the Northern Powerhouse. The government is looking to build a network of partners who all believe strongly in the economic potential of the North, and support the need for a combined effort by government and business to realise that potential. There are nearly 200 businesses and organisations signed up to the Partners Programme.

Prospective partners can email NorthernPowerhouse@communities.gov.uk for more information about the Partners Programme and how to apply.

For more information about the Rugby League World Cup 2021 tournament and locations of games visit www.rlwc2021.com or contact enquiries@rlwc2021.com

Press release: Housing Minister tightens up rules on electrical safety to better protect renters

- Tough new rules for electrical inspections in private rented accommodation, offering greater protection for tenants
- Change to ensure inspections are carried out by competent and qualified testers, keeping people safe in their homes
- Move part of the government's commitment to drive up standards in the private rented sector

Renters will receive better protection thanks to new measures designed to ensure mandatory electrical inspections are carried out by competent and qualified inspectors, Housing Minister Heather Wheeler MP has announced today (29 January 2019).

As part of the government's commitment to drive up standards in the private rented sector, landlords will be legally required to ensure that the inspectors they hire to carry out safety inspections have the necessary competence and qualifications to do so – with tough financial penalties for those who fail to comply.

Ministers will also publish new guidance which sets out the minimum level of competence and qualifications necessary for those carrying out these important inspections, meaning both landlords and tenants can be assured their home is safe from electrical faults.

Minister for Housing and Homelessness Heather Wheeler MP said:

Everyone has the right to feel safe and secure in their own home. While measures are already in place to crack down on the small minority of landlords who rent out unsafe properties, we need to do more to protect tenants.

These new measures will reduce the risk of faulty electrical equipment, giving people peace of mind and helping to keep them safe in their homes.

It will also provide clear guidance to landlords on who they should be hiring to carry out these important electrical safety checks.

The new guidance will provide clear accountability at each stage of the inspection process – of what is required and whose responsibility it is – but without placing excessive cost and time burdens on landlords.

As well as making homes safer for tenants, improving electrical safety also benefits landlords by making a material improvement to their property and helping to prevent fires, which can cause costly and significant damage.

The measures announced today build on ongoing government action to drive up standards in the private rented sector and support people to feel safe and secure in their home – ensuring millions of hard-working tenants can live in the homes they deserve.

Ministers have also introduced tough new powers for councils to tackle the small minority of rogue landlords who rent out poor quality properties, including fines of up to £30,000 and banning orders for landlords who do not comply.

The [Tenant Fees Bill](#), which will be implemented from 1 June, will bring an end to unnecessary, costly fees imposed by landlords or property agents – stopping tenants being charged hundreds of pounds for minor fixes to their homes and putting cash back in their pockets.

Together, these measures will help to create a housing market that works for everyone by making renting fair and more transparent for all.

The consultation [Electrical safety in the private rented sector](#) ran from 17 February to 16 April 2018 and received 582 responses from a range of organisations, including landlord associations, housing charities and local authorities, as well as individuals including electricians, landlords, tenants and fire and rescue representatives.

Following the consultation, the government announced in July that regulations would be introduced requiring private sector landlords to undertake 5 yearly safety checks of electrical installations in their properties. We intend to introduce new legislation on a phased basis, starting with new tenancies, as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

The new guidance will be broadly in line with existing regulations in Scotland, helping to ensure consistency and ease for landlords operating across the two nations.

A decision on penalties for non-compliance will be made before the secondary legislation is introduced. Penalties are likely to include a range of sanctions, with local authorities being given discretion to decide which is most appropriate in a particular case. Government will engage closely with local authorities in England when determining the penalties.

The measures announced today only cover the private rented sector. The forthcoming response to the social housing green paper consultation will cover a wide range of issues including the safety and quality of social housing.

[News story: Goodbye GSi: Insolvency Service email addresses are changing](#)

The [GSI](#) network is being phased out across [government](#).

As part of this change, the Insolvency Service will remove '.gsi' from our email addresses by 31 March 2019.

What you need to do

By 31 March 2019 if you use any existing Insolvency Service email addresses, you need to change these from:

to

The new addresses are now active, however, up until the cut-off, any replies to emails you send to non gsi addresses will come from our gsi addresses.

You should make sure you update any records you may have, such as directories, web applications or forms that use our email addresses.

What will happen if you don't make the change

Between now and 31 March 2019 the Insolvency Service will continue to receive any emails sent to a .gsi address in addition to non-gsi addresses.

It is expected that after 31 March 2019 any messages sent to a .gsi address will be redirected and continue to function for a limited period of time to assist with a smooth transition.

If you have any questions about this change or need more information, [contact us](#)

[News story: Spring Statement 2019 date confirmed](#)



The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, has announced that the government will respond to the forecast from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in a Spring Statement on Wednesday 13 March 2019.

Following the Chancellor's announcement at [Autumn Statement 2016](#), there will now only be one major fiscal event each year.

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[News story: Direct Rail Services lifts 6th Golden Whistle Award](#)

Organised by the Institute of Railway Operators, in conjunction with Modern Railways Magazine, the annual event celebrates operational excellence in the industry.

The Golden Whistle is awarded annually for consistent arrival times over the previous 12 months – DRS was declared more reliable than any of its competitors.

The award also recognises the hard work and dedication of the DRS team, as well as the strong investment in reliability of the DRS fleet of locomotives and assets.

DRS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and supports its decommissioning mission with its core nuclear transport business.

The Cumbria-based freight company also provides services for other rail market sectors such as intermodal, infrastructure support services, passenger and charters.

NDA Commercial Director, Kate Ellis, said:

DRS makes a vital contribution to NDA's decommissioning mission and I am delighted for the team at DRS to have won such a prestigious award, once again reflecting their commitment to service and reliability.

Head of Performance for DRS, Norman Egglestone, said:

DRS has just been awarded another well-earned Golden Whistle for, once again, ensuring our customers' services arrived on time. In the last year we have seen over 90% of all DRS' commercial freight services achieve this target... Meaning DRS rightly remains 'The Best Performing Rail Freight Operator'.

This award would not be possible without the reliability of our rolling stock, the commitment and professionalism of our drivers, ground staff and those involved in the planning and co-ordination of our services.