

# [News story: Next-generation digital healthcare: apply for funding](#)

Advancing new and novel digital technologies can significantly improve outcomes for patients and reduce costs for healthcare providers.

Innovate UK, part of [UK Research and Innovation](#), has up to £5 million to invest in projects through the digital health technology catalyst – a programme that aims to accelerate the development of digital health innovations.

The competition is part of the [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#) to deliver leading-edge healthcare in the UK.

This £181 million fund will transform how we develop and manufacture medicines and other healthcare products, such as digital technologies, to get the right drugs and treatments to patients when they need them.

## **Using real-world data**

This competition is supported by the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#) (NICE), which will provide successful projects with its real-world data advisory services, DataLab.

DataLab aims to connect expertise across the NHS and academia through the institute's data research. It is a collaboration between NICE, the University of Manchester and Health Innovation Manchester.

Successful applicants in the competition will be able to work with DataLab to get advice and consultancy across 4 main areas:

- the application and use of real-world data
- ensuring health data is secure
- how to evaluate digital health interventions
- additional scientific advice from NICE, and how to demonstrate the value of a project to the UK and international health systems

## **Advancing health care through digital solutions**

Previous digital health technology catalyst winners include [Neurofenix](#), whose tool helps patients that have had a stroke to recover.

[Neurofenix video](#)

## **Better healthcare solutions**

The competition is for collaborative research and development projects that span a variety of technologies, markets and healthcare needs and demonstrate the potential for significant innovation.

Projects must do one or more of the following:

- improve health and wellbeing
- transform care to improve quality
- control costs and enable change

Technologies could include:

- virtual and augmented reality
- artificial intelligence and machine learning
- the Internet of Things
- data analytics and security

Ideas could be for use in a clinical or non-clinical setting. This could include digital technologies to:

- support clinical decision-making
- improve access to healthcare, support treatment compliance or patient-led management
- improve the patient experience from disease prevention through to diagnosis, treatment, recovery and long-term care
- overcome privacy challenges with managing, sharing and exploiting data
- create significant improvements in quality, speed, costs and outcomes

## **Competition information**

- the competition opens on 11 February 2019, and the deadline for applications is midday on 10 April 2019
- to lead a project, you'll need to be a UK-based small or medium-sized business (SME)
- SMEs can work alone or collaborate with others, including other businesses, NHS organisations, universities, research and technology organisations, public sector organisations or charities
- total costs can be between £300,000 and £1 million
- businesses could get up to 70% of their project costs
- projects can last up to 18 months. They must start by 1 October 2019 and must be completed by 1 March 2021

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## **[Press release: Waste firm fined £510,000 for illegally storing tonnes of rubbish](#)**

In 2014 and 2015, Winters Haulage Limited used a site next to Royston Sewage Treatment Works (STW) on the Hertfordshire/Cambridgeshire border to illegally store thousands of tonnes of baled combustible waste known as refuse derived

fuel (RDF), posing a significant fire risk.

Some waste was also buried at the site and stockpiled at another nearby location.

At Cambridge Magistrates' Court this week, District Judge Ken Sheraton said company director Liam Patrick Winters was "certainly reckless", ordering him to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work as part of a 12 month community order.

He was also ordered to pay £8,850 in costs. Judge Sheraton said Winters Haulage's actions were deliberate and the company had no systems in place to prevent the offences.

Of the £510,000 fine, £450,000 was the money saved or avoided by committing the offences. The company was also ordered to pay costs of £30,000.

After the hearing, Environment Agency team leader Phil Henderson said:

Illegally stockpiling thousands of tonnes of waste in this manner has potentially devastating impacts on the environment, communities and transport infrastructure.

This case highlights the growing problems being faced with waste across the country and the result in court today should reassure the public that the Environment Agency is committed to bringing waste criminals to justice.

Members of the public and those inside the waste industry who have knowledge of, or suspect illegal waste activity, are urged to come forward and report directly on 0800 807060 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

The Court heard that Winters, aged 41, was responsible for Winters Haulage Ltd (now in liquidation), a waste management company which was based at Hunting Gate, Hitchin. The company had operated at the Hitchin address under an environmental permit, but operated the Royston site without a permit, which is required by law.

When the Environment Agency told them to clear the site some of the waste was taken to a Biffa landfill site and some to the company's Hitchin site (one of two large waste transfer stations operated by the company at the time) but the necessary accompanying waste transfer notes were either absent or incorrect.

More waste was also left illegally at a nearby location known as Kings Ride, near Therfield, which was also not a permitted site.

It was later discovered that some of the baled waste, known as RDF, had been buried at the Royston site close to the STW.

Rebecca Vanstone, prosecuting for the Environment Agency, told the court that

“burial of waste would never have been permitted”. The site is above a sensitive chalk aquifer and landfilling waste can only be authorised under a specific permit which requires the site to be engineered to strict standards to protect the environment.

There was no evidence of contamination of the groundwater, Ms Vanstone told the court, but there would be a time delay while contaminants travelled to the groundwater so there was “a possibility of harm in the future”.

Mitigating for Liam Winters, Mike Magee told the court that early in 2014 Seneca Environmental Solutions Ltd, which runs an RDF production facility in Wembley, indicated that it could offer Winters Haulage a service to deal with its baled waste for transfer to Europe.

However, Seneca was unable to take round bales as were produced by Winters at their Hitchin site. Winters used the Royston site to store the waste as a temporary measure until the RDF contract “kicked in”.

Mr Magee said “Mr Winters never intended to undermine the statutory regime”.

The Environment Agency served a statutory notice on the company stating that the site should be cleared, however the company failed to comply, despite having 4 months to clear it.

Acting on information received, Environment Agency officers also visited a racehorse training site west of Royston known as King’s Ride, near Therfield. They saw 6 long rows of green-wrapped bales in a field and estimated there to be 450 bales.

Some were ripped and revealed their contents to be mixed waste. The occupier and Winters Haulage were advised that the waste would have to be removed and the company later produced waste transfer notes stating that it had been taken to the company’s Hitchin site.

During the investigation waste transfer notes for waste taken from Hitchin to Royston showed 60% was RDF, 30% was card and paper and 10% plastic.

However, Ms Vanstone told the court that “the waste was mixed waste and there were no bales found that contained separate waste”.

RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel) is residual waste that is often used as a fuel and can contain plastics, cloth, materials, and treated and untreated wood and is commonly baled using plastic wrapping which can degrade during periods of storage. Potentially polluting liquid can leak out and pollute the environment. Discrepancies in waste transfer notes, the use of number plate recognition equipment to track lorry movements of waste and officer observations all led to the conclusion that the company was acting illegally.

Winters told investigating officers there were several clerical errors in relation to waste transfer notes which he had been unaware of. He said he did not know they needed a permit for the Royston site and did not think storing materials next to a sewage works was a bad place to store. He said there was no fire risk.

After that conversation the company still moved bales from the Royston site without transfer notes.

Officers became suspicious after the Royston site was finally cleared and the level of the land appeared to have changed, in some places by up to 1.5 metres. The ground was excavated and waste was discovered buried. In some areas landfill gas (hydrogen sulphide) was found.

It was also discovered that the chalk bedrock had been excavated by up to 3.1 metres.

Winters told officers that no waste was deliberately buried but that some may have been accidentally buried after some bales had split and the ground had been re-profiled to allow access due to the harsh weather conditions.

On behalf of Liam Winters Mr Magee told the court "it was never his instruction to bury the waste".

The court heard that the site had not yet been remediated and it was estimated to cost the landowner, Anglian Water Group, £1.9 million to clean the site up to its previous condition.

Cambridge Fire and Rescue Service assessed a risk of fire at the site and a plan was drawn up due to the risk of dense acrid fumes from a fire posing a threat to public safety.

A Cambridgeshire County Council Emergency Plan was created involving 11 public organisations as the site was within 2.5km of schools, nurseries, sheltered accommodation, children's homes, care and residential homes – all of which could have been at risk.

The risk of polluting the groundwater would have been moderate to high from firefighting water run-off. An Environment Agency analytical chemist concluded that toxic substances could have been produced by a fire.

Liam Winters pleaded guilty to:

- Between 10 September 2014 and 19 December 2015 on land adjacent to Royston Sewage Treatment Works, Royston, Cambridgeshire Winters Haulage Limited did, with your consent, connivance or attributable to neglect on your part as a director of the said company, operate a regulated facility, namely a waste operation for the deposit, storage and disposal of waste, without being authorised by an environmental permit granted under Regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. Contrary to Regulation 12(1)(a), 38(1)(a) and 41(1)(a) and (b) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.
- On or before 11 August 2015 on land at Kings Ride, The Thrift, Royston, Hertfordshire, Winters Haulage Limited did, with your consent or connivance or attributable to neglect on your part as a director of Winters Haulage Limited, deposit a quantity of controlled waste, namely baled refuse derived fuel waste, when there was not in force an Environmental Permit granted by the regulator pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010

authorising the said deposit. Contrary to sections 33(1)(a), 33(6) and 157(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

- Between 10 September 2014 and 15 October 2015 Winters Haulage Limited failed to comply with the duty of care imposed by Section 34 (1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in that as a person that carries, keeps, treats and disposes of controlled waste, Winters Haulage Limited failed to take such measures as were reasonable in the circumstances on the transfer of such waste to provide a written description of the waste in accordance with Section 34(1)(c)(ii) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Regulation 35 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and such failure was due to your consent, connivance or attributable to your neglect as a director of Winters Haulage Limited. Contrary to section 34(1)(c)(ii), (5) (6) and 157(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Winters Haulage pleaded guilty to:

- Between 10 September 2014 and 19 December 2015 on land adjacent to Royston Sewage Treatment Works, Royston, Cambridgeshire you did operate a regulated facility, namely a waste operation for the deposit, storage and disposal of waste without being authorised by an environmental permit granted under Regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. Contrary to Regulation 12 and 38(1)(a) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.
- On or before 11 August 2015 on land at Kings Ride, The Thrift, Royston, Hertfordshire, you did deposit a quantity of controlled waste, namely baled refuse derived fuel waste, when there was not in force an Environmental Permit granted by the regulator pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 authorising the said deposit. Contrary to section 33(1)(a) and (6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Section 34(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as a person that carries, keeps, treats and disposes of controlled waste, in that you failed to take such measures as were reasonable in the circumstances on the transfer of such waste to provide a written description of the waste in accordance with Section 34(1)(c)(ii) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Regulation 35 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. Contrary to section 34(1)(c)(ii), (5) and (6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

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**[Press release: UK firms help Iraqi citizens access electricity with](#)**

## support from UK Government

- US \$1.02 billion in support for UK firms to build two new power stations
- Agreement will help build and refurbish numerous electricity substations across Iraq
- Announcement reaffirms the UK's commitment to Iraq's continued economic development

US \$620 million financing will go to support two contracts between GE and Iraq's Ministry of Electricity to build two power stations in Samawa and Dhi Qar, located northwest of Basra, in southern Iraq. UKEF had already provided initial support for the project; this additional financing supports the main construction phase of the project involving further procurement from UK suppliers through GE sub-contractor ENKA UK.

UKEF will also provide US \$400 million to support a project by GE's Grid Solutions, business to develop 14 sub-stations across Iraq. GE will build new substations on a turnkey basis and supply equipment such as transformers and other parts to rehabilitate existing substations, helping to bring power to areas with significant power shortages from the north to the south of the country.

This announcement follows the agreement between the governments of the UK and Iraq signed in March 2017, which re-affirmed the UK's commitment to Iraq's continued economic development.

This project will play a key role in bolstering the capacity of the Iraqi electricity grid, the two new power stations, located in the Basra region, will give citizens the access they need to critical infrastructure.

Baroness Fairhead, Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion, said:

The scale of these contracts illustrates the demand for British expertise in the utilities sector and the level of support the government can give to British businesses looking to make the most of similar opportunities across the globe.

The UK Government continues to be committed to Iraq's economic development and I am delighted that UK Export Finance is supporting projects that will have such a direct impact on improving the country's critical infrastructure and the lives of the Iraqi people.

Guto Davies, GE Energy Financial Services' Global Capital Advisory Managing Director, said:

The announcement of these new facilities further strengthens GE's

collaborations in Iraq to support the country's power infrastructure and meet the growing need for electricity. GE recognises the importance of UKEF in supporting critical infrastructure projects in Iraq and the UK supply-chain. We are delighted they continue to fund major projects in the country's power energy sector.

Yavuz Akturk, Director at ENKA UK, said:

Power shortages continue to halt Iraq's reconstruction and addressing this scarcity is crucial to the country's future. As ENKA, we have taken a significant role in rebuilding the country's infrastructure, and with these projects we will help the people in the country which are in urgent need for electricity. It would not be possible without the continuous support of the UK Government and the highly dedicated UKEF team; and we as ENKA, are grateful for the high-level support for these projects which will also provide great opportunities for the UK exporters.

[UK Export Finance](#) is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, working alongside the Department for International Trade as an integral part of its strategy and operations.

Our mission is to ensure that no viable UK export should fail for want of finance or insurance from the private market. We provide finance and insurance to help exporters win, fulfil and ensure they get paid for export contracts.

Sectors in which UKEF has supported exports include: aerospace, healthcare, infrastructure, telecommunications and transport.

UKEF has a [national regional network of 24 export finance managers](#) supporting export businesses.

Our range of products includes:

- Bond insurance policy
- Bond support scheme
- Buyer & supplier credit financing facility
- Direct lending facility
- Export insurance policy
- Export refinancing facility
- Export working capital scheme
- Letter of credit guarantee scheme

Our [country cover positions](#) outline our current cover policy and risk appetite for each country.

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## [News story: Community apprenticeships to change lives in Cumbria](#)

Candidates could start training as early as February, with more apprenticeships set to be available throughout the year.

The 'North West Nuclear Community Apprenticeship Programme' (NWNCAP) is the first of its kind in the UK.

PDF, 127KB, 1 page

If you use assistive technology (such as a screen reader) and need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email [info@sellafieldsites.com](mailto:info@sellafieldsites.com). Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.

The scheme will help boost employment opportunities for local people, address specific skills shortages within Cumbria and help drive economic growth in the region.

Training offered will cover a range of diverse professions from customer services, property maintenance and scaffolding, to logistics and horticulture.

A range of small companies will be identified as host employers in the coming months, and will be matched to apprentices as they are recruited.

The training is fully funded by Sellafield Ltd on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), and includes the wage costs for the first year of each apprenticeship.

Les Studholme, head of training for Sellafield Ltd said:

We are delighted to be using a new community apprentice programme to not only boost nuclear capability, but also create a pipeline of skills that are transferable to any industry, to help Cumbria achieve its unlimited potential.

The mission at Sellafield is changing, and while we need new skills to drive forward our environmental clean-up, we are also helping to build a diverse and resilient supply chain and thriving economy.

Investments like this will change lives and help create a future for local people and businesses that goes far beyond the nuclear

industry.

The training has been designed to address the specific skills shortages faced by Cumbria and provide local people with accessible paths to professional qualifications and fulfilling employment.

This scheme is particularly aimed at supporting students who have been unable to access apprenticeships through traditional routes.

On successful completion of their Level 2 apprenticeship it is expected that learners will be able to progress to an advanced apprenticeship, full time employment or higher education.

Les added:

The fact that these apprenticeships are more accessible to people who may have experienced education or employment barriers, means we opening up opportunities for people who may not have considered apprenticeships before.

It could lead to a role within the supply chain supporting the Sellafield mission, or working in tourism, healthcare or education. The opportunities are vast.

Developed by Sellafield Ltd, the programme will be delivered and managed independently by the Cumbria Apprentice Training Agency (CATA), with training delivered by a number of leading Cumbrian training providers including Gen2 and Lakes College.

Sellafield Ltd is the first in the UK to run the scheme, which could then be rolled out all over the country.

It is supported by the NDA, Engineering Construction Industry Training Board, Nuclear Skills Strategy Group, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and the Britain's Energy Coast Business Cluster.

Jacq Longrigg, head of skills and talent for the NDA said:

This scheme is a strategic investment from the NDA and Sellafield Ltd.

Supporting access to careers in nuclear and enabling those smallest organisations within our supply chain and local communities to employ an apprentice is a priority for us, as the first phase of a wider north west project.

Craig Ivison, head of employment and skills for the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership said:

The partnership fully supports this exciting and innovative initiative to increase apprenticeship opportunities in the county.

It will also help smaller employers to fully engage in apprenticeships to create the future workforce for their organisation.

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## **Press release: Court users to benefit from new service centres**

- Centres now open in Stoke-on-Trent and Birmingham
- Providing support to people across the country and freeing up court staff
- Part of £1bn court reform programme to improve the criminal justice system

The new centres bring a number of justice services together under one roof to offer an improved and more consistent experience for victims, witnesses, and anyone who uses the court system.

Once fully operational, more than 600 people will be employed across the sites to process cases, issue orders from courts and tribunals, and answer queries from the public. In turn, that will free up court and tribunal staff on the ground to better support the judiciary and help the public and legal professionals during hearings.

Speaking at the opening of the Stoke centre, HMCTS Change Director, Richard Goodman, said:

These centres will make it quicker and easier to give the public the support they need to use our courts and tribunals.

This is just one example of how the reform programme will provide easier and more efficient justice for all.

The roll out of Courts & Tribunals Service Centres are part of the £1 billion court reform programme and will help provide better access to justice services. They are based on research into what users want and need, and in consultation with judges, magistrates and legal professionals, as well as agencies that represent the public and support people with cases going through the justice system.

The next Service Centre will open in Loughborough and is expected to be fully

operational by May 2020. The £1 billion reform programme has already delivered:

- A pilot of fully-video hearings in the tax tribunals.
- The national implementation of a new in-court system to record the result of cases digitally and instantly.
- A pilot of a new digital system providing shared case information in criminal cases to the police, CPS, courts and legal professionals.
- A Civil Money Claims service with more than 39,000 claims made since it first launched in March 2018, with the fastest claim being lodged and paid under two hours.
- An online Divorce Service, with more than 23,000 applications made since it launched in April 2018.
- Online Probate Service with more than 7,500 applications made since July 2018.
- More than 1,400 online pleas have been made within the Single Justice Procedure for Transport for London fare evasion cases since its launch in April 2018.

### **Notes to editors:**

- Courts & Tribunals Service Centres opened today (28 January) in Bennett House, Stoke-on-Trent and Hagley Road, Birmingham.
- Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) tribunals and the probate digital telephone service will move into Birmingham, while Single Justice Service (SJS) and divorce services will move to Stoke-on-Trent.