

# News story: Inspection Plan: Chief Inspector seeks suggestions

The Independent Chief Inspector, David Bolt, is inviting suggestions by 16 March 2018 for his 2018 to 2019 Inspection Plan.

As required by the [UK Borders Act 2007](#), I will be writing to the Home Secretary formally before the beginning of the new business year with details of my Inspection Plan for 2018 to 2019. I expect to publish the Plan on my website on 1 April 2018.

I have written to the stakeholders with whom the inspectorate is in regular contact to give them the opportunity, while the Plan is in draft, to raise any topics they would like to see included or prioritised.

I would like to extend this offer to anyone with an interest or concern that fits within my statutory remit and which they believe would merit inspection.

My [3-year Plan](#) (2017 to 2020) shows what, one year ago, I thought I should inspect in 2018 to 2019. Based on my recent discussions with the Home Office and with stakeholders, I believe the framework of themes and topics remains broadly sound.

However, I would welcome suggestions about the most relevant scope and focus for the inspections listed for 2018 to 2019, plus any suggestions for topics that are not currently included.

During 2017 to 2018, I managed to touch on most of the topics in the current year's Plan. [Published reports](#), along with the [Home Office's responses](#) are found on our website, along with [completed reports that have yet to be laid in Parliament, and 'Live' inspections](#).

The one substantive topic I need to carry over from the 2017 to 2018 Plan into 2018 to 2019, [National Health Service charging](#), as it relates to the "compliant environment". I have also been asked by the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee to include some work on "Brexit preparedness", which I will do.

I am aware that the completed inspections have not covered every possible issue or angle of concern to stakeholders because there always has to be a trade-off between scope, resources and time, and of course, these are moving targets.

So, I am happy to receive suggestions to take another look at an area I have already inspected, and I will in any event be carrying out a number of re-inspections to check the Home Office's implementation of my recommendations. But, I am also interested in identifying 'new' areas for inspection, drawing on other's experience and knowledge.

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## News story: Independent Review of the Co-operative Bank Launched

A new independent review into the prudential supervision of the Co-operative Bank between 2008 and 2013 has been announced by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury John Glen today (6 March 2018).

The new independent review follows today's (6 March 2018) announcement by the Financial Conduct Authority that it has now concluded its enforcement investigations into the Co-op Bank and related individuals.

The independent review will look into the supervision of the Co-operative Bank during a significant period for the firm, including its withdrawal from the bidding process to purchase 632 bank branches from Lloyds Banking Group (known as "Project Verde") in 2013, to understand what lessons can be learned.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury has approved the Prudential Regulation Authority's (PRA) appointment of Mark Zelmer to carry out the Independent review. Mr Zelmer has over 30 years' experience in financial services regulation and policy. He is a former Deputy Superintendent of the Office of Superintendent of Financial Institutions, Canada, and previously a senior official at the Bank of Canada, International Monetary Fund, and representative on the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and Financial Stability Board.

Economic Secretary to the Treasury John Glen said:

We are committed to creating a stronger and safer banking system. A vital part of this is ensuring that our regulatory system can learn from past events. The launch of this independent review is a further demonstration of this commitment.

The government committed to undertake an independent investigation in 2013, once the Financial Conduct Authority's regulatory action concluded. That regulatory action has now come to an end. The Review will look at the actions, policies and approach of the Financial Services Authority, and latterly the PRA, as the institutions with statutory responsibility for the prudential supervision of the Co-op Bank during the period in question. It will focus on the outstanding questions identified by the House of Commons Treasury Committee (TSC) in its 2014 report on Project Verde.

As recommended by the TSC, the review will have full access to all relevant documents and correspondence, including the record of government contacts concerning the Lloyds "Verde" bidding process. A [detailed Direction](#) has been

laid in Parliament to initiate the Review and set out its scope and parameters.

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## **News story: Country stores merger referred for in-depth investigation**

On 21 February the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) announced that it would [refer the merger for a phase 2 investigation](#) unless Mole Valley offered acceptable proposals to address these concerns.

As the parties have not offered satisfactory undertakings, the CMA will now refer the merger.

A decision on the merger will be made by a group of independent panel members supported by a case team of CMA staff. The deadline for the final report is 20 August 2018.

Information relating to the investigation is available on the [case page](#).

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## **News story: Plans to cut excess calorie consumption unveiled**

Major steps to cut people's excessive calorie intake have been unveiled by Public Health England (PHE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), as part of the government's strategy to cut childhood and adult obesity.

The package includes:

- new evidence highlighting overweight or obese boys and girls consume up to 500 and 290 calories too many each day respectively
- a challenge to the food industry to reduce calories in products consumed by families by 20% by 2024
- the launch of the latest One You campaign, encouraging adults to consume 400 calories at breakfast, and 600 for lunch and dinner. This comes as adults consume 200 to 300 calories in excess each day

Too many children and most adults are overweight or obese, suffering consequences from bullying and low self-esteem in childhood, to type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers as adults. An obese parent is more

likely to have an obese child, who in turn is more likely to grow up into an obese adult.

Obesity affects us all, as it is a burden on the NHS and local authorities. The NHS spends around £6 billion a year treating obesity-related conditions. Obesity-related health problems also keep people out of work, stifling their earnings and wider economic productivity.

The government's challenge to the food industry is set out in Calorie reduction: the scope and ambition for action, published today, Tuesday 6 March 2018, by PHE. As with the [sugar reduction programme](#), the industry has 3 ways to reduce calories:

- change the recipe of products
- reduce portion size
- encourage consumers to purchase lower calorie products

Categories of food covered by the programme include pizzas, ready meals, ready-made sandwiches, meat products and savoury snacks.

If the 20% target is met within 5 years, more than 35,000 premature deaths could be prevented and around £9 billion in NHS healthcare and social care costs could be saved over a 25 year period.

The report also includes new data on children's daily calorie consumption. Depending on their age, overweight and obese boys consume between 140 to 500 calories too many each day and for girls, it is 160 to 290 when compared to those with healthy body weights. Adults consume on average 200 to 300 calories too many each day.

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of PHE, said:

The simple truth is on average we need to eat less. Children and adults routinely eat too many calories and it's why so many are overweight or obese.

Industry can help families by finding innovative ways to lower the calories in the food we all enjoy and promoting UK business leadership on the world stage in tackling obesity.

Steve Brine MP, Public Health and Social Care Minister, said:

There can be no doubt that obesity is now one of our greatest challenges – one that is fuelling an epidemic of preventable illnesses like type 2 diabetes and cancer. These not only shorten lives but put unsustainable pressure on our health service.

We have a responsibility to act, which is why we are supporting families to make the healthy choice. Our calorie reduction programme – the first of its kind from any country in the world – will continue to build on the progress of our world-leading childhood obesity plan, which has led to positive steps by industry.

The latest One You campaign aims to support people to be more calorie-aware when they are out and about with its simple tip 400-600-600. Aim for 400 calories at breakfast, and 600 for lunch and dinner. Major high street brands are partnering with PHE on the campaign, signposting to meals that meet the 400-600-600 tip. Total daily calorie intake recommendations remain at 2,000 for women and 2,500 for men.

Dr Alison Tedstone, chief nutritionist at PHE, said:

It's hard for people to make healthy food choices, whether for themselves or their families. That's why we are challenging the food industry to take 20% of the calories out of everyday foods, building on their good work on salt and promising announcements on sugar.

We are also working through our campaign and its partners, to give the public the information they need to help make those choices easier.

The 20% reduction target is the result of analysis of the new calorie consumption data, experience of sugar and salt reduction programmes, and more than 20 meetings with the food industry and stakeholders.

The next step in the programme involves engagement with the whole food industry such as retailers, manufacturers, major restaurant, café, takeaway, and delivery companies, and health and charity sectors, to develop category guidelines. These will be published in mid-2019.

## **Background**

For further information on the calorie reduction programme and One You nutrition campaign please contact:

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# Press release: International Development Secretary calls on the global community to 'end the cycle of crisis' in Somalia

Mothers tend to their children at a UNICEF health clinic in Somalia supported by UK aid. Photo credit: UNICEF

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt will tell an audience of global donors today that while swift action last year saved thousands of lives and held-off famine in Somalia, "the job is not yet done".

At an event co-hosted by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Development Secretary will praise the efforts of the international community in 2017 – but call for continued global support for the 5.4 million people in need living in Somalia.

Six years ago Somalia was ravaged by a deadly famine which killed 260,000 people – half of those who died were children.

With extreme weathers and an unprecedented fourth consecutive year of poor rain forecast for the country, Ms Mordaunt will today deliver the stark warning that half the population is still hungry and at risk of disease – and will call on global partners to generate innovative ideas for building long-term resilience to drought.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

Last year the UK stood up and called for international action at a landmark conference to agree critical help for the people of Somalia. Together, we helped avert a famine and saved thousands of lives.

But drought continues to haunt Somalia, where today half the population is hungry and at risk of disease. The job is not yet done.

Drought and famine do not have to go hand-in-hand. We must harness the potential of new ideas to build future-proof resilience against drought – and end the cycle of crisis.

We cannot let the world forget Somalia. It's not just the right thing to do – we are all less safe when hunger and poverty are free to feed extremism and mass irregular migration.

The International Development Secretary will today announce a further emergency package to get urgently needed medical, nutritional, health and livelihood support to the country, including to 54,000 children who will be treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition.

The package will be distributed before the end of March 2018, to ensure urgent delivery of these life-saving services.

UN humanitarian chief and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock said:

Last year, more than US\$90 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund were released to mitigate against the worsening food security situation in Somalia.

Thanks to generous and timely contributions from the UK and other donors, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund is this year already programming \$22 million for life-saving support. The CERF is also stepping up quickly with complementary, time-critical and life-saving funding which will help minimize further displacement of people in Somalia and other risks caused by the drought.

#### Notes to Editors:

Today's event, which is taking place at the Department for International Development, will be opened by International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt and Gamal Hassan, the Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Republic of Somalia. Harriett Baldwin, the Minister for Africa, will also be in attendance, as will Mark Lowcock, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Today's £24.6million funding package will be allocated as follows and will be spent before the end of March 2018, to ensure urgent delivery:

- 54,000 children will be treated for severe acute malnutrition;
- 157,480 people will receive emergency water and sanitation;
- 400,000 people will be treated by emergency health services, including cholera prevention, measles vaccination and life-saving primary health care services;
- 212,315 children and 53,333 pregnant and nursing mothers will receive treatment for moderate acute malnutrition;
- Multi-purpose cash transfers will be collected by 676,920 people;
- And 9,850 households will be able to support a harvest thanks to agricultural and pastoral livelihood support packages, including delivery of 300 water bladders and 500,000 animals in 25,000 households.

This £24.6million package from the Crisis Reserve Fund will be delivered through The United Nations World Food Programme, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Norwegian Refugee Council – this package announced today brings the total UK

contribution to the 2018 Humanitarian Response to £85.65million.

This includes the £21million announced by the Secretary of State in January, £40million already allocated within the DFID Somalia Country Programme, and an additional £24.6million made available today from the UK Government Crisis Reserve.

The Crisis Reserve was designed to enable the UK to scale up support in humanitarian crises such as this one.

The £21million announced in December and the emergency £25million from the Crisis Reserve will be released before the end of March – ensuring that funds are already available in the system to support early intervention.

All of these funds will be managed and disbursed through DFID's existing Somalia Humanitarian and Resilience Programme (SHARP).