

[Press release: Government's clean energy drive invests £35 million in innovative projects](#)

Speaking today (Tuesday 20 June) at the Rushlight Showcase, Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Claire Perry announced funding for 2 innovative clean energy projects which will create local investment opportunities across the country.

Rushlight, a leading provider of clean technology events in the UK, hosts the Summer Showcase which is sponsored by BEIS and Innovate UK. At the event, Claire Perry announced that £35 million funding, from the [BEIS Energy Innovation Programme](#), will go towards smart heating systems and innovation in using hydrogen as a potential heat source.

Under the new investment, £10 million will sponsor the second phase of work by the [Energy Systems Catapult](#) on its Smart Systems and Heat Programme. The programme will help develop local energy plans alongside Local Authorities, and bring down the cost of energy bills, while supporting the development of the UK's low carbon heating projects.

A further £25 million will be invested in potential uses of hydrogen gas for heating, testing the possibility of domestic gas pipes for hydrogen and developing a range of innovative hydrogen appliances such as boilers and cookers.

Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Claire Perry said:

The UK government is committed to leading the world in delivering clean energy technology and today's investment shows that we are prepared to support innovation in this critical area.

Our aim is for the UK to be a global leader in innovation, science and research and our Industrial Strategy will help us to deliver our ambitious CO2 reduction targets while, creating jobs and opportunities for people across the country.

This investment follows the government's commitment to double energy innovation investments set out in the Industrial Strategy green paper, to £400 million per year by 2021.

Philip New, Chief Executive of the Energy Systems Catapult, said:

This is very welcome. It is a reflection of the Energy Systems Catapult's growing track record in delivering challenging and

innovative programmes that have impact on some of the most intractable questions in the transformation of the energy system. Phase 2 will see our team working with others, building the foundations for innovative energy service business models, encouraging a new generation of energy service providers and testing new offers for British households.

More details of the BEIS Energy Innovation Programme and funding are available from the [GOV.UK Energy Innovation page](#).

1. The government is investing £34.8 million in energy innovation projects: £25 million will be invested in hydrogen gas for heating and £9.8 million will be invested in the Energy Systems Catapult on its Smart Systems and Heat Programme.

Press release: Innovative flood defence engineering on show at Leeds Waterfront Festival

Visitors to this year's Leeds Waterfront Festival will get the chance to see the innovative technology being used to reduce the risk of flooding to the city.

The Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme project team will be on hand at the event on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June, to explain what work has been done for phase 1 of the scheme in the city centre.

A model of a moveable weir will be demonstrated at the event, which is a replica of those installed in the River Aire at Crown Point next to Knightsway Bridge. The moveable weirs used for the project can be lowered in flood conditions to reduce river levels and the threat of flooding.

The Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme team will be hosting a stand at Armouries Way, Leeds, LS10 1JP (next to Leeds Dock) between the hours of 10am to 4pm, Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June.

The first phase of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme, led by Leeds City Council in partnership with the Environment Agency, aims to reduce the risk of flooding from the River Aire and Hol Beck for residents and businesses in the city centre. The scheme also includes flood risk reduction at Woodlesford.

Leader of Leeds City Council Councillor Judith Blake said:

This year's Leeds Waterfront Festival promises to be a great event for people of all ages. With the first phase of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme nearly finished, visitors to the festival will be able to get a unique insight into the technology involved through the virtual reality experience and the moveable weir to see how the system works to reduce the risk of flooding in the city centre. It is a simple but very clever approach and we look forward to seeing lots of people taking the chance to find out more about it as they enjoy the festival.

Rosa Foster, Strategic Partnerships & Projects Manager at the Environment Agency said:

This event is a great opportunity to demonstrate the moveable weirs before our work in the city centre comes to completion. This is the first time that moveable weirs are being used in the UK for a flood risk reduction scheme and we're excited to show everyone at this year's festival what's been achieved.

Visitors to the event will also get the chance to try out the virtual reality area, and wear headsets to view 360 degree footage from the construction phase of the project and see what it's like to work inside a cofferdam in the river. A cofferdam is a dry working area created in the river by driving in sheet piling. The last cofferdam is now in place while the final moveable weir is constructed.

The event will also see the launch of the 'Cones on the Waterfront' children's book written by Chris Madeley, a waterfront safety book following a group of cones characters as they navigate potential waterway hazards. The story includes waterway construction areas, and was written based on the work of the flood risk reduction scheme being built in Leeds.

Copies of the book, sponsored by Leeds Scheme contractors BAM Nuttall, will be available in exchange for a charitable donation for the Leeds Children's Charity. The author will also be there to sign copies of the book. There will also be live performances throughout the weekend event to explain the story behind the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The site works for Phase 1 of the Leeds Flood Alleviation scheme commenced in January 2015 and are scheduled to be completed this coming September. It is one of the largest river flood risk reduction schemes in the country which when complete will provide an increased level of protection from flooding from the River Aire and Hol Beck for residents and businesses in the city centre. The scheme also includes defences at Woodlesford.

The project team is currently working on options for Phase 2 of the scheme, which will adopt a catchment-wide approach meaning the entire River Aire catchment area will be considered to help reduce flood risk in Leeds. Consultation on potential options is due to be carried out from September.

Press release: Statement on the proposed Sky plc / 21st Century Fox Inc. merger

In a statement issued today, the Culture Secretary said:

Today I can confirm that following my intervention in the proposed acquisition of Sky plc by 21st Century Fox Inc., I have received reports from Ofcom on two public interest grounds, and the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) on jurisdiction, as set out in the European Intervention Notice (EIN) issued on 16th March 2017.

In addition, Ofcom has provided me with a copy of its separate fit and proper assessment which it carried out in accordance with its duty under the Broadcasting Acts 1990 and 1996, and which it confirmed on the 16th March would be considered within the same timeframe as the public interest assessment.

The EIN issued on 16th March required Ofcom to assess and report to me on two public interest grounds: 1) the need for there to be a plurality of persons controlling media enterprises; and 2) for those carrying on or in control of such enterprises to have a genuine commitment to the attainment of broadcasting standards objectives. It also required the CMA to report to me on jurisdiction.

The reports were originally due on the 16th May and, on the 21st April, I extended this deadline to 20th June in light of the announcement of the General Election.

The decision before me now, which I am required to take acting in a quasi-judicial capacity, is whether – taking account of the specified public interest grounds – it is, or may be the case, that the merger operates, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest and therefore whether or not to refer for a fuller phase 2 investigation by the CMA. I will consider these reports in detail before coming to an initial view on whether or not I am minded to refer the merger.

I will aim to make my initial ‘minded to’ decision, publish the CMA and Ofcom public interest reports – in line with the requirements under the Enterprise Act 2002 – and return to Parliament to make an oral statement by Thursday 29th June. There will then be an opportunity for representations to be made before I take a final decision.

In the meantime, given the ongoing quasi-judicial nature of this process, I am unable to comment substantively on the matter of this case. My priority remains – as it has throughout this proposed merger – to make my decision

independently, following a process that is scrupulously fair and impartial, and as quickly as possible.

Notes to Editors

1. The Culture Secretary intervened in the proposed acquisition of Sky plc by 21st Century Fox by issuing a European Intervention Notice (EIN) on Thursday 16th March. The EIN specified that reports on two public interest grounds by Ofcom and on jurisdiction by the CMA, should be submitted by Tuesday 16th May.
2. On 21st April the Culture Secretary extended this deadline to Tuesday 20th June due to the announcement of the General Election.
3. The reports from the CMA and Ofcom to the Culture Secretary will be published on our website by Thursday 29th June. Ofcom's separate fit and proper assessment will be published by them (on the same timetable).
4. All the received representations and statements detailing the process and requirements up till this point are available on the [DCMS website](#).

[News story: Hepatitis A among gay and bisexual men](#)

Public Health England (PHE) is urging gay and bisexual men to take extra precautions against infection of hepatitis A, as cases are increasingly reported in the community. Those attending World Pride in Madrid are encouraged to visit their genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinic to request the vaccine.

Those not travelling to World Pride are advised to ask about vaccination at their next sexual health check-up.

Hepatitis A is a highly infectious virus causing inflammation of the liver, with symptoms including vomiting, diarrhoea and a flu-like illness. While it can be transmitted through food or water contaminated with faeces, the recent cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) are believed to have been spread through oral or anal sex.

Those most at risk are MSM with multiple partners, while some cases have been linked to those visiting Spain and other European countries.

Cases are more prevalent in London. However, as people travel within the UK or further abroad this summer, it is feared more will be exposed to the virus.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at PHE, said:

Hepatitis A among gay and bisexual men is significantly higher than

usual, making it important to take extra care – especially if travelling to other countries. MSM and bisexual men are at highest risk and should ask about the hepatitis A vaccine next time they visit a GUM clinic.

The Spanish government has asked those attending the World Pride event in Madrid to get protected but there are some vaccine shortages locally. Therefore, those intending to travel should ask at their GUM clinics before they leave.

For those not vaccinated, infection can be avoided through careful hygiene during and after sex. The advice is to:

- wash your hands after sex (ideally buttocks, groin and penis too)
- use protection for fingering, rimming and fisting
- change condoms between anal and oral sex
- avoid sharing sex toys

Hepatitis A is usually mild, although it can last for several weeks and in some cases requires hospitalisation.

PHE is working with partners including Terrence Higgins Trust to raise awareness of the preventative measures, as well as symptoms of hepatitis A, to avoid further spread of the virus.

Cary James, Head of Health Improvement at Terrence Higgins Trust, said:

We're concerned about the outbreak of hepatitis A, a virus which affects the liver. Gay and bisexual men are particularly affected so we would urge them to follow PHE's advice around vaccination, be aware of the symptoms and follow the prevention advice.

By following these easy steps, you will stay protected and can enjoy a safe, healthy and happy Pride season.

Symptoms of Hep A can include:

- a short, mild, flu-like illness
 - nausea and vomiting
 - diarrhoea
 - loss of appetite
 - weight loss
 - jaundice (yellow skin and whites of eyes, darker yellow urine and pale faeces)
 - itchy skin
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Press release: Cabinet meeting statement: 20 June 2017

In this morning's Cabinet meeting, ministers discussed upcoming Parliamentary business, including tomorrow's Queen's Speech which heralds an historically important two-year session to help deliver the legislation for a successful Brexit.

Ministers also discussed the awful events of the past week. The Prime Minister expressed her appreciation of the police and emergency services for their bravery and professionalism.

On Grenfell Tower, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government updated Cabinet on the efforts to ensure everything is being done to help victims' families and other survivors, as well as looking ahead to the longer-term recovery effort. On the tragic incident at Finsbury Park, the Prime Minister and Home Secretary discussed the importance of ongoing government work in reviewing its Counter Terrorism Strategy and ensuring that police and security services have the powers they need.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer provided Cabinet with an update on the economy and public finances, emphasising the underlying strengths of the UK economy and setting out the importance of making the case for a market economy, sound money and growth as well as prioritising rising productivity.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland also provided an update to progress on talks to restore power-sharing institutions.