

Press release: James Brokenshire announces locations of UK's first Manufacturing Zones in the East Midlands

- £500,000 funding will support economic growth and new jobs in the Midlands Engine
- Space, food and drink, and advanced manufacturing sectors will be boosted
- Areas benefitting from new Manufacturing Zone status are located across the East Midlands from Lincolnshire to Leicester

Four projects, involved in the space industry, food sector, and the development of HS2, will form the new and innovative East Midlands Manufacturing Zones, Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP announced today (3 January 2019).

Melton Mowbray, Space Park Leicester, and areas across North Derbyshire and Greater Lincolnshire will together benefit from a total of £500,000 funding to develop their plans.

The investment builds on existing strengths in space, food and advanced manufacturing across the region, helping these important sectors to flourish and boost economic growth and jobs in the Midlands Engine.

The East Midlands Manufacturing Zones aim to reduce planning restrictions to allow land to be used more productively and provide certainty for business investment.

The announcement comes as the Secretary of State, who is also the government's Midlands Engine Champion, visits organisations across the East Midlands today to hear how they are contributing to a thriving region at the heart of the UK's economic success.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire said:

Manufacturing, innovation and trade are at the heart of the East Midlands economy, so it is the perfect place for the UK's first Manufacturing Zones.

This is another example of how the government's is delivering for the Midlands with our modern Industrial Strategy backing local businesses and building on local strengths.

The government's Midlands Engine strategy is supporting the East Midlands to

realise its huge potential. Initiatives including over £1.9 billion of funding from the Local Growth Fund and an investment of £20 million in the Midlands Skills Challenge to boost people's employment prospects are enabling businesses to create more jobs, export more goods and services and grow their productivity. Since 2010 unemployment has fallen 38% and there are 64,500 more small businesses.

The East Midlands has also received sustained investment in recent years, including more than £400 million for the strategic road network, more than £60 million to tackle congestion and improve local transport, and £10 million for the brand-new Ilkeston Station.

The Secretary of State is making the announcement in the East Midlands today with visits to Derby city council's rough sleeping accommodation, the East Midlands Airport, Norton Motorcycles and the National Space Centre.

In the Budget on 22 November 2017, the Chancellor announced an East Midlands Manufacturing Zone pilot, with a budget of £500,000 in 2018 to 2019.

Background on places forming the new East Midlands Manufacturing Zones:

Melton Mowbray – £75,000

The Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise partnership will create a Manufacturing Zone (MAZ) in and around Melton Mowbray. Three locations on the edge of the town, together with a centrally located site have been identified as suitable locations for a distinctive food and drink focused manufacturing zone.

The MAZ would help to sustain and grow food and drink manufacturing by providing an attractive portfolio of land combined and support for demand analysis and feasibility work such as master planning.

University of Leicester, Low Cost Access to Space – £50,000

The funding will support the design of the Low-Cost Access to Space facility, part of the planned Space Park Leicester, to ensure it is attractive and accessible to space focussed manufacturers in the area and meets their business needs.

The UK has a powerful innovative and growing Space sector with a turnover of £11.8 billion and GDP of £5.1 billion annually, forecast to be worth £40 billion by 2030. The government recognises that Space is both a strategic asset and an enormous opportunity and is targeting growth to share in the £400 billion global market from 6.5% to 10% by 2030 – a growth which will create and sustain an estimated 100,000 new jobs.

Manufacturing Zone status will build on The Space Park Leicester's Enterprise Zone and Space-based Science Park status.

Greater Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership – £155,000

The funding will accelerate the development of the food and advanced manufacturing industries across Lincolnshire and the South Humber Industrial Investment Programme area (Holbeach, Central Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire) with investment supporting projects to improve transport and utilities infrastructure.

The food sector in Greater Lincolnshire is valued at £3.5 billion with a particular strength in pre-prepared food. There are 75 large UK/international companies and 4,000 SMEs in the area.

The Northern Derbyshire Manufacturing Zone – £220,000

The funding will support the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership to develop the Northern Derbyshire Manufacturing Zone which aims accelerate development on 6 sites across 3 local authorities in northern Derbyshire (Bolsover, North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield). They all have a recognised manufacturing heritage and presence to enable the area to benefit from potential investment associated with the development and maintenance of HS2.

The North Derbyshire Manufacturing Zone aims to provide greater certainty on planning issues to unlock investment for growth by manufacturing businesses in the zone, ensuring more productive land-use and boosting investment and productivity in the area.

[News story: Home Secretary visits channel operations](#)

During a trip to Dover today (2 January 2019), Home Secretary Sajid Javid has thanked all those involved in the effort to tackle the increase in attempts by migrants to cross the Channel in small boats.

The Home Secretary, who announced on Monday (31 December 2018) that he would be redeploying 2 Border Force cutters from abroad to help patrol the Channel, met representatives from organisations including Border Force, Immigration Enforcement, the Kent Intake Unit and the National Crime Agency.

He said:

Border Force and others have been doing an incredibly good job in recent weeks to do everything they can to keep us safe, to protect our borders and to protect life. I want to thank them for what they are doing and to learn myself about the work they are undertaking.

The additional cutters, which will bring the number we have along the South East to 3 as well as 2 coastal patrol vessels, will make a big difference in fulfilling those 2 key functions – protecting the border and preserving life. The Channel – one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world – is an extremely treacherous stretch of water and we need to send a very clear message to people that if they embark on this journey, they are taking their life into their own hands.

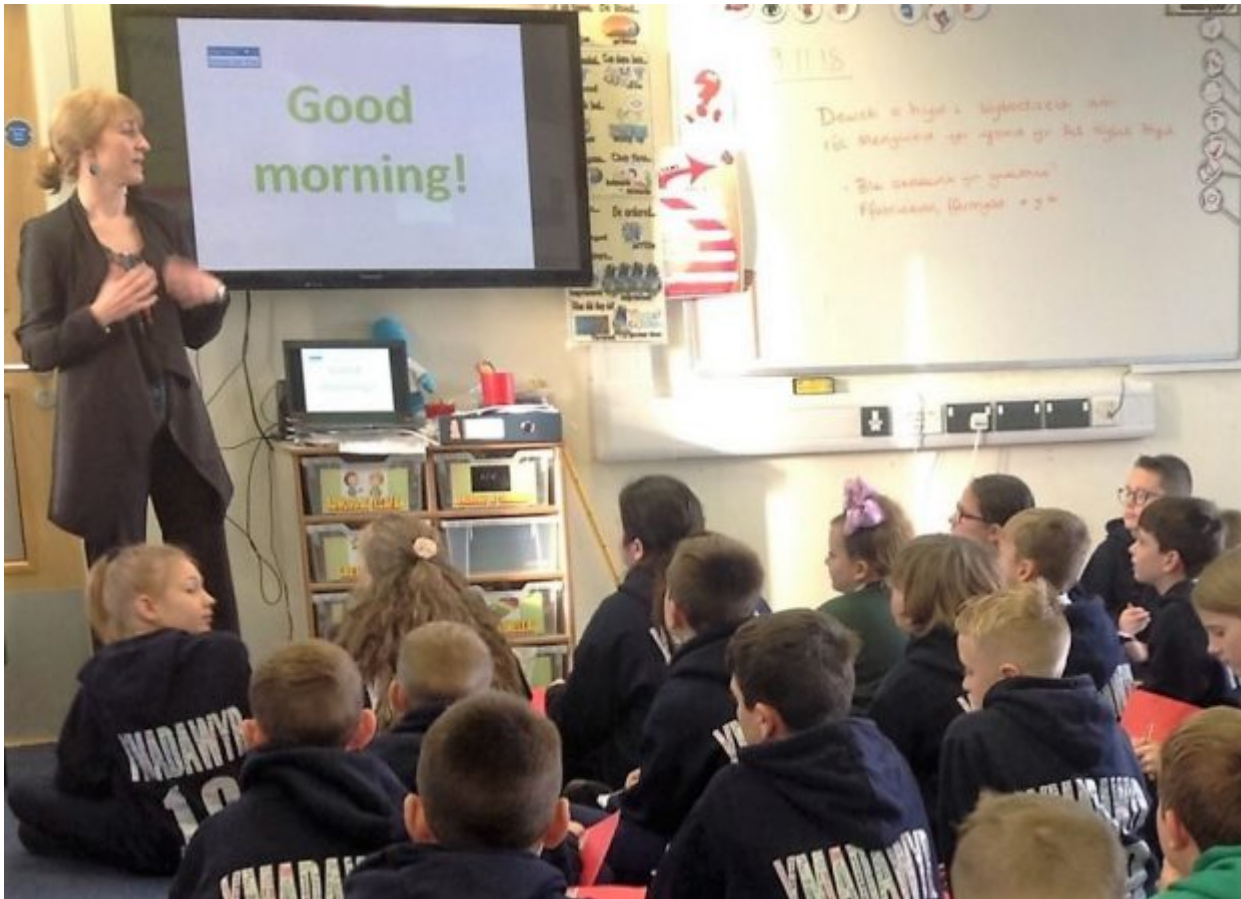
As part of the trip, the Home Secretary was taken out into the Channel on board one of the Border Force cutters. Officers provided an overview of the cutter's operational capabilities and first hand accounts of the dangers faced by people attempting to cross the Channel in vessels that are unfit for purpose.

Border Force has 5 cutters and 6 coastal patrol vessels and their deployment is kept under constant review. 2 coastal patrol vessels and 1 cutter, HMC Vigilant, are currently deployed in the Channel. 3 cutters, HMC Valiant, Seeker and Protector, are deployed overseas while HMC Searcher remains in UK waters. The UK will continue its commitment to the FRONTEX humanitarian mission by retaining a cutter in the Mediterranean.

[What I learned from teaching schoolchildren about DVLA](#)

They say never work with children (or animals). But Nicola Braun, of DVLA Vehicle Business Services, proved this wrong recently when she visited a class of local schoolchildren to tell them all about DVLA.

I've always been nervous about public speaking as I'm quite shy by nature. But when I was asked to give a presentation about the agency to around sixty 10 to 11 year olds, I jumped at the challenge!



How it happened

At my daughter's parents evening I was having a chat with her teacher when he asked me where I worked and what my role was. I explained [about DVLA and what we do](#) and talked a bit about my role in Vehicle Business Services.

He was really interested and asked if I'd like to present to year 6 pupils (including my daughter!) about my place of work and career. I immediately said yes. It's something I've always wanted to do – as well as helping the children to develop and learn about something new, I knew I'd learn a lot from it as well.

Getting started

I got the clearances I needed from work to go ahead, then I started on my presentation. I made sure I included the kind of stats and numbers which would help to keep my young audience's attention. For example, did you know that [last year](#) we issued more than 11 million driving licences? Or that our contact centre took around 14 million calls from customers? I felt it was important to get across the scale of what we do.

Presentation done, next it was on to the tricky bit...



New teacher nerves

Soon, it was 'Presentation Day'. That morning I felt sick with nerves, thinking 'Oh my gosh! I've never done this before, I hope I do well...' But as soon as I went into the classroom, my butterflies went. I introduced myself and began my presentation.

The children really seemed to be paying attention, as they were scribbling away and making notes of my slides. I had to slow down so they could capture all the information I was relaying.

I think it's important to teach children about staying on the right side of the law as early as possible, so I mentioned this in my presentation. Maybe the bit where I talked about the 'consequences of not abiding by the law' did the trick, as they gasped when I told them they could get a fine of up to £1,000 for not taxing a vehicle!

Any questions?

I was keen to make it a two-way presentation. I wanted the children to feel part of it, so we had a question and answer session next.

I was asked plenty of really good questions. "Do you enjoy your job?", "What did you want to be when you were in school?"... When I was asked "How long have you worked for DVLA?", I answered "17 years". I got a "Wow!" for that one.

The most popular question I asked the children was “What type of vehicle would you like to drive?” Nearly every hand went up. From Maseratis to limousines, I must say that they had great taste in vehicles!

When I finished and left the school, I was on cloud nine with a real sense of accomplishment. I’d faced up to my fears of speaking in front of large crowds of people, and spread the word about DVLA into the bargain.

The verdict

Was it worth it? Definitely! Not only did it help my confidence, but I hope I gave the children some tips on how to abide by the law when they grow up.

I would say to anyone thinking of doing something similar, if you ever get the chance to do something like this, give it a go. Chances are you could be speaking to your future customers, stakeholders or even colleagues.

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[Press release: Self Assessment deadline: less than one month to go](#)

Around 5,542,000 taxpayers have less than a month to complete their Self Assessment tax returns before the 31 January 2019 deadline.

More than 11.5 million 2017 to 2018 tax returns are due and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) expects the vast majority of taxpayers to complete their returns and pay any tax owed by the end of the month.

About 52% of taxpayers have already filed their returns, as of 31 December 2018, and more than 5 million have completed their returns online (88% of the total returns filed).

Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mel Stride, said:

It is encouraging that around 52% of taxpayers have already completed their Self Assessment tax returns. With less than one month to go before the deadline, there are still many people that need to act now.

HMRC is encouraging all Self Assessment filers to complete their returns by 31 January and is offering support every step of the way.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, said:

The Self Assessment deadline on 31 January is fast approaching, but there is still time for customers to file their tax returns online and on time to avoid any unnecessary penalties.

If you are completing Self Assessment for the first time or are yet to start your 2017 to 2018 tax return, there is a wide range of support and guidance available on GOV.UK to help at every stage of the tax return process.

For customers who are yet to start their 2017 to 2018 Self Assessment, there are [films and webinars](#) that show each stage of the process, with bespoke guidance for people's varying circumstances, including [a video](#) aimed at customers completing a tax return for the first time.

Help is also available on [GOV.UK](#), from the Self Assessment phone helpline (0300 200 3310), and on social media.

People need to complete a tax return if they:

- earned more than £2,500 from renting out property
- or their partner received Child Benefit and either of them had an annual income of more than £50,000
- received more than £2,500 in other untaxed income, for example from tips or commission
- are self-employed sole traders
- are employees claiming expenses in excess of £2,500
- have an annual income over £100,000
- earned income from abroad that they need to pay tax on

If customers completed a Self Assessment tax return last year but didn't have any tax to pay, they still need to complete a 2017 to 2018 tax return unless HMRC has written to them to say it is not required.

Self Assessment facts:

- 11,564,363 total Self Assessment returns due
- 6,022,579 returns received, as at 31 December 2018
- 5,541,784 returns still to file, as at 31 December 2018
- 5,318,636 returns, as at 31 December 2018, filed online (88% of total filed)
- 703,943 returns, as at 31 December 2018, filed on paper (12% of total filed)

The penalties for late tax returns:

- an initial £100 fixed penalty, which applies even if there is no tax to pay, or if the tax due is paid on time
- after 3 months, additional daily penalties of £10 per day, up to a maximum of £900
- after 6 months, a further penalty of 5% of the tax due or £300, whichever is greater
- after 12 months, another 5% or £300 charge, whichever is greater

There are also additional penalties for paying late of 5% of the tax unpaid at 30 days, 6 months and 12 months.

Tax is automatically deducted from the majority of UK taxpayers' wages, pensions or savings. For people or businesses where tax is not automatically deducted, or when they may have earned additional untaxed income, they are required to complete a Self Assessment tax return each year.

[Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Guinea in June 2019](#)

Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Guinea in June 2019 – GOV.UK

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Mr David McIlroy has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea in succession to Ms Catherine Inglehearn MBE. Mr McIlroy will take up his appointment in June 2019.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: David Thomas McIlroy

Married to: Victoria McIlroy

Children: Two

2016 to 2018 FCO, Deputy Head, Stabilisation Unit

2015 to 2016 FCO, Deputy Head of Department and Head of State Programmes Team, Counter Proliferation Department

2011 to 2015 Vienna, Deputy Permanent Representative, UK Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organisations

2009 to 2011 Cabinet Office (on loan from FCO), Secretariat, Iraq Inquiry

2007 to 2009 FCO, Head, Borders, Managed Migration, Multilateral and Development, Migration Directorate

2004 to 2007 Belgrade, Deputy Head of Mission and Consul-General

2002 to 2004 Full-time language training (Serbian)

2000 to 2002 FCO, Head of Gibraltar Section and Head of Justice and Home Affairs Section, European Union (Internal) Department

2000 Joined FCO

Further information

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Thank you for your feedback