

## News story: Secretary of State for Transport meets leaders from the haulage and logistics sector



The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling MP, Secretary of State for Transport, and Jesse Norman MP, Minister of State at the Department for Transport, yesterday hosted leaders from the haulage and logistics sector at Downing Street to discuss the benefits of the government's EU Exit Withdrawal Agreement for UK businesses and consumers.

A wide range of topics was discussed, including:

- the clarity and certainty provided by the Withdrawal Agreement
- the benefits of the implementation period in giving businesses sufficient time to prepare for our new relationship and allowing the UK time to negotiate a mutually beneficial road freight agreement with the EU
- the government and EU's intention to ensure comparable market access for freight and passenger road transport operators as part of a longer-term agreement with the EU

Addressing the attendees, the Secretary of State and Jesse Norman outlined a broad range of measures around the extensive preparations the department is taking to manage any impact on the haulage and logistics sector in the unlikely event of no deal with the EU.

A full list of attendees can be found below:

- Road Haulage Association
- Freight Transport Association
- Kuehne + Nagel
- Wincanton
- Simarco International
- PC Howard Group
- McCulla Ireland
- Malcolm Group
- The Institute of Grocery Distribution
- The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

- Food Storage and Distribution Federation
- British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association
- Amazon
- Eddie Stobart
- UPS
- St Vincent Holdings

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## [News story: £1 billion of funding to upgrade NHS services in England](#)



The Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock has announced £963 million of extra funding for health facilities across England.

Stopping sending money to the EU after EU Exit means we can invest more in domestic priorities including our NHS.

A total of 75 projects will receive funding to upgrade facilities so that more people can be treated and more can be done to prevent ill-health in the first place.

Projects that will receive a share of the funding include:

- a new emergency department in Walsall
- a multimillion-pound eye care facility in London
- a major expansion of mental health services in Newcastle, Gateshead and Liverpool

Almost £800 million of the funding will go to projects outside London in order to improve access to care across the country.

The investment comes ahead of the launch of the government's long-term plan for the NHS. The long-term plan is the biggest ever funding increase for the NHS and will see its budget increase by £20.5 billion every year by 2023 to

2024.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

We want even more patients to receive world-class care in world-class NHS facilities and this near billion-pound boost – one of the most substantial capital funding commitments ever made – means that the NHS can do just that for years to come.

This will not only support dedicated staff through the redevelopment and modernisation of buildings, but it will allow additional services to launch for the first time, improving patients' access to care in their local area as part of our long-term plan for the NHS.

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Last updated 17 December 2018 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 17 December 2018 Added list of projects to receive funding to improve facilities.
2. 7 December 2018 First published.

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## [News story: UK takes top spot in fight against dirty money](#)

The UK is leading the world in the fight against illicit finance, according to [the Financial Action Task Force's \(FATF\) report](#) published today (Friday 7 December 2018).

FATF, the global standard-setter for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing, gave the UK its highest possible rating for measures including how the UK tackles terrorist financing, and its use of financial sanctions against terrorists. This means out of the 60 countries assessed, the UK has one of the toughest anti-money laundering regimes in the world; stronger than any other country assessed to date.

John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister said:

There is absolutely no place for dirty money or the people that launder it in our country, so I am incredibly proud that today's report confirms that the UK has one of the strongest regimes in the world for deterring these criminals.

Our law enforcement agencies and our regulators have done an exceptional job at bringing the fight to the terrorists and crooks, but there is always more we can do. That's why we will continue to improve our defences and work with our international partners to find, disrupt, and prosecute anyone dealing in illicit money.

Ben Wallace, Minister for Security and Economic Crime said:

The UK has taken a leading role in the global fight against illicit finance. I'm delighted with today's report which shows our efforts are being recognised, and sends a strong message to criminals that we will come for them, their assets and their money.

We will use all the powers and tactics we have, as set out in the new Serious and Organised Crime Strategy, to drive money launderers out of the UK and clamp down on those that threaten our security. The strategy sets out how we are working with the private sector, the public and international partners on our integrated and powerful response.

As one of the largest and most important financial centres in the world, it's vital that the UK has the right controls to ensure that money passing through its complex financial system is legitimate. Other UK controls and practises praised within FATF's 'Mutual Evaluation Report' include:

- aggressively investigating and prosecuting money laundering, with over 1,400 convictions a year, and adopting new tools such as Unexplained Wealth Orders
- using all means at its disposal to disrupt terrorist financing, including criminal justice measures (with over 100 convictions over the last three years for relevant offences), confiscating funds, and using financial sanctions
- preventing the misuse of companies and trusts, acting as a global leader by adopting a public register of company beneficial ownership and a register of trusts with tax consequences
- working with international partners to tackle illicit finance, through a strong legal framework and a liaison network spanning over 160 jurisdictions

To maintain its world leading status, the UK government is redoubling its efforts in the fight against economic crime by establishing a new unit within the National Crime Agency, focused entirely on fighting dirty money. The new National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) will for the first time bring together law enforcement agencies, government departments, regulatory bodies, and the private sector, to fight dirty money. It will have access to an expansive range of intelligence tools and capabilities to ensure economic crime is dealt with quickly and effectively.

## Further information

The UK received the highest possible rating (“High level of effectiveness”) in FATF’s report in these areas:

1. Taking significant steps to understand the threat of illicit finance, and coordinating responses to these threats (“Immediate Outcome 1”)
2. Using all available measures to disrupt terrorist financing, including criminal justice measures, confiscating funds, and using financial sanctions (“Immediate Outcome 9”)
3. Promoting effective global use of financial sanctions against terrorists and against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (“Immediate Outcomes 10 and 11”)

The UK received the second-highest possible rating (“Substantial level of effectiveness”) in these areas:

1. Working with international partners to tackle illicit finance (“Immediate Outcome 2”)
2. Aggressively investigating and prosecuting money laundering (“Immediate Outcome 7”)
3. Preventing the misuse of companies and trusts (“Immediate Outcome 5”)
4. Confiscation of the proceeds of crime (“Immediate Outcome 8”)

The UK will report back to FATF in five years, and will set out its response to the recommendations in the FATF report in due course.

In addition, the government has already committed to:

1. Regulating virtual currencies for AML/CTF purposes by the end of 2019, to tackle emerging risks in the sector
2. Reforming the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime, to further improve the use of financial intelligence in the UK
3. Taking appropriate action on mitigating the threats posed by limited partnerships, pending the outcome of a consultation by BEIS, and looking at controls over who registers companies in the UK, what information they have to provide, and how assurance is provided over that information
4. Continuing the use of powers implemented under the Criminal Finances Act 2017, including Unexplained Wealth Orders to investigate suspicious financial activity in its fight against ML

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**[News story: Defence Secretary says DASA is ‘shining example’ of defence](#)**

# innovation

DASA is tasked to find and fund exploitable innovations to support UK defence and security quickly and effectively, and support UK prosperity. The cross-Government organisation launched in December 2016 under the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

In the first two years DASA has:

- Run 26 innovation competitions
- Assessed 1,461 proposals from creative companies and individuals
- Invested £42.1 million in 278 projects

Approximately 40 per cent of proposals are from 'new to DASA' organisations; demonstrating how DASA reaches out beyond traditional suppliers to find innovative people with great ideas, products or services. Over 50 per cent of this funding has gone to small and medium-sized enterprises.

DASA not only funds UK innovators, but also helps businesses to grow and develop, giving them access to networks of expertise and providing them with technical support. DASA connects these businesses to frontline services such as the armed forces and police, as well as aviation security, transport security, and counter-terrorism. Such access has allowed innovations to be tested in real-life situations, rapidly accelerating the innovation process.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

DASA is a shining example of how we are responding to the rapid pace of evolving technology. This excellent organisation harnesses ingenious innovation ideas from across the private sector and collaborates widely across academia, industry and the military.

DASA is maintaining our military edge over adversaries by driving revolutionary ideas in Artificial Intelligence, human-machine teaming and surveillance.

DASA provides stimulus and support for companies on their innovation journey. The organisation guides technology from proof of concept to highly developed products.

DASA brings together the private sector, academia and government organisations to co-create pioneering solutions to address defence and security challenges. They are not confined to working with science and technology; DASA also partners with behavioural and social sciences on better ways of working.

One of the current bodies of work underway with DASA is a collaboration with

the Australian Government. This is a themed competition calling for companies to submit ideas on innovative joining technologies that will accelerate the integration of advanced materials onto military platforms.

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## [Press release: Swindon court users to benefit from £2.6m government investment](#)



Refurbishment works have been carried out at Swindon Magistrates Court and Swindon Combined Court. The renovations will provide a more comfortable environment for court users and additional space for staff to carry out their duties and is part of HMCTS' commitment to improving the condition of court buildings and access to justice for all users.

The investment will also allow the courts to manage an increased workload and accommodate additional numbers of office staff, following the reallocation of cases from Chippenham Magistrates' and Civil Court. New facilities now available as a result of this funding include:

- additional hearing rooms and judicial chambers;
- kitchen facilities and new furniture;
- fully refurbished office areas; and
- a new public waiting room.

Justice Minister, Lucy Frazer said:

I'm delighted court users in Swindon are already benefiting from this significant government investment. Court appearances can often come at difficult and emotional times in a person's life, and so we are committed to making our estate as efficient and comfortable as possible.

Our justice system is one of the greatest in the world and we are determined to ensure it is fit for the 21st century.

Solicitor General and MP for Swindon South, Robert Buckland said:

Having pressed hard for Swindon on this issue, I warmly welcome these vital improvements to our Magistrates and Combined Courts, which will be of real benefit to the public and to the hardworking court staff too. HMCTS' ambitious £1bn reform programme is bringing new technology and modern ways of working to the justice system.

This programme has already delivered:

- A new fully accessible online civil money claims service giving the public the ability to make a small claim online – with more than 35,000 claims made since its launch in March and user satisfaction at 90%;
- A new system for applying for divorce online, which has cut errors in application forms from 40% to less than 1%;
- A new probate system in testing, which has cut errors, quickened the process and has a user satisfaction rate of 93%;
- A pilot of fully video hearings in tax tribunals to test the potential for roll-out where appropriate across the courts and tribunals system;
- The national implementation of a new in-court system to record the results of cases digitally and instantly.

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