

[Press release: Women and girls set to benefit from £15 million Tampon Tax Fund](#)

Thousands of women from across the UK will benefit from £15 million from the latest round of the Tampon Tax Fund, the Minister for Sport and Civil Society Tracey Crouch announced today.

Projects that tackle sexual violence, address social exclusion among BAME women and improve mental health and wellbeing will receive funding over the next two years. The money will also be used to make grants to smaller organisations so they can deploy services that support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged women and girls in the country.

Tracey Crouch, Minister for Sport and Civil Society, said:

The money generated from sanitary products is being invested in good causes that tackle the serious issues that women of all ages face. It will be used to support vulnerable women and girls and help build a Britain fit for the future.

The ten projects receiving funding from this round of the Tampon Tax are:

[UK Community Foundations](#) £3,400,000 – The Tribewoman project will support vulnerable and excluded women by making onward grants to smaller charities across the UK

[Arhag Housing Association](#) £1,040,000 – The BME Women Hub project will alleviate poverty and social exclusion among women in England

[Brook Young People](#) £1,500,000 – The ‘Let’s Talk. Period.’ project will aim to address period poverty in England.

[Rape Crisis England & Wales](#) £1,400,000 – This digital transformation project is a new approach to tackling sexual violence delivered through member Rape Crisis Centres In England

[Women’s Aid Federation of England](#) £1,509,850 – The ‘Ask Me’ project will improve the community response to domestic abuse across the UK and includes onward grants opportunities

[Hestia Housing and Support](#) £1,000,000 – The ‘Tools for the Job’ pilot project aims to transform the way that employers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland deal with domestic abuse, by improving their HR policies and delivering awareness raising for staff.

[The RCJ & Islington Citizens Advice Bureaux](#) £1,090,488 – The FLOWS project

will provide online-tools to improve the capacity of front-line domestic-violence agencies in England to provide legal support to women and children

[Mind](#) £1,785,554 – This project will increase the provision of mental health peer support for women experiencing, and at risk of, mental health problems and includes onward grant programme in England and Wales

[St. Giles Trust](#) £1,077,158 – The ‘Footsteps’ project aims to improve service provision to women in the Criminal Justice System in England with mental health and complex support needs

[One Parent Families Scotland](#) £1,049,590 – This Scotland only project will offer a free support and counselling service for the most disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised women most in need.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1) Over 70 charities are already receiving grants through previous rounds of the fund, with a total of £32m of funding having been announced since Autumn Statement 2015. This latest funding brings the total investment awarded from the Tampon Tax Fund to £47m.

2) The government is committed to continuing the fund until EU rules allow a zero rate of VAT to be applied to women’s sanitary products. A decision will be made on the future of the Fund once this has been achieved. Current EU laws prohibits any Member State from applying a new zero rate of VAT. We therefore currently apply the lowest rate we can to these products (5%).

[Press release: Animal welfare enhanced by new code for meat chickens](#)



[A welfare code for meat chickens](#) has been updated today as part of a programme of reforms to safeguard and enhance the welfare of animals.

Strengthened statutory guidance is now in place for meat chicken keepers on how to meet the needs of their animals and improve their welfare.

This welfare code has been updated to reflect the very latest advice from vets and animal husbandry developments, as part of a programme of reforms to safeguard and enhance the welfare of animals, the Minister for animal welfare, Lord Gardiner announced today.

Minister for Animal welfare Lord Gardiner said:

We have some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and are going further in a number of areas, including by raising maximum sentences for animal cruelty to five years and introducing mandatory CCTV in abattoirs.

This code was carefully consulted on with industry experts, and uses the most recent scientific and veterinary advice to ensure this clear guidance provides the best advice to owners and keepers to help ensure and enhance the high welfare standards of their animals.

The updated meat chicken code incorporates guidance to reflect new regulations in force since publication of the previous code, including:

- Specific provisions on staff training
- Stocking density, and
- Follow-up at slaughterhouses

Máire Burnett, Technical Director from British Poultry Council, said:

We welcome the new statutory code of practice for welfare of meat chickens and meat breeding chickens that reflects the high welfare standards followed by British poultry meat farmers, breeders and veterinarians. The new code is intended to help all those who care for meat chickens and meat breeding chickens to practise good biosecurity and maintain welfare standards required to comply with legislation.

The British poultry meat sector is committed to continuous improvement and will carry on following welfare science as it progresses. We look forward to continue working with Defra to further enhance welfare codes for turkeys and ducks to reflect industry best practice.

The updated code also provides more detailed guidance on biosecurity, leg health and enriching the environment for chickens.

The code will be used by enforcement bodies including [Animal and Plant Health](#)

[Agency](#) inspectors and local authorities when investigating allegations of poor welfare to look at whether animal welfare standards are being met.

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[News story: Top universities urged to open new maths schools](#)

Top universities in England can now apply to open specialist 16-19 maths schools to help more young people learn from the best mathematicians in the country, School Standards Minister Nick Gibb announced today.

Maths is one of the most in-demand skills in the labour market and it is already the most popular subject at A level, with almost 25% of students choosing to study it. The government is determined, through its [Industrial Strategy](#), to increase the number of young people studying maths, helping them to secure good jobs and boosting the UK economy.

Two maths schools – King’s College London and Exeter Mathematics School – are already achieving outstanding results. In 2017 98% of King’s mathematics students achieved an A or A* in A level mathematics, for Exeter this was 75%.

Ofsted has also singled out both schools for recruiting students from disadvantaged backgrounds who had not previously had the opportunity to fulfil their potential in mathematics.

To spread that excellence across the country, the government wants top universities to establish more of these specialist schools. It is providing £350,000 dedicated funding each year to existing and future schools to support outreach work with local schools and colleges, sharing their specialist skills, helping to raise standards and get more children studying maths.

School Standards Minister Nick Gibb said:

We want more students to study maths as it can open up a wide range of options for future study, training and work.

Thanks to Government reforms and the hard work of teachers 1.9 million more pupils are in good or outstanding schools than in

2010. We have also introduced a more rigorous maths curriculum and now have record numbers studying maths at A level.

The success of existing maths schools shows the value of tapping into the expertise of our world-class universities. We now want more institutions to follow the lead of King's and Exeter and help our most talented students, regardless of background and gender.

Minister for the School System Lord Agnew said:

I recently visited King's maths school and was humbled by the students I met there – their ambition and ability is inspiring. These innovative schools are giving the mathematicians of tomorrow – many from disadvantaged backgrounds – the opportunity to take their talents to the next level. We want more leading universities to open these schools and help encourage more young people across the country to study maths at A level and beyond.

King's College London Mathematics School has 140 pupils currently studying for A levels in maths and further maths as well as other maths related subjects. Last year's average A level result was A+. At Exeter Mathematics School, there are 120 pupils studying these qualifications and achieving excellent results. Both schools have close links to their universities which support the schools and provide teaching from their top mathematicians.

Professor the Baroness Alison Wolf, founding governor of King's College London Mathematics School said:

Setting up the maths school has been a wonderful experience for King's. It has brought people together from right across the university, and enabled us to serve London and society in new ways. And we bask in reflected glory from the students' achievements.

Professor Janice Kay, who was instrumental in setting up Exeter Mathematics School said:

Exeter Mathematics School has been a fantastic success story. The Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' school is also delivering outstanding results for its students: over 50% of its latest graduating cohort obtained places at Russell Group institutions.

Promoting maths participation and skills development in the region, a strong social mobility focus, increasing the number of young women mathematicians and developing outreach are founding

principles. University staff have been integrally involved and in partnership with the School, Exeter College and industry, we have been able to do more to nurture and inspire the next generation of mathematicians and scientists.

Charlie Stripp, Chief Executive of Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) Chief and Director of the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics said:

The expansion of the Maths Schools programme will extend opportunities to students with a passion and talent for mathematics, whatever their background, to develop their potential and access the most prestigious maths-related university degree courses. Linking with the Maths Hubs and the Level 3 Maths Support Programme, and building on the success of the Exeter and King's College Maths Schools, the new schools will enhance our national provision of maths education.

[News story: Pothole fund boosted to repair roads after winter damage](#)

Local roads badly affected by recent winter weather will benefit from a further £100 million to help repair any potholes and other storm damage, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced today (26 March 2018).

This money will help repair almost 2 million potholes as well as help protect the roads from any future severe weather.

This is on top of the £75 million in government funding already given to councils from the Pothole Action Fund this year, as well as the additional £46 million boost for highways authorities announced just before Christmas. Around 7 million potholes will be filled due to this money, announced in the 2016 Budget.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:

People rely on good roads to get to work and to see friends or family.

We have seen an unusually prolonged spell of freezing weather which has caused damage to our local roads.

We are giving councils even more funding to help repair their roads

so all road users can enjoy their journeys without having to dodge potholes.

Already, £2.5 million has been allocated to Devon County Council to quickly repair the A379 which was badly damaged by Storm Emma.

The government is also investing more than £900,000 in innovations using connected vehicles to help councils more efficiently manage and plan maintenance works. These trials will ultimately help provide councils with data to enable them to repair potholes before they occur as well as maintain their other assets more effectively as part of their asset management plans. This will help prevent further potholes and other road defects occurring over time.

Blackpool Council has been given £100,000 to lead on a digital inspector scheme with 8 councils. This will see high definition cameras mounted on vehicles to collect data on road and path conditions, which is then analysed by computers to highlight where roads are deteriorating. The City of York will also get £72,000 to use a similar system to build on its pothole spotter trial.

Transport for the West Midlands, West Sussex County Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Croydon Council and Southampton City Council have also been awarded funding for road condition monitoring innovations. Swindon Borough Council will trial the use of smartphone sensors to collate road conditions and Essex County Council will work with Daimler to use information collected by its cars. Derby City Council and Oxfordshire County Council will use connected vehicles to collect data on the condition of road signs.

Westminster City Council will trial the use of cameras to provide real-time updates so people can locate parking spaces easier.

The department is also providing £30,000 to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) to work on technological and innovative improvements to future-proof the local road network.

This fund is on top of the record £6 billion the government is providing local authorities between 2015 and 2021 to maintain and improve their roads.

Area	Name	Pothole/flood resilience funding £97.5 million allocation (£)
North East	North East CA	4,533,373
North West	Greater Manchester CA	2,882,002
North West	Liverpool City Region CA	1,860,126
Yorkshire and The Humber	Sheffield City Region CA	1,364,732
Yorkshire and The Humber	West Yorkshire CA	3,107,703
West Midlands	West Midlands ITA	1,702,946

Area	Name	Pothole/flood resilience funding £97.5 million allocation (£)
North East	County Durham UA	1,296,639
North East	Darlington UA	185,229
North East	Hartlepool UA	136,775
North East	Middlesbrough UA	147,147
North East	Northumberland UA	1,849,720
North East	Redcar and Cleveland UA	246,208
North East	Stockton-on-Tees UA	270,003
North East	Gateshead	279,456
North East	Newcastle upon Tyne	296,781
North East	North Tyneside	265,372
North East	South Tyneside	183,836
North East	Sunderland	361,570
North West	Blackburn with Darwen UA	178,365
North West	Blackpool UA	146,983
North West	Cheshire East UA	1,081,305
North West	Cheshire West and Chester UA	892,090
North West	Halton UA	212,684
North West	Warrington UA	325,886
North West	Cumbria	2,859,217
North West	Bolton	318,470
North West	Bury	200,241
North West	Manchester	438,956
North West	Oldham	269,365
North West	Rochdale	247,494
North West	Salford	268,154
North West	Stockport	297,212
North West	Tameside	228,036
North West	Trafford	244,119
North West	Wigan	369,956
North West	Lancashire	2,393,218
North West	Knowsley	215,689
North West	Liverpool	481,702
North West	Sefton	311,440
North West	St. Helens	259,687
North West	Wirral	378,923
Yorkshire and The Humber	East Riding of Yorkshire UA	1,251,395
Yorkshire and The Humber	Kingston upon Hull, City of UA	205,595
Yorkshire and The Humber	North East Lincolnshire UA	223,298

Area	Name	Pothole/flood resilience funding £97.5 million allocation (£)
Yorkshire and The Humber	North Lincolnshire UA	529,807
Yorkshire and The Humber	York UA	256,632
Yorkshire and The Humber	North Yorkshire	3,285,049
Yorkshire and The Humber	Barnsley	412,485
Yorkshire and The Humber	Doncaster	541,934
Yorkshire and The Humber	Rotherham	410,314
Yorkshire and The Humber	Sheffield	0
Yorkshire and The Humber	Bradford	595,461
Yorkshire and The Humber	Calderdale	385,751
Yorkshire and The Humber	Kirklees	629,186
Yorkshire and The Humber	Leeds	989,926
Yorkshire and The Humber	Wakefield	507,378
East Midlands	Derby UA	230,810
East Midlands	Leicester UA	260,236
East Midlands	Nottingham UA	242,057
East Midlands	Rutland UA	213,766
East Midlands	Derbyshire	2,035,992
East Midlands	Leicestershire	1,560,176
East Midlands	Lincolnshire	3,457,324
East Midlands	Northamptonshire	1,630,762
East Midlands	Nottinghamshire	1,635,629
West Midlands	Herefordshire, County of UA	1,252,647
West Midlands	Shropshire UA	1,858,807
West Midlands	Stoke-on-Trent UA	271,391
West Midlands	Telford and Wrekin UA	347,983
West Midlands	Staffordshire	2,203,545
West Midlands	Warwickshire	1,415,650
West Midlands	Birmingham	0
West Midlands	Coventry	276,480
West Midlands	Dudley	331,366
West Midlands	Sandwell	313,551

Area	Name	Pothole/flood resilience funding £97.5 million allocation (£)
West Midlands	Solihull	278,680
West Midlands	Walsall	261,690
West Midlands	Wolverhampton	241,180
West Midlands	Worcestershire	1,627,557
East of England	Bedford UA	305,589
East of England	Central Bedfordshire UA	495,565
East of England	Luton UA	130,996
East of England	Peterborough UA	334,006
East of England	Southend-on-Sea UA	142,545
East of England	Thurrock UA	213,231
East of England	Cambridgeshire	1,608,546
East of England	Essex	2,602,886
East of England	Hertfordshire	1,801,196
East of England	Norfolk	3,448,743
East of England	Suffolk	2,454,918
South East	Bracknell Forest UA	174,074
South East	Brighton and Hove UA	188,705
South East	Isle of Wight UA	0
South East	Medway UA	280,565
South East	Milton Keynes UA	389,883
South East	Portsmouth UA	154,934
South East	Reading UA	134,681
South East	Slough UA	91,408
South East	Southampton UA	190,285
South East	West Berkshire UA	467,317
South East	Windsor and Maidenhead UA	240,894
South East	Wokingham UA	282,055
South East	Buckinghamshire	1,187,081
South East	East Sussex	1,177,912
South East	Hampshire	2,956,522
South East	Kent	3,058,239
South East	Oxfordshire	1,831,494
South East	Surrey	1,878,063
South East	West Sussex	1,594,870
South West	Bath and North East Somerset UA	379,059
South West	Bournemouth UA	157,232
South West	Bristol, City of UA	357,387
South West	Cornwall UA	2,572,746
South West	North Somerset UA	383,954
South West	Plymouth UA	228,539

Area	Name	Pothole/flood resilience funding £97.5 million allocation (£)
South West	Poole UA	173,296
South West	South Gloucestershire UA	504,258
South West	Swindon UA	270,224
South West	Torbay UA	163,108
South West	Wiltshire UA	1,811,343
South West	Devon*	4,446,606
South West	Dorset	1,490,177
South West	Gloucestershire	1,998,120
South West	Somerset	2,437,335

*Devon will also receive £2.5 million for the A379 road repairs as announced by the Prime Minister on 7 March 2018.

[News story: Yemen needs inclusive peace talks, UK says as conflict enters its fourth year](#)

The Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, and International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, have issued a statement on Yemen:

Today, as the Saudi-led Coalition's intervention in Yemen enters its fourth year, we call on all parties to return to the negotiating table to find an inclusive political solution that delivers the peaceful future the people of Yemen deserve.

The humanitarian crisis triggered by the conflict has left over 22 million people in need of assistance. In the last eight months alone, an additional one million people found themselves without the necessities such as food and medicines that they need to survive.

With the rainy season fast approaching, the crisis could be made even worse if there is another surge in the cholera outbreak – the number of suspected cases reported over the last year is already well over one million.

The UK has been at the forefront of the international response and is the third largest humanitarian donor to Yemen. We are delivering life-saving interventions including food for 3.4 million people, nutrition support to 1.7 million people, and clean water and sanitation for an expected 1.2 million people. UK aid is also funding a new cholera response programme that aims to

vaccinate 1.1 million people against the preventable disease.

But without de-escalation and a political settlement millions of civilians risk starvation. Saudi Arabia has the right to defend itself against security threats including missiles launched from Yemen, and we support the Saudi-led Coalition's efforts to restore legitimacy in Yemen, as accepted by the UN Security Council. We have worked hard with Saudi Arabia and other international partners to strengthen the UN shipping inspection mechanism to ensure that all ports can remain open to all commercial and humanitarian supplies. All sides must redouble their support for the UN's efforts to reach an inclusive political settlement which addresses the root causes of the conflict. We welcome the appointment of the new UN Special Envoy, Martin Griffiths, who brings with him extensive experience in conflict resolution.

A UN Panel of Experts has concluded that Iran is in non-compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions for failing to take measures to prevent the supply of Iranian-made ballistic missiles to the Houthis. If Iran is genuinely committed to supporting a political solution in Yemen – as it has publicly stated – then it should stop sending in weapons which prolong the conflict, fuel regional tensions, and pose threats to international peace and security. We question why Iran is spending significant revenue in a country with which it has no real historical ties or interests, rather than using its influence to end the conflict for the good of the Yemeni people.

We call upon countries of the region and the international community to redouble their efforts in support of this goal, and for parties to the conflict to allow unhindered commercial and humanitarian access throughout Yemen, including for fuel, and for the Government of Yemen to pay public sector salaries across the country. We will continue to play our part in restoring the peace and security needed for Yemenis to resume normal lives.