

# [Press release: Highways England encourages young people into engineering](#)

The company is using its presence at the Big Bang Fair 2018 to encourage young people to take up three challenges to test their engineering skills.

One is a gaming challenge asking 11-14 year olds how they would connect two separated communities.

A second invites young Fair visitors to try their hand at being a Traffic Officer, and the third tests their maths skills to work out the right speed limits to use on motorways to keep traffic moving smoothly.

Highways England's Early Talent Specialist Charlotte Potter said:

Engineering is an exciting career and we are encouraging more children to become the engineers of the future. Our three challenges on our stand at the Big Bang Fair show the variety of work we do, from major projects to connect communities to the daily job of keeping our roads flowing. We hope young people will be inspired by the variety of roles we offer and look to Highways England as an employer.

A Big Bang Fair visitor tries one of the challenges at the Highways England stand

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair, taking place until 17 March at the NEC, Birmingham, is a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people in the UK, attracting thousands of visitors each year.

Highways England needs a continuing pipeline of young engineers to help deliver the massive investment planned for the country's motorways and major A-roads, benefitting the economy and improving people's lives. Over the next few months the company will be taking on 75 apprentices and 35 graduates.

## **Simulator**

A Big Bang Fair visitor experiences the Highways England simulator

The Highways England driver simulator will test participants' awareness skills as they use this technology and real-life scenarios to experience life on the road. Could they make it as a Traffic Officer to access the incident safely and quickly?

## Connecting Communities

Highways England has developed a gaming challenge for children to try and solve. The task is a classic engineering problem; connecting two separated communities with either a bridge or tunnel. But how will they do it?

## Variable Speed Limits

Highways England has devised a maths-based activity around traffic flow data to demonstrate how variable speed limits are needed on motorways to smooth the flow of traffic.

To find out more about the roles, apprenticeships or graduate placements within Highways England, and sign up for e-mail alerts visit [Highways England's careers homepage](#).

## General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

## Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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## [News story: New IP and trade toolkits for SMEs](#)



IP connect is the Intellectual Property Office media service.

The production of the toolkits followed a meeting of the UK – US Trade and Investment Working Group in November 2017.

The Working Group, which will meet for the third time later this month, works to deepen current trade and investment ties between the two nations. It lays

the groundwork for a potential, future free trade agreement once the United Kingdom leaves the European Union.

SMEs are the lifeblood of the UK economy and trade in IP is an increasingly important part of UK business activity. The UK's global exports of intellectual property services totalled £11.5 billion in 2015. At the start of 2017, 99.9% of private sector businesses in the UK were SMEs. These toolkits will provide information to SMEs to encourage trade between our two countries.

The following toolkits are available:

The IPO would welcome your views on the toolkits and ways in which they could be used. Our trade team can be contacted at [IPOTrade@ipo.gov.uk](mailto:IPOTrade@ipo.gov.uk).

Published 16 March 2018

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## **[Press release: PM call with Prime Minister Turnbull: 16 March 2018](#)**

The Prime Minister spoke to the Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, this morning about the attack on Sergei Skripal and his daughter and the reckless endangerment of the British public through the use of a military grade nerve agent developed by Russia.

Prime Minister Turnbull said he joined the Prime Minister in her condemnation of the appalling act and expressed his complete solidarity with the UK and its response to the attack.

The Prime Minister explained how she had visited the site at Salisbury yesterday and reiterated how the act represented an unlawful use of force by the Russian state against the UK.

On the UK's response, she explained how it will expel 23 Russian diplomats who have been identified as undeclared Russian intelligence officers, develop new legislative powers to harden our defences against such hostile activity and suspend all planned high-level contacts between the UK and the Russian Federation.

She thanked Prime Minister Turnbull for his strong support and they agreed on the importance of the international community coming together to take a stand against this despicable act.

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# Press release: New action to improve outcomes for children with additional needs

Steps to transform education for children with additional needs and ambitious plans to improve the experiences of children in alternative provision have been announced today by Education Secretary Damian Hinds.

Evidence shows children educated in alternative provision, school settings for children who face challenges in mainstream school, are less likely to achieve good GCSE grades and are less likely to be in education, employment or training post-16. Previous analysis also shows that children excluded from school are more likely to end up in the criminal justice system.

The plans announced today (16 March) aim to tackle those inequalities and ensure Britain is a country that truly works for everyone by looking at the experience and outcomes for children who face the most challenges in mainstream school – including those at greatest risk of exclusion – such as those with special educational needs (SEN), children with autism or children in need of help and protection, including those in care.

They include an externally led review of school exclusions, originally announced by the Prime Minister in response to the [Race Disparity Audit](#), which will look at why some children are more likely to be excluded than others. Plans also include a new £4million fund to develop new ways to help children with additional needs move from alternative provision in to mainstream education or special schools and measures to drive up standards in alternative provision education settings.

Education Secretary Damian Hinds said:

It's a mark of a strong society how we treat children who are most in need of our support. Every child, whatever their background and no matter what challenges they face, should have access to a world-class education that prepares them for life in the modern world.

Thanks to our reforms and the hard work of teachers, standards are rising and we are already encouraging schools to focus on the achievements of all pupils, not just the highest achievers.

Children only get one chance at their education and they deserve the best. But for too many children – and often those who are most vulnerable – there are inconsistencies when it comes to their experiences of school and too many parents are left worried and concerned.

That's not good enough which is why we are going to improve our understanding of these important issues and tackle them head on.

The proposals outlined today include:

- The launch of an externally led review of exclusions, led by former Children's Minister Edward Timpson to look at how the use and levels of exclusions vary from school to school focusing on those children who are more likely to be excluded.
- A 'roadmap' setting out how the government will transform alternative provision to make sure these education settings provide high-quality teaching and an education that meets the individual needs of young people in their care.
- A £4 million Alternative Provision Innovation Fund to test and develop projects that support children back into mainstream or special schools, as well as encouraging parental and carer involvement in the education of their child. The investment will also fund schemes that support young people as they move from alternative provision in to training or further education at post-16, so all young people can succeed in the next stage of their lives.
- A call for evidence on how to improve educational outcomes for Children in Need – children that need additional help or protection, including children in care. The call for evidence will gather best practice from school leaders, social workers and other professionals, fulfilling a manifesto commitment to find out what works in improving the educational outcomes for these children.

New analysis published today reveals how far Children in Need fall behind their peers from the early years, making less progress throughout school. Children in Need are three times more likely to have special educational needs than other children, and this compounds poor educational outcomes.

Today's plans will sharpen the focus on the core essentials of education and improve educational outcomes for these children, widening the options available to them so that they can succeed later in life.

Leader of the external review into exclusions and former Children's Minister, Edward Timpson said:

I'm delighted to have been asked by the Secretary of State to lead this important piece of work. As someone who grew up in a family who fostered, I'm all too familiar with the disproportionately higher levels of exclusion of some children, including those in care.

This review provides a real opportunity to fully understand what drives the different rates of exclusion in our schools system and the impact it has on the outcomes of children involved.

I intend to draw from the best possible expertise, knowledge and evidence of what works in the field to ensure the review can help

address the clear disparities and variability that still exists in the practice, impact and experience around exclusions, starting with an open 'Call for Evidence' I am launching today.

Building on the Race Disparity Audit, the review of exclusions will look to tackle some of the inconsistencies highlighted including exploring why Black Caribbean boys are more than three times as likely to be excluded from school.

Sir Kevan Collins, Chief Executive of the Education Endowment Foundation:

Outcomes for these pupils across education, health and employment are poor. The government's new plans provide a welcome opportunity to refocus our efforts and transform life chances for this important group of learners.

It is good to see a focus on evidence for improving outcomes too. Making the best of what we already know about 'what works' and sharing that knowledge across the system is key to getting it right.

Dame Christine Lenehan, Director for the Council for Disabled Children said:

We welcome these important announcements on behalf of children with special educational needs and their families for too long the education system has disproportionately excluded these children and failed to celebrate their achievements. This affects, not just their childhood but their whole lives.

We will want to work alongside the review and ensure that it makes a real difference.

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## **[News story: Prime Minister backs women in finance as Charter tops 200 signatories](#)**

A further 45 companies have signed up to the [Women in Finance Charter](#), including Goldman Sachs, UBS, and Visa. This means that the Charter now covers over 650,000 financial services employees in the UK. The announcement coincides with the launch of the first Women in Finance Charter Annual Review which shows that, in the first year of the Charter, positive progress is

being made to improve gender balance in the industry.

HM Treasury's Women in Finance Charter asks financial services firms to commit to four industry actions to prepare their female talent for leadership positions. Over 200 firms have signed the Charter and over 650,000 employees in the UK are covered by its plan to tackle gender inequality in financial services.

The Prime Minister, Theresa May said:

More than 200 major financial institutions have now committed to improve the gender balance at the top of their organisation. This is an important step forward, not just because this is about fairness, or simply about giving women an equal opportunity to get on, but because our workplaces are greatly enriched by different approaches.

Time and again, I have seen first-hand how women can bring fresh thinking and new perspectives. And I know the commitment that women put into their jobs on a daily basis.

But, of course, there is still more to do be done and I look forward to seeing these companies really delivering on their targets over the next few years.

John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury said:

I want to congratulate the newest group of firms who have signed up to the Charter on their commitment to improving gender balance in their industry.

I encourage firms to approach gender diversity as both a moral and a business imperative. I hope the commitment made by our new signatories will inspire others to sign the Charter, and join us in building a more representative and more inclusive financial services industry.

Other new signatories to the Charter include the City of London Corporation, Sainsbury's Bank, and the British Business Bank.

Jayne-Anne Gadhia, CEO of Virgin Money and the government's Women in Finance Champion said:

The Women in Finance Charter now covers over 650,000 of those employed in financial services and I am delighted that the initiative is gathering real momentum.

Estimates suggest that increased female participation in the labour market and women moving into higher-paid and skilled jobs could increase UK GDP by around 10% and the financial services sector needs to play its part.

Achieving a balanced workforce at all levels and offering fairness and equality of opportunity for both men and women will not only close the gender pay gap over time, it is an economic necessity if we are to drive innovation, power productivity and continue to compete on a global stage.

The Women in Finance Charter's first Annual Review, which is also out today, looks at the progress made by the first group of signatory firms (68) in their first year. It shows that:

- just over a quarter (28%) of signatories have already met their targets for female representation in senior management
- more than half (57%) of the Charter's signatories are on track to meet their future targets
- more than three-quarters (78%) of signatories either increased or maintained the proportion of women in senior management in the reporting period
- the percentage of women amongst senior managers in the signatory firms increased by 3% on average in the first year

## **Further information**

205 firms have now signed the Women in Finance Charter. The 45 new firms that signed the Charter between November 2017 and end February 2018 are:

- Aon
- Bank of Ireland (UK) plc
- Banking Standards Board
- Barcadia Media Ltd
- BFC Bank Limited
- BNP Paribas London CIB
- Brewin Dolphin
- British Business Bank
- British Insurance Brokers' Association
- Brown Shipley
- Cameron and Company Financial Planning Ltd
- Charter Court Financial Services plc
- City of London Corporation
- Close Brothers Group Plc
- Crowdcube
- Danske Bank
- Financial Services Compensation Scheme
- Goldman Sachs International
- Hargreaves Lansdown

- House of Beaufort
- Invesco
- Investec Bank plc
- Investec Wealth & Investment
- Investing Ethically Ltd
- IPC Systems
- Just Group plc
- LGT Vestra
- Man Group plc
- Mazars
- Metro Bank PLC
- Motor Insurers' Bureau
- OMFIF
- QBE European Operations
- rebuildingsociety.com
- Sainsbury's Bank
- Sesame Bankhall Group
- The Alternative Investment Management Association
- The Board of the Pension Protection Fund
- The British Private Equity & Venture Capital Association
- TotallyMoney
- UBS
- Visa
- Wellington Management International Ltd
- Wesleyan Assurance Society
- XL Catlin