

## [News story: The Ofqual handbook is now live](#)

Ofqual publishes preview version of new online handbook.

Today, Thursday 12 October, Ofqual has published a preview version of the Ofqual handbook, a new online resource that brings together all our general rules and guidance.

The handbook can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofqual-handbook>, as well as from the Ofqual homepage and our awarding organisation portal.

To help users navigate their way around the content we hosted a webinar. A recording of the webinar is now available.

[A recording of the webinar is also available](#)

We will be [gathering feedback](#) on this new format for the rest of the year, before taking decisions on roll-out early in 2018.

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## [News story: Chancellor in Washington and New York promoting Global Britain](#)

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, will attend IMF, G20 and G7 meetings in Washington, where he will meet with fellow finance ministers and central bankers to discuss common challenges like global productivity, digital taxation and climate sustainability. In response to the recovery in global growth and the IMF's call for policymakers to guard against complacency, the Chancellor will urge his colleagues to work together to boost trade.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond:

I will be in the US this week to demonstrate that Global Britain is not just a phrase, it is a reality. I am looking forward to productive discussions with my international colleagues as we work together to ensure that economic growth works for everyone.

In Washington, he will also attend the meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers, the first time a Chancellor has attended for seven years. He will set out the government's ambitions for next year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London. At the meeting, a key topic of discussion will

be climate sustainability in light of the recent hurricanes that have devastated the Caribbean and affected many thousands of citizens of Commonwealth countries. The Chancellor will reiterate the UK's commitment to supporting small island states to boost their resilience to natural disasters.

The Chancellor will also meet colleagues in the United States administration.

The Chancellor will then visit New York where he will meet with CEOs of major US financial service companies that together have a market capitalisation of almost £600 billion.

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## **Press release: PHE urges those at highest risk of flu to get vaccinated**

People who are the most vulnerable to flu are being urged to get their free vaccination from today (12 October 2017), ahead of the winter period when the virus is most common.

This year, Public Health England (PHE) are aiming to vaccinate more people than ever – around 13 million people in total. Children in school year 4 will be offered the vaccine for the first time and children over age 4 in reception year can get their vaccine in school.

The national drive marks the start of 'Stay Well This Winter', an initiative from PHE and NHS England to help the most vulnerable people prepare for winter and avoid having to visit hospital due to common winter illnesses.

Professor Paul Cosford, PHE's Medical Director, said:

This year we are offering the nasal spray vaccine to more children than ever. Ensuring children get vaccinated is extremely important not only to protect them from flu but also to stop them spreading it to vulnerable groups they come in to contact with. For someone with a long term health condition like asthma or COPD, flu has the potential to turn very serious. We want as many eligible people as possible to get their jab, as it is the best way to protect everyone from flu and minimise the burden on the NHS during the season when it faces the most pressures.

Around 6.3 million people under 65 in England have a long-term health condition and are more at risk of suffering potentially fatal complications from flu. Last year, uptake amongst high risk groups increased by 3.5% amongst eligible people.

Those who are eligible for the free flu vaccine include:

- adults over 65
- pregnant women
- children aged 2 and 3 as well as pupils in reception class and school years 1 to 4
- people with long-term health conditions (including asthma, COPD and cardiovascular issues)

Another way of protecting vulnerable adults is to vaccinate children, who are 'super-spreaders' of the vaccine. For healthy children aged 2 and 3 the flu vaccine is in the form of a nasal spray, administered by a health professional. Parents of over 3 million children in reception class and school years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be asked to agree to have their children vaccinated in school.

Last year's flu vaccination programme reduced the risk of flu in children who received the vaccine by 65.8% compared to those that didn't.

Dr. Rosemary Leonard, GP and broadcaster, said:

Young children's bodies can find it hard to cope with flu, so it is especially important to protect them with the vaccine. The nasal spray is a quick, effective and painless alternative to needles.

Once ill, children also tend to spread infection more than adults. The vaccine helps to reduce the spread of flu to other more vulnerable family members, such as grandparents.

To get your vaccine or find out if you are eligible, contact your GP, pharmacist or midwife for more information. Visit [nhs.uk/staywell](https://www.nhs.uk/staywell) for more details on how to help you and your family to stay well this winter.

1. [Public Health England](https://www.phe.gov.uk) exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. It does this through advocacy, partnerships, world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health. Follow us on Twitter [@PHE\\_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk).
2. The national flu campaign will also encourage pregnant women to protect themselves against flu in the run up to winter. Pregnancy naturally weakens the body's immune system and as a result, flu can cause serious complications for the mother and baby.
3. For the first time, year 4 children will be offered the vaccine in a school setting, along with year groups 1, 2 and 3. Evidence shows this method ensures greater uptake of the vaccine, and consequently offers

greater population protection through herd immunity.

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## Press release: New £48 billion funding for Britain's railways

- government unveils latest stage of multi-billion pound investment in railways across the country
- record level of funding to continue from the last 5 years of investment, but greater focus on efficiency
- new focus on everyday services will see billions more invested in renewing existing infrastructure to improve punctuality and reliability to deliver a high-quality service to passengers

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling today (12 October 2017) unveiled the latest stage in the government's record investment in Britain's railways.

He set out the next round of rail funding, [announcing that around £48 billion will be spent on the network over a 5 year period](#), from 2019 to 2024, including more maintenance and a huge uplift in renewals to increase reliability and punctuality for passengers.

The funding comes on top of record rail funding over the past 5 years as the government delivered the biggest rail modernisation programme for over a century.

And the Transport Secretary confirmed there will also be a new funding process for major upgrades and enhancements which will provide more rigour in investment decisions to make sure public spending best meets the needs of passengers and freight.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:

This government is continuing its record funding in Britain's rail network.

As a commuter, I know how frustrating it is to be delayed by problems on the line. Passengers want a railway they can rely on and that's where this huge investment will make a real difference to their everyday lives – by renewing more tracks earlier and increasing maintenance to deliver far better services.

This investment is about boosting reliability and punctuality for millions of journeys, and we will do this alongside building major upgrades around the country and delivering new, faster, more

comfortable trains.

The [Statement of funds available](#) for the rail industry continues the government's record investment with a direct grant of up to £34.7 billion for spending between 2019 and 2024. Total spending will be around £47.9 billion once Network Rail's expected income is calculated and added to the pot.

Today's announcement includes funding for the early stages of developing new rail schemes. But, in a departure from the previous approach, the government will allocate funds separately for major upgrades following a new process to ensure they are deliverable and secure the best value for money for the tax payer. This new process will be set out in more detail later this year.

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## **[Press release: Government reaffirms commitment to lead the world in cost-effective clean growth](#)**

An ambitious strategy setting out how the UK is leading the world in cutting carbon emissions to combat climate change while driving economic growth, has been published today (12 October 2017) by Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark.

[‘The Clean Growth Strategy: Leading the way to a low carbon future’](#) builds on the UK's strong progress to date. Carbon emissions in the UK have fallen and national income risen faster and further than any other nation in the G7 – since 1990, emissions are down by 42% while the economy has grown by 67%.

The government's strategy sets out how the whole country can benefit from low carbon economic opportunities through the creation of new technologies and new businesses, which creates jobs and prosperity across the UK, while meeting our ambitious national targets to tackle climate change.

Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark said:

This government has put clean growth at the heart of its Industrial Strategy to increase productivity, boost people's earning power and ensure Britain continues to lead the world in efforts to tackle climate change.

For the first time in a generation, the British government is leading the way on taking decisions on new nuclear, rolling out smart meters and investing in low carbon innovation. The world is moving from being powered by polluting fossil fuels to clean

energy. It's as big a change as the move from the age of steam to the age of oil and Britain is showing the way.

Climate Change and Industry Minister Claire Perry said:

The impact of the Paris agreement and the unstoppable global shift towards low carbon technologies gives the UK an unparalleled opportunity.

By focusing on Clean Growth, we can cut the cost of energy, drive economic prosperity, create high value jobs and improve our quality of life.

Every action that the government takes to cut emissions must be done while ensuring our economy remains competitive. The government's actions to reduce carbon emissions, through support for renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, have helped to reduce average consumer energy bills and more than offset the cost of government support for low carbon technologies, and the costs of key technologies such as offshore wind is plummeting.

For the first time the government is setting out in today's Strategy how over £2.5 billion will be invested to support low carbon innovation from 2015 to 2021, as part of the largest increase in public spending on science, research and innovation in over three decades. This funding covers programmes delivering low carbon energy, transport, agriculture and waste.

That £2.5 billion of existing government spending includes up to £505 million from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Energy Innovation Programme, which aims to accelerate the commercialisation of innovative clean energy technologies and processes.

There are already more than 430,000 jobs in low carbon businesses and their supply chains. Today's policies will provide further opportunities right across the country for more jobs, higher earning power and increased productivity. The low carbon economy could grow 11% per year between 2015 and 2030 – faster than the rest of the economy.

Juergen Maier, CEO Siemens plc, said:

Clean growth is good growth and the UK has a great opportunity to lead. Siemens welcomes the launch of the government's Clean Growth Strategy which sets a clear direction for business and puts decarbonisation at the heart of the industrial strategy.

The government recently announced the establishment of a taskforce of senior financial experts to accelerate growth of green finance in the UK's low carbon economy. It has been given 6 months to deliver ambitious proposals to accelerate investment in the transition to a low carbon economy, creating

high-value jobs and opportunities for UK businesses. It will examine a range of interventions, from making infrastructure investment more sustainable to scaling-up green mortgages.

Today's Strategy fulfils the government's ongoing commitment to demonstrate how it will continue to deliver carbon reductions. The UK was the first country in the world to introduce a Climate Change Act that sets a legally binding long-term target and a series of five-year caps on greenhouse gas emissions up to 2050. The government is focused on hitting the fifth carbon budget (2028 to 2032) with the package of measures outlined today.

Shaun Spiers, Executive director of Green Alliance said:

It is great to see this long awaited strategy setting out the government's ambitions for clean growth. It is certainly a welcome move in the right direction. The test now will be to embed the strategy across government and encourage investment in clean growth by giving businesses the certainty they need.

Going green is not only good for the environment: it is crucial for the future of the UK economy. By taking decisive action to reduce carbon emissions at home we can take advantage of the growing global market for low carbon technology and expertise. This strategy is the opportunity to reboot the agenda on energy efficiency, clean vehicles and the efficient use of resources in the UK.

UK progress was confirmed in a report by PwC which demonstrated the country is strongly outperforming its peers within the G20 according to PwC's Low Carbon Economy Index (LCEI). Its analysis published last month shows the UK decarbonising faster than any other G20 nation. It also reveals that in 2016, the UK achieved a decarbonisation rate of 7.7% – almost three times the global average.

Jonathan Grant, PwC sustainability director and Low Carbon Economy Index author, said:

Analysis by PwC shows that the UK leads the G20 on clean growth and is decoupling emissions from economic growth significantly faster than its peers. The UK's success comes down to policies that create a positive investment climate for low carbon technology, the drive to tackle emissions from coal and the strength of our services sectors.

The Clean Growth Strategy should continue the UK's transition to a low carbon economy.

# The Strategy

Measures set out in the Strategy include funding through the BEIS Energy Innovation Programme of:

- up to £10 million for innovations that provide low carbon heat in domestic and commercial buildings
- up to £10 million for innovations that improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings
- an extra £14 million for the Energy Entrepreneurs Fund, including a new sixth fund
- up to £20 million in a Carbon Capture and Utilisation demonstration programme
- up to £20 million to demonstrate the viability of switching to low carbon fuels for industry
- up to £20 million to support clean technology early stage funding

Further measures include commitments to:

## Business and industry efficiency

- develop a package of measures to support businesses to improve their energy productivity, by at least 20% by 2030
- establish an Industrial Energy Efficiency scheme to help large companies install measures to cut their energy use and their bills
- demonstrate international leadership in carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS), by collaborating with our global partners and investing up to £100 million in leading edge CCUS and industrial innovation to drive down costs

## Improving our homes

- support around £3.6 billion of investment to upgrade around a million homes through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), and extend support for home energy efficiency improvements from 2022 to 2028 at least at the current level of ECO funding
- we want all fuel poor homes to be upgraded to Energy Performance Certificate Band C by 2030 and our aspiration is for as many homes as possible to be Energy Performance Certificate Band C by 2035 where practical, cost effective and affordable
- develop a long term trajectory to improve the energy performance standards of privately-rented homes, with the aim of upgrading as many private rented homes as possible to Energy Performance Certificate Band C by 2030 where practical, cost effective and affordable

## Low carbon transport

- the government has announced an end to the sale of all new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040
- spend £1 billion supporting the take-up of ultra low emission vehicles, including helping consumers to overcome the upfront cost of an electric car

- develop one of the best electric vehicle charging networks in the world
- work with industry as they develop an Automotive Sector Deal to accelerate the transition to zero emission vehicles
- invest around £841 million of public funds in innovation in low carbon transport technology and fuels

Transport Minister Jesse Norman said:

The Clean Growth Strategy reinforces our clear commitment to reduce emissions across the UK and to end the sale of all new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040.

We are a world leader in ultra-low emission technology, spending £1 billion to support the uptake of these cleaner vehicles and the creation of one of the best charging networks in the world.

Advances in low carbon transport technology can significantly boost economic growth and air quality, and we will continue to work with companies to maximise these benefits for all.

## **Clean, affordable energy**

- phase out the use of unabated coal to produce electricity by 2025
- provide up to half a billion pounds for further Contract for Difference auctions for less established technologies, such as offshore wind, with the next one planned for spring 2019
- work with industry as they develop an ambitious Sector Deal for offshore wind, which could result in 10 gigawatts of new capacity, with the opportunity for additional deployment if this is cost effective, built in the 2020s
- deliver new nuclear power through Hinkley Point C and progress discussions with developers to secure a competitive price for future projects in the pipeline

## **Agriculture and natural resources**

- as we leave the EU, design a new system of future agricultural support to focus on delivering better environmental outcomes, including addressing climate change more directly
- establish a new network of forests in England including new woodland on farmland, and fund larger-scale woodland and forest creation, in support of our commitment to plant 11 million trees, and increase the amount of UK timber used in construction
- work towards our ambition for zero avoidable waste by 2050, maximising the value we extract from our resources, and minimising the negative environmental and carbon impacts associated with their extraction, use and disposal
- publish a new Resources and Waste Strategy to make the UK a world leader in terms of competitiveness, resource productivity and resource efficiency

Environment Secretary Michael Gove said:

We are determined to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it, and achieving clean growth is an integral part of our work to deliver a Green Brexit.

Through our ambitious plans to tackle waste, better manage our precious natural resources and create a more environmentally-focused agricultural system, this government is taking the lead in creating a cleaner, greener Britain.

## **Government leadership**

- government will work with businesses and civil society to introduce a 'Green Great Britain' week to promote clean growth.

## **Case studies**

[Clean Growth Strategy case studies](#)