

# £15 million funding boost for women who are victims of violence

Measures announced include:

- £8.4 million to support victims of violence against women and girls
- targeted funding for the most vulnerable communities
- up to £7.5 million for domestic abuse interventions in healthcare settings
- funding for rapid spiking tests to build police intelligence

£8.4 million is being awarded to funding specialist support services for the most vulnerable. The majority of the money will go to services which are led, designed and delivered by the users and communities they serve, such as services for victims and survivors from ethnic minority backgrounds, deaf and disabled victims and survivors, and LGBT victims and survivors. Victims will benefit from trauma-informed support which could range from counselling to refuge accommodation.

In addition, in recognition of the important role healthcare workers play in identifying domestic abuse and signposting victims to support, the government is also investing up to £7.5 million of funding for domestic abuse interventions in healthcare settings. This funding will aim to equip more healthcare professionals with the right tools to be able to better identify and respond to domestic abuse, and improve referral pathways for victims to access support services.

The announcement comes on the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, which the Home Secretary marked yesterday (24 November) with a visit to Refuge, to see first-hand the support needed for domestic abuse and sexual assault victims to rebuild their lives.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman said:

It is paramount that victims of insidious crimes like domestic abuse and sexual assault receive the support they need to rebuild their lives, and we know that those with other vulnerabilities need dedicated support.

This funding comes in addition to an incredibly wide range of work across the board to ensure victims are supported and criminals are brought to justice.

After consulting the public in 2020 through the Government Call for Evidence on Violence Against Women and Girls, the government committed through the Tackling VAWG Strategy and Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan to ensure the provision of tailored victim support. This highlighted the importance of 'by-and-for' services, as well as trauma-informed provision and other victim

support which is tailored to specific forms of VAWG.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs said:

We know these services have been woefully underfunded, so I am delighted to see this additional money being made available for 'by-and-for' organisations. Domestic abuse survivors tell us that getting support from their own community is the most effective way to help them recover and rebuild their lives.

As part of its commitment to tackling all forms of violence against women and girls, the Home Office is also granting an additional £70,000 of funding for rapid forensic testing of samples from reported incidents of drink and needle spiking.

This is part of our support for the National Police Chiefs' Council's work to determine the nature and scale of spiking. The funding will cover testing of additional urine samples taken by the police, to allow us to build on our understanding of spiking, including improving geographical data on what substances are used and where.

These are some of the many measures the government has taken to support victims, bring perpetrators to justice and protect women and girls across the country. Last month the ['Enough' campaign](#) to tackle violence against women and girls, was launched. This gives bystanders safe ways to intervene if they witness an incident of violence against women and girls, ranging from sexual harassment on the street, public transport or at work, to unwanted touching, sharing intimate images of someone without their consent and coercive control in a relationship.

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## Changes to key stage 2 assessment dates in 2023

An additional bank holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Monday 8 May 2023. As this date had previously been announced as the first day of the 2023 key stage 2 (KS2) test week in England, a change to the KS2 test schedule next year will be necessary.

Ministers have considered the situation carefully and have decided that KS2 tests will take place in the same week with tests following the usual order but each taking place one day later than originally planned. As such, the new schedule will be:

- Tuesday 9 May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1

(questions) and 2 (spelling)

- Wednesday 10 May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11 May: mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12 May: mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

The KS2 timetable variation (TTV) window for each assessment will also move back one day, in accordance with this change.

There will be no changes to arrangements for our other assessments, including KS2 teacher assessments, key stage 1 tests and teacher assessments, the phonics screening check and the multiplication tables check. Dates and deadlines for these assessments remain as previously announced.

In making their decision, ministers have considered the views of schools and stakeholders including trade unions and have sought to minimise disruption to schools arising from the change in plans.

We are aware that schools may have booked events or activities for their year 6 pupils on Friday 12 May. Where possible, schools should look to rearrange or delay the start of any such events or activities to accommodate mathematics paper 3.

Where it is not possible to change plans in this way then, exceptionally for 2023, we will approve applications for TTVs arising from booked residentials, trips or similar events scheduled for Friday 12 May only. Schools will need to reschedule the date of the test (mathematics paper 3) for the affected pupils to one of the following five school days.

Note that we will not approve TTVs for any such events that are scheduled on other test days, in line with existing rules. Other TTV rules will continue to apply as normal for Friday 12 May, including in relation to pupil absence or attendance at alternative provision.

Our guidance, including the KS2 Assessment and Reporting Arrangements, will be updated to reflect these decisions, including any changes to other aspects of test administration such as arrangements for the collection of test papers. We are aiming to keep changes as minimal as possible. We will inform schools via the [Assessment Updates](#) when the revised documentation is available.

Schools with urgent queries can contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or by email at [assessments@education.gov.uk](mailto:assessments@education.gov.uk)

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## **Postgraduate Income Contingent Student**

# Loans repayment threshold confirmed

News story

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed the Postgraduate Income Contingent Student Loans repayment threshold.



## **Postgraduate Loans**

The repayment threshold for Postgraduate loans remains £21,000.

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## Agreement with Singapore opens new fintech market for UK businesses

The Fintech Bridge builds on an agreement signed in 2016 – which will remove barriers to fintech trade by opening new regular talks between regulators and businesses, in addition to previous areas of cooperation

This will increase the cooperation and sharing of information on emerging trends in the fintech sector. It will also break down barriers to trade for UK and Singaporean fintechs, boosting growth and investment opportunities.

Andrew Griffith MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury said: said:

The UK and Singapore are among the world's leading jurisdictions for fintech investment – and today's announcement will only

accelerate growth and innovation in our respective sectors.

The MoU we've announced today is crucial – and I would like to thank the Monetary Authority of Singapore for their constructive engagement throughout discussions.

CEO of Innovate Finance, Janine Hirt said:

Innovate Finance welcomes this announcement. A MoU between UK and Singapore will deliver a strengthened framework for vital regulatory and policy discussions between the two countries, enable innovation across financial services, and ensure businesses based in both the UK and Singapore have the ongoing support for their ambitions for growth to be realised.

We look forward to supporting future financial dialogues and business to business activity between these markets. We are also delighted to be working with the key organisations engaged to promote the opportunities this FinTech bridge has to offer, and to welcoming FinTech businesses to IFGS and UK FinTech Week next year.

Miles Celic, Chief Executive Officer, TheCityUK, said:

The UK and Singapore are two of the world's most dynamic and innovative FinTech markets. The FinTech Bridge will drive exciting new opportunities and greater alignment of regulatory approaches will help with the expansion of FinTechs from the UK and Singapore into each other's markets. Greater cooperation between government, regulators and industry will boost innovation and drive better outcomes for customers.

This MoU will also further deepen the engagement and opportunities between two of the premier international financial and related professional services centres.

The existing Regulatory Cooperation Agreement signed in 2016 has enabled the UK and Singaporean fintech sectors to closely align at a regulatory level. Today's commitment goes further in a number of areas, making clear the business support available to firms, highlight opportunities in each other's markets and creating a clear link between challenges firms face and policy discussions.

The MoU will come into effect next week once formalities have been completed on both sides.

#### **Further information**

- Link to joint statement: [UK and Singapore deepen collaboration in](#)

[FinTech and strengthen financial cooperation – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fin-tech-and-strengthen-financial-cooperation)

- The UK and Singapore are two of the world's leading jurisdictions for fintech investment, as set out in Innovate Finance's 2022 [Summer Investment Report](#).
- For instance, the report notes that in the first half of 2022 total capital invested in FinTech globally reached \$59 billion – flat year-on-year. However, the UK FinTech sector continues to grow with investment reaching \$9.1bn – a 24% year-on-year increase from H1 2021, and more than the rest of Europe combined.
- Across the same period, Singapore was ranked as South East Asia's leading jurisdiction for fintech investment, and the sixth globally.
- In Europe, \$17.6 billion was invested into European FinTech across 708 deals, a 10% increase compared to the same period of 2021.

However, such an increase has been driven by the positive growth in investment in UK FinTech. Excluding the UK, the rest of Europe was in fact down by 2% compared to the same period in 2021.

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## [UK reaches deal with Norway to secure opportunities for UK fishing industry](#)

### News story

The UK has reached an agreement with Norway to secure increased opportunities for the UK fishing industry in 2023.



UK fishing vessels will have access to key fish stocks under the new deal.

The UK fishing industry will benefit from increased fishing opportunities worth nearly £5 million in 2023 after reaching an agreement with Norway to secure access to key fishing stocks for UK vessels, Defra has announced today (Friday 25 November 2022).

The deal secures quota of valuable North Sea whitefish stocks worth nearly £3 million and in arctic stocks worth nearly £2 million for 2023, and also ensures UK vessels have access to Norwegian waters to fish their own demersal and pelagic quota.

The UK and Norway negotiate annually on access to each other's waters, quota exchanges and control and enforcement measures.

This deal builds on the close relationship and cooperation between the UK and Norway and will continue to support a sustainable and economically viable fishing industry by:

- extending arrangements agreed last year on mutual access, with the UK fishing industry having access to 30,000 tonnes of whitefish stocks such as cod, haddock and hake in the North Sea.
- granting access to fish up to 20,000 tonnes each of herring in our respective waters.
- securing over 1,100 tonnes of quota transfers from Norway of key UK stocks.
- providing 750 tonnes of cod quota for the UK to fish in Norway's arctic waters.

### **Fisheries Minister Mark Spencer said:**

Under the Fisheries Act 2020, the UK is able to negotiate deals that support a profitable and sustainable UK fishing industry, while safeguarding our marine environment for future generations.

I'm delighted to reach a deal with Norway for 2023 which gives UK fishing vessels access to key fish stocks and quota in the North Sea and Arctic, and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with Norway and other coastal States to manage fishing sustainably.

The agreement highlights both parties' continued commitment to manage fisheries sustainably and support the long-term viability of stocks in the North Sea. It sits alongside a separate arrangement the UK has with Norway under which we expect over 5,200 tonnes of additional arctic opportunities to be transferred to the UK in 2023. In total, this should provide the UK fleet with over 6000 tonnes of fishing opportunities in arctic waters.

Throughout the negotiations, the UK Government worked closely with the devolved administrations to ensure that all fishing communities across the UK will benefit from the agreement.

Notes to editors:

- Trilateral negotiations between the UK, Norway and the EU are still ongoing. In these annual negotiations, the UK agrees catch limits for the following year for six jointly managed fish stocks in the North Sea with Norway and the EU.
- This agreement does not impact the UK's bilateral negotiations with the EU. Those negotiations continue and are focussed on the setting of total allowable catches (TACs) for bilateral stocks between the UK and the EU and a range of related technical measures.

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