

# Press release: Justice Secretary visits HMP Wayland to see reform in action

- Elizabeth Truss thanks staff at HMP Wayland for their vital work in delivering major reforms to improve safety and turn prisoners lives around
- Follows the launch of Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service, giving governors greater autonomy to improve security and recruit staff
- Major recruitment drive across the prison estate as part of £100 million investment for 2,500 additional officers and specific funding for Wayland to tackle violence

Justice Secretary Elizabeth Truss, today (12 April 2017) paid tribute to the vital work of the Governor and staff at HMP Wayland as part of a nationwide tour of prisons to see reform in action.

The visit comes after the launch of Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS), a world-leading agency, which put governors firmly in the driving seat with the power and budget to determine how their prisons are run.

Since taking up post, the Justice Secretary has taken significant action to boost safety, announcing £100 million a year to recruit 2,500 prison officers to bolster the frontline and increase staff numbers.

A further £10 million has been invested for increased security measures in a number of prisons. HMP Wayland received a cash boost of over £200,000 which they are using to recruit new specialist staff to reduce violence as well as deterrents such as mobile phone detectors and improved CCTV.

Today the Justice Secretary sat down with the Governor and officers at HMP Wayland to hear first-hand how the reforms and security investment are helping to improve the prison.

Speaking after the visit, the Justice Secretary said:

I am committed to making prisons safe and decent places to live and work, reducing the risk of reoffending and in turn creating fewer victims of crime.

I have always been clear that as well as punishing offenders, our prisons must become places of safety and reform. We must do all we can to give prisoners the best chance to turn their lives around.

I came to Wayland today to make sure staff know I'm committed to giving them the support they need to do their jobs safely and securely.

The Justice Secretary recently unveiled the landmark Prisons and Court Reform Bill which paves the way for prisons to take action against people who break the law and give offenders the vital skills they need to turn their backs on crime.

With prison governors being given greater control over how they run their establishments – a key commitment in the Prison Safety and Reform White Paper – Wayland is creating necessary links with local employers to help reduce the risk of reoffending. This will help transform the lives of offenders by getting them into employment, with training opportunities which have secured sustained job opportunities with local employers including Camden Boss.

In the coming months, the Justice Secretary and Prisons Minister Sam Gyimah will continue to visit prisons across England and Wales to maintain their discussions with prison officers and governors and see wholesale reforms in action.

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## New lease of life for town centre Inns

Plas yn Dre, Bala has been a family run restaurant since 1990 but has undergone a transformation in 2017 with a complete re-vamp and the addition of 9 Guest Bedrooms, with support of £72,000 from the Tourism Investment Support Scheme.

The Grade II listed building is now fully open for Easter with a restaurant, lounge and bar area. The main works were to convert the upper 2 floors into the 9 en-suite bedrooms. Having opened the restaurant for the Mother's Day in March, owner Sion Williams is delighted with the feedback to date and is looking forward to a busy season, he said:

"The finished article far exceeds our expectations and the customer feedback is unbelievable with rooms being sold out for much of the Easter weekend."

The Erskine Arms in Conwy will open in May, following a redevelopment which will see the historic inn transformed to include a restaurant and 10 high quality rooms. The redevelopment of this traditional Georgian Coaching Inn has been supported by the Tourism Investment Support Scheme with £140,000 and will create 23 jobs.

The Erskine is owned by Stange & Co. Ltd who also own The Cottage Loaf and The Snowdon in Llandudno and The Glengower in Aberystwyth. Stange & Co. Ltd. is a family owned group of character pubs and inns independently run and focus on homemade hearty food on their menu along with local cask ales at the

bar. There will be a strong emphasis on both local and seasonal produce throughout the menu.

Economy Secretary, Ken Skates, said:

“I’m delighted that we’ve been able to support the redevelopment of these two traditional Inns. It’s fantastic that they’ve been given a new lease of life and transformed to become a very high quality product providing employment for the area. Both are also at the heart of the town in Bala and Conwy – which adds to the appeal and vibrancy of the towns. I wish both developments the very best for future success.”

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## **News story: World War 1 soldiers finally honoured after over a century**

In a moving ceremony at Hebuterne Military Cemetery in France, new headstones were dedicated to Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) James Thomas Spencer, Private (Pte) Joseph Turton Cleaver, Pte Walter Jennings and Pte Reuben Kimberley at a service arranged by the MOD’s Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre (JCCC) and led by the Reverend Justin Bradbury, Regimental Chaplain of The Queen’s Royal Hussars.



Bob Bristow relative of of Pte Cleaver with Rev Justin Bradbury, Crown  
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All 4 soldiers were killed on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme but their final burial location has until now been unknown. War Diaries from the Warwickshire Regiment provide evidence that 14 soldiers of the 1/7 Battalion were killed that day and whilst it was believed all were buried in Hebuterne Military Cemetery, it wasn't possible to confirm this positively for each individual.

However, a more recent review of the evidence, including historical records, has allowed JCCC to be able to say there is now firm evidence the 4 soldiers are indeed buried at Hebuterne. Although it still hasn't been possible to confirm in which of the many unknown soldier's graves they are buried, the new headstones, provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), mean there is now a permanent memorial to them within the cemetery.





New headstones at Hebutterne Cemetery, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

All 4 men were from Coventry. Two of them, Pte Kimberley and Pte Cleaver, had been friends from childhood, joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment together, served and later died together.



Rev Justin Bradbury conducting the service, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Rev Justin Bradbury said:

It has been a privilege to conduct this rededication ceremony in such a beautiful cemetery and finally recognising their final resting place.

Nicola Nash, from the Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre (JCCC), said:

We feel very lucky to have been able to attend such a moving ceremony for these four Warwickshire soldiers, made even more poignant that two were very close friends and died together on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

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**[News story: World War 1 soldiers](#)**

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New headstones at Hebuterne Cemetery, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

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## **News story: Accelerating innovation with public and private investment: apply**

As a UK business you can apply for a share of £8.5 million in grants and venture capital investment for early stage feasibility projects.

The investment accelerator pilot by Innovate UK will provide UK companies with simultaneous grant funding and venture capital investment for early stage projects worth up to £8.5 million.

This competition aims to bring private investors into Innovate UK grant-funded companies earlier. It should give applicants greater confidence that investment will continue, remove the need to chase additional investment and match funding, and award direct access to commercial acumen and market opportunities.

### **Funding available and eligible projects**

There is £3 million of grant funding and £1.25 million of private equity investment for infrastructure systems projects. This includes:

- smart infrastructure
- energy
- urban living
- connected transport

A further £3 million of grant funding and £1.25 million of private equity investment is available for projects related to health and life sciences. This includes:

- agriculture
- biosciences
- health

### **Project requirements – what you need to know**

We are looking to fund innovative high-risk projects and invest in companies that have real potential for growth. Single small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can win full project costs up to £150,000 for early stage feasibility studies.

We will assess applications using the standard assessment process. Investors will use their own assessment techniques. Both Innovate UK and the investor partner must identify a project as fundable before a grant is offered.



## The investor partners

To apply you will need to choose an investor partner based on their interests for this competition. These are:

PDF, 1.37MB, 8 pages

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## Competition information

- this competition opens on 8 May 2017, and the deadline for registration is 28 June 2017
- projects should last up to 12 months and range in size up to total cost £150,000
- single SMEs only should apply
- a total of 100% of project costs will be provided
- a [briefing event](#) will be held on 15 May 2017 for potential applicants