

# Government *WORLD*™

*Spring 2016 Edition*



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Cover picture:  
London Eye from Westminster

# National News Headlines January 2016

## 1st January

- I could lead No vote campaign in the EU poll, hints Cameron
- Extra armed police at new year fireworks
- US man held over terror plot as Munich warned of 'imminent' threat

## 2nd January

- Top Labour donor is unveiled as leader of Vote Leave campaign
- Osborne faces legal action in row on student loan payments
- UK Iraq veterans 'may face prosecution'

## 3rd January

- PM may offer Boris Cabinet job within weeks – to force loyalty on Europe
- Revealed: how Tory cuts are wrecking UK flood defences
- Pupils must all know times tables by age 11

## 4th January

- Two more top banks getting away with paying NO tax in UK
- Supermarkets cut diesel price below £1
- Government sticks to migrant quotas

## 5th January

- Britain spends more on foreign aid than any other EU nation
- Ministers to get freedom on EU vote
- Corbyn warned not to carry out 'petty' revenge reshuffle of moderates

## 6th January

- Lawyers who accused our troops of Iraq abuse could be struck off
- Corbyn sacks two but Benn stays
- Gangs of men attack female revellers



# National News Headlines January 2016

## 7th January

- Shadow cabinet debacle as Corbyn sacks two... and three quit in disgust
- Britain is 'most anti- EU country'
- Lawyers hounding troops fund Corbyn defence spokesman

## 8th January

- Severe weather warnings as sub- zero blast hits Britain
- Homes evacuated amid Scotland flooding
- Health chiefs attacked over 'nanny state' alcohol guide

## 9th January

- Europe's migrant rape crisis
- Hammond: I can't envisage voting for an EU Brexit
- Migrant sex attacks backlash

## 10th January

- Attending parenting classes should be normal, says PM
- Boyfriend of EastEnders actor tracked down
- Corbyn urges party unity as top MP quits

## 11th January

- Migrant sex attackers targeted 600 women
- Labour Party fears £6m income fall
- Music legend David Bowie dies

## 12th January

- shot knifeman 'in sex attacks gang'
- Regional school results gap 'widening'
- Bird flu confirmed at Fife poultry farm



# National News Headlines January 2016

## 13th January

- Farage urges Welsh to shun Brussels
- Race on to avert next doctors' strike
- MPs to vote on anthem for England

## 14th January

- PM blasted over 2m women 'robbed and cheated' over pensions
- No one will die if we hold all-out strike, says doctors' union leader
- MPs back England anthem

## 15th January

- Fanatics who demand Sharia law for Britain face criminal charges
- EU disastrous for us, says Grayling
- Watchdog says energy firms overcharging

## 16th January

- Woman hunted over knife attack on bus
- Tim Peake tweets spacewalk selfie
- Corbyn to warn firms over 'unfair' pay

## 17th January

- Drunk or drugged drivers to face stiffer sentences
- Fresh approach to Libya over IRA Semtex victims
- Muslim mums must learn English to beat the fanatics

## 18th January

- Horde of foreign killers and rapists use Human Rights Act to stay in UK
- Petrol 'to fall to 86p a litre' in oil glut after Iranian nuclear deal
- PM push on integrating Muslim women



# National News Headlines January 2016

## 19th January

- Cameron rules out a total ban on face veils
- No help for women born in 50s caught up in pension trap
- UK inflation rate rises to 0.2%

## 20th January

- Charge firms £ 1k for cheap foreign labour
- UK unemployment rate falls to 5.1%
- Goldsmith: I'll ban foreigners from buying new homes on public land

## 21st January

- Jobless numbers at 8- year low
- Schools ranked by GCSEs for last time
- UK sold £1bn in arms to Saudis in 3 months

## 22nd January

- Fallon: To scrap Trident would be a terrible sign of weakness
- 'It's about time something is done to stop the hounding of troops'
- MPs' code of conduct to be toughened up

## 23rd January

- EU-exit campaign group to launch
- Carers' benefits could be capped
- Millions with 'dire' internet service

## 24th January

- Homelessness soars as rents rise and tenancies end
- Britain 'poised to open door to thousands of migrant children'
- Faith schools to be protected from secular campaigners



## 25th January

- 58 cases of alleged killings by our troops in Iraq are dropped
- UK is 'vulnerable' to next epidemic
- Send soldiers to EU borders, Britain is told

## 26th January

- Fury as BBC ask over-75s to give up free TV licences
- Migration crisis: Brussels ready to seal Greek border
- Downpours and gales as UK storm begins

## 27th January

- Veils 'can be banned from the classroom'
- Labour's biggest union backer faces legal action on 'zero-hour contracts'
- Flood risk areas face council tax increase

## 28th January

- Blow for PM as hopes for June EU poll stall
- UK to give sanctuary to child refugees
- Britons 'getting much gloomier over economy'

## 29th January

- Osborne warns of 'bumpy times' for UK economy
- Call for 'brake' on migrant benefits
- Cameron aims to get EU benefits deal

## 30th January

- PM backtracks on pledge to end migrant child benefit scandal
- Proton cancer therapy 'proves effective'
- Arctic blast brings snow after winds

## 31st January

- Scathing report set to condemn Ministers over Kids Co scandal
- Labour MP 'defects' to head jail probe
- PM raises stakes in migration row with EU



# National News Headlines February 2016

## 1st February

- Millions of workers to get pension shock
- Put conscience ahead of loyalty to PM over EU, Tories urged
- Scientists get 'gene editing' go-ahead

## 2nd February

- Sainsbury's offers £1.3bn for Argos
- EU to unveil proposed UK reform deal
- Cameron wins deal to block EU laws

## 3rd February

- Merkel poll lashing as Germany faces £ 36bn bill for asylum seekers
- Hate attack on men after bid to aid girl
- Khan to give Londoners 'first dibs' on cheap homes

## 4th February

- Cameron to double aid spending on refugees fleeing Syria
- Age UK energy deals to be examined
- Cameron urged to take part in live referendum debate

## 5th February

- Bed-blocking 'costing NHS £900m a year'
- PM hails £7bn aid boost for Syria... £1.2bn of it from UK
- Rates could FALL warns Bank chief

## 6th February

- Middle classes face losing £100 a month in pensions tax raid
- New 'British Pompeii' finds 'amazing'
- Top Labour MP walks out of Vote Leave in 'tittle-tattle' row





# National News Headlines February 2016

## 7th February

- Corbyn demands to know UK war plan against IS in Libya
- Wave hello to a new green age of sail
- PM vows to cut soaring number of prisoners overwhelming UK jails

## 8th February

- Blunders mean 4m will get the wrong pension
- Storm Imogen lashing parts of the UK
- First gas flows from new Shetland plant

## 9th February

- Hope of pension boost in tax relief shake- up
- 'Human rights' bid to stop MPs being named expenses cheats
- France: We won't move the border

## 10th February

- 3,000 ops cancelled in second doctors' strike
- Terror laws 'a threat to our privacy'
- Teacher shortages confirmed in England

## 11th February

- Slammed, the 'arrogant and underhanded' BBC
- Doctors' contract set to be imposed
- Spy law 'needs significant changes'

## 12th February

- Huge blow to pensions as shares melt down
- EU deal could split Tories
- University team sheds fresh light on mysteries of universe



# National News Headlines February 2016

## 13th February

- Spectacular Northern Lights over UK
- PM will wheel out Obama to make case for staying in EU
- Benefits deal will last 7 years

## 14th February

- Corbyn's anti-Trident stand puts us in peril
- Hunt's attack on junior doctors is the first skirmish in his war on the NHS
- NHS is to blame for 400 suicides a year says shock report

## 15th February

- Work until 77 if you want 'living' pension
- Poor mental health care 'ruining lives'
- Half of care home residents suffer from depression

## 16th February

- Aldi sets store by growth with 5,000 more British jobs
- PM visits Brussels for crucial EU talks
- EDF extends life of UK nuclear plants

## 17th February

- Inflation nudges up 0.3 per cent
- UK unemployment drops by 60,000
- Europe chief dismisses Cameron's reforms claim

## 18th February

- New jobs record... but wages can't keep pace
- Older workers lead the way to a jobs record
- Meningitis vaccine plea wins huge support



# National News Headlines February 2016

## 19th February

- Union warning over Corbyn ‘shambles’
- Cameron: Some progress but no deal yet
- FTSE chiefs’ Yes to Europe

## 20th February

- Europe’s REAL crisis... terror warning as 6,000 migrants arrive in three days
- EU deal gives UK special status, says PM
- Austria may lower limit on refugees

## 21st February

- Key British railway stations earmarked for privatisation
- Hundreds to be evicted in Calais camp clearance
- ‘The choice is in your hands. I believe we’ll be safer and stronger in the EU’

## 22nd February

- Tax- free sum may be scrapped in Osborne’s £ 4bn raid on pensions
- 2m fewer first- time buyers
- Eurosceptics get ready to have their say on reforms

## 23rd February

- US colonel tells British jihadis: ‘We’ll kill you’
- Pound’s worst day for seven years as Brexit jitters strike
- Ebola nurse admitted to hospital

## 24th February

- A complete failure – voters’ verdict on PM’s Europe deal
- Gove says EU deal ‘not legally binding’
- Aston Martin creates 750 jobs in Wales



# National News Headlines February 2016

## 25th February

- Now HSBC 'talks down the pound'
- BT told to open cable network to rivals
- Minister vows to tighten up rules on shops selling knives

## 26th February

- Alton Towers faces court for crash
- DJ Tony: My BBC stitch-up
- UK has more than a million solar homes

## 27th February

- G20: Brexit 'shock' to global economy
- Mayor's own police chief warns him: Quitting EU will place capital in peril
- Boris urges PM's Cabinet allies to join Brexit camp

## 28th February

- Drone technology is threat to Trident subs, MPs will hear
- Corbyn calls for nuclear-free world at peace rally
- Brexit would spark decade of 'economic limbo', claims top Tory

## 29th February

- The brave troops doomed by a lack of life-saving kit
- '900,000 retail jobs could go by 2025'
- Thousands of NHS posts lie vacant

- **Happy Leap Year!**



# National News Headlines March 2016

## 1st March

- Blair and the secret briefings that helped him bid for business
- Detention centre 'dirty and bug-ridden'
- Police fire tear gas as migrants set 'The Jungle' ablaze

## 2nd March

- State pension age is set to rise, say experts
- UK weaker outside EU, government to warn
- Schools urged to ban tackling in rugby

## 3rd March

- How faceless Britain's lost its personal touch
- France in Calais border warning to UK
- Hospitals 'dish out too many antibiotics'

## 4th March

- Police kill two female terrorists
- 20 million 'missing out' on £ 400 energy savings
- Prison officer injured after bomb explodes

## 5th March

- Don't go: Paris and Berlin in EU plea to Britain
- Ceasefire raises hope ahead of peace talks
- Huge fall in number of special constables puts 'immense strain' on Met

## 6th March

- Corbyn slams Brown over hospitals cash crisis
- Pension tax blow to savers
- Berlin and Paris raise the stakes on Brexit



# National News Headlines March 2016

## 7th March

- 2,500 jobs to be axed at Npower
- UK naval ship on way to help 'smash' migrant smugglers
- Tories rebel on Sunday trading

## 8th March

- Jihadists plan 'Paris style' attacks in UK
- Johnson says EU gag email was 'cock-up'
- Prince's plea to visit flood areas

## 9th March

- 2.5m Britons bust weekly drink limit in just one day
- Bids to reach UK illegally soar 1,200% in three years
- 'Fifth Beatle' Sir George Martin dies

## 10th March

- Low-income households 'need energy cap'
- Gove in row over claim that 'Queen is backing Brexit'
- Tory rebels kill off PM plan for Sunday trading

## 11th March

- Outrageous to call fear over migrants racist, says Welby
- 'Scaremonger' PM says jobs will be sacrificed in Brexit
- Breast cancer trial drugs kill tumours in only 11 days

## 12th March

- US in retreat after Obama hits at pal Cameron on Libya
- Welfare to be cut by £1bn to pave way for tax breaks
- A disaster zone that's dominated by the Germans



# National News Headlines March 2016

## 13th March

- Poll boost for Johnson after decision to back Leave
- Homeless crisis is test of our basic humanity, says Labour
- Osborne to kill off 'Paxman' tax ploy that costs £400m

## 14th March

- Low-paid workers to get savings bonus
- 600 jihadis dead in ISIS defeats
- Trump: don't blame me for the violence

## 15th March

- Syria peace hopes boost as Putin pulls out forces
- Merkel: I'll keep letting in migrants despite poll defeat
- Osborne's cuts 'to hit police and councils hardest'

## 16th March

- Anti- Semitism is ' a virus we must fight'
- Russia to continue Syria bombing
- Osborne to scrap 'Victorian' 3.30pm school home time

## 17th March

- George's Gamble: Employment rate hits record high
- Magician Paul Daniels dies aged 77
- Meteor sighting reports across Britain

## 18th March

- Millions denied their marriage tax break by IT chaos
- Budget disability cuts 'a suggestion'
- Ben Nevis gains a metre thanks to GPS



# National News Headlines March 2016

## 19th March

- Humiliating U- turn on £ 1.3bn disability cuts
- PM 'puzzled' by Duncan Smith resignation
- Khan hits back at Corbyn in clash over Crossrail 2

## 20th March

- Duncan Smith exit undermines Osborne's leadership hopes
- Cameron faces Lords defeat on child refugees
- Abuse inquiry is so big it 'could break the justice system'

## 21st March

- Paris suspect claims human rights breach
- Labour peer 'may quit' over anti- Semitism
- PM defends record after IDS resignation

## 22nd March

- Met chief urged to quit as police scrap £ 2m child sex probe
- Thousands of migrants could stay in EU as Jihkey deal starts to unravel
- Osborne to defend Budget ahead of vote

## 23rd March

- A migrant tries to steal into UK every 8 minutes
- Anger At Hotel For Asylum Seekers
- PM holds Brussels emergency meeting

## 24th March

- All- out doctors strike to ' put patients in danger'
- Alarm over sugar in fruit juice drinks
- Now striking doctors won't even cover emergencies





## 25th March

- Osborne warns of new crackdown on buy-to-let mortgages
- Missing foreign students scandal
- Met to spend extra £11m on weapons

## 26th March

- EU exit backed by 250 business leaders
- Teachers demand forced academy U-turn
- Brussels fugitive had visited Britain

## 27th March

- NHS under threat from Brexit – Hunt
- Man held on three Brussels terror charges
- GOT HIM! Brussels bombing 'Man in White' is arrested

## 28th March

- Crowds mark Ireland's Easter Rising
- Millions of Muslims' views are not compatible with modern world
- Storm Katie to bring heavy rain and wind

## 29th March

- How EU's lax laws let fifty dangerous crooks into Britain
- Living wage 'will push care system to breaking point'
- Tata to decide fate of UK steelworks

## 30th March

- EU leaves steel jobs under threat
- Half of public say Cameron must quit if he loses EU poll
- Charities to speak out for EU as ban is watered down

## 31st March

- Hopes fading for a state rescue of steel jobs after Indian threat to quit UK
- Number of NHS managers is up by 6.5% (but it's just 0.5% for nurses)
- PM 'ruling nothing out' on steel crisis





By Paul G Bazeley for  
Government World

## January News Review

Its a new year! While it may be a new year and a time for change, fear not because we are still here to give you your quarterly news and sport review.

The world was stunned when it was announced that David Bowie had died aged 69. The singer/songwriter/actor/producer and anything else you can think of eventually lost his 18 month battle with liver cancer. Tributes from across the world poured in. Memorial sites were formed

# Paul's News Roundup

*Summary of the main news and sports events over the last three months*

across the world including London, New York and Berlin. The Rolling Stones released a statement calling Bowie a 'true original'. I don't think I can put it any better than that. Although Bowie has sadly passed, it goes without saying that the legacy he has left behind will be lasting.

Sir Terry Wogan lost his 'short but brave battle with cancer'. The broadcaster who was probably best known for his 'Wake up to Wogan' show and his Eurovision commentary passed away surrounded

by his family at his home. Terry Wogan became a 'Sir' in 2005, he had worked with the Children in Need charity since it was first broadcast in 1980. Personally, I have fond memories of Terry presenting his morning radio show on BBC Radio 2. When he broadcast his final morning show back in 2009 he signed off by saying 'thank you for being my friend', no thank you Sir Terry: thank you.

The last one for January, I promise. The actor and director Alan Rickman died aged 69. The man who was probably best known as playing Hans Gruber in Die Hard, the Sheriff of Nottingham in Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves and Severus Snape in the Harry Potter films sadly lost his fight with cancer. Rickman was also a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company and was widely

respected as a great actor. His friend Emma Thompson said 'he was, above all things, a rare and unique human being'.

Barack Obama was seen crying in a speech over gun laws. The President gave a speech addressing the issue of gun control and unveiled new gun control measures. The tears began to appear as he thought of the young children killed in the Sandy Hook shootings from 2012. The measures will mean that those that sell firearms must register as dealers, while individuals who wish to purchase a gun must go through a background check. Obama said it made him 'mad' when he thought of the those who lost their lives. Only time will tell how effective the new measures will be.

A suicide bomb attack in the Turkish city of Istanbul killed ten people. It is believed the bomber was a Syrian acting on behalf of Islamic State. Eight of those dead were identified as German tourists and it is believed that out of the fifteen injured most were German. The explosion took place near the Blue Mosque in the Sultanahmet district of Istanbul. It is

thought the attacks come after Turkey took a more active role in the fight against IS last year. More attacks are expected to occur.

Joaquín Guzmán the drug cartel leader was recaptured after he escaped from prison for a second time last July. The notorious EL Chapo escaped from prison after prison guards are believed to have ignored loud hammering noises as the cartel leader escaped through a 1 mile tunnel dug from his shower. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto took to twitter to announce the recapture saying 'mission accomplished', maybe they'll keep an eye on him this time.

The Zika virus made its way into the news in January. An outbreak caused worldwide fears

that the virus may become a significant problem and that measures need to be taken to try to control it.

The free online encyclopaedia Wikipedia turned 15. That's right, the source of information that we all use when we feel we need to know more about a certain subject is fifteen years old. I looked what wikipedia says about itself and according to it's own page 'There is a grand total, including all Wikipedias, of over 38 million articles in over 250 different languages'. That is pretty impressive. Say what you like about wikipedia, I am sure many would agree, it is pretty helpful at times.

Tim Peake not only broadcast a New Year message to us from the International Space Station he also became the first official British

astronaut to take part in a spacewalk. Peake took part in the spacewalk to fix a faulty electrical box. Although the electrical box was fixed, the walk was ended prematurely after colleague Tim Kopra reported water in his helmet.

## January Sports Review

The Barcelona forward Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or for a record fifth time. Messi beat the Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo, who has won the award three times, and his team mate Neymar who were also up for the award. The USA's Carli Lloyd won the women's player of the year award.

In tennis, Novak Djokovic beat Andy Murray in the Australian Open final. The

Serbian won in three straight sets. In the Women's final Angelique Kerber pulled off an upset beating Serena Williams.

However, it was a great month for the tennis world as the BBC and Buzzed revealed secret files exposing match fixing has been occurring in the sport. According to the BBC, 16 players that have ranked in the top 50 have been reported to the Tennis integrity unit on match fixing suspicions. Eight players who have been flagged as suspicious reportedly played in the Australian Open.

Finally, back to football. Spanish side Real Madrid sacked manager Rafael Benitez. It is thought the sacking came after supporters and some players did not favour the Spaniard as well as poor results against top sides. Benitez was replaced by Real Madrid hero Zinedine Zidane, while the former French international has very little experience he managed to win his first match with the team. Whether he can carry on the success is yet to be known.

## February News Review

Hoorah the Flying Scotsman returned! The passenger train was built in 1922 and cost £7,944 to build, it has recently had over £4 million spent on its refurbishment, which has taken ten years to complete. The train made its way from London to York where it will be displayed at the National Railway Museum.

Kim Jong-un successfully annoyed a large proportion of the world again as North Korea launched a rocket into space. The long-range rocket carried a satellite which is now in orbit. The action was met with worldwide condemnation as many thought it was a provoking act. It is thought that the country may attempt to launch more

satellites in the future.

Six people were killed in the US in a series of apparently random shootings in the Michigan city of Kalamazoo.

A car bomb attack in the Turkish capital, Ankara killed 28 people with many more injured. While there are speculations as to who was accountable for the explosion, at the time of writing nobody has yet claimed responsibility.

The author of To Kill a Mocking Bird and recent release Go Set a Watchman, Harper Lee died aged 89. Lee was best known for writing the novel To Kill a Mockingbird which gained critical acclaim, winning the Pulitzer prize in 1961. Now if you haven't read the book go and read it now, even if you have read it, read it again.

February also means that time of the year where awards are given out. In the Brit Awards James Bay won British Male solo artist, Coldplay won British group and as expected, Adele won British female solo artist; along with best single, album of the year and the global success award.

In the Oscars, as predicted Leonardo DiCaprio won best actor for The Revenant and Brie Larson won best actress for Room. The film Spotlight won best picture and Sam Smith won best original song with Writing's On The Wall.

## February Sports Review

Manchester City won the League Cup final, beating Liverpool after penalties.

The game was tied after 90 minutes thanks to Philippe Coutinho scoring an equaliser in the 83rd minute. Nevertheless, Man City came out victorious 3-1 after an abysmal penalty taking performance by Liverpool.

Sunderland football club terminated the contract of midfielder Adam Johnson as he pleaded guilty to two charges relating to sexual abuse of a minor.

The Denver Broncos beat Carolina Panthers 24-10 in the 50th Super Bowl. For those of you that are more interested in the half-time show than American Football, that's probably most of you, Coldplay, Bruno Mars and Beyonce performed.

Leicester City continued their incredible Premier League season by winning 3 out of their 4 games for the month. The Foxes beat Liverpool 2-0, Manchester City 3-1 and Norwich 1-0. However, they failed to produce a result at fellow title chasers Arsenal, losing 2-1.

## March News Review

On the 22nd March, three bomb attacks in Brussels kill 32 people leaving many more injured. Islamic State claim responsibility for the attacks and successfully manage to annoy the rest of the world more than they already have. Two blasts occurred at Zaventem airport with another taking place at Maelbeek metro station, close to the EU headquarters. The attacks raised security across Europe and European authorities were quick to investigate and make further arrests.

Everyone's (ok, almost everyone's) least favourite businessman and republican candidate Donald Trump had to postpone a rally in Chicago due to fights between supporters and protestors. Nevertheless, Trump continues to gain support throughout America.

From a possible President to the current President of America. Barack Obama visited Cuba, the first President to do so since 1928. Relations between America and Cuba have been particularly bad since communist Fidel Castro became the leader in 1959. However, things seemed pretty friendly as Obama met Raul Castro to talk about trade.

New Zealand voted whether to change their flag. The results confirmed that the current flag was the winner. The current flag won 56.6 per cent of the votes which came as no surprise to many. The current flags contender was the silver fern designed by Kyle Lockwood which gained 43.2 per cent of the vote.

The Independent and The Independent on Sunday stopped producing print editions of their newspapers. The decision was made after the papers were not selling enough

copies. Fear not though, the papers still reside in an online format. ESI media has also claimed it plans to sell the newspaper to Johnston Press.

## March Sports Review

Nico Rosberg won the Australian Gran Prix beating Lewis Hamilton who finished second. The first race of the season saw Sebastian Vettel finish third, while Daniel Ricciardo and Felipe Massa finished fourth and fifth respectively. McClaren had a poor start to the season with Jenson Button finishing 14th, while Fernando Alonso had to retire from the race.

Maria Sharapova admitted she failed a drug test at the Australian Open. The tennis star admitted to using meldonium since 2006 for health reasons. The medicine was not originally on the banned list, however, recently the rules had changed. Sharapova claims she did not realise that

the substance had been put onto the banned list. Nike have suspended ties with Sharapova until an investigation is complete. Sharapova has been provisionally suspended by the International Tennis Federation.

Rafael Benitez became the new manager at Newcastle United after the club sack Steve McClaren. The poorly performing side are thought to be paying the manager £2million a year. It is thought the Spaniard has a get-out clause if the club do get relegated.

England win the 6 Nations Grand Slam after beating France 31-21. The title comes after a poor performance in last years world cup, where the team failed to make it past the group stages. The new England coach Eddie Jones said 'we're only going to get better'. All eyes will be on England as they travel to Australia later in the year.

Johan Cruyff, the Dutch footballer, passed away aged 68. The former Dutch forward died in his home after losing his battle with cancer. Cruyff led the Dutch team to the 1974 World Cup and was voted player of the year three times. The current player of the year, Lionel Messi, said 'RIP Cruyff. Your legacy will live on forever.'

# New laws to govern burials and cremations in Scotland

Legislation to modernise the governance and scrutiny of burial and cremation has been passed by the Scottish Parliament.

The Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill will modernise and update 100 year-old legislation – introducing a definition of ashes, standardising forms and record-keeping across Scotland, clarifying the process for instructing the disposal of human remains (including pregnancy loss) and placing a duty on burial authorities to maintain the safety of burial grounds.

It also contains provisions to give Scottish Ministers the powers to introduce a licensing scheme for funeral directors.

The Bill takes forward recommendations from the Infant Cremation Commission chaired by Lord Bonomy, which was set up following concerns about the historical mishandling and disposal of infant remains.

The Bill also gives effect to those recommendations made by the Burial and Cremation Review Group not already implemented in the Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011.

Public Health Minister Maureen Watt said: “The new legislation will bring important and much-needed changes to burial and cremation processes - helping to ensure that they are easy to understand, reliable and fit-for-purpose.

“It will create a legislative framework for burial and cremation that will meet the needs of 21st Century Scotland and address the shortcomings in the current system.

“While the Bill’s passage has been marked by broad agreement on the Bill’s key provisions, and the need for new legislation, there is no doubt that the Bill has been strengthened by the parliamentary process.

“I’d like to thank all those people who gave such valuable

evidence on the Bill, particularly those affected parents who have made such an important contribution throughout this whole process.

“Over 100 amendments have been made by this Government based on much of the evidence given at the Committee stage – ensuring these new laws work for everyone who will be affected by them.

“In particular, I’m proud that this Government has legislated to prevent any repetition of the issues around the handling of infant remains identified first at Mortonhall Crematorium in Edinburgh. The new processes and increased scrutiny introduced by this Bill will ensure those mistakes can never happen again.”

In line with the recommendations from the Infant Cremation Commission, the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill will:

- Introduce a legal definition of ‘ashes’.
- Require the relevant authorities, including health authorities, to keep burial and cremation records indefinitely and

ensure that details of the burial and cremation of pregnancy losses and stillborn babies are recorded.

- Strengthen the application process for cremation, requiring the applicant to clearly specify what should be done with ashes and also requiring cremation authorities to record details of cremations on a central register.

The new legislation will also modernise and improve the administrative procedures surrounding adult cremation.

It also contains measures to give Scottish Ministers the powers to formally regulate the funeral industry – including making provision for the introduction of a licensing scheme for funeral directors.

The Government will also supplement the existing role of Inspector of Crematoria by establishing two new inspector roles for burial authorities and funeral directors.

Burial authorities, such as local councils, will also be given the power to carry out activities considered necessary for the upkeep and management of burial grounds – including maintaining and repairing headstones and memorials to make them safe. The Bill will make it a legal requirement for burial authorities to ensure the safety of burial grounds.

The Bill will also regulate private burials (i.e. burials at home or in a private family burial ground) and introduce measures to address the issue of pressure on available burial land in Scotland.

## EU Asylum figures leap

Eurostat the EU statistics agency has released figures showing record hikes in asylum applications in the last quarter. These figures show 410,000 people have claimed asylum in the EU between August and September including a 60% increase for the UK.



Diane James MEP

Diane James MEP, the UKIP Home Affairs Spokesman said, "These figures are enormous and extraordinary. They are a direct result of Mrs Merkel's siren call to peoples to come to the EU."

"The equivalent of a 'Migrant's Pandora's box' has been opened and unleashed. The vast majority may well be genuine asylum seekers but there is clearly going to be a significant number masquerading as such.

"Germany amongst other EU states have speedied up asylum processing to cope with issues at EU borders. This heightened the concerns as to whether all are genuine and sincere.

"The pressure is now being felt by the UK. Cameron's pledge on migrant control and his agreement to accept 20000 Syrian refugees will now be severely tested. Once again one of his many pledges is in tatters and whilst he may express 'extenuating circumstances' he is now caught in the same trap as Merkel i.e. victim of his own policy and its consequences.

## Greens slam Tories over rejection of 'tiny tax for big change'

The second Capacity Market auction has successfully concluded, securing capacity for 2019/20. The auction attracted enough bidders to secure the capacity needed at a competitive price for consumers - 46.354GW at a price of £18/kW.



Andrea Leadsom Minister of State at Department of Energy and Climate Change

The second Capacity Market auction has successfully concluded, securing electricity generating capacity for 2019/20. The auction

attracted enough bidders to secure the capacity needed at a competitive price for consumers. The amount secured - enough to provide almost all the capacity we need - cleared at a price of £18/kW, over £1 cheaper than last year. Buying capacity four years ahead of the delivery year maximises the range of participants that can compete in the auction, thereby promoting competition. Energy Minister Andrea Leadsom said:

"Our number one priority is to ensure that hardworking families and businesses have access to secure, affordable energy supplies they can rely on.

"This result represents a good deal for customers - fierce competition in the Capacity Market has driven down costs, meaning future capacity has been secured the lowest price possible."

# Design Classic: Anglepoise Lamps

By Paul Bazeley

I'm sure we're all aware of Anglepoise lamps. In fact many of us probably own one or own a lamp in a similar guise. It was a man called George Carwardine who invented the springs that are synonymous with many balanced-arm lamps and all Anglepoise lamps.



The springs on a Type 75 Anglepoise lamp

Carwardine took the springs to Herbert Terry and Sons and the Anglepoise story

began. In 1933 a patent was submitted and Anglepoise was launched. Thus, it was Carwardine who invented Anglepoise lamps and with it in 1935, the Anglepoise 1227 was released. The 1227 is a three spring lamp made for a more commercial market and is still available today.

Following the success of the 1227, Anglepoise decided to introduce the Model 75 lamp in 1969: this was later named the Type 75, in 2004. In 2003 the Type 3 was introduced, designed by Sir Kenneth Grange.

The Anglepoise collection is now vast and includes table lamps, ceiling lamps, floor lamps and wall lamps. There are also the ever popular oversized lamps, which the company decided to put into production due to the overwhelming demand and interest, they peaked when

they made three limited edition versions in 2003.

Moving forward, the company has begun to collaborate.

Recently it has collaborated with Margaret Howell, Centre Point and Sir Paul Smith.



A Type 75 Paul Smith Edition One Anglepoise lamp

Over the years Anglepoise has been owned and adored by thousands, if not millions. Roald Dahl had one on his desk in his writing hut, Tim Burton was one of the first to own a giant version and rumour has it the Queen herself owns one. I

personally own a Type 75 Paul Smith edition one lamp and consider myself very lucky, I also hope to add another one or two to my collection as the years go by.

On their website Anglepoise claim themselves to be 'An iconic British brand' and it is a great way to sum them up. The fact that the original was designed and the company was founded in Britain, along with the fact that the lamps are still produced in Britain today is a testament to the company.

The fact of the matter is that Anglepoise lamps are design classics. Not only are they as popular as ever today, they have been popular since it was invented. They are timeless classics. They look great and they last. In fact, there is a story of a World War Two bomber being found submerged in mud and inside was Anglepoise Navigator lamp (the lamp was made especially for World War Two bombers) that still worked. While you may not be thinking 'me, I wanna be an anglepoise lamp, yeah' as The Soft Boys sang on their song (I want to be an) Anglepoise Lamp; it is at least worth appreciating a brand and their lamps that help to make the world a slightly brighter place.





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# Farm suppliers warned over waste materials rules

Waste materials from external suppliers are routinely used on farms. They are used in a variety of ways from soil conditioning and fertiliser through to building farm tracks and animal bedding.

Recycling has become an integral part of modern life. As technology advances, it's possible to recycle more materials and in turn there is a real wealth of different waste materials available. So too is there a wealth of suppliers who don't play by the rules.

They wittingly cause harm to the environment and other peoples' livelihoods through the use of inappropriate waste. And the rules, there to protect our environment, are pretty clear.

During a routine inspection of a permitted composting facility in Yorkshire, the owner was found to be in breach of

the conditions of their permit by continuing to accept prohibited waste products and spreading them to land without prior approval. The owner was subsequently prosecuted and ordered to pay £800 plus £4,890 costs.

Iain McDonnell, senior environment officer at the Environment Agency said:

"There are many suppliers out there who do abide by the rules, but for those who don't the penalties can be serious. All suppliers should have the correct paperwork in place and ensure the conditions of their permit are met both in the waste material they accept and what they spread onto land.

"Farmers and landowners also have a duty of care and should check that the waste material they are accepting meets legal requirements."

Anyone unsure of the requirements can check on the National Farmer's Union checklist which is available to download [www.nfuonline.com/land-spreading\\_v3](http://www.nfuonline.com/land-spreading_v3). Taking these preventative measures not only helps to safeguard our environment, but livelihoods too.

Cases such as these highlight that there is still more to be understood around the impacts of inappropriate waste being spread to land. This coupled with an increasing number of farms being targeted for the unregulated disposal of waste, have been a catalyst for our Materials to Land (M2L) project.

Part of a £4.2million waste enforcement programme, M2L looks into waste derived materials that are spread to land as a fertiliser or soil improver. The project will help us assess the scale and impact of potentially inappropriate landspreading, what the resulting risks might be to the environment and

our health and exactly how beneficial these waste materials are to the land.

Since it started in May 2015, the project is moving ahead apace and along with our consultants, AECOM, around 40 landspreading inspection visits are planned for this autumn and winter, with 30 visits already completed. During the inspection visits, samples are taken from stored waste and the land on which it will be spread. The results gathered will then help us inform and update guidance and ways of working on landspreading for farmers and operators.



## SNP have broken their own waiting time law 28,000 times

### SNP have broken their own waiting time law 28,000 times since it was introduced.

The SNP Government has broken its own waiting time law 28,000 times since it was established in 2012.

In 2012 the SNP Government established the treatment time guarantee – a legal right that patients would not wait longer than 12 weeks from treatment being agreed until the start of the treatment.

Since then the SNP Government has failed to make that target 28,000 times.

Scottish Labour said the problem summed up the SNP in government – more

concerned with headlines than the long term management of the NHS.

Scottish Labour Public Services Spokesperson Jackie Baillie said:

“Now more than ever we need a well-resourced health service free at the point of delivery based on patient need not the ability to pay.

“NHS staff who have dedicated their careers to



Scottish Labour Public Services Spokesperson Jackie Baillie

caring for others deserve the support and resources to do their jobs probably, but we know from the NHS staff survey that only a third of them think they actually get the support they need to do their jobs.

“In 2012 the SNP made a promise to the people of Scotland that they would have a legal right to treatment within 12 weeks. That law has now been broken 28,000 times.

“This just sums up the SNP’s short term approach to our NHS – PR before patients and spin before staff.

“Scottish Labour believes we need a long term vision for our NHS, one that invests in social care to ease pressure on our hospitals and gives more vulnerable Scots the dignity of care in their own home.”

## HS2 takes major step forward

HS2 Phase One bill passes third reading in House of Commons.

HS2 took a major step forward in March as the hybrid Bill for Phase One of the scheme between London and Birmingham successfully passed its third reading in the Commons with MPs voting 399 to 42 in favour of the Bill. The Bill will now pass to the House of Lords. Subject to completing its parliamentary passage, construction will begin next year (2017).

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said:

“Once again Parliament has backed HS2 and brought this vital new railway one step closer to reality. British contractors are now bidding to build the line, British apprentices are waiting to work on it and British cities are waiting to benefit from it.

“We expect HS2 to begin construction next year. As we enter this new phase I make 3 pledges: we will work closely with those communities affected by the HS2 route, we will keep a firm grip on costs and we will drive maximum value for money from this new railway.”

## Sturgeon's GM crops ban puts populism above jobs and opportunity

In a shocking revelation last night, Jim McMahon, the Labour leader of Oldham Borough Castle, and candidate in the Oldham West and Royton by-election admitted that he was "unaware" that a company of



John Bickley, Oldham West and Royton UKIP candidate

which he is a director, is part of an elaborate Luxembourg based tax avoidance operation. Presented with the evidence he claimed ignorance of the scheme. But as the Company's House documentation makes crystal clear, he, as a director of the company, Oldham

Property Partnerships Ltd has a duty to "prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice".

John Bickley, the UKIP candidate said, "Ignorance of the situation is no excuse. In fact it makes it even worse. Mr McMahon takes no financial benefit from the scheme, that I am sure. However, his lack of awareness of this scheme, that has robbed the Treasury of hundreds of thousands of pounds is extraordinary. Particularly as he spends his time hypocritically accusing the Government over austerity, and Labour has campaigns against exactly these kind of arrangements.

"Jim is either an incompetent or a hypocrite, neither is good enough for Oldham West and Royton".

## Greens slam Tories over rejection of 'tiny tax for big change'

MOLLY Scott Cato MEP, Green Party finance speaker, has slammed the UK government for defending the City and refusing to back a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT). Described as 'a tiny tax for big change', the FTT is a small levy on financial transactions such as shares, bonds and derivatives. The tax, also known as a Robin Hood Tax, has the support of more than a million people who want to see money raised from such a tax go towards funding public services, addressing poverty and fighting climate change.

EU leaders from ten countries yesterday announced what Greens described as a weak agreement which left many questions unanswered on the scale of the tax, who will pay it and how many exemptions there will be. The UK is one of the member states that has strongly opposed the tax.

Molly Scott Cato said:

"By bowing to lobbying by the

financial sector, George Osborne has again shown his true colours. He would rather defend the huge profits of his chums in the City than support a tax that could raise millions to help tackle climate change and address poverty. With the COP21 talks struggling over the issue of climate finance and how to fund the pledges countries have made on reducing their emissions, the Tories opposition to the FTT shows they lack any sense of commitment towards climate justice."

The Greens have long championing a strong FTT as part of a tax justice campaign and as a way of regulating the financial sector.

Dr Scott Cato added:

"The agreement reached is marred by various exemptions granted to different types of financial products and pension funds. To be properly effective, a FTT must include comprehensive coverage of all financial products. By exempting some of the most speculative products we will fail to ensure the FTT properly curbs risky speculation, which has wreaked havoc on the economy in Europe and beyond."

## Federal BBC a ‘win-win’ for viewers

A federal BBC that gives full commissioning and decision-making powers to BBC Scotland, would be a ‘win-win’ for viewers in Scotland and across the UK, Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said today.

Speaking ahead of the Scottish Parliament Education and Culture Committee, at which the Cabinet Secretary and the Director General of the BBC Lord Tony Hall will give evidence on the current BBC Charter renewal process today, Ms Hyslop said:

“It’s time for BBC Scotland to be empowered and resourced to be bold and creative for Scotland.

“A federal structure would empower the BBC to better reflect the needs of

the nations and regions it serves, giving BBC Scotland full control over decision making in terms of how revenue raised here is spent.

“Full control over commissioning and editorial decisions would have an enormously positive impact. It would enable BBC Scotland to take a long-term, strategic approach to delivering sustainable, high quality programming that benefits audiences, the global market and the creative sector. This would be a win-win for viewers both in Scotland and across the rest of the UK.

“I am keen to work with the BBC to achieve this both within and outwith the Charter Renewal process, because there is much that the BBC can do outside of

Charter Renewal to improve its service to the people of Scotland.

“We have worked hard with stakeholders from across Scotland to understand the issues and to develop a position that we believe has strong support.

“This is about ensuring the BBC’s long-term future in a way that benefits both the BBC and Scotland. The future BBC must think about Scotland in a different way if it is to meet the needs of the UK’s nations and regions to ensure that public service broadcasting remains a vital part of our social, democratic, cultural and economic life.”

## HPV vaccination programme

Men who have sex with men (MSM) in Scotland will be eligible to receive the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine.

The Scottish Government is following the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), which recommends a targeted vaccination programme for MSM aged up to 45 who attend GUM and HIV clinics.

Human papilloma virus is the name for a group of viruses, which can lead to genital warts and some forms of cancer. Vaccination provides the best protection against some forms of HPV which can cause cancer.

Public Health Minister Maureen Watt said:

“We have accepted the JCVI’s recommendation, based on the most up-to-date clinical evidence. This programme will help to provide protection against HPV which can cause a range of cancers, not just cervical cancer.

“The Scottish Government is now working closely with Health Protection Scotland and NHS Scotland to find the best way to deliver this programme.”

# UK youth must embrace ‘radical possibilities’ of EU membership, say Young Greens

Environment Minister Aileen McLeod has renewed criticism of UK Government energy and energy efficiency policies which are impacting on Scottish Government budgets.



Aileen McLeod MSP

Dr McLeod said UK policy on energy and energy efficiency has hampered investment and reduced the level of funding available in Scotland. This includes the end of consequential funding for the HEEPS:

Cashback scheme because of the UK Government’s decision to implement early closure of the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund.

The Minister also highlighted the Scottish Government’s implementation of a £13.3 million overall increase across other areas, as she published a summary of funding for climate change mitigation measures in the Draft Budget 2016/17, including significant investment for energy efficiency – despite the challenges from UK Government actions, sustainable travel, waste reduction and natural carbon capture.

Dr McLeod said:

“Over the last year we have

repeatedly lobbied the UK Government, including direct representations to the Prime Minister, to reverse their changes to renewable energy policies.

“Regrettably they have not done so and we have had to revise our budgets relating to renewable energy. This has been caused by the reduction in investors for projects because of the early closure of the subsidy regime and other policy and regulatory changes.

“Despite this we remain absolutely committed to continuing action to tackle climate change, delivering our ambitious targets on emissions reductions and protecting Scotland’s environment, with a £13.3 million overall increase in budgets across other areas.

“Investor confidence in renewable energy has been hit by the UK Government changes, with the UK falling from the top 10 of EY’s Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index for the first time. This comes as at a time when the Secretary of State herself has admitted the UK Government does not have a credible plan to meet its legally binding target to deliver 15 per cent of the UK’s final energy consumption from renewables by 2020.

“This is an extremely disappointing situation and I again urge the UK Government to re-think their policies, particularly in light of the deal for worldwide action agreed recently in Paris.”



The Scottish Government are ‘committed to protecting Scotland’s environment’

# Cemetery Innovations

By Keith Welters, CEO Welters Organisation Worldwide



Victorian communal mausoleum structure

Back in the 1990's when then Prime Minister Tony Blair was telling us 'Things can only get better' under New Labour... we were busy introducing burial chamber and mausoleum systems to the Bereavement Industry as a viable means of interment. Back then the concept of these types of burial, especially above ground burial was seen as something from the past and not the thing that 'modern' cemeteries should be offering. Mausoleums were something that most 'modern' cemeteries had in their 'old sections' (as most of our modern cemeteries were established in the

Victorian era) and were generally thought of as ivy covered legacies of a bygone Victorian practice.

Burial chambers too were based on the brick grave type of interment and although these are still occasionally built today, their laborious construction had changed little since Victorian times.

It was clear to me that this method of above and below ground burial was evidently advantageous when compared to the common earthen grave interment. Our British climate does not lend well to simple holes in the ground unless in the most

well drained and sandy of soils. I have trodden across many a muddy burial section and witnessed the most horrendous conditions for grieving families to endure and thought that there must be a better way.

So, we had taken these two concepts, a brick grave and a mausoleum, and set about reimagining them into the products and systems we produce extensively today.

A brick grave is larger than a standard grave space, it is expensive and labour intensive to construct and the works have to be carried out in situ, and is therefore limited in its viability to a Burial Authority as a primary form of interment. The precast burial chamber on the other hand, is produced in volume away from the cemetery at a fraction of the cost and can be supplied and installed across entire burial sections in high densities. The area can then be dressed and paved to create a premium burial area at a

comparatively low cost, yielding a high return to the Burial Authority.

To accompany the burial chamber system, we also 'reinvented' the standardised memorial in order to provide to the Cemetery a complete solution to their interment and memorial provision. Most post war cemetery areas provide 'lawn type' sections and these have within them row upon row of 'lawn type memorials' which, as many

a Cemetery Manager will agree, have proved to be an unstable and potentially dangerous design over the years. Our solution was the introduction of the Memorial Housing which is designed to fit securely on top of the burial chamber without impeding the interment. This enables an inscribed tablet to be fitted to the memorial either before or immediately after the interment, which is a massive advantage in itself.

Burial chamber areas then provide safe year round low maintenance interment provision, removing the risk of grave collapse or treacherous access due to wet and slippery ground conditions.



Similarly, we approached the traditional mausoleum with the same thought process; instead of using expensive brick and mortar construction methods, we devised a modular precast cell system that can be assembled quickly to produce either small family type arrangements or larger community style configurations. The exterior of the cells can then be clad in a choice of materials to create attractive above ground provision at an affordable cost, making it a viable option for Burial Authorities to offer to their service users.



A typical front and side charging mausoleum

As this type of interment typically relates to 'front

charging' mausoleums, where the coffin is interred via the front of the cell, we also devised a secondary cell design where the coffin is 'charged' from the side of the cell. With space being in short supply within cemeteries this allows mausoleums to be installed in narrow areas or along boundaries where traditional interment methods are impracticable.

Of course these two interment options also allow us to design mausoleums with a combination of front and side charging cells to create attractive arrangements and a wider choice for the service users. Over the years, as more and more Burial Authorities adopted our above and below ground interment systems it seemed logical to marry together all of our main concepts into what we today call the Cemetery Village®. A Cemetery Village® is a carefully designed and affordable area within a cemetery that incorporates

a multitude of above and below ground full body burial and cremated remains interment (we also provide a wide range of cremated remains interment systems) and memorial facilities, creating a safe, manageable environment for both staff and visitor alike.

The Cemetery Village® is now a standard of the industry and we serve a nationwide network of Burial Authorities who understand that pre-designed and installed schemes allow the pre-selling of interment facilities. This not only provides families with peace of mind but allows the Authority to secure 'cash flow' to ensure the sustainability and on-going investment into future burial provision for the community. The best way to preserve anything is to ensure its financial viability and we strive to provide our customers the best viable service possible.

Things are actually getting better.



Communal mausoleum and burial chambers



Burial chambers with memorial housings



Typical Cemetery Village® arrangement



# Older people encouraged to get vaccinated to avoid painful shingles

Public Health England (PHE) is reminding eligible older people to get the shingles vaccine to help prevent the painful infection. New figures have shown a drop in vaccine coverage.

From 1 September 2015, the shingles vaccine has been offered to people aged 70 years on 1 September 2015. People aged 78 years on 1 September 2015 can also get vaccinated.

Data for the September 2015 to November 2015 quarter shows a 2% drop in coverage for 70 year olds compared to the same period the previous year (37.8% down from 39.8%) and 0.4% drop for the catch-up cohort (78 year olds) (38.2% down from 38.6%).

Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus (chickenpox), which is commonly caught in childhood.

After a person has had chickenpox, the virus can lie dormant in the nervous tissue but may reappear as shingles. An episode of shingles typically lasts around two to four weeks. The main symptoms are pain, followed by a rash. It is possible to have shingles more than once.

Although shingles vaccination is often offered at the same time as the annual flu vaccination, the shingles vaccine is available at any time throughout the year to eligible people.

Those who were eligible for immunisation in the first two years of the programme but have not yet been vaccinated against shingles remain eligible until their 80th birthday. These are people aged 71, 72 or 79 on 1 September 2015.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at Public Health England said:

“It’s worth taking the time and effort to visit your doctor to get the shingles vaccine as it protects you against a painful condition. You only need to be vaccinated once and it’s important that you get it while you’re the right age.

“We offer the shingles vaccine routinely to individuals at the age of 70 years to boost their

immunity to prevent the development of shingles and significantly reduce the incidence of post herpetic neuralgia – persistent nerve pain that can occur at the site of a previous attack of shingles.

“Since the introduction of the shingles vaccine there has been a considerable reduction in the number of cases of this debilitating and painful condition.”



# Tackling unlicensed commercial fishing

Catch limits will be set for key shellfish species to prevent and deter unlicensed fishermen from selling their catch illegally, Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead said today.

Last year the Scottish Government consulted on a number of measures to tackle the longstanding issue of fishermen selling their catch without a licence. After taking into account the views of the industry, a catch limit will now be set to prevent the illegal selling of fish by those without a licence. We will work with the industry to set an appropriate catch limit.

The Scottish Government will also continue to target unlicensed commercial fishermen at sea and work

with buyers of the catch to ensure they comply with regulations to prevent unlicensed commercial fishing.

Mr Lochhead said:

“We have heard from the industry about the detrimental impact that unlicensed fishing is having on our fishermen. This is why we must Catch limits will be set for key shellfish species to prevent and deter unlicensed fishermen from selling their catch illegally, Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead said.

Last year the Scottish Government consulted on a number of measures to tackle the longstanding issue of fishermen selling their catch without a licence. After taking into

account the views of the industry, a catch limit will now be set to prevent the illegal selling of fish by those without a licence. We will work with the industry to set an appropriate catch limit.



# Cameron's short-sighted approach is already causing job losses

Responding to the Prime Minister's comments on energy policy in response to questions from the Liaison Committee, Lisa Nandy MP Shadow Energy and Climate Change Secretary, said:

“The Prime Minister's only line of defence on clean energy was to cite the investment made possible by the very schemes that he is now abandoning. He boasted about the success of his solar policy but now he is ripping it up to the cost of up to 18,000 jobs. He pointed to the Green Investment Bank, but now he is selling it off and removing its green status. He axed the fund for Carbon Capture and Storage on cost grounds, yet he's just handed out hundreds of millions in subsidies to diesel and coal generators. His short-sighted approach is already causing job losses, and putting off the investment in new power stations we urgently need to keep the lights on.”

## Greens Break Through In Shropshire, Go from Strength to Strength in the West Midlands

DUNCAN Kerr has won a by-election for the Shropshire Council seat of South Oswestry.

With his win, the Green Party now has councillors on 11 different councils across the West Midlands.



Green Party Councillor Duncan Kerr

The seat had been held since 2013 by the Conservative ex-Leader of the Council Keith Barrow. Kerr triumphed on the night thanks to a 17.1% upswing which saw the Greens' percentage rise to

a commanding 48.8%.

Kerr is an active local campaigner who was runner up in the seat in the 2013 election, and he has been a Town Councillor on Oswestry Town Council since 2013. (1)

Natalie Bennett, Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, offered her congratulations:

"Duncan's win in Shropshire is richly deserved. Like Greens up and down the country he has listened to the concerns of his community and demonstrated a genuine preparedness and readiness to challenge the status quo.

"The Green Party is going from strength to strength in the West Midlands, where increasing numbers of people are sick and

tired of business-as-usual politics, and attracted to the Greens' blueprint for a fair economy, publically owned and run services and a safe climate."

Kerr said:

"I would like to thank the people of South Oswestry for their support.

"Shropshire faces a very uncertain future with threats to all services from libraries and parks to care services for the elderly and young people all under threat."

"From my own knowledge and experience of 30 years in local government, I know there is an alternative to this dismantling of our society."

"I will be calling for policies which will rebuild the economy and vitality of our great town."

## Changes to EU-wide trade marks come into effect

Changes include a renaming of EU-wide marks and the relevant EU registry.

A range of changes have come into force from 23 March relating to the EU-wide trade mark and the Office, based in Spain, that maintains the register of those EU-wide trade marks (as well as registered Community designs).

Prominent changes include two name changes:

- what have previously been called Community trade marks (CTMs) are from today to be known as European Union trade marks (EUTMs)
- the Office formerly known as OHIM (the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market) has from today changed its name to the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

Other changes coming into effect today include:

- an overall reduction in the fees for EUTMs
- an end to processing applications for EU-wide trade marks via the UK's IPO
- various changes to the law, including measures to help tackle counterfeiting

For more information, see the website of the EUIPO.

# Working Tri21 Project



Working Tri21 is a project which aims to enhance the social inclusion of people suffering from disabilities by integrating them into job market. Social inclusion, through job inclusion.

There is a long history of those with disabilities finding it difficult to secure employment. This is due to a lack of knowledge, procedure, training and the appropriate adjustments being made. Disabled people offer a wide range of potential skills, by identifying and correcting the current issues,

businesses and employers can offer job opportunities to those with disabilities. Also, providing employment to the individuals will help them integrate into society and help to eliminate some barriers that may currently be perceived by society. There are more than 50 million people with some form of disability in Europe alone. This means businesses are losing significant numbers of potential recruits that possess many possibilities.

The project aims to research and develop

support for those with disabilities, with a primary focus on those with Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21), with the long term goal being to help enable their employment. The research part of the project included; identifying the skills, abilities and knowledge regarding prospective job roles. After identifying these areas the developmental support focussed on tailoring a training package(s) for individuals with special needs. Trial tests will then be carried out in Spain, with the finished product being designed for use in all (or most) EU countries.

The research that has been carried out is split into three Outputs. The first piece of research, Output 1, discovered that those with Down Syndrome/ Tri21 have disabilities and learning difficulties which may affect their capacity to

complete certain tasks. It is likely that roles such as warehousing, packing, elementary quality control, basic upholstery (such as filling cushions) and simple assembly operation would best suit those who suffer with Down Syndrome/Tri21. However it is important for individuals with Down Syndrome/Tri21 to have individual assessments, as the difficulties individuals may experience can differ considerably.

Output 2 researched how people with certain other disabilities would cope in specific job roles. The research was based around those who were deaf, blind or visually impaired, required dialysis, Down Syndrome, intellectual difficulties, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, Asperger syndrome and arthritis. There were many job profiles researched. These included: upholstery, frame assembly, furniture assembler, quality technician, carver, band saw operator, packer, administrator and several others. The research concluded that while some of the jobs were not a good fit for some disabilities, there was a potential job role for anyone with any of the disabilities.

Finally, Output 3 went into further detail creating a summary of those jobs that people who are identified as disabled could do, could not do and jobs which they may be able to perform with some potential difficulties.

In the list of jobs that those with a disability could carry out there are fifteen potential jobs. Although, it should be noted that out of those fifteen jobs not all of the jobs could be performed by some. Nevertheless there are still a number of job roles individuals could fulfill. The full reports on each Output can be found on the Working Tri21 website.

The Working Tri21 project is

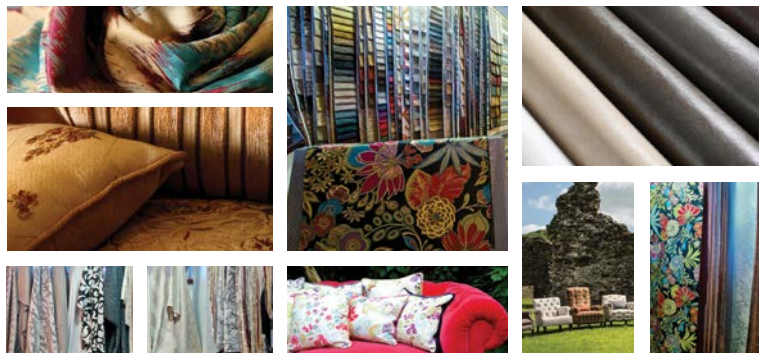


a consortium consisting of:

- BFM LTD (UK)
- Asociacion Empresarial De Investigacion Centro Tecnologico Del Muebley La Madera De La Region De Murcia (Spain)
- Associazione Centro Studi Città di Foligno (Italy)
- Associazione Italiana Persone Down Onlus -AIPD - (Italy)

Funded by Erasmus+.

For more information please visit the website: [www.workingtri21.eu](http://www.workingtri21.eu)



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Mike Dimond on **01494 569124**

# Almost 2 million fish released into England's rivers

Record-breaking numbers of coarse fish were released into England's rivers in 2015, the Environment Agency has revealed.

Last year was the best year ever for the Environment Agency's specialist fish breeding farm in Nottingham. Experts stocked more than 452,220 fish and 1.3 million larvae into rivers all over the country. They were all bred at the Environment Agency's Calverton fish farm.

Calverton is the Environment Agency's principal supply of coarse fish for restocking. Every year for the last 31 years the farm has produced up to 450,000 fish of nine species for restocking into rivers following pollution incidents or to help restore fish stocks in rivers where numbers are low. All of its work is funded by rod

licence income.

Fish farm team leader Alan Henshaw said:

"Many of our industrialised rivers have improved dramatically in water quality in the last 30 years and concerted restocking from Calverton has accelerated the restoration of natural fish stocks and viable fisheries. Last year was no exception and, while it wasn't a good summer for getting a tan, it was perfect for growing fish.

"Growth and production rates of fish that have been grown on the farm for 18 months have been the highest recorded at Calverton. Many rivers and lakes throughout England have benefited from these stockings and the quality of the fish is a testament to the hard work and

professionalism of the staff."

Some notable stockings that took place include:

- 2,800 Barbel across the Great Ouse and 1,000 into the River Nene in Anglian region.
- 19,000 mixed Chub, Dace, Barbel and Roach across the River Sow and River Tame in the Midlands.
- 14,500 mixed Chub, Dace, Bream, and Barbel into the Yorkshire Derwent.
- 7,000 mixed Barbel and Chub into the River Tees in the North East.
- 9,000 mixed Chub, Dace and Roach into the River Alt in the North West.
- 28,500 mixed Bream and Rudd into Birchmere Lake in London.
- 32,700 mixed Chub, Roach, Barbel and Bream across the River Brue and River Sheppey in the South West.

The fish breeding process is complex. Staff at Calverton remove the sperm and eggs by hand from the fish and the eggs are treated with a solution to improve the rate of fertilisation. They are then laid out in specialist trays and placed inside troughs, where they receive a fresh, temperature controlled water supply. The eggs are incubated for between three and 30 days depending on species and temperature. When the eggs have hatched, the tiny larvae start feeding on minute Brine Shrimp.

After a few weeks they are stocked into the onsite ponds until they are ready to be released into the wild. The process takes approximately 18 months from the egg stage to releasing the young fish into the wild.

In 2015 the number of each species released was:

Chub	53,729
Dace	46,850
Roach	67,875
Bream	66,976
Barbel	58,400
Tench	15,231
Crucians	88,034
Rudd	35,125
Grayingling	20,000

# Superior manufacturing capabilities



**welters**® continue to develop new products and interment facilities to meet the needs of their service users. The company now boasts a wide range of products designed exclusively in-house and developed at their manufacturing base in Carlisle, company owner Keith Welters said:

“Whilst others in the industry are satisfied with simply copying proven designs, we take inspiration from art and nature to create new and innovative

products. It’s the only way to move forward and continue the development of a sector we started over twenty years ago”

**welters**® have invested heavily in mould technologies to increase their production capacities for an ever growing client base. The company can produce high volume products and components serving a nationwide network of sites and customers.

Using unique and

specialist design protected interchangeable component elements allow **welters**® to ensure that their schemes are “contemporary and complimentary” to any existing or new build facilities, on any scale at sustainable and unbeatable fixed price installation costs.

This capability allows the company to offer products and manufacturing services to a broader retail spectrum such as parks and amenity spaces and private developments as well as direct to the domestic market.



## Biocides approvals withdrawn

The European Union has withdrawn the approvals for 3 commonly-used biocides following a decision made on 27 January.

The three biocides are:

1. Triclosan
2. Cybutryne
3. Poly(hexamethylene) biguanide hydrochloride (PHMB)

Of these, triclosan is the most widely used and is commonly found as an antibacterial in soaps and other cosmetic products including toothpaste, although use has been declining recently. It is listed as a “specific pollutant” under the Water Framework Directive. It was estimated in 2014, by the Environment Agency, that as many as 450 water bodies in the United Kingdom could have triclosan levels in excess of

the proposed limit of 0.28 µg/L.

Triclosan can be measured in waters at or below the above level using High Performance Liquid Chromatography linked to tandem mass spectrometry (HPLC-MS/MS). This technique can also be used to measure the levels of triclosan in cosmetic products, following extraction of the triclosan.

These approvals are withdrawn from 16 February.



## Global factors mean growth downgrades are no surprise: BCC

David Kern comments on the UK Inflation Report published by the Bank of England in February.



David Kern, Chief Economist at the British Chambers of Commerce

- Bank of England downgrades UK GDP forecast for 2016 from 2.5% to 2.2%, and in 2017 from 2.7% to 2.4%
- Inflation forecast downgraded to 1.2% in Q1 2017, down from 1.5%

Commenting on the UK Inflation Report published by the Bank of England, David Kern, BCC Chief Economist, said:

“In the face of growing international headwinds, as reflected in the weakening business sentiment recorded in our own surveys, it is not surprising that the Bank of England has downgraded its growth and inflation forecasts.

“Inflation is now predicted to stay below 1% throughout this year, and the UK economy is projected to grow at the same rate as last year.

“The government’s fiscal plans in the Autumn Statement were based on sustained growth. These downgrades should serve as a warning that this is not guaranteed, and more needs to be done to support the economy in the face of global trends.

“Against this background the bank’s calculations indicate that interest rates will only edge up very slightly next year, which should help to reassure businesses and consumers.”



## Extended Sunday trading due in the autumn

Local high streets will be given the green light to go head to head with online retailers with new powers to allow local councils to extend Sunday trading hours expected to be introduced in the autumn.

The government is introducing amendments to the Enterprise Bill to hand local authorities the power to extend Sunday opening hours.

As part of the plans to give local authorities powers to extend Sunday trading hours, local retailers will have the flexibility to seasonally adjust hours to enable them to better compete for trade. Last year, internet retailers accounted for 13.8% of all retail spending in December 2015.

The ability to seasonally vary Sunday trading hours will also mean that high streets can take advantage of increased tourism opportunities enjoyed by countries which have already extended Sunday trading hours. According to Visit Britain, in Sweden full deregulation has increased turnover by 5%.

Business Minister Anna Soubry said:

“Extending Sunday shopping hours has the potential to help businesses and high streets better compete as our shopping habits change.

“The rights of shop workers are key to making these changes work in everyone’s interests. We are protecting

those who do not wish to work Sundays, and those who do not want to work more than their normal Sunday working hours.”

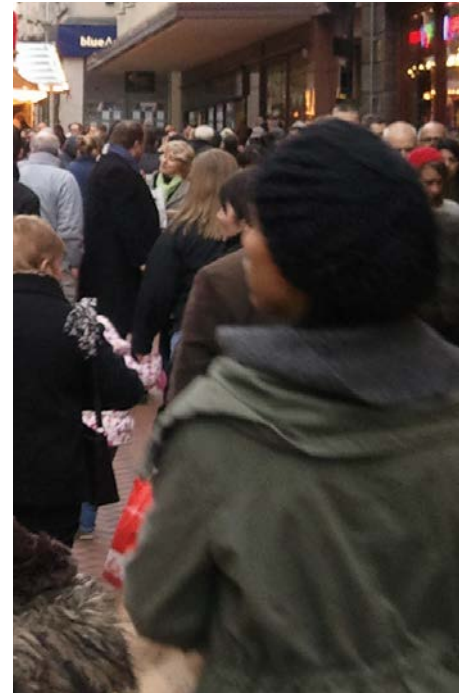
This is part of a package of measures to devolve Sunday trading laws to Local Authorities allowing councils to “zone” any relaxation so they will be able to prioritise high streets and city centres.

The measures also include greater freedoms for shop workers in England, Scotland and Wales to “opt-out” of working Sundays if they choose to, for example because they object on religious grounds or for family reasons.

Shop workers will now be able to give just one month’s notice to large shops that they no longer want to work Sundays, down from the previous 3 months, and will have a new

right to opt out of working additional hours. The government will also strengthen the duty on employers to notify employees of their rights about working on Sundays.

The plans are supported by councils, leading retailers, and business leaders.



# Business Secretary steps up fight to end discrimination

In a speech at an UpRising event the Business Secretary Sajid Javid confirmed he has asked Baroness McGregor-Smith to lead a review looking at the issues faced by businesses in developing black and minority ethnic (BME) talent from when they start work through to executive level.

The review will also consider the obstacles faced and the impacts these have on the individuals and the businesses themselves. It will also look at the evidence base and consider those interventions that have worked well and what more can be done.

Business Secretary Sajid Javid said:

“I am committed to ending discrimination at work and extending opportunity to everyone regardless of their race, colour or religion. We have record employment, strong growth and rising wages but there is more to do to ensure everyone has the same chance to progress at work.



The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

“This isn’t just the ‘right’ thing to do – harnessing the potential from the widest pool of talent you can

makes absolute business sense for employers right across the UK.”

Baroness McGregor-Smith’s review will complement Sir John Parker’s review into diversity on boards. She said:



Baroness McGregor-Smith

“I am delighted to be leading this review. It has never been more important to fully capitalise on the skills and talents of every individual in the workplace, regardless of their background.

“We need to remove

the barriers that for so long have restricted BME talent from reaching the most senior levels in business. These actions will deliver long-term economic benefits for the UK.”

The review is part of the government’s ambitious BME 2020 plan and is aimed at improving labour market outcomes for those from BME backgrounds.

Ministers from across government have been charged with:

- increasing the proportion of apprenticeships taken up by young people from BME backgrounds by 20%
- increasing the number of BME students going to university by 20%
- ensuring that 20,000 start-up loans are awarded to BME applicants by 2020
- increasing BME employment by 20% by 2020
- increasing the diversity of the armed forces
- increasing the diversity of police recruitment

## Early reading support for refugee families

Up to 1,000 children's books and toys will be donated from the Scottish Government and Scottish Book Trust to refugee families across Scotland.



Aileen Campbell  
MSP by Scottish Parliament

The donation is made up of a contribution of books from the Scottish Book Trust and Play Talk Read packs, which contain a book, a play mat, flash cards, a puppet and play cubes, and will be distributed to families in need who have

recently arrived in Scotland from Syria.

Children's Minister Aileen Campbell handed over the first donation of 40 packs for families in Dundee while visiting Dens Road Primary School.

On handing over the books and toys, Ms Campbell said:

“Many of the children who have come to Scotland under the Syrian Resettlement Programme have experienced long periods of time with no education, no opportunities to play and no normality in their lives.

“Reading with a child can be one of the most rewarding and beneficial things a parent can do. It is

vital that we support these families in restoring their lives, and ensuring parents have a good bond with their children plays a critical part in helping to do this.

“I'm delighted to be handing over the first 40 of up to 1,000 book packs that will be distributed to Syrian families living across Scotland.”

Catriona Wallace, Head of



Catriona Wallace  
Head of Early Years

Early Years at Scottish Book Trust, said:

“We want to encourage and

inspire a love of books and reading in every child in Scotland.

“This love of books and reading starts right from birth. When we read with babies and young children, we're creating their sense of security, but also developing their language, and understanding of the world. We hope that the books we are giving to refugee families will bring joy and inspire happy times spent reading together.”

PlayTalkRead is aimed at parents, grandparents and carers of children aged 0 – 3 years. It encourages them to play, talk and read with their children every day to give them the essential skills, motivation and abilities that will make it easier for them to keep learning throughout their lives.

Scotland has received more than 400 Syrian refugees under the Syrian Resettlement Programme since October 2015. More than half of Scotland's local authorities have now received refugees in their area.

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# Making university campuses safer

Scottish universities are set to become even safer as they strive to prevent sexual harassment and assault across their campuses.

Statistics show that stalking, harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence are significant issues facing Scottish women today and college age women can be at greater risk, with one in four reporting unwanted sexual behaviour during their studies.

Marking International Women's Day, the Scottish Government is teaming up with the University of Strathclyde to develop a groundbreaking violence against women toolkit to stamp out these behaviours when they happen at home, at work, or on university and college campuses.

The university has been awarded £300,000 for the first year of an innovative two year project to produce a resource for all Scottish Higher Education Institutes as part of Equally Safe, the Government's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said:

"It is completely unacceptable that women in Scotland are still at risk of, and experiencing, violence and abuse at any point in their lives – never mind a time when many move away from their homes to a new city or town to study.

"We want our colleges and universities to be worldleading in all respects and positive learning

environments. That is why this Government is committed to ensuring that this criminal behaviour is identified, tackled robustly and eliminated from our campuses.

"The recent rise in convictions for domestic abuse and sexual offences shows an increase in confidence to report and a more consistent approach by police and prosecutors.

"This project will build on the good work already happening and embed the principles of Equally Safe into all colleges and universities procedures – leading to a cross-campus approach to preventing violence against women and better practices for reporting abuse and supporting victims.

Dr Veena O'Halloran, Director of Student Experience and Enhancement Services

at the University of Strathclyde said: "Universities have a key role to play in helping to prevent all forms of gender-based violence, wherever it may occur in our communities. We are delighted with the announcement of funding for this innovative, collaborative project.

"By working together with other universities, we can ensure the higher education sector contributes substantially to Scotland's progressive, national approach to the long-term prevention of gender-based violence."

The Scottish Government is providing record funding for initiatives all across Scotland to help make a real difference and eradicate violence against women.

The collaborative, campus-wide project will be based in the University's School of Social Work and Social Policy.

The University will work with a range of partners including other universities and students associations to conduct an initial scoping exercise to ensure existing good practice is shared across the sector.

# Majestic Memorial Mausolea



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 ORGANISATION  
 WORLDWIDE  
 Design and Innovation  
 Cremated remains interment



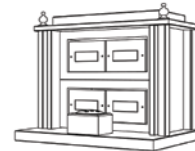
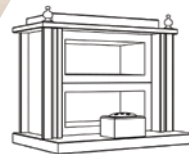
- Available nationwide
- Easy to install in low or high volumes

The Majestic Memorial Mausolea provides space for four cremated remains interments.

The memorials can be installed in a variety of configurations and are available in black and grey granite.

The memorial is embellished with columns and finials and the flower base comes complete with a flower spinner.

The front tablet for inscription can be fitted either in one large piece, or two separate tablets. An optional stone planter can also be provided as pictured.



## Welsh Government invests £14m modernising over 100 libraries

The Welsh Government has invested over £14million in updating and modernising over 100 public libraries across Wales in the past nine years, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Ken Skates, has announced.

The funding has been used to improve facilities for the public, from updated ICT facilities to better community spaces and more flexible library areas, and has led to an increase in usage and membership.

Some of the projects have also involved aspects at co-location, transforming libraries into community hubs by combining with other council services, such as leisure facilities and housing advice.

The Welsh Government's support is helping to contribute to the success of Wales' libraries: there were over 13.6million visits made to public libraries in Wales in 2014-15 and over 11.1million books borrowed.

The Deputy Minister is celebrating the announcement at the official opening of Deeside Library.

Flintshire County Council received £92,000 from the Welsh Government's Community Learning and Libraries Programme to create a new co-located space in Deeside Leisure Centre.

The new library has self-service technology, allowing it to remain open all the hours the leisure centre

opens. Library users also have the advantage of using the café and foyer space for reading, refreshments and access to Wi-Fi.

Speaking ahead of the official opening, the Deputy Minister said:

“Our commitment and investment in libraries is helping them to stay relevant for people's lives today. Deeside is an excellent example of how co-locating can appeal to new audiences and benefit current users through new facilities and longer opening hours.

“Libraries are important community assets. They are open to everyone and offer a range of social and learning opportunities.

Libraries are a different place to what they were some years ago, and users new and old would be surprised at the modern services they now provide. I am pleased our support is allowing this transformation to continue, so they remain a valued part of our community.”

The new Deeside library has a brand new stock of 5000 books and 4 public use computers and 20 tablets for use in the library.

Cllr Aaron Shotton, Leader of Flintshire Council, said:

“The new hub is part of a £250,000 investment in Deeside Leisure Centre, with major funding contributions coming from Welsh Government.

“Deeside Leisure Centre is a major attraction in Flintshire and the new library along with the major improvements to the entrance and reception area will ensure it is an attractive place to visit and remains a local landmark.”

# Environment Secretary salutes Britain's women farmers

Leading women farmers from around the country will join Secretary of State Elizabeth Truss to celebrate women's contributions to British farming and the increasing number of women looking to the industry for a rewarding career.

Among those joining the Environment Secretary to mark International Women's Day will be Lynsey Martin, a young beef and sheep farmer and chair of Chair of Agriculture and Rural Issues Steering Group for National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, Beverly Dixon, HR Director of major fruit veg grower and exporter G's, in Cambridgeshire, and current Harper Adams Business Management student Jessica Spencer.

The group will discuss

a wide range of issues relating to women in farming, including the barriers women continue to face when starting and building a career in the industry. As well as exploring ways to reduce these obstacles, the roundtable will look at how to encourage more female students and women to consider farming as a serious career choice.

Today, women make up 28% of the British agricultural workforce and the numbers of women running farms has steadily increased to just over 25,000. Dynamic groups like Ladies in Beef and Ladies in Pigs are fantastic examples of women who are at the forefront of promoting quality British produce at home and overseas. Women are increasingly taking on senior positions

in key farming organisations - including the NFU and AHDB.

Universities and colleges are also reporting a rise in female students taking agricultural courses. The latest Higher Education enrolment figures show 25% more women (1,115) than men (820) enrolled onto agricultural-related courses last year. The Royal Agricultural University, in Cirencester, has seen a 44% increase of female students, while Harper Adams University, in Shropshire, has recorded a doubling of the number of female students studying agriculture over the last five years – boosting female representation in the agricultural faculty to nearly a third.

Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss said:

“The increasing number of women looking to a career in food and farming is positive and exciting. Farming, like any industry, needs to attract new talent and ideas and harness the skills of both young women and men.

“International Women's Day provides us with an excellent opportunity to celebrate the contribution women are making to farming - from agricultural engineering to food production and advising retailers and supermarkets.

“With agriculture often perceived as a male-dominated industry, it's important we recognise the leading role women are playing. Now I want to see the industry build on this and more women taking on jobs in farming.”

In addition to hosting the roundtable, the Secretary of State will also attend a Ladies in Agriculture event to mark International Women's Day. Inspirational women working across the industry will talk to the professional networking group about qualifications and careers in agriculture, including how to put an agricultural qualification into practice and why agriculture is a great career opportunity.



# Senior bankers to face jail for reckless decisions

This is a major milestone in the government's efforts to reform UK financial services and to ensure that we have learnt the lessons of the past.

Under a new law, which comes into force today (7 March 2016), senior managers in UK banks, building societies or systemically important (PRA-regulated) investment firms will have committed a criminal offence if:

- he or she agrees to the taking of a decision which causes the institution to fail
- at the time of the decision, she or he was aware of the risk that the decision could cause the institution to fail;
- his or her conduct in relation to the decision fell far below what could reasonably be

expected of a senior manager in that position.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, said:

“This government has learnt the lessons of the past.

“We have reformed Britain's banking regulation to help build a stronger and safer financial system and introduced new rules that mean individuals working in UK firms face some of the toughest sanctions in the world.

“The new criminal offence, which becomes law today, is the latest milestone in my plan to ensure that the British banking industry operates to the highest possible standard. It is absolutely right that a senior manager whose

actions causes their bank to fail should face jail.”



George Osborne  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Source: hm-treasury.gov.uk

Also coming into force today is the new Senior Managers and Certification Regime (SM&CR). It will apply to banks, building societies, credit unions and PRA-regulated investment firms and replaces the existing Approved Persons Regime for deposit takers

and investment banks.

The SM&CR will focus regulatory prior approval on the key people at the top of these firms with “statements of responsibility” for each senior manager which will mean they have nowhere to hide if their firm breaches regulatory requirements.

The SM&CR will also shift responsibility for ensuring key staff below senior management levels are fit and proper to the firms themselves – there will be no prior regulatory approval of these staff.

There will also be more flexibility to enable regulators to impose high standards of conduct on a wider range of staff in these firms, including individuals doing jobs for which prior regulatory approval is not required.

By implementing the SM&CR the government is fulfilling the recommendations of the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards (PCBS) in relation to individual conduct and standards in banking.

# The SNP won't ask the richest to pay their fair share

The SNP won't ask the richest to pay their fair share of tax but they will ask our children to pay the price of cuts

Speaking on a visit to a nursery in East Lothian this morning, Kezia has said Nicola Sturgeon's excuses for not introducing a 50p top rate of tax for those earning more than £150,000 a year "look thinner than ever".

Nicola Sturgeon said setting a 50p top rate of tax would be "daft" and "reckless". Speaking on BBC Good Morning Scotland today the SNP Leader confirmed that she would not introduce a 50p tax on the richest few.

The First Minister confirmed her opposition to increasing taxes on the wealthiest few to invest more in education in an interview where she

also effectively conceded that she had cut teacher numbers by 4,000. Kezia said:



Kezia Dugdale, Leader of the Scottish Labour Party

"With each passing day the SNP's excuses for not reversing George Osborne's tax cut for the richest few look thinner than ever. The SNP won't ask the richest 1% to pay more tax but they will ask our children to pay the price of cuts.

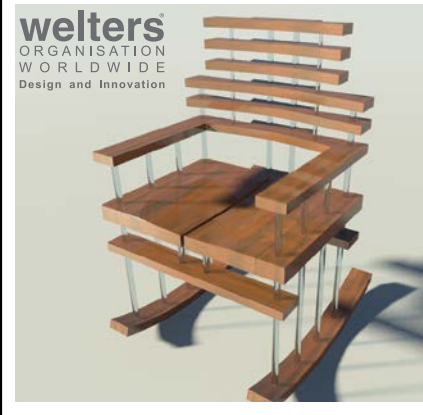
"We have been very clear – Labour will ask those earning more than £150,000 a year to pay a 50p top rate of tax so we can invest in our schools. If we want Scotland to have a world class education system then somebody has to pay for it. We need to invest in our schools, not carry on with the cuts.

"Last year the SNP attacked austerity, now they just attack Labour's plan to tax the richest to end austerity. Nicola Sturgeon has spent her whole career arguing for more powers to stop the cuts and ask the richest to pay their fair share. Yet now that the Scottish Parliament has those powers the SNP are passing on the cuts and won't ask the richest 1% to pay more.

"Faced with a choice between using the powers of the Scottish Parliament to invest in education or carrying on with the cuts, Labour will use the powers."

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# Furniture design and innovation

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The Welters family legacy is steeped in British Trade skills culture and Keith Welters, the current Managing Principal is a third generation City of London Freeman and Liveryman.

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