

Government *WORLD*™

Autumn 2015 Edition



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P.O. Box 159 Carlisle, Great Britain CA2 5BG

Office: 08702 416 422

Fax: 01228 674 959

E-mail: office@government-world.com

Submissions should be sent to **Government WORLD**,
PO Box 159, Carlisle, CA2 5BG
Tel: 08702 416 422 Fax: 01228 674 959
Email: submissions@government-world.com

ISSN 1744-6996



Cover picture:
Scotch mist

National News Headlines September 2015

1st September

- Cooper attacks Corbyn for 'dodgy economics that won't survive an election'
- Summer is over ... after the wettest August ever
- EU border controls may return

2nd September

- EU could slash UK's funding if we don't take more migrants
- Trespassers cause Eurostar disruption
- Migrants crisis out of control

3rd September

- Eurosceptic Tories threaten Cameron
- UK urged to 'do more' for migrants
- Polar plume means icy weather this weekend

4th September

- Britain set to accept more refugees
- Only 3% of publicly owned art on display
- PM bows to pressure to admit more refugees

5th September

- Unique royal coin to mark Queen's record reign
- 7-day GP opening 'unachievable'
- On her historic day, a Queen's speech of thanks to all her subjects

6th September

- PM's stark warning to Merkel: We could walk away from EU
- Welby urges MPs: reject right-to-die bill that 'crosses the Rubicon'
- Higher death rates at weekend confirmed, warns NHS boss



National News Headlines September 2015

7th September

- Blow for PM as new poll backs EU exit
- Cameron to announce UK refugee plan
- 'Biggest' Stonehenge site uncovered

8th September

- MPs to debate Syria refugee plan
- RAF kills British jihadists in Syria to save the Queen
- UK to take in 20,000 refugees over five years

9th September

- Refugees in UK 'go back home for holidays'
- Britain needs to show 'it's not an El Dorado'
- Rooney's 50th goal sets new England record

10th September

- 5m pensioners go without food and heat in cash crisis
- Labour contest ends amid turmoil
- Record-breaking Queen: happy, glorious, modest

11th September

- Israel asks UK to help stop 'militant Islam'
- MPs start assisted dying debate
- Corbyn 'looking forward to the job'

12th September

- Labour prepares to crown new leader
- Flu jab worked in one in three cases
- Corbyn: it's time for a new kind of politics



National News Headlines September 2015

13th September

- 'Petty' PM bans EU rebel Fox from top intelligence role
- Corbyn's plea for unity fails as frontbenchers resign
- Overloaded London GPs cannot cope, warns report

14th September

- Merkel tells Cameron to support EU Army
- Jailed Marine: Clamour for justice mounts
- Officers too busy to collar criminals

15th September

- EU must relax asylum laws says UN
- PM to call on rebel Labour MPs to back bombing of jihadists
- Commons in chaos over union reform

16th September

- MPs join fight to clear Taliban murder Marine
- Corbyn set for first Cameron clash
- Corbyn snubs Queen and country

17th September

- Corbynomics would hurt the poorest, Bank governor hints
- Labour won't back EU exit - Corbyn
- Warning over drone threat to prisons

18th September

- Labour at risk from Lib Dem defections
- UK on borrowed time, says Sturgeon
- Darling: Corbyn must define himself



National News Headlines September 2015

19th September

- Rogue landlords 'should be jailed'
- Replace cash with Bitcoins, says Bank's chief economist
- Surgeon may offer womb transplants from next year

20th September

- Corbyn's hopes for victory bounce dashed by new poll
- NHS on brink of collapse, warns former health minister
- MI5 pays UK Muslims to spy on terror suspects

21st September

- Corbyn's core beliefs attacked by new team
- UK guarantees £2bn China nuclear deal
- 'Million' new homes target declared

22nd September

- Diesel car scandal could affect millions
- PM quizzed over what he knew of tax status
- New gas 'gold rush' could be worth £6 billion

23rd September

- Migrant crisis 'plays into' EU issues
- Straw used UK consul to check job offer firm
- VW scandal: petrol cars could also be rigged

24th September

- Osborne own goal as he gives £ 3m aid for Chinese soccer
- EU bills Britain for migrant crisis
- High prices deny NHS patients cancer drugs, says study



National News Headlines September 2015

25th September

- Send me back to Iran, begs migrant... Britain is too rude and violent
- Cameron's flagship right to buy scheme may be watered down
- Sea cod put back on the menu

26th September

- Now Blatter facing a criminal probe as FIFA scandal grows
- Public polled on short prison terms
- Fifa 'bribe' scandal: Blatter held by police

27th September

- Shadow Chancellor must set out tax plans, say supporters
- Corbynomics creator says 'Osborne will use my plans'
- Platini's future 'in great doubt' over £1.3million Fifa payment

28th September

- Cameron hails release of the last Briton in Guantanamo
- Stargazers observe 'supermoon' eclipse
- Corbyn and comrades reveal plot to hammer middle-class with tax raids

29th September

- Corbyn bid to repair anthem- snub outrage
- I don't care about voters says EU chief
- Britons working for Islamic State to face UN sanctions

30th September

- Migrant crisis has strained EU ties
- UK to build £25m Jamaican prison
- Corbyn: let's stir up Britain



National News Headlines October 2015

1st October

- Car smoking ban comes into force
- Lord Lawson to lead UK EU exit group
- Corbyn under attack over Trident refusal

2nd October

- EU is past its sell- by date, insists Lawson
- Britain's top-paid locum doctor to pick up £500k
- GPs being paid to cut patient referrals

3rd October

- Eurotunnel delays after migrant breach
- Britain will vote no if EU does not back down
- £100 fines for dropping litter

4th October

- All Scottish councils say they will ignore Trade Union Bill
- Ministers 'are hiding details of £2bn NHS cash crisis'
- Politicians' tributes to 'Labour giant' Healey

5th October

- Euro judges in new bid to give vote to prisoners
- Osborne declares war on the shires
- Bin lorry driver in death crash arrested

6th October

- Thousands are being forced out of jobs by mass migration
- Ruling favours UK prisoner vote ban
- Truancy fines to be deducted from benefits



National News Headlines October 2015

7th October

- Migrant influx means county needs 42 more primary schools
- PM to promise 200,000 'starter homes'
- Needless hospital deaths 'are equal to a plane crash a week'

8th October

- Russia's cruise missile blitz on the Syrian rebels
- UK to send troops to Baltic region
- Corbyn refuses to meet the Queen

9th October

- Scottish Ebola nurse back in isolation
- Campaign launch for new EU exit group
- First World War soldier is laid to rest

10th October

- UK sells more outside the EU for record 12 months in row
- Nurse in Ebola scare still 'serious'
- Shops told to take temptation from reach of children

11th October

- Gove's astonishing bid to cut crime: don't jail violent offenders
- Wills and Kate head off to college in a fight for change
- 'Poison flights are killing us'

12th October

- Pressure mounts on Yard over Brittan slur
- Russia summons UK defence attache
- VW boss set to face Select Committee



National News Headlines October 2015

13th October

- Corbyn faces Labour revolt on deficit U- turn
- Women win divorce settlement case
- Jet missile was Vlad's

14th October

- Lloyds chief in threat to back Brexit
- Crime figures to rise by millions after cyber offences are included
- Underused churches may open only for Christmas and other holy days

15th October

- Corbyn will breach protocol at Queen's banquet for Chinese
- 21 Labour MPs defy Corbyn in Commons
- Reinforcements sent to help with refugees

16th October

- 'Save our steel industry' appeal as Redcar shuts
- Deportation flight with 202 seats ... and 26 passengers
- Unions demand UK steel industry help

17th October

- BMA 'misleading' doctors over contract
- Corbyn to become CND vice-president
- Threat to Sunday shopping bonanza

18th October

- Labour leader to raise human rights issue with President Xi
- Doctors threaten to strike as thousands march over 'payouts'
- Tory MPs in 71 marginals at risk from cuts to tax credits



National News Headlines October 2015

19th October

- Foreign child benefit claims soar to £ 27m
- Cabinet 'won't be purged of Eurosceptics'
- PM extends powers to block passports

20th October

- William calls on 100m to help end wildlife slaughter
- Queen rolls out the red carpet for China leader
- Tata Steel set to cut hundreds of jobs

21st October

- 568k migrants allowed to stay here in one year
- Families losing £120 a year as Big Six fail to pass on fuel price falls
- China to sign UK nuclear plant deal

22nd October

- May condemns lack of black officers
- MPs to debate 'English votes' plans
- Steel: Up to 250k job cuts

23rd October

- Anger as MPs pass English votes plan
- Bacon's a cancer risk say world health chiefs
- TalkTalk website hit by cyber-attack

24th October

- 'Urgent action' call on cyber-crime
- Another Labour peer resigns whip
- Stop rip-off exit fee penalties, minister tells pension firms



25th October

- Tory rebels to help Corbyn to victory over 'tampon tax'
- U-turn looms on tax credits
- We're failing young people, leading Tory tells Cameron

26th October

- Fury as Barclays clocks glitch leaves customers with no cash
- Tories could soften blow on tax credit cuts, hints Morgan
- Parties defend tax credit tactics

27th October

- Osborne to act on tax credit defeats
- 'Tampon tax' cut to be taken to EU
- Poor are less likely to study medicine

28th October

- Defiant Osborne says tax credits will be cut despite defeat in Lords
- Cameron warned on 'cynical rebrand' of EU membership
- 'No land of milk and honey out of EU'

29th October

- Veterans stage demo to save jailed Marine
- Quitting EU could be bad for UK, says PM
- Kids Company 'received £46m public cash'

30th October

- Despair after Iraq war inquiry report delayed for eight more months
- Police want to spy on internet histories
- Second teen arrested over TalkTalk hack

31st October

- MPs were warned just three days before Kids Co got £3m grant
- Scots Labour would restore tax credits
- Overseas patients face A&E charges



National News Headlines November 2015

1st November

- Cuba hell man may get £1m
- MoS victory as May promises to protect reporters' sources
- Investigators seek cause of Russian plane crash in Sinai

2nd November

- Corbyn is slammed for outburst on war
- EU exit will aid trade
- Ms U-turn caves in to unions over tough school tests

3rd November

- CBI 'rigged survey to ensure it backed staying in the EU'
- Cameron warned against Syria vote
- Scotland Bill changes 'fall short'

4th November

- Nigella and the recipe that sparked a viewer revolt
- Chaos over UK's bid to destroy IS
- Online activity stored under new law

5th November

- MI5 'secretly collected phone data'
- National Lottery profit row
- Osborne urged to squeeze pensioners

6th November

- UK spies uncovered Egypt jet bomb plot
- TalkTalk hack 'affected 157,000'
- Police hospitalised in London protest



National News Headlines November 2015

7th November

- Corbyn is humiliated as Labour suspends his leading adviser
- 'Fast internet' for all by 2020 pledged
- Egypt blocks UK flights home in 'retaliation' for British ban

8th November

- Cameron tries to avert Tory revolt with EU tightrope act
- Calls for new era of airport security after Sinai terror
- Cameron's exit warning on EU reform

9th November

- Lottery boss hits jackpot to win £ 1m a year bonus
- General's stinging attack on Corbyn
- Tricks that let 999 staff hit response targets

10th November

- Blitz on council Fat Cats but army of spies to soar
- I'll quit Labour if Corbyn axes Trident subs, Navy lord warns
- I will take back powers from EU to control immigration, says Cameron

11th November

- EU border breached 1.2m times this year
- Postpone tax credit cuts, MPs say
- UK jobless rate at lowest since 2008

12th November

- 75% of new jobs go to EU migrants in 1 year
- 69,000 more East Europeans working here than in 2014
- PM pledges £275m for Turks



National News Headlines November 2015

13th November

- Nightmare winter looming in the NHS
- The home loans that will last into your 80s
- Homeopathy 'could be blacklisted'

14th November

- Cameron 'shocked' by Paris attacks
- Corbyn cancels leadership speech
- 'Severe economic storms' on the way, warns Cable

15th November

- 'This is a game- changer for how we look at the threat'
- Paris jihadis 'got in as fake refugees'
- Airport evacuated after Frenchman dumped firearm in bin Gatwick

16th November

- Paris Carnage: UK borders tightened amid stowaway fears
- Cameron urges 'resolve' after attacks
- Heavy rain brings flood disruption

17th November

- Osborne: We'll win war on cybercrime
- New CBI chief makes peace move in EU row
- Benn rejects Corbyn shoot-to-kill view

18th November

- End EU migrants' right to come to UK, says poll
- Rebels: Cameron's reforms 'too weak'
- 'No timetable' for Syria strikes vote



National News Headlines November 2015

19th November

- Was Paris terror chief cornered and killed in dawn shootout?
- EU border-free zone 'to shrink'
- Sturgeon 'to listen' to PM's Syria case

20th November

- Junior doctors back a three- day walkout
- Police apology over undercover 'deceit'
- Terrorist ringleader got into EU as 'refugee'

21st November

- Boris clashes with Osborne over cuts to police funding
- Cameron hails UN backing for IS action
- Britain set to strike Isil as Labour MPs defy Corbyn

22nd November

- Cameron to unveil plan for air strikes within days
- 'To defeat Islamic State, Britain will have to sup with the devil'
- Cameron set to reveal blueprint for war on ISIS

23rd November

- Charities ' to lose £ 320m Lotto cash'
- Let viewers vote on cuts at BBC says Lord Hall
- UK to create rapid 'strike brigades'

24th November

- Plea for united force in battle to quit EU
- Property squeeze sends prices rocketing
- NHS to get above-inflation cash boost



National News Headlines November 2015

25th November

- Osborne to promise 400,000 new homes with big buyer discounts
- Labour MPs have 'had enough' of Corbyn
- Fury as Ashdown links Tories to 'rich Arabs' who fund the jihadists

26th November

- Plans for petrol price hikes are hidden in the small print
- Cameron makes case for Syria bombing
- Osborne defends Spending Review U-turn

27th November

- Premier's target in tatters after record surge in migrants
- 50-50 that taxes could have to rise, say experts
- SSP boss upbeat despite terror slowdown fear

28th November

- Party leaders knew all about the Tatler Tory bullying claims
- Royals may give abuse probe evidence
- PM 'taking bullying claims seriously'

29th November

- Cameron to risk Commons vote over Syria strikes as Labour split deepens
- Army poised to cover for striking NHS doctors
- Cameron told to purge bullying scandal Tories

30th November

- UK faces millions more migrants as Turkey on brink of joining the EU
- Deal gives 75m Turks free access to Europe
- Tax on sugary drinks backed by MPs





Paul's News Roundup

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

By Paul G Bazeley for Government World

September News Review

As expected the month of September saw ISIS and refugees in the news. However, the Queen, skeletons and a new labour leader also hit the headlines. Oh, and that big Asteroid that was going to wipe us out, what ever happened to that?

As thought the refugee crisis is here to stay. More and more refugees travelled to Europe. With tensions heightening at the Hungary-Serbia border as police fired tear gas as people tried to rush in. Yes, that's

right tear gas. After al, I after all the danger they have faced trying to flee a war zone, the tear gas will be the final nail that makes them all think actually maybe we should walk back. Would it not just be easier to let them in and go from there?

On the 9th September at 5.30pm Queen Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch of Britain. She overtook Queen Victoria's record and has now been on the throne for 63 years 216 days. I know what you are thinking, 'that must be one comfy chair'. Maybe Prince Charles is

thinking the same thing.

Yes, it is once again time for the ISIS inclusion of the months round up. Don't worry I will be really brief; Russia started airstrikes against IS backing the Syrian government much to the dislike of the Americans. There we go all done, hopefully that wasn't too bad.

New human-like skeletons found in a hidden cave in South Africa Homo naledi

Jeremy Corbyn was elected the Labour leader. Corbyn won around 60% of the votes in leadership election. He celebrated by going to the Parliament Square rally where he sang red flag with Billy Brag. A few days later Corbyn was under scrutiny for not singing the national anthem at a Battle of Britain service. However, in a turn of fortune for the Labour leader people were pleasantly surprised by how well he performed at

the Prime Ministers Questions, most were anyway. So all in all a topsy-turvy (not very often you get to use that phrase in this sort of writing) month for Jeremy Corbyn. At least we learnt that he prefers red flag to the national anthem, hands up if you are surprised.

Volkswagen were found to have fitted software, being termed a 'defeat device' (who doesn't love a bit of alliteration), to their cars that would improve results when having emissions tests. It is a scandal that has apparently been named 'diesel dupe' (woohoo more alliteration).

Last but not least, the asteroid. The asteroid rumour went viral on the internet during September with claims that an asteroid was going to hit and destroy Earth during the month. The rumour became such big news that NASA even got involved saying it was untrue. Well, we are all still here, so no need to worry.

September Sports Review

September saw the Rugby World Cup begin. New Zealand were the

favourites to win, with pressure being piled on hosts England and Wales before the build up. The biggest upset and surprise was Japan beating South Africa, the two-time champions in their opening match. There were few other surprises result wise. The main attraction was the pool A match between England and Wales, in which Wales came out the victor, placing huge amounts of pressure on the England teams next two games.

In the Premier League, Arsene Wenger and Jose Mourinho had the usual battle of words before the two teams face each other, no surprises there then. Oh yeah, Mourinho was the victor as Chelsea won 2-0. The transfer window closing did not help Wenger either as Wenger pleaded with fans to support the team after a lack of summer signings. The other big talking point

was the De Gea deal. The Spanish goalkeeper looked set to head to Real Madrid from Manchester United, however, the deal fell through as the Spanish transfer window deadline was missed. Man Utd blame Real and Real blame Man Utd. All we really know is that it's likely Madrid will wait until summer to now sign De Gea as he contract will have expired with United.

After victory in the Ashes England were out to see if they could win the one day international series against Australia, sadly they lost 3-2. Ah well, we still won the Ashes, so it is still looking pretty decent cricket-wise.

From cricket to tennis, where September saw the semi-final of the Davis Cup between Britain and Australia. Britain triumphed over Australia, placing themselves in the Davis Cup final, the first time

Britain will be in the final for 37 years. The Murray's et al will be preparing for the final in Ghent as Belgium beat Argentina in the other semi-final.

In Formula 1, the Italian, Singapore and Japanese Gran Prix's were all raced. Lewis Hamilton won two out of the three (the Italian and Japanese) with Sebastian Vettel winning the other (Singapore). The results meant that Lewis Hamilton maintained his lead in the Drivers Championship ahead of team-mate and closest rival Nico Rosberg.

October News Review

October was a month of saying hello. Also, don't worry although the Migrant crisis continued to be in headlines we aren't discussing it here. So, in that case, let's say 'Hello' to October.

The UK said 'Hello' to Xi Jinping the President of China as he arrived on his four-day state visit. Red carpets were rolled out as the President met the Queen, David Cameron and even Sergio Aguero. Although, I think he was less bothered about the latter, apparently he's a Man Utd fan. The President even went for a pint with the Prime Minister. Oh and I'm pretty sure talks were held at some point.

Speaking of China. In October they ended its one-child policy. The policy had been in place for 36 years, it has been replaced with a two-child policy for married couples. The lift on the policy came after the population was deemed to be ageing, because no-one saw that coming obviously.

We also said 'Hello' to the return of James Bond. As Spectre, the twenty-fourth Bond, was released. The film performed well on its opening weekend, being the second highest grossing Bond on a weekend, second only to Skyfall. James Bond will return, however it is unlikely that Daniel Craig will reprise the role. Who will replace him is now the big question.

Metrojet Flight 9268 disintegrated over the northern Sinai with over

200 passengers aboard. It's believed the flight had mainly Russians, as well as some Belarusians and a Ukrainian. ISIL quickly claimed responsibility claiming a bomb had been planted on board. This was not confirmed in October.

Shaker Aamer said 'Hello' - yes, I'm sticking with this theme - to freedom as he was the last British resident held at Guantanamo Bay. Aamer was detained for supposed links to al-Qaida, however, after fourteen years he was never tried for an offence. That's right, they just tortured the guy for fourteen years for no real reason, well done America!

London police decided it was time to call time and say 'Goodbye' to the Ecuadorian Embassy. Police had been stationed outside of the embassy since 2012 waiting to arrest Julian Assange, the WikiLeaks founder, after he jumped bail and is accused

of sexual assault. Assange is worried about being extradited to the U.S. as he is wanted for espionage and theft of property from the U.S. government. Assange obviously hasn't left the Ecuadorian embassy, what he will do next is still unknown.

It's beer time! Don't worry the President of China isn't back. Anheuser-Busch InBev agreed to buy SABMiller for around £68 billion. SABMiller was the main rival to Anheuser-Busch InBev. It is thought to be the largest beer deal ever, cheers!

Once again there were several incidents of shootings in American schools. Have they tightened gun laws, no. Why not you ask? Well, I don't know.

Finally, let's say one more 'Hello' as Adele came back from her hiatus to say 'Hello' with her brand new

single 'Hello'. The song basically broke the internet, with the video itself being the quickest to reach 100 million views.

October Sports Review

Fifa suspended Sepp Blatter for 90 days, after he is under investigation for corruption charges. Blatter has appealed the ban.

New Zealand won the Rugby World Cup. They became the first team to win the Webb Ellis Cup twice in a row. The Kiwis beat Australia 34-17 in the final. The last two stages of the tournament were competed only by Southern Hemisphere countries after Ireland, Wales and Scotland were all knocked out of the quarter finals. England became the first ever country to have won the trophy and be knocked out of the tournament in the first round. Their run ended after defeat to Australia in

their penultimate pool match.

Lewis Hamilton wins the F1 world championship after victory at the US gran prix. This is Hamilton's third title and equals Sir Jackie Stewart's British record.

The South African athlete Oscar Pistorius was released from prison. He must now serve the rest of his five year sentence under house arrest. Pistorius was released less than a year after being convicted of culpable homicide after he shot his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day 2013.

In the Premier League was in full swing in October. Leicester were becoming a coupon-buster for some, Chelsea and Jose Mourinho were still facing some hard times and Aston Villa parted ways with Tim Sherwood. Yes, that's right, after selling their two best players in the transfer window and not letting the manager replace them, the club decided it was down to Sherwood that they were in freefall. Notable results in the month were: Man City 6 Newcastle 1, Arsenal 3 Man Utd 0, Newcastle 6 Norwich 2, Bournemouth 1 Tottenham 5 and Chelsea 1 Liverpool 3.

November News Review

It's November, I'm sure you know what this means, prepare yourself... Ok, so here goes. November was a month where attacks, bombings, a fire and HIV took the headlines. I think it's best just to get on with it and get it done.

The main story in November was the Paris attacks. On November 13th there were coordinated shootings and suicide bombings that took place around Paris. The Bataclan Theatre was one of the targets, where a concert by the band Eagles of Death Metal were playing. Three suicide bombers targeted the Stade de France where France and Germany were playing a football match. Cafes and restaurants were also targeted in the 10th arrondissement. Over 100 people died in the attacks.

ISIL claimed responsibility, stating French airstrikes against ISIL in Syria as the reason for the attacks. A state of emergency was declared across France, with borders security being tightened. A few days later France launched it's largest airstrike against ISIL.

After the Paris attacks Europe was understandably on edge. Belgium raised the terror alert in Brussels to its highest level and deployed soldiers on the streets of many of its cities after it was believed there was an imminent threat to public safety.

Further investigation into the Russian Metrojet flight, which broke up over the northern Sinai region, revealed that it was most likely to have been triggered by a bomb exploding. It is strongly believed that ISIL were responsible.

We must also not forget poor Beirut who were hit by two suicide bombers the day before the Paris attacks. ISIL once again claimed responsibility for the bombings which left over 40 people dead. Some news outlets were criticised for the lack of reporting on the Beirut bombings and favouring to instead focus the Paris attacks. Facebook were also criticised for allowing users to place a French flag over their profile picture in memory of those that lost their lives in the Paris attacks, however, offered no option to those wanting to pay respect to those in the Beirut bombing. The social media site also allowed those in Paris to check-in as safe so loved ones could check their safety even if they could not get into contact with them. Once again Facebook offered no option for those in Beirut.

A fire at the Colectiv nightclub in Romania killed over 60 people. The band Goodbye to Gravity were performing a free gig to celebrate the release of their new album. It is thought the pyrotechnics ignited the acoustic foam within the building. Four members of the band died in the fire along with many member of the crowd killed or seriously injured. The incident led to protests over corruption, which in turn led to the Romanian Prime Minister retiring.

The actor Charlie Sheen, also known for his alcohol and drug problems, confirmed he had HIV. Rumours had been circling for a while about the film stars secret. Sheen revealed he had been HIV positive for around four years, but stated he could not have infected any of his sexual partners, which knowing the reports of Sheen would probably amount to a significant amount of people.

There we go, it wasn't the nicest month to review, at least we got through it together. Don't worry I'm not going to leave it all doom and gloom. Switzerland was named the most positive country in the world for

2015. On that note I think we should leave it there and maybe move to Switzerland

November Sports Review

The world of Football was interrupted by the Paris attacks. While the match in the Stade de France between France and Germany played the full ninety minutes, with France winning 2-0 a match, the match between Germany and the Netherlands due to take place roughly a week later was cancelled after Germany was warned about possible attacks. On the 17th November a match between England and France went ahead, with a silence taking place at the beginning of the match. England won the game 2-0 as the French players were understandably not properly focused.

The British Davis Cup team won the final against Belgium in Ghent. Andy Murray finished the tournament unbeaten as Britain claimed its first Davis Cup since 1936. As well as Andy Murray the other somewhat forgotten teammates were Kyle Edmund, Dominic Inglot, Jamie Murray and Jamie Ward, the team captain being Leon Smith.

Tyson Fury defeated Vladimir Klitschko in Dusseldorf, claiming the WBA Super, WBO and IBF heavyweight titles. After winning Fury serenaded his wife with 'I don't wanna miss a thing' by Aerosmith, as you do. The boxer was also criticised over comments he made which mentioned abortion, homophobia and pedophilia.

In the UFC, Holly Holm beat Ronda Rousey in the women's bantamweight

title fight. Rousey, who was undefeated and thought likely to win the match, was knocked out in the second round after Holm landed a head kick.

An investigation into Russian doping by the World Anti-Doping Agency recommended that Russian athletes be suspended from competition and lifetime bans are handed out for several athletes and coaches.

Jamie Vardy entered the record books. The Leicester City forward scored in a 1-1 draw with Man Utd meaning he had scored in eleven consecutive Premier League games. The goal beat the previous record held by Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Worries about immigration are at highest ever level, and continue to rise

Latest figures from the Ipsos/Mori issues index have shown that 40% now regard immigration as the biggest single issue facing the UK, with 56% regarding it as one of the most important. Even 49% of Labour supporters rate it as the highest concern.

UKIP Immigration Spokesman Steven Woolfe said, "This poll number reflects badly on those amongst our country's leaders who do not see how mass uncontrolled immigration is damaging the fabric of our nation. The people of this country do because they have the common sense to see that mass migration changes nations. If a country loses too many of its talented, economically aspirational people like those on the periphery of the Eurozone it is destined for economic failure. But if a country attracts millions of foreign born residents at an unplanned, accelerated rate it's infrastructure and public services are bound to creak at the seams.

Arrests made for poaching offences in north east

Three men have been arrested after illegal fishing nets were recovered in Northumberland.

Environment Agency officers made the arrests at Hagg Bank near Wylam in the early morning of September 18, in a joint operation with Northumbria Police.

Three men aged 48, 37 and 30 were arrested on suspicion of salmon poaching.

It's suspected they were poaching salmon on the River Tyne using illegal nets, which are extremely damaging to fish stocks.

Two nets were seized during the operation, which had 13 fish inside. The fish, nets, and other equipment were seized and the investigation is ongoing.

At the end of July three men were arrested under similar

circumstances in the same location in a joint operation between the Environment Agency and Northumbria Police.

The Environment Agency's Dave Edwardson said:

Poaching has a serious impact on salmon stocks in our rivers as well as on angling and as a result the local economy.

That's why we take reports of suspected poaching seriously and work closely with the police to take action where appropriate.

We'll continue to take action against all aspects of illegal fishing activity to protect our fish stocks, particularly ensuring those using serious illegal and potentially damaging methods are targeted.

Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector for Tynedale East, Julie Cole, added:

Poaching remains a wildlife crime priority and officers are working closely with the Environment agency to tackle this crime.

The activities of poachers is a concern to our rural communities and we've found that criminals are travelling into Northumberland, particularly the good fishing stretches of the Tyne as it runs through Tynedale, to take advantage of the excellent fishing conditions we have locally.

We will continue to work closely with partners to take action against those found fishing illegally.

Anyone discovered committing offences could face a substantial fine at court. The Environment Agency urges anyone to report illegal fishing by calling 0800 80 70 60.

SNP: Corbyn will be judged by actions not words

Responding to Jeremy Corbyn's speech to Labour party conference, SNP Depute Leader Stewart Hosie MP said:

"SNP MPs will work with other parties across the House of Commons to deliver a progressive alternative to Tory austerity – and we hope that Labour MPs will join us in that. Mr Corbyn may have talked a lot about a new direction for Labour, but he and his MPs will be judged by their actions – not by their words.

"Despite all of the rhetoric in Mr Corbyn's speech, Labour have already reaffirmed their support for George Osborne's fiscal plans, and also their support for renewing Trident – which shows they are still running scared of the Tories.

"Jeremy Corbyn promised to radically change Labour, but the evidence so far is that Labour is changing Jeremy Corbyn.

"If Mr Corbyn is serious about winning back the trust of the people of Scotland, he should join with the SNP to devolve employment rights to the Scottish Parliament so that workers' rights in Scotland are protected from the Tories."

New burial chamber installation brings high-end designs to cemetery users



The plots can be pre-purchased and an upgrade option is available to increase inscription space if required.



Cemetery systems specialists **welters**® have recently completed a large installation of burial chambers complete with a wide range of high-end memorial designs, offering cemetery users maximum choice across the development.

Previously the area was thought to be 'unusable' due to high water tables but the scheme has enabled the burial authority to reclaim the land and at the same time offer their service users a premium place of burial.

All the designs were created and produced at **welters**® UK based manufacturing facility.

MMR vaccine uptake reaches record high

93% of children who reached their fifth birthday in the year ending March 31, 2015 had received two doses of MMR - the highest ever annual uptake of the jab in Wales.

Overall, MMR coverage by children's second birthday has hit 95.8% across Wales, with the highest rates in Anglesey where 98% of children have been vaccinated.

The World Health Organisation recommends 95% coverage to prevent the spread of measles.

For the year ending March 31, 2015 the latest vaccination figures also show:

- More than 95% of children who reached their first birthday in

the year had received their five-in one immunisation, and were vaccinated against meningitis C and pneumococcal (PCV)

- 98% of children who reached their second birthday in the year had received their five-in-one immunisation and 97% were immunised against meningitis C
- Uptake of two doses of the new rotavirus vaccine in children reaching their first birthday was almost 84%. This is the first group of children who were eligible to receive rotavirus vaccine. Quarterly uptake data shows that uptake was 92.7% per cent in quarter four of 2014.

Uptake rates of MMR across the UK are still recovering following the drop in the early 2000s after the publication of discredited and disproven claims about the vaccination.

Minister for Health and Social services, Mark Drakeford said:

“Across Wales, parents have regained their confidence in the highly-effective MMR vaccine and these statistics show how far we have come.

“There is, however, no room for complacency and I hope to see us improve take-up further for all childhood vaccines next year.

“I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents it is never too late to ensure your child has had the two doses of MMR vaccine they need to be protected against measles, mumps and rubella.”

welters[®]
ORGANISATION
WORLDWIDE
Design and Innovation

Chiltern Stone and Timber Bench

The Chiltern Timber Bench is manufactured using sustainable resources and replenishable stock and is marketed as both a memorial bench and street furniture item.



Design Classic: Land Rover Defender

By Paul G Bazeley for Government World



1997 Defender 90 Hard Top, photograph by John Kloeppe

Where do you begin when writing about the Land Rover Defender and how can you send it off in style? They were the two questions I kept asking myself when I decided to write this and to be honest I am still not sure where to start. The Defender has been in production for 67 years, if you take into account its evolution from the Land Rover Series I, and the changes to the design have been fairly minimal.

However, December 2015 spelt the end of an era. As you may already know, the production of the Defender came to an end. It is a move by Land Rover that has left many people, including myself, in a state of hysteria.

All you have to do is flick through the pages of a Land Rover magazine to understand how many people are incredibly passionate about the Defender. In fact I play a game with my girlfriend, which is identical to the Eddie Stobart game (where you shout 'Eddie' every time you see one of their vehicles), however, we shout 'Defender' every time we see a Land Rover Defender. I realise you may think that is rather sad, but there are many other people that are more devoted to the Defender

than me. Even though they may not play the 'Defender' game.

The very brief history of the Defender is as follows. It was Maurice Wilks, in 1947, who came up with the idea for a multi-purpose vehicle that would become the Land Rover. The story goes that Maurice met his brother Stephen on a beach where he drew an outline of what he thought the vehicle would look like. It is a story which Land Rover paid tribute to earlier this year when they had 6 Land Rovers towing chain harrows to create a 1km silhouette on a beach in Anglesey. The heritage is something the company seems intent on maintaining and marketing and it is this heritage, as well as the vehicles, that people fall in love with.

The first Land Rover was revealed in 1948 and

went through various specification changes. 10 years later in 1958 the Series II was revealed showcasing some alterations to the body. Once again the Series II was changed and tinkered with over the years. Then in 1971 several changes meant the Series III was introduced. Without going into too much detail of the history there was another rename to the 90, 110 and 127 (which described the three different lengths of vehicle available), until the eventual introduction of the Defender name in 1990, the name that still stands today.

Although, as mentioned above, the design has gone through some alterations over the years, the current Defender still bares the rugged, simple elegance the original Series I did all those years ago. Over the years, the Defender has been used and designed in various ways. It's been an ambulance, a fire engine, a rugby world cup transporter and has even had Sir Paul Smith design a one off special. In fact this year Land Rover released three special editions to mark the final year for Defenders. The Heritage (a hark back to the original Series I), the Adventure (the tough go-anywhere version) and the

Autobiography (the nice comfy one you would drive around the city) editions were all available for limited release this year. Unfortunately they were all way past my budget. Nevertheless, whatever its use or its colour scheme the Land Rover Defender always looks good. In fact, throughout the years the Defender or it's predecessors have been linked with celebrities. From Marilyn Monroe to Steve McQueen and Oprah Winfrey to Fidel Castro they've all either been pictured with one or owned one.

There is something about the Defender that attracts people. Although originally built as a vehicle for farmers or countrymen it has a wide appeal. From farmers to off-roaders, countrymen to adventurers, even people living in the city find them appealing. It is a vehicle

that has been and probably can still be found on all seven continents. For many the Defender stands for the countryside and adventure and who doesn't want a bit of that in their life? While many driven are used in the countryside and/or for adventures, there are also many that are driven around normal roads giving their owners a sense of satisfaction and maybe even a little feeling of that adventure they've dreamt of since they were a child but have never had the time or money to do.

So, although it seems I managed to start somewhere, the question still remains of how to send the Land Rover Defender off in style, the way it deserves. Unlike many things these days which are produced overseas, the Land Rover Defender has always been built in Britain, it truly is a British icon. It is something that

makes me feel proud to be British every time I see one. Designed just after the Second World War it is a vehicle that stands for determination and perseverance. In fact it is believed that over three quarters of all Series and Defender models are still running to this day. It seems that if people will no longer be able to buy a new Defender then they will just rebuild the old ones. This just shows just how much adoration this vehicle has. This made me realise, we don't have to send the Land Rover Defender off in style. Although manufacturing will end, it does not mean it is the end for the Defender. In fact many of them will probably and hopefully still be running long after I am gone. For that reason there is no need to say goodbye to the Land Rover Defender, but to merely say; keep driving my friend, keep driving.

Furniture Design

The latest production of **welters**[®] design sets combine modern styling with multiple material options for manufacture.

Stone features predominately and forms a central part of the ethos to produce a range of designs for indoor and outdoor use across the public, domestic and private market demographic.



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

Nicola Sturgeon is ignoring both scientific fact and the wellbeing of Scotland's food and drinks industry by pushing ahead with plans to ban GM crops, the Scottish Conservatives have said.



Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson

Leader Ruth Davidson challenged her on the decision at First Minister's Questions, pointing out the ban wasn't based on scientific evidence, and wasn't something the country's food and drink sector wanted.

It follows the publication of a paper by the Royal Society of Edinburgh which criticises the SNP's approach on the proposed ban of genetically modified crops.

The "unexpected announcement", it said, "does nothing to enhance Scotland's long-standing reputation for scientific creativity" and "could disadvantage the growth of important Scottish businesses".

Experts also criticise the "emotive language" of ministers which are "likely to fuel negative public perceptions about GM and related technologies".

The Scottish Whisky Association said it would monitor the move closely in the interests of having a "competitive and modern farming sector"

Environment Agency appoints new chief executive

Sir James Bevan has had a long career in government and will leave his current role as the UK's High Commissioner to India to take up the role of chief executive on 30 November.

Sir Philip Dilley, chairman of the Environment Agency, said:

"I am delighted that Sir James Bevan will be joining the Environment Agency as its chief executive later this year. Sir James will lead the organisation with passion, energy and a clear commitment to continue the great work it does to protect and improve the environment and make it a better place for people and wildlife."

Sir James said:

"One of the biggest challenges of our time is protecting the environment and promoting growth. We need to do both, and I look forward to playing my part in that.

"The Environment Agency is a great organisation which makes a great contribution to our country. It will be an honour and a privilege to lead it."

David Rooke, the Environment Agency's current executive director for flood risk management, will act as chief executive until Sir James takes up his new role.

Former chief executive Paul Leinster left his role on 25 September after 17 years at the Environment Agency.

UK leads international efforts to clampdown on tax avoidance

Multinationals looking to shift profits to avoid paying their fair share of tax will find it harder to avoid tax.

Multinationals looking to shift profits to avoid paying their fair share of tax will find it harder to avoid tax, the Chancellor George Osborne announced following a meeting with G20 Finance Ministers to agree international tax rules and outline next steps.

The Chancellor's comments were made following the G20 meeting in Lima, Peru where Finance Ministers agreed the OECD's final Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) recommendations. The recommendations are the culmination of a major and unparalleled international effort to tackle tax avoidance by

multinationals.

Since 2012, when the Chancellor put tax avoidance on the G20 agenda, the UK has helped reform international tax rules and led the way with action to prevent corporations from paying little or no taxes. This includes:

- being the first country to take steps to introduce the country-by-country reporting template for multinationals. It will mean multinational companies have to provide HMRC with information on where they pay taxes and earn profits around the world [Winter 2014]
- being the first country to take steps to stop multinationals from

exploiting the difference between countries' tax rules to avoid paying tax through new 'hybrid mismatch' rules [Winter 2014]

- making it harder for multinational companies to divert their profits out of the UK through introducing the Diverted Profits Tax which ensures multinationals pay tax in the UK when economic activity has taken place in the UK [April 2015]
- helping developing countries, like Ghana, tackle tax avoidance by working with them to improve their tax rules and infrastructure [Summer 2015]
- working in the EU to agree a process for tax authorities to exchange information on the tax

affairs of multinational companies to improve transparency [Autumn 2015]

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said:

"The UK has led the campaign to change the international tax system and as a result countries across the world are now better equipped to deal with corporate tax avoidance.

"We've already demonstrated our commitment to tackling BEPS and we will take new steps to introduce these new international rules into our domestic tax laws. My view is simple - the UK will have among the most competitive and lowest businesses taxes in the world, but these taxes must be paid."

Now that the BEPS process is complete, the government will continue to work with the G20 and other international partners to take forward the recommendations. It is already chairing an innovative process to update international tax treaties and has this week published draft legislation to introduce country-by-country reporting.

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

The youth and student wing of the Green Party has called for young people to “fight for the EU” in the forthcoming referendum, saying that there is “huge potential” for progressive movements to succeed within the European Union.

Their call comes as the official ‘In’ campaign is launched, with the Green Party’s only MP Caroline Lucas joining the campaign’s board. Announcing her membership of the board yesterday, Lucas pledged to “give young people a reason to engage” with the referendum.

Clifford Fleming, Young Greens Co-Chair, said:

“For young people, the vast opportunities and radical



Clifford Fleming, Young Greens Co-Chair

possibilities opened up by Britain’s membership of the EU are simply too great to walk away from.

“Europe’s youth and student population has a proud tradition of cross-border solidarity and protest made possible by freedom of movement, and with progressive movements now growing all across the continent, with youth at their forefront, it’s clear that there is a huge potential for affecting radical change within the EU.

“Young people and students benefit immeasurably from the opportunities to live, work and travel all across our continent that our membership of the EU gives us; our culture and society are enriched by the breaking down of artificial barriers. It’s vital that young people make our voice heard in this referendum, and unite to fight for the EU - but for an EU which is as democratic, progressive and effective as it can and should be.”

The Young Greens have campaigned in recent months for 16- and 17-year-olds to be given a vote in the referendum. Following a surge in membership, they are set to hold their biggest ever annual Convention in Nottingham later this month.

Royal Mail: Shares should have remained in public ownership - Angela Eagle

Angela Eagle MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills responding to the announcement that the Government has sold off the last remaining public shares in Royal Mail, said:

“We know Ministers initially flogged off Royal Mail shares on the cheap, short-changing taxpayers.

“Rather than focussing on their ideological obsession with selling off national assets, the Government should be acting in the best interests of the public.

“Labour is clear that these shares should have remained in public ownership in order to safeguard the public’s interest in this important national service.”



Polygon Tower Niche Walls

welters® newly introduced Polygon Tower™ is providing essential interment facilities to crematoria. This impressive modular feature is crowned with **welters**® stainless steel birds, leaves and butterflies which reflect the light and adds elegance to the feature whilst creating revenue through additional inscription sales. A number of crematoria have expressed interest in this design since its introduction.

This model contains 288 niches, creating 576 interment opportunities. Each niche can be finished with either a polished granite tablet for inscription or a stainless steel keepsake door with lock. An additional tablet option is now also available in cast stone which is manufactured at **welters**® manufacturing facility in Carlisle.



UK firms could miss out on huge energy savings

The Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS), which is administered by the Environment Agency, encourages UK businesses to reduce their energy consumption with the triple benefit of saving money, increasing energy security and cutting carbon emissions.

All UK businesses that employ at least 250 people, or have an annual turnover above £38.9m and an annual balance sheet total above £33.4m, must take part in the scheme. This covers about 10,000 organisations, which consume around a third of the UK's energy. ESOS requires businesses to carry out assessments

and identify cost-effective energy savings measures.

Businesses have until 5 December 2015 to confirm that they have implemented the scheme and the Environment Agency is urging business leaders to take action ahead of this deadline.

Jo Scully, the Environment

Agency's ESOS project lead, said:

"We know that many businesses are working hard on their ESOS preparations but it is vital that all businesses check to see if they need to take part by visiting the GOV.UK website as soon as possible:

"This scheme will save all of these companies money as well as bringing significant environmental benefits. The government has calculated that if businesses covered by ESOS reduce their energy use by just 0.7 per cent, they will save around £250m each year."

The Environment Agency plans to publish its approach towards addressing non-compliance in October. Details will also be provided through the ESOS newsletter.

Those wishing to be on the mailing list for the newsletter should email the ESOS helpdesk:

esos@environment-agency.gov.uk

Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS)
ESOS is a mandatory scheme to encourage UK businesses to improve their energy efficiency

Who qualifies?
About **10,000** organisations which consume **1/3** of the UK's energy

Companies must:
Identify potential energy savings and notify the Environment Agency by **5 December 2015**

ESOS will:
Cover **90%** of an organisation's energy use from buildings, machinery, IT equipment, transport and more

Estimated savings:
£250 million a year for UK industry, even if businesses only reduce their energy consumption by **0.7%**

Ways to comply:
ESOS audits, ISO50001 certification, Display Energy Certificates or Green Deal Assessments

Organisations must take part if they:

- 250** employ at least 250 people or...
- £38.9 million** have an annual turnover above €50 million (£38.9 million) and annual balance sheet total above €43 million (£33.4 million)

ACT NOW

- Find out if you qualify
- Carry out your assessment
- Appoint a lead assessor to review
- Notify the Environment Agency by 5 December 2015

For more guidance visit www.gov.uk/energy-savings-opportunity-scheme-esos or contact esos@environment-agency.gov.uk

The SNP's broken promises on student debt have been exposed.

Speaking at First Minister's Questions, Kez highlighted that the total value of student debt in Scotland now stands at almost £2.7 billion.

What is £2.7 billion worth to Scotland?

- Student debt is now the Scottish Government's single biggest financial asset.
- The value of student loans is now worth more than the combined cost of the new Forth Crossing and the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

Back in 2007 the SNP made a manifesto pledge to abolish student debt. That pledge was then dropped. The SNP have broken

their promise. As Kez said, "The student debt monster the SNP once promised to dump is now a debt mountain."

Earlier this week, figures published by the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) showed that under the SNP Government the average value of grants and bursaries paid to students in Scotland has been cut by almost 30%. Scotland's poorest students are losing out.

This is what Kez had to say following this week's First Minister's Questions:

"The fact that the value of student debt is now the Scottish Government's single biggest financial asset is unacceptable. The student debt monster the SNP once promised

to dump is now a debt mountain. That's the real record that the SNP Government should be judged on.

"It's the poorest students in Scotland who are suffering because of the SNP Government's cuts to student grants and bursaries. That's students who have the potential to get on in life and do great things, but who are held back just because their parents don't have a lot of money.

"It's that gap between the richest and the rest that has grown on the SNP's watch. Despite all the promises and all the moments of self-congratulation, the SNP Government is letting down Scotland's poorest students."

Job losses in steel industry and manufacturing will continue until we end environmental levies

UKIP Employment Spokeswoman Jane Collins MEP has said any 'crisis talks' to stop further job losses in the steel industry "will just be a talking shop until we can throw off the shackles of the EU's green levies."

The Yorkshire and North East Lincolnshire MEP told Unions that if they really wanted to help people at risk from losing their jobs, they needed to focus on the reasons behind companies losing money rather than just asking Government to spend more.

"The EU directive on renewable energy has had a huge impact on power generation and the cost of electricity and gas as it bound Britain to a target of 15 per cent of energy demand to be met by renewable sources by 2020," she said.

"Because power generation is expensive and inefficient huge subsidies are needed to keep these wind turbines and solar farms going - and that's been lumped on top of energy bills."

Fabric is Top of the League at Chelsea FC

When the BFM sponsored London Fabric Show (29th February and 1st March) opens in doors in 4 weeks time, it will bring together 31 of the best international and British fabric manufacturers together in one special place - the executive boxes of Chelsea FC.

The variety of fabrics, synthetics and leathers on show will encompass a huge mix of fabrics including wools, jacquards, chenilles, velvets, tweeds, mattress ticking, backing fabrics, curtain lining, high performance polyester fabrics, graded leathers, cottons and linens. Many of the manufactures offer buyers the opportunity to customise their choice and have designs and colourways exclusive to them.

Companies from the UK including Abraham Moon

& Sons, Flameproofings Ltd and British Velvets Ltd, will exhibit alongside prestigious companies from Belgium including Ter Molst, Symphony Mills, Boyteks Textiles, Annabel Textiles, Muvantex and Green Street Textiles, together with Adoksan from Turkey and Prostex from Italy.

Jackie Bazeley M.D of the BFM said, "This years London Fabric Show is a third bigger than last year with more well known fabric manufacturers and suppliers exhibiting. This show is growing in stature and its value to UK fabric buyers for both contract and domestic markets, is not to underestimated. It is a great opportunity for UK buyers to see a huge array of different fabrics and designs together in one place. We are very much looking forward to a great Show."

This compact Show has a big story and will have a host of new designs and new innovations and all in one very special venue. The team may not be top of the league but The London Fabric Show definitely is! For a full exhibitor list, more information and to pre-register your attendance go to: www.bfm.org.uk/londonfabric2016



FGM mandatory reporting duty comes into force

The Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation has announced the commencement date for mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation (FGM) and published guidance to help professionals get ready for the new duty.



Karen Bradley MP

From 31 October onwards, regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales will have a

mandatory requirement to report visually confirmed or verbally disclosed cases of FGM in girls under 18 to the police.

The duty was introduced through the Serious Crime Act 2015, following a public consultation. The Home Office has been working with professional bodies and the police to prepare for its introduction.

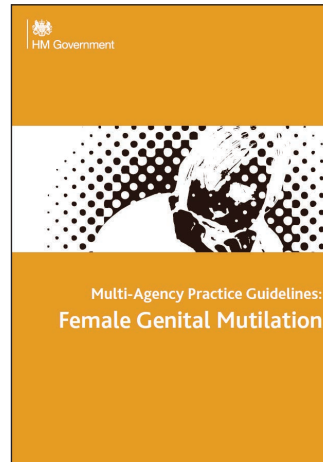
To help professionals understand and comply with the duty, the Home Office is also publishing guidance which sets out the legal requirements it places on them and the process to follow for making reports. It also contains an overview of the action which may be taken if they fail to comply with the duty.

The guidance also includes

information for the police on what to do when they receive a report.

Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation Karen Bradley said:

“FGM is a crime and it is child abuse, and this Government will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.



Government guidance publication

“The duty is an important step forward in tackling this practice, and we believe that it will make sure professionals have the confidence to confront FGM.

“There is clear evidence that existing systems are not yielding appropriate referrals to the police. We need to ensure that where a serious crime has been committed, the police are informed and can instigate an appropriate multi-agency response to protect girls and bring perpetrators to justice.”

FGM has been a criminal offence in the UK since 1985, and while there has been a recent increase in police investigations, to date there have been no successful prosecutions.

The government believes the new mandatory reporting duty will help increase the number of reports of FGM to the police from professionals. It is hoped this will lead to both a better safeguarding response to help protect victims, and that it will secure prosecutions, recognising FGM for the serious crime that it is and deterring potential perpetrators.

Welsh Government set to exceed ambitious 10,000 affordable homes target

In 2014-15, 2,218 affordable homes were delivered across Wales, bringing the total number provided since 2011 to 9,108. The data is a clear signal the Welsh Government is on track to well surpass its ambitious target by May 2016.

Welsh Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) delivered 89% of the additional affordable housing in 2014/15 (1,971 units), while 563 of the homes were built on land made available by the public sector.

The Welsh Government is investing over £400 million through the Social Housing Grant (SHG) programme during this Assembly term to increase the supply of affordable housing and support the

Welsh economy through the creation of construction jobs and apprenticeships.

Minister with responsibility for housing, Lesley Griffiths, said:

“Boosting housing supply not only creates much-needed homes, but also provides jobs and training opportunities in the construction industry. This is why, at the start of this term of Government, we made a clear commitment to the people of Wales to increase affordable housing across the county. I am delighted the statistics reveal we are well on course to deliver on this key commitment.

“It is a huge achievement to have already reached 91% of our target of providing 10,000 additional affordable

homes with a year still to go. However, we are not resting on our laurels.

“We will continue to work closely with our partners across the sector, who have shown such commitment and determination to increasing housing supply, to ensure the people of Wales have access to the homes they need.”

The Welsh Government is committed to increasing housing supply across all tenures, and recently signed a pact with the Home Builders Federation to increase the availability of market housing in Wales.

Figures released in September revealed a continuing positive trend in house building in Wales, with 6,955 new homes

started during 2014-15 – a 20% increase on the previous year and the highest number recorded since 2007-08.

The Minister added:

“The affordable housing statistics, which come on top of positive homebuilding data, are further proof the housing sector in Wales is truly on the up.”



Test your smoke alarms weekly

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service is reminding you to test your smoke alarms weekly. Also, remember elderly or vulnerable neighbours who might also benefit from your help to ensure their smoke alarm is properly maintained.

Use a vacuum cleaner

As the dark evenings set in and we all start to spend a lot more time indoors, so the risk of having a fire in your home can be increased. Many fires start at night, so make sure you have a night-time fire safety routine to help keep you and your family safe. You should:

- close all doors at night
- empty ashtrays
- extinguish candles
- switch off and unplug all electrical appliances

- not designed to stay on put up fire guards

Take a few potentially life-saving minutes to clean your smoke alarms by gently using your vacuum cleaner to remove any dust or insects that may be hiding within it.

Doing this twice a year and testing your smoke alarm once a week, by pressing the test button enabling the alarm to sound for at least five seconds, will ensure that your smoke alarm is in good working order.

A working smoke alarm will alert you and your family to the earliest stages of a fire, giving you vital extra time to escape.

Check heaters and electric blankets

It's also important to check

portable heaters and electrical blankets, as they might not have been used since the last winter.

If your electric blanket is out of guarantee, have it serviced once a year and never use a blanket which has scorched marks or exposed elements.

Make sure you switch portable heaters off if you're not in the room and also when you go to bed. Remember: don't place heaters near curtains or furnishings and never use them for drying clothes.

Home Fire Safety Check

A free Home Fire Safety Check could also form part of your spring cleaning routine. Firefighters will check your home to help make it fire safe.

They will check for appliances that could cause

fire, help with any actions to avoid fire and most importantly ensure that your smoke alarm is working. If necessary they will fit a free smoke alarm for you.

Always remember that if a fire starts, get out, stay out and call 999. Remember your life is worth more than precious belongings.



New technology set to transform England's motorways



A new high-tech intelligent transport system is set to transform the way traffic is managed on England's motorways and major A roads.

Highways England has awarded a £30 million contract to Austria-based firm Kapsch TrafficCom AG to install the system at its regional control centre in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, which will then be rolled out to the rest of the country.

The new technology will integrate a wide range of functions and manage the existing large quantity of different roadside devices. The system is also designed

to be future proof by being able to incorporate future technology.

Neil Widdop, services procurement team leader at Highways England, said:

“The new system will allow us to improve our operational efficiencies through use of a modern, national, integrated system.

“As we improve our operational efficiency, we can expect road users to benefit from quicker responses to incidents leading to improved safety and greater convenience for drivers.”

Government announces Child Benefit deductions in tougher approach to truancy

The planned changes will make it simpler for schools and local authorities to tackle parents who allow their child to be absent from school without permission. The government will introduce new provisions to recover unpaid penalty notices directly through parents' child benefit and, where parents do not receive child benefit, through the courts. Local authorities will be given a new duty to pursue all penalties. The new mandatory penalty for each offence will be £60 if paid within 21 days and £120 subsequently.

Following a consultation, the government plans to issue statutory guidance to local authorities, explaining how local authorities can use a range of sanctions to tackle truancy, including the right to prosecute in the most serious instances. Criminal prosecution will continue to enable fines of up to £2,500 and possible imprisonment.

The most recent figures show we have made real progress - with 200,000 fewer pupils regularly missing school compared with five years ago. Overall, the absence rate is down from 6.0 per cent in 2009/10 academic year to 4.4 per cent in 2013/14 academic year. Some 14.5 million fewer school days were lost to overall absence - 42.5 million days were missed in 2013/14 due to absence, compared to 57.0 million missed in 2009/10. These figures are over five half terms.

Reducing school absence, however, remains a top priority for this government. Evidence shows that good attendance is linked to attainment, with pupils with no absence from school nearly three times more likely to achieve five A* to C GCSEs, including English and maths, and around 10 times more likely to achieve the English Baccalaureate, than pupils missing 15-20 per cent of school across Key Stage 4.

These changes will ensure every child, regardless of their background, is given the opportunity to reach their potential.

New flood risk reduction scheme proves its worth

A £400,000 scheme to reduce the risk of flooding at Nutclough above Hebden Bridge town centre has been completed – and has already proved its worth.

Environment Agency contractors have spent the last seven months constructing a new culvert screen on Ibbot Royd Clough where it passes under Keighley Road. This will significantly reduce the risk of blockages which have, in the past, caused the watercourse to overtop and flood the area.

A comprehensive new drainage system has also been installed to catch water cascading down Keighley Road in periods of heavy rain and divert it into the watercourse.

Surface water from the hills around the Nutclough area has been a major contributor to flooding in Hebden Bridge for many years and the new drains will vastly reduce the amount of water flowing down, thereby helping to reduce future risk to the town centre.

The new works have already been given a stern test over the weekend of 14/15 November when very heavy rain fell on to already saturated ground in Calderdale. The new drains and culvert screen coped with the deluge as they had been designed to do.

The difficult geography of the Nutclough site, together with working on and alongside a busy

road full of utility services, presented a big challenge to the Environment Agency project team and its contractors who were grateful for the patience and support of local residents during the difficult and disruptive works.

Environment Agency Project Manager James Walton said:

“This was a particularly challenging scheme which took longer to complete than we originally anticipated because of unexpected complications encountered as the works progressed. The co-operation of local residents in often difficult circumstances was, therefore, much appreciated.

“The work required a lot of detailed design and planning but the end result is that our contractors, JBA

Bentley, have constructed assets that we can confidently hand back to our partners at Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council in the knowledge that they will continue to help reduce flood risk to the local area for many years to come.”

The Leader of Calderdale Council, Cllr Tim Swift, said:

“It is very pleasing to see the Nutclough scheme complete. This is the latest milestone in the Council and Environment Agency’s joint work to reduce flood risk across the Upper Calder Valley. It’s reassuring that the work is already making a difference and protecting our local communities.”



The new culvert screen on Ibbot Royd Clough

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We've been misled on oil

Nicola Sturgeon must have the humility to change her ways after her claims about oil were exposed as false.

At First Minister's Questions Kez highlighted new figures which showed the SNP's claims about oil were out by more than 6,000%.



Kezia Dugdale is a regional MSP for Lothian and Leader of the Scottish Labour Party.

Yesterday, the independent and impartial Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published updated figures on oil revenue. Following the collapse in

the oil price, this year North Sea oil and gas revenue is expected to fall to just £130 million.

The SNP's independence White Paper, published two years ago, claimed that in the first year of independence oil revenue would be worth £8 billion.

Kez said that with major new tax and spend powers coming to Holyrood, the Scottish Parliament needs an impartial, independent financial watchdog. It's time for the SNP to back our plan for a Scottish Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

Following FMQs Kez said:

"Two years ago Nicola Sturgeon published her White Paper and promised a future free from Tory

austerity based on oil revenues of £8 billion a year. The SNP weren't just a little bit wrong – their oil figures were out by more than 6,000%.

"With major new powers heading our way, Scottish politics will never be the same again. We will have the powers to make different choices and break from failed Tory austerity. The Scottish Parliament needs impartial, independent oversight of government finances. The SNP Government should back Scottish Labour's plan for a Scottish Office for Budget Responsibility.

"Scots were let down by the SNP Government on oil and that can't ever happen again. Nicola Sturgeon has more power than any First Minister in history. She should now be humble enough to change her ways."

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Working Tri21 Project



Working Tri21 is an EU funded project which aims to enhance the social inclusion of people suffering from disabilities by integrating them into the job market specifically in the furniture industry; 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 also help to eliminate 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 skills.

The project therefore aims to research and develop support for those with disabilities, with a primary focus on individuals with Down Syndrome (Trisomy21 – hence the project name), 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 in the furniture industry. After identifying these areas, the developmental support will now focus on tailoring training packages

for individuals with special needs to undertake employment in the furniture industry. Finally trial tests will be carried out in Spain, with the finished, furniture related training courses being designed and available for use in all (or most) EU countries.

The Working Tri21 project is a consortium consisting of BFM LTD (UK), Asociacion Empresarial De Investigacion Centro Tecnologico Del Mueble La Madera De La Region De Murcia (Spain), Associazione Centro Studi Città di Foligno (Italy) and the Associazione Italiana Persone Down Onlus –AIPD (Italy) and is funded through Erasmus+. For more information please visit the website at: www.workingtri21.eu



Erasmus+

The London Fabric Show 2016 - Extends to Contract Market

THE LONDON FABRIC SHOW 2016

The BFM hosted London Fabric Show, returns to the executive boxes of Chelsea F.C. for a second year. Taking place on 29th February and 1st March 2016 it promises to be a treat for buyers of both domestic and contract fabrics of every kind.

Over 30 companies from Belgium, Spain, Italy, Turkey and the UK will show an increased variety of fabrics, broadening the interest of the show to manufacturers of beds, carpets, rugs, and a wider diversity of soft furnishings. Fabrics from mattress ticking and curtain linings to plush velvets and wool weaves will be on display.

From Belgium alone will be a host of companies offering new ranges made specifically for the contract sector, Beaulieu Fabrics, Greenstreet Fabrics, Muvantex, Symphony Mills, Tavelmo and Van Neder will all bring their latest collections. This will give contract fabric buyers a unique opportunity to see some of the best fabric suppliers from Belgium, together in one place, in the UK.

Warwick from the UK are bringing their new contract standard vinyls, Chesterfield and Marlborough, as well as their new high abrasion weaves and wools. FSN UK will exhibit their flame retardant velvets, high performance polyester

fabrics, and 100% wool fabrics suitable for the contract markets.

Clarkson Textiles will display a wide variety of their flame retardant back coatings which have applications for both the domestic and contract customer, including their new stain resist, anti-microbial coatings and a patented waterproof/ Crib 5 application for the healthcare and hospitality sectors.

Adoksan from eastern Turkey, dye all of their yarns and fabrics in-house and will show their latest flame retardant coating system. Currently supplying fabrics to over 35 countries from their high-tech facility in Nilufer, they will bring a selection of their fabrics for upholstery, drapery and soft furnishings including chenilles and jacquards.



Each exhibitor will have it's own executive box overlooking the world famous Chelsea football pitch, in which to display their collections. This exciting venue was a huge hit with both exhibitors and visitors to the show in February this year and proved to be an individual and comfortable exhibition space in the buzz of London, with added interest for any sports fan.

BFM Managing Director, Jackie Bazeley said, "The BFM is delighted to be organising the London Fabric Show again. We listened to the feedback from visitors last year and many wanted to see an extension of the type of the fabrics shown to include more for the contract market. We have some of the best suppliers of fabrics to both the domestic and contract markets from Belgium, the

UK and other European countries exhibiting. Those who have fabrics, weaves and synthetics for the contract sector are very keen to show their newest collections to UK buyers. We are looking forward to welcoming a large number of visitors to the Show at the end of February next year."

The London Fabric Show is a must for anyone interested in seeing the latest innovations in fabric production, meeting the people who produce them and choosing the newest and best fabrics currently available. Held in one very special venue, for a full exhibitor list, more information and to pre-register your attendance go to www.bfm.org.uk/londonfabric2016



Molly Scott Cato MEP heads to Paris to warn of dangers of 'privatising the climate'

GREEN MEP and economist, Molly Scott Cato, is to warn a conference of the dangers of relying on private financiers to solve the issue of climate finance.

Ahead of the COP21 negotiations, she will tell the conference in Paris, that with around \$3,536bn needed to implement climate pledges, a deal could flounder on the issue of climate finance. She will warn that in an effort to try and avoid this, the parties involved in the negotiations risk 'falling into the jaws of global finance'.

Dr Scott Cato, who is also Green Party finance speaker, said:

"The wolves of global finance are circling, scenting our vulnerability, and looking to make a

killing. Private money is being rapidly created through the issue of bonds such as the World Bank's Global Green Bond scheme. Since the return on the bonds is an impressive 5%, this will mean that poorer countries will need to pay money to wealthy Western investors for the life of the bond. This is the impact of privately financed climate solutions."

Molly Scott Cato will say it is vital that we consider how the money needed to address climate change is created, particularly for the world's poorer citizens. She will advocate alternative sources of public funding, in particular a process of green quantitative easing (QE). She said:

"The negotiations in Paris may well turn on the question of whether or not we can afford to save the planet. Our recent history suggests that if the planet were a bank we would have saved it by now. Green QE is a way to prevent private finance hijacking the transition to a green economy we so desperately need."

Eye health drive to help people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds

It comes as a new report shows 1 in 10 people from a BME background over the age of 65 will experience serious sight loss.

Asian and Black ethnic groups are at greater risk of eye diseases, such as glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy compared to other ethnic groups and are more likely to become blind.

However, evidence also suggests Asian and Black communities in the UK are less likely to attend for primary eye care appointments despite the increased risk of sight loss.

In Wales, the Welsh Government funded 'This Eye Care Health Examination' service exists for people from BME backgrounds to have a free, at the point of access, eye health examination. The service is provided

by opticians, but is under used by those from BME backgrounds.

A Welsh Government supported research project between Sight Cymru, RNIB Cymru, Public Health Wales and Cardiff University has examined how to best raise awareness amongst communities. The scheme is working to raise awareness amongst BME communities and has already led to an increased uptake of eye health examinations.

The Deputy Minister for Health Vaughan Gething said:

"At present one in ten people from a black and minority ethnic background over the age of 65 will experience serious sight loss. The unfortunate truth is that they are more likely to present themselves late for

help with their sight problem and are therefore more likely to go blind as a result.

"It should shock all of us that in today's Wales your chances of suffering sight loss are so clearly linked to your ethnic origin. It cannot be right that groups with the greatest risk of sight loss are less likely to use a service that could save their sight.

"We have a great primary eye care system unique to Wales, the Eye Health Examination Wales Service, free for people from BME communities because they are at a higher risk of eye disease. The eye health examinations will detect eye disease and ensure referral to hospital eye services for anyone who needs specialist treatment. Not everyone entitled to these extended eye health examinations are using the

service and we want more people to come forward.

"This project is aimed at increasing awareness and has already had some success in increasing take up of what is on offer. We will continue to work closely with the likes of the Sight Cymru, RNIB Cymru, Public Health Wales and others to spread the message."

RNIB Cymru Director Ceri Jackson said:

"At RNIB we know that 50% of all sight loss is avoidable with early detection and treatment.

"Thanks to this project we now know much more about how we can encourage people in BME communities, often those most at risk of eye disease, to attend eye exams and look after their eyes.

"We're delighted to have led the project on behalf of Public Health Wales and to have worked with partners and dedicated BME community volunteer champions to make this successful. We're now looking forward to rolling out the findings and progress the recommendations with them."

Largest fine for South West Water after pollution of Devon stream

Plymouth Crown Court heard how a combination of equipment failure and poor management on the part of South West Water led to poorly treated sewage entering the Craddock stream, downstream from its Ashill Sewage Treatment Works, near Cullompton.

The Environment Agency found pollution in the stream in September 2013 and again in December 2013 which affected a 400 metre stretch of water and impacted on river life.

These issues resulted in a breach of the permit conditions, which require South West Water to ensure that the treatment works operate correctly and to notify the Environment Agency of any problems that might affect sewage quality.

The Environment Agency spotted sewage fungus in the Craddock stream on 11 September 2013 and found excessive sludge in the treatment process, and blocked filters which would usually efficiently treat the sewage. The outlet channels of the works had extensive sewage fungus, which extended downstream.

A biological survey of the stream showed that the sewage had been poorly treated for at least a month, and further investigation revealed South West Water knew of the poor stream condition. Ongoing problems were observed during a later visit on 12 December 2013, when the quality of the sewage remained poor.

The offences observed on both dates were attributed to negligence on the part of South West Water. Judge Lawrie said the pollution of the stream was present for a sufficient length of time for sewage fungus to grow and was not a passing release of effluent.

The fact that the stream was of poor quality and that others may have contributed to that poor quality did not excuse the operator from their primary responsibility to ensure the risk of pollution from the works was kept to a realistic minimum.

He added that South West Water had failed to keep an effective watch on the maintenance and operation of this site since September 2013 and should have made more effort to ensure

the site ran properly and that their maintenance programme at the site was sufficient.

The court heard that the site was to be the subject of significant investment to upgrade the works, including an additional septic tank, a new humus tank and a dry weather flow gross storm overflow.

Environment Agency spokesperson Mischka Hewins said:

We carried out regular checks on the watercourse in 2013 and saw pollution on two occasions. An ecological survey revealed that there was a detrimental impact on the invertebrate fauna of the stream as a result of the sewage treatment discharge and significant changes to the wider ecology of the stream.

South West Water was fined £300,000 for offences at Ashill Sewage Treatment Works contrary to Regulations 12 and 38 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010. They were also ordered to pay the full prosecution costs of £14,421.

Labour research shows Tory failure on young people and home ownership



John Healey MP, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Minister for Housing and Planning

To coincide with the launch of the 'Help to Buy: ISA' scheme, Labour has released figures showing the scale of the challenge for young people wanting to buy their own home after five years of Tory failure.

It reveals:

- the number of young

people owning their own home has fallen by 21% - or 343,000 households – since 2010.

- a 20% deposit for an average first time buyer home in England now stands at £42,500, almost twice the average full-time salary of a young person.
- while the average salary of a young person has shrunk by almost £700 in real terms from 2010-15, the average house price paid by a first time buyer has increased by over £40,000 in real terms.
- the government's proposed solution of 'starter homes' won't help most young people - by 2020 the average starter home in England could require an income

of £50,000 and a deposit of £40,000.

John Healey MP, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Minister for Housing and Planning, said:

"After five years of failure from Conservative Ministers it's harder than ever for young people to buy a place of their own. The government's response to this housing costs crisis barely scratches the surface.

"If you're a young person or family on an ordinary income, then a home of your own must feel increasingly out of reach, while government plans are next to no help.

"As the Chancellor showed in the spending review last week with cuts to housing investment and affordable homes, he's not willing to help young people with the crisis of high housing costs."

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Lincolnshire residents urged to be ‘flood aware’

Doing these simple things can help people better protect those close to them, their homes and their businesses from flooding.

The reminder to be ‘#floodaware’ marks the start of the Agency’s annual awareness-raising campaign, which will involve a range of media, social media, and partnership activity.

In Lincolnshire, only 16% of those facing flood risk have signed up to the EA’s free flood warning service. In North East Lincolnshire, the figure is around 11%, while in North Lincolnshire, more than half of those at flood risk are signed up. Signing up to Floodline Warnings Direct ensures people can be contacted via their preferred method –

including landline, mobile, text or email – using the details they’ve provided.

Rachael McMahon, Flood Resilience Advisor at the Environment Agency, said:

“Flooding can have a devastating effect on people’s lives, with as many as one in six properties at risk of flooding in the UK.

“So it’s essential that people understand the risks that flooding poses to property and personal safety, and that they find out what they can do to keep themselves warned and informed against any future flood risk.

“While we work hard together with our partners to reduce the risk of flooding to properties

across Lincolnshire, there are many useful precautions people can take, including ensuring they know their flood risk and signing up to receive flood warnings.”

Check to see if free flood warnings are available in your community and sign up on our website or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

As well as checking flood risk, residents can also find out what action they can take to protect their personal safety and property by visiting the Environment Agency website. The website also includes advice on how to prepare for flooding and develop a flood plan.

People can follow the campaign on Twitter via #floodaware or via the Environment Agency blog. The Environment Agency

will be encouraging people to sign up to free flood warnings and alert friends and family on social media using the hashtag #floodaware. Visit Twitter and Facebook to get involved.

The campaign will run from 3 until 13 November.

Flood schemes have protected an extra 177,000 properties in the last four years. There have been record levels of investment, with £2.3 billion being spent over the next six years to reduce flood risk to 300,000 more properties.



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