

# Government *WORLD*<sup>™</sup>

*Autumn 2014 Edition*



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Cover picture:  
Owls; part of our Nature and Art range

# National News Headlines September 2014

## 1st Sept

- EU rules are slashing pensions
- Jewish exodus after anti- Semitism soars
- Gas costs you three times what the energy firms pay

## 2nd Sept

- Plebgate police are accused of ‘ industrial levels of dishonesty’
- Boris Island airport plan ‘not dead’
- Danger warning on armed migrants

## 3rd Sept

- Now is the time to slash stamp duty
- Salmond: Independence is closer than it has ever been
- Bitter row erupts over Heathrow as Boris Island plan is sunk

## 4th Sept

- Ebola victim: I am lucky to be alive
- ‘Complacent’ Home Office loses 175,000 illegal immigrants
- Calais mayor: UK is Eldorado for migrants

## 5th Sept

- Migrants storm ferry to Britain
- PM warning over terrorist ransoms
- NHS refuses to reveal fears about care quality at hospital

## 6th Sept

- UK jobs ‘boost Romania’s economy’
- Muslims in Scotland are urged to reject IS extremism
- Britain: Hit Russia with more sanctions despite Ukraine ceasefire hope



# National News Headlines September 2014

## 7th Sept

- Sellafield nuclear clean- up bill will soar by billions
- Yes' vote takes lead in Scotland poll
- MPs' 9% pay rise 'should go ahead'

## 8th Sept

- Riot police battle with mobs over Calais migrants
- Fury at MPs' 10% pay rise
- Cameron insists No will win as powers deal is promised

## 9th Sept

- Pound slumps to 10-month low over Yes vote poll
- Make mental health 'bigger priority'
- Second year of badger culling begins

## 10th Sept

- Harry hosts party for Invictus Games
- Dementia patients 'face care tax'
- Long-lost ship found off Canada's icy coast

## 11th Sept

- 100 Killer spiders found in hell house
- Report on 'thickening ozone layer' hailed
- Boris plans levy for drivers who park at work

## 12th Sept

- Hunt backs fines for A&E drunks
- Pistorius cleared of premeditated murder of girlfriend Reeva
- No campaign holds on to lead with less than a week to go



# National News Headlines September 2014

## 13th Sept

- 'Gang ferried 10 fake brides into Britain to wed migrants'
- MPs seek foreign aid guarantee
- Sex exploitation risk to scores of youngsters

## 14th Sept

- Muslims tell PM to stop calling jihadis Islamic State
- Law to set out crime victims' rights
- 'We will win.' Darling claims victory is in sight for No

## 15th Sept

- 'Soon only the rich will be able to buy their own homes'
- Queen in referendum plea
- Poll surge puts Ukip in with by-election chance

## 16th Sept

- Pleas for UK asylum soar to 30,000 a year
- 6,000 jobs at risk as phone shops shut
- Warning £450m in NHS cutbacks will be needed over next two years

## 17th Sept

- Price of an average home rockets to record £ 272,000
- Referendum campaigns make final push
- Unemployment falls by 146,000 to 2.02m

## 18th Sept

- PM hails 468,000 fall in jobless as ' plan for economy is working'
- Voting begins in Scottish referendum
- Unemployment falls to lowest level since start of banks crisis



# National News Headlines September 2014

## 19th Sept

- SCOTLAND DECIDES: Young and old all turn out to vote on a historic day
- Foreign buyers own 20% of homes in top boroughs
- Rail commuters hit by 200,000 cancellations

## 20th Sept

- Scandal-hit council chief quits in secret deal
- Queen's plea for unity after bitter referendum fight
- Salmond: 'I resign'

## 21st Sept

- Miliband pledges big pay rise for Britain's poorest workers
- Salmond: 'No' voters were 'tricked'
- Labour makes £8 minimum wage pledge

## 22nd Sept

- Summer to last another month
- Ed refuses to back English home rule 13 times!
- Salmond: Independence can happen without referendum

## 23rd Sept

- Inheritance tax will be abolished
- Miliband: I need 10 years in power to turn Britain round
- SNP on course to be UK's third biggest political party

## 24th Sept

- Same old story as Miliband vows to tax rich to pay for NHS
- Sturgeon confirms SNP leadership bid
- Ban Ki-moon has high hopes for climate talks



# National News Headlines September 2014

## 25th Sept

- Labour could take mansion tax out of estates of the dead
- UK to 'play its part' against IS
- Sturgeon will not rule out second referendum

## 26th Sept

- Ukip targets voters let down by Labour
- Miliband's mansion tax will barely raise a penny, say experts
- UKIP to promise income tax cuts

## 27th Sept

- Tory minister: We shouldn't be scared of quitting the EU
- Second Tory MP defects to UKIP
- Tories plan under-40s homes discount

## 28th Sept

- PM hit by double resignation on eve of Tory conference
- Osborne: I'll ban dole for young – and cut benefit cap to £23,000
- Second Tory defector to Ukip blames PM for move

## 29th Sept

- Cameron hints he could back EU exit
- Osborne to cut pensions 'death tax'
- Be vigilant on Tube, says Boris as Britain goes to war

## 30th Sept

- GPS will be available seven days a week by 2020, promises PM
- UK economy grew 0.9% in second quarter
- Welfare freeze to hit 10 million households



# National News Headlines October 2014

## 1st October

- RAF jets destroy jihadists
- PM: I'll put more cash into NHS if we win election
- MoD naval deals secure 7,500 UK jobs

## 2nd October

- Cameron pledges a UK bill of rights
- Ebola fight hit by aid cuts, MPs warn
- Wonga to write off £220m in debts

## 3rd October

- Tories take poll lead for first time in over 2 years
- Cameron: Tax cuts could come within four years
- Tories: we will ignore human rights rulings

## 4th October

- Islamic fanatics are 'struggle of our generation'
- Police start probe into postal vote allegations
- Top Gear crew 'chased by thousands'

## 5th October

- Clegg accused of U-turn as he ditches 'crude' mansion tax
- Muslims unite in fury at Isis murder of Alan Henning
- Let us curb Migrants of leave EU, says IDS

## 6th October

- Lib Dems: Soak the rich to cut the deficit
- 70mph gales blow away our Indian Summer
- Gales cut power to 2,000 properties





# National News Headlines October 2014

## 7th October

- EU 'too busy for PM'S reforms'
- Nobel winner warns over immigration
- 120 Mph killer storm batters Britain

## 8th October

- Ukip is set for poll win despite visits from 20 top Tories
- Labour in turmoil as Miliband faces crisis over his leadership
- Lib Dem tax policy will drag millions more into 40p rate

## 9th October

- Terror suspect held a street away from 21/7 bomber arrests
- China 'overtakes U.S. as the world's largest economy'
- Why won't UK test air travellers for Ebola?

## 10th October

- Britain is on Ebola alert
- Osborne: EU slump could drag UK back into recession
- UKIP win gives party first elected MP

## 11th October

- Daily glass of fruit juice raises blood pressure
- You can't ignore migration now
- UK economy is set to overtake France

## 12th October

- Government moves against nuisance calls
- Britain will run out of electricity unless it axes green target, warns ex-minister
- Britons seek 'right to be forgotten'



# National News Headlines October 2014

## 13th October

- Boris: We must control our borders – or quit EU
- Farage invited on leaders' TV debate
- NHS staff staging four-hour strike

## 14th October

- Soldiers step in as NHS workers strike over pay
- Heathrow to start screening for Ebola
- UK inflation rate falls to 1.2%

## 15th October

- Electric bills to soar by £ 1,000
- Inheritance tax: ' Only very rich should pay it'
- Six held in ' fighters for Syria' police raid

## 16th October

- Hurricane to batter Britain
- Minister ' sorry' for saying disabled not worth minimum wage
- Mistakes 'costing NHS billions'

## 17th October

- We'll quit EU over get us out of the EU migrants
- 100 UK terror attacks smashed every week
- Queen ponders poppy memorial

## 18th October

- New scandal over child sex-groom gangs
- 1m migrants to flood to Britain
- MPs demand 'Rotherham files' answers



# National News Headlines October 2014

## 19th October

- NHS chief urges hospital staff to join gyms in anti-obesity fight
- Internet trolls face longer sentences
- Terrorist paymaster targeted by Britain

## 20th October

- Violent storm to hit Britain
- 61% want Farage to join debate
- Civil service to showcase new equal parent leave for fathers

## 21st October

- EU migrants wanting to work here soar 55%
- Patients in mass exodus to England
- Travel disruption as storm hits UK

## 22nd October

- Condemned to die by waiting list shambles
- UK 'not deporting enough criminals'
- 108 Mph storm kills 3 Brits

## 23rd October

- Bank rate rise halted by fears of slowdown
- Now more childcare handouts to lure women back to work
- Tesco boss to quit over profits error

## 24th October

- EU demands £ 1.7bn from booming Britain
- Now Ed says he wants tighter controls on migrants too
- GDP rises by 0.7% in third quarter



### 25th October

- Weak Euro to threaten rise of booming Britain
- How diagnosing dementia can already earn a GP £200 a time
- Scottish Labour leader stands down

### 26th October

- £1.7bn bill: Now Gove accuses EU chief of deliberate sabotage
- Clegg's 'Daddy month' paternity plan
- UK ends Afghan combat operations

### 27th October

- EU migrants putting towns 'under siege'
- Ed 'could snatch defeat from the jaws of victory'
- Exam rules attacked as parents fund private pupil appeals

### 28th October

- Facing jail, the British teacher planning to go to Syria and wage jihad
- Blunkett: migrants really are swamping parts of UK
- Lloyds Bank confirms 9,000 job losses

### 29th October

- Britain is a migrant magnet
- Scandal of 26,000 suspects on the run
- New asylum backlog emerges, say MPs

### 30th October

- 'We'll force EU to slash £ 1.7bn bill'
- Teachers battle to cope with influx of migrants
- Punishing drug users is pointless, says Home Office report

### 31st October

- Scandal of Britain's £ 8bn a year to EU
- Blair 'is driving voters towards Ukip'
- Youth crime figures show dramatic fall in space of a generation



# National News Headlines November 2014

## 1st November

- Woolf is forced to quit as head of inquiry into child sex abuse
- Satnav tags to track every move of violent thugs freed from jail
- SNP pile on the pressure for MPs to fulfil their pledges

## 2nd November

- Green Party shuns Lib Dem pact over environment policy
- 60,000 get pay rise after surge in firms awarding living
- Branson vows to continue space bid after death crash

## 3rd November

- Accept EU rules or quit, Merkel tells UK
- How biggest chunk of your hard-earned tax goes on welfare
- May to outline abuse inquiry details

## 4th November

- No benefits for migrants
- May says sorry to victims for abuse inquiry shambles
- London 'needs powers to remain a super-city'

## 5th November

- Bank giants probed over stranglehold on your cash
- Drinking in pregnancy may be a crime
- Bombshell report slams Tower Hamlets council

## 6th November

- Find a hobby and live longer
- Minister to call for fuel price cut
- 'Ethical duty' to cut NHS waste



# National News Headlines November 2014

## 7th November

- Warning over killer winter bug
- Met chief: Police are struggling to cope with migrant influx
- UK spies snoop on lawyers and clients

## 8th November

- Miliband is the 'kiss of death' for Labour
- Sex abuse dossier given to Brittan is 'lost for good'
- Osbo's £1.7bn EU bill victory

## 9th November

- Babies die as officials haggle over price of meningitis vaccine
- Miliband in new crisis as senior MPs back leadership change
- British rights groups reject official inquiry into rendition

## 10th November

- Defiant Queen vows: We shall remember them all
- Now May hints we could quit the EU
- Police head to Poland in drive to hire new officers

## 11th November

- How tax credits can help migrants earn 8 times more
- UK services to mark Armistice Day
- Cameron: I will not fight to keep Britain in EU come what may

## 12th November

- Cameron begs Labour voters: Help us to beat Ukip in Rochester
- Fracking 'will transform the North'
- EU benefit tourists face being sent home



# National News Headlines November 2014

## 13th November

- Farage: I'll support anyone who helps to get my country back
- Cost-of-living crisis eases as Bank says pay rises will hit 3%
- Miliband: I can absolutely be PM

## 14th November

- Hapless Ed blames anti- Labour ' forces'
- There are too many migrants
- Osborne promises a blank cheque to put bankers in the dock

## 15th November

- 'Axe stamp duty for over-60s to free up houses'
- Fall in unemployment saves £1.3bn
- NHS cancer fund may axe 25 drugs because they're too expensive

## 16th November

- Child sexual abuse victims' charity in danger of collapse
- Revealed: how coalition has helped rich by hitting poor
- NHS doctor flees UK to join Taliban

## 17th November

- Romanians form mass queues – on streets of Britain
- Tories concede as Ukip heads for victory
- We're on the brink of another global recession, warns PM

## 18th November

- We spend less on border controls than in 2009... despite surge in illegals
- Welfare cuts target missed after £500 pension boost
- UK inflation rate rises to 1.3%



# National News Headlines November 2014

## 19th November

- One in four new EU citizens gets British passport
- PM back at poll seat in Ukip battle
- Bird flu at duck farm 'may pass to humans'

## 20th November

- Greedy EU demands more of your cash
- Russians spy on UK families via their webcams
- First Minister Sturgeon: I will govern for whole of Scotland

## 21st November

- General election is up in the air says Farage
- Labour MP's sneer at flags sparks fury
- Osborne's fury as Euro judges back curbs on banker bonuses

## 22nd November

- NHS staff to fly out to fight Ebola
- Labour 'still party of working people'
- Sturgeon hailed for gender equality in Cabinet reshuffle

## 23rd November

- Why BBC must be channelled into a TV free-for-all
- Crisis in A& E: why can't we know the truth?
- Web firms to be forced to reveal terror suspects' computer trails

## 24th November

- House prices to rise £ 10,000 in New Year
- Axe VAT on children's flights, say MPS
- Britain's full...Shut border





### 25th October

- How 25% of Cabinet members would vote for Britain to quit EU
- Overcrowded GPS 'struggling to cope'
- Over 40? You can't have a mortgage

### 26th October

- Ukip ousts Labour as party of the people
- Blair charity award faces criticism
- MI5 missed chances to stop killers of soldier Lee Rigby

### 27th October

- Now Britain is facing ANOTHER demand from EU
- May unveils crackdown on extremists
- Scotland to be given powers to raise more of its own tax

### 28th October

- Migrants: four year benefits ban
- Tax-free pension boost for widows
- Abbott: I'm ready to challenge for City Hall

### 29th October

- Police checks for migrants
- Cameron forced to retreat on migration
- Pressure mounts on Cameron to restrict voting rights of Scots MPs

### 30th October

- Big freeze will kill 25,000 Brits
- Eurosceptic claims 200 Tory MPs now favour British exit
- Osborne tackles Labour lead on the NHS – with surprise £2bn boost



## Defeating Ebola in Sierra Leone conference

The conference aims to get countries and other international donors to pledge beds, medical staff and money to help end Ebola in Sierra Leone.

The Defeating Ebola in Sierra Leone pledging conference will take place on Thursday 2 October at Lancaster House, London.

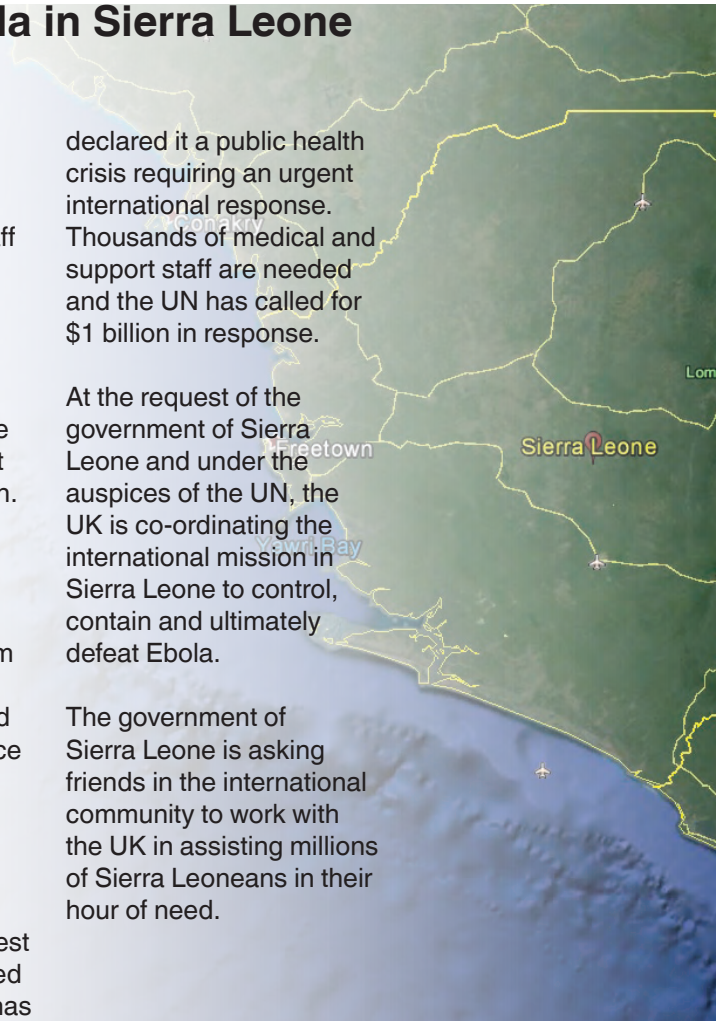
The conference will highlight the scale of the Ebola crisis, build on the outcomes and momentum from the UN General Assembly and look ahead to an EU donor conference for the wider West Africa region, provisionally planned for the end of October.

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is an unprecedented human tragedy. The UN has

declared it a public health crisis requiring an urgent international response. Thousands of medical and support staff are needed and the UN has called for \$1 billion in response.

At the request of the government of Sierra Leone and under the auspices of the UN, the UK is co-ordinating the international mission in Sierra Leone to control, contain and ultimately defeat Ebola.

The government of Sierra Leone is asking friends in the international community to work with the UK in assisting millions of Sierra Leoneans in their hour of need.



## The Tories have once again shown they are the party of a privileged few at the top - Chris Leslie

Chris Leslie MP, Labour's Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, commenting on George Osborne's speech to the Conservative Party Annual Conference, said:

"Having failed to balance the books in this Parliament George Osborne has made his choice. He is choosing to give the richest one per cent a £3 billion-a-year tax cut and opposing a mansion tax while cutting tax credits which make work pay for millions of striving families. While working people have seen their wages fall by £1600 a year since 2010, the Tories have once again shown they are the party of a privileged few at the top.

"Labour will balance the books as soon as possible in the next Parliament, but we will do so in a fairer way. We will reverse the Tory tax cut for millionaires, stop paying the winter fuel allowance to the richest five per cent of pensioners and cap child benefit rises at one per cent for two years."

## A summer of sporting excellence

Scotland has surpassed all expectations around 2014 and its long summer of sport, First Minister Alex Salmond has said.

Speaking after the delivery of the hugely successful Ryder Cup at Gleneagles, the First Minister said:

"The eyes of the world have been on Scotland throughout this summer and we have shown that we are certainly world-class when it comes to staging some of the most impressive sporting competitions in recent memory.

"At the beginning of the year, Scotland aimed to host a successful, safe and secure XX Commonwealth Games that delivers a

lasting legacy for the whole of Scotland. We are in the process of doing that.

"We aimed to work together with Ryder Cup Europe and the European Tour in the delivery of the best golfing tournament ever – and we have accomplished that over the course of last weekend. In between we have seen the astounding success of the Scottish Open and discussions open on the long-term future of the tournament until 2020.

"It is clear that these great sporting events are creating a surge in interest in sport in schools, workplaces and homes across the country and with it a legacy which will resound for years to come.

"I want to personally thank all those who have contributed in large or small ways to the success of Scotland's summer of sport. Whether you are a keen fan or an accomplished athlete, an instructor or a volunteer, you have all made Scotland shine. The legacy will live on in our sports centres, on golf courses and in swimming pools across the country."



## Under the Tories Britain is facing an energy bill crisis - Caroline Flint

Caroline Flint MP, Labour's Shadow Energy and Climate Change, commenting on research from Age UK showing that 3.5 million older people are worried about keeping warm at home this winter, said:

"Under the Tories, Britain is facing an energy bill crisis, with millions of people, especially older people, struggling to heat their homes. Labour has already set out radical plans to freeze energy prices until 2017, saving the average household £120, and fix the energy market for the future, with a tough new regulator to curb rip-off bills.

"One of the main reasons our energy bills are so high is that our homes are some of the least energy efficient in Europe – leaking heat from their roofs, walls and windows. That's why Labour will end the scandal of cold homes, with five million homes upgraded in 10 years. Our plans will mean cheaper bills and warmer homes for millions."

# Billions to be invested by Scottish Water

A £3.5 billion investment by Scottish Water will ensure it continues to provide one of the best value for money water services in the UK, Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said today.

The publicly owned company is starting a six-year programme, backed by £720 million of borrowing from the Scottish Government.

The investment work will support 5,000 construction jobs and will improve drinking water supplies, protect the environment and support the economy.

Scottish Water investment projects planned include:

- More than £280 million in improvements to water mains and water treatments works across Scotland.

- Over £100 million for a Glasgow waste water tunnel to improve water quality in the River Clyde and reduce flooding in Mount Florida and Giffnock.
- £45 million to deliver solutions to around 400 external sewer flooding problems across Scotland.
- Over £60 million to reduce the impact of discharges to the River Clyde from Daldowie and Dalmarnock Wastewater Treatment Works.
- Drinking water improvements including at Glenlatterach (Aberdeenshire - £5.6 million), Fair Isle (£4.9 million) and South Uist (£6.8 million).

The Scottish Government has set out in its policy

statement that water charges must remain stable and not increase by more than the rate of inflation.

An exemption scheme will be extended to more of the charitable sector to help pay for their water and sewerage services.

Ms Sturgeon said:

“Water and sewerage services are vital to our everyday lives. It is important that we continue to invest to ensure that these keep on meeting the needs of customers, the environment and economic development.

“I recognise that households and businesses are under financial pressure. That is why I expect Scottish Water to continue to deliver this £3.5 billion investment programme without the

need for inflation-busting charge increases.

“The Government will be making available up to £720 million to support this programme. It will also be extending the assistance to more of the charitable sector to help pay for services.

“This Government is determined to ensure that Scottish Water continues to be a public sector success story. This programme is good news for customers, the construction industry and our environment.”

Douglas Millican, Scottish Water’s chief executive, said:

“I am delighted that we are announcing the start of this major investment programme for 2015-21 which will enable Scottish Water to continue to provide first-class customer service, while supporting the Scottish economy and creating jobs in the construction industry.

“We look forward to working closely with our customers and communities to further improve drinking water quality and the environment the length and breadth of Scotland.”

## SNP membership soars to over 65,000

The SNP has welcomed the news that total membership has reached and surpassed 65,000 – with over 39,000 new members in just one week since the referendum.

The SNP membership now outstrips the UK wide Lib Dem membership and the 39,000 + new members alone and is greater than all the other parties' membership totals in Scotland combined.

The total number 65,047 - as of 9am Friday – in context it is enough to:

- Fill every seat at the National Stadium Hampden Park – and at the same time Dens Park, Dundee - and still have with over 1400 people left over.
- Fill every seat at The

SSE Hydro seats in Glasgow five and half times over.

- Fill The Usher Hall Concert Hall in Edinburgh nearly 30 times over.

Commenting, SNP Business Convener Derek Mackay MSP said:

“The extraordinary influx of new members joining the SNP is still rising and I am delighted that so many people from every part of Scotland have recognised that the best way to deliver change is with the SNP.

“This membership happened organically and contrasts starkly with the No campaign parties in the last few days – we have overtaken the Lib Dems at UK level and Labour are in complete disarray in

Scotland.

“Henry McLeish’s comments are absolutely right – Labour’s position in Scotland is growing more precarious by the day as more and more people in traditional Labour heartlands switch to the SNP.

“Labour voters simply won’t forget Johann Lamont’s alliance with the Tories in the No campaign – which is exactly why the SNP is now sitting at 49 per cent in the polls.

“It is clearly the SNP that the people of Scotland trust to stand up for Scotland’s interests – and to hold the Westminster establishment to account on their vow of substantial more powers for Scotland. This new democratic movement in Scotland won’t accept the same old politics as usual from Westminster.”

## Sharp rise in reoffending rates - Response from Sadiq Khan

Sadiq Khan MP, Labour’s Shadow Justice Secretary, commenting on the sharp rise in reoffending rates said:



Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP

“This sharp rise in the number of sex offenders and violent criminals committing further serious offences is truly alarming. David Cameron’s government’s reckless policies have created chaos in prisons and probation and

attention has been diverted from the primary focus of rehabilitating offenders and protecting the public.

“Chris Grayling needs to stop putting the public’s safety at risk and urgently get a grip with the mess this Government created with these half-baked policies.”

## Driving forward action on climate change

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Sub-Committee (CSC-CC) on Climate Change has held its first meeting.

The group, chaired by Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead, discussed what action the Scottish Government is taking to tackle climate change – and how it can drive forward efforts to ensure Scotland remains on track to meet its world-leading climate change ambitions.

The establishment of the CSC-CC was announced in June by Environment and Climate Change Minister Paul Wheelhouse. Speaking after today's inaugural meeting at the Scottish Parliament, Mr Wheelhouse said:



Paul Wheelhouse MSP

“The establishment of this Cabinet Sub-Committee demonstrates that we are committed to tackling climate change at the very highest level within Government.

“At today's meeting, we discussed the progress made so far in delivering the Scottish Government's

world-leading climate change ambitions and the challenges facing Scotland as a society, and our policy options, for making the transition to a low carbon economy.

“We also discussed how we will work with the Climate Change Delivery Board to monitor progress on implementing RPP2 and, where necessary, to identify new abatement opportunities.

“It is clear that cross-Government leadership will better enable us to co-ordinate our efforts to tackle this crucial global issue. I look forward to giving a further update on the Scottish Government's plans to Parliament next week.”

## Joint statement on Libya

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Spain, the UK and US concerned by polarisation in Libya and call for all to cease military operations

We are deeply concerned by the situation of political polarisation in Libya.

We are studying carefully the decision of the Supreme Court, its context and consequences.

We note that the challenges facing Libya require political solutions. We remain committed to helping Libyans at this difficult time.

We fully support the efforts of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and urge all parties to cooperate with him to ensure immediate and inclusive consultations among the stakeholders to agree on the way forward.

We urge all parties to cease all military operations and to refrain from taking any steps which increase the polarisation and divisions in the country.

# 54,000 homeowners created through Help to Buy

The Help to Buy schemes have created over 54,000 homeowners in England Housing Minister Brandon Lewis announced today (30 October 2014).

The new figures show how Help to Buy is helping more and more people onto the property ladder and getting more homes built, with over 39,000 households buying new-built properties through the equity loan and NewBuy options, and 15,000 households buying through the mortgage guarantee.

A further 3,400 new homeowners have been created in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland through the Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee. Help to Buy increases house building

House building and the Help to Buy schemes are key parts of the government's long-term economic plan.

Around 8 out of 10 sales went to first time buyers and as a direct result thousands of new home owners were created and private house building starts rose by a third.

House building has climbed to the highest level since 2007, construction output has seen the sharpest expansion for 8 months, and companies are now taking on workers at the fastest rate since 1997.

Housing Minister Brandon Lewis said:

The figures clearly demonstrate the continuing success of the Help to Buy

in supporting creditworthy, hardworking people who want to buy a home of their own.

Over 54,000 new homeowners have now used the schemes as a valuable alternative to the Bank of Mum and Dad, enabling them to buy with a fraction of the deposit they would normally require.

But it's also got Britain building and since the scheme's launch private house building starts has increased by a third.

Sales of new build homes have been strong across the country:

- the highest number of equity loan sales were in Wiltshire with 603 sales, Leeds with 559 sales, and Central

- Bedfordshire with 499 sales
- 20 local authorities have all achieved over 300 sales



## 1000 buildings in UK cities to get free public Wi-Fi

Over 1000 public buildings in cities across the UK will be transformed into free Wi-Fi hotspots

Over the coming months, libraries, museums, civic centres, transport hubs, sporting complexes and other buildings around the UK will begin to offer free Wi-Fi – some have already gone live, and the remainder are all on track to be up and running by March 2015.

Millions of citizens, business men and women and visitors will be able to take advantage of free connectivity across the UK, which in turn will support our cities in becoming even more attractive places to live, do business, visit and invest in.

The project is part of the

Government's £150m SuperConnected Cities programme aimed at transforming the digital capability of UK cities, ensuring our cities boast world-class connectivity and are equipped to deal with the increasing demands of the digital age.

Digital Economy Minister Ed Vaizey said:

The digital landscape of the UK is undergoing a period of tremendous improvement and is all part of the Government's long term economic plan. For business, visitors and the UK public, accessing wifi in our cities is absolutely vital. These free hotspots will be instrumental in making UK cities even more appealing as places to not only do business, but to visit as well.

## EU reaches 'historic' deal to tackle climate change

Statement by the Secretary of State, Edward Davey on the historic EU deal to tackle climate change

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Edward Davey said:

"This is a historic moment. Europe has sent a clear and firm message to the world that ambitious climate action is needed now. True to our word, we have delivered a highly ambitious EU climate target while also significantly strengthening Europe's energy security by making us less reliant on imported energy. This morning only five countries in Europe had climate targets post 2020, now 28 countries do.

"The UK has been leading the climate debate pushing

for an ambitious deal in Europe and by building alliances and working constructively with our European partners, we've agreed a package of measures that meet all the UK's top priorities.

"It lays down the gauntlet to the world to come forward with ambitious climate targets, reforms EU energy policy so it's flexible and affordable, and tackles energy security - reducing Europe's energy import bill for fossil fuels by around €285 billion by 2030.

"It's good for consumers because we can decarbonise at the lowest possible cost using a diverse mix of technologies.

"And it's good for business as it provides the certainty they have been calling for to unlock billions in low carbon investment."



## SNP risks creating criminals with new drink-driving limit

The Scottish Government risks creating criminals and getting its priorities badly wrong with the introduction of its new drink-driving limit, it has been warned.

It was announced this morning that the lower threshold – which could see someone fail a breathalyser test with only a single drink – will be introduced before Christmas.

Under the controversial plans, the limit will be reduced to only 50mg in every 100ml of blood, compared to the current level of 80 mg.

The Scottish Conservatives have criticised the move, saying it will criminalise a wide range of people who are currently hardworking, law-abiding citizens.

The party would prefer police to focus their limited resources on those at the more serious end of the drink-driving scale.

Neither the police nor the Scottish Government have been able to publish statistics showing how many accidents have been caused by those with between 50 and 80 mg in their blood.

Scottish Conservative transport spokesman Alex Johnstone MSP said:

“The view of many people is we should focus resources on people who are three, four or even five times the legal limit.

“But with this move, the risk is police will stop chasing

maniacs on a Saturday night who are inebriated behind the wheel, and instead target young mothers in supermarket carparks on Sunday mornings.

“It would be a huge mistake for police to switch their focus to those who are between the new limit and the existing limit.

“But of course, they will be the easy ones to target, because they won’t object, they’ll pay their fines, and make a lot of money for the state in the process.

“This reduction risks creating criminals of people who are perfectly law-abiding, hardworking individuals, while reducing the spotlight on those who are truly dangerous drivers.”

## Number of workless households in Wales falls

The number of households where no one has a job fell in all but four of the 22 local authorities in Wales between 2012 and 2013.

According to analysis published this week by the Office of National Statistics, Cardiff, Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot saw the biggest reductions in the percentage of workless households whilst Newport, Isle of Anglesey, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen were the only areas to see an increase.

This analysis covers a period when there were 188,000 workless households in Wales; however more recent statistics published last week showed that the number of “workless households” in Wales had fallen by 43,000 since June 2010 to 183,000 by June this year.

Secretary of State for Wales Stephen Crabb said:

Creating jobs and giving people the satisfaction of earning a regular wage is part of our long term economic plan for Wales. Last week’s figures show that our plan is working but the true measure of success is that this is happening right across the whole country and whilst there are still some areas where we need to do more, this analysis from 2013 is extremely encouraging.

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“The UK has been leading the climate debate pushing for an ambitious deal in Europe and by building

alliances and working constructively with our European partners, we’ve agreed a package of measures that meet all the UK’s top priorities.

“It lays down the gauntlet to the world to come forward with ambitious climate targets, reforms EU energy policy so it’s flexible and affordable, and tackles energy security - reducing Europe’s energy import bill for fossil fuels by around €285 billion by 2030.

“It’s good for consumers because we can decarbonise at the lowest possible cost using a diverse mix of technologies.

“And it’s good for business as it provides the certainty they have been calling for to unlock billions in low carbon investment.”

## Shale gas is not going to solve our problems

A new report by UK Energy Research Centre analysis of the future of gas in the UK concluded that there is no evidence “whatsoever” for Minister’s claims that shale gas is going to solve our energy problems or that it will make a substantial difference to energy prices (1).

Jenny Jones AM has consistently criticised the Mayor of London’s vocal support for fracking (2). The Mayor recently said that shale gas exploration has been “frustrated by NIMBYs” (3) and “If reserves of shale can be exploited in London we should leave no stone unturned, or unfracked, in the cause of keeping the lights on” (4).

Jenny Jones said:

“The public are being conned by Ministers and Boris Johnson’s claims that fracked oil and gas will deliver a cheaper and more secure energy future. It is also disgraceful that when legitimate concerns are expressed about ground water contamination and the disruption and pollution of fracking trucks, they are brushed off as NIMBY frustrations.”

“At a time when current trends mean that we are on course for a catastrophic 4 degree temperature increase, our priority must be switching to renewables such as solar and wind and getting serious about energy conservation. Exploiting even more fossil fuels such as fracked oil or gas that can only accelerate global warming just isn’t an option.”

# GDP - For all George Osborne's claims that the economy is fixed most people are still not feeling the recovery - Ed Balls

Ed Balls MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, responding to the latest GDP figures, said:

"For all George Osborne's claims that the economy is fixed most people are still not feeling the recovery. Working people are over £1600 a year worse off since 2010 and these figures now show a concerning slowdown in economic growth too.

"We need a strong and balanced recovery that works for all working people, not just a few at the top. But under the Tories we have stagnating wages and too many people in low-paid jobs which, as the OBR said last week, are leading to rising borrowing.



Rt Hon Ed Balls MP

This plan isn't working for working people.

"And under this government house building is it at its lowest level since the 1920s, business investment is lagging behind our competitors and exports

are way off target.

"Labour's economic plan will make Britain better off, create more good jobs and earn our way to higher living standards for all.

"We will get 200,000 new homes built a year, raise the minimum wage, cut business rates and expand free childcare for working parents. And we will balance the books as soon as possible in the next Parliament, but do so in a fairer way by reversing David Cameron's tax cut for millionaires."

## Slowly but surely the Coalition's economic plan is working

Commenting on today's GDP figures showing that the economy grew by 0.6% in the last quarter, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesperson, Stephen Williams said:

"Fixing the economy was always going to take time, but these figures are further evidence that the Coalition's plan is working.

"After wrecking the economy, Labour spent the last years rubbishing the Coalition's growth plan. They were wrong. Slowly but surely the plan is working and the economy is recovering.

"It is particularly encouraging to see the construction sector growing so strongly, providing a much needed boost to house-building, and to see manufacturing on the rise.

"The Liberal Democrats are building a stronger economy and a fairer society, enabling everyone to get on in life. Getting growth going and creating jobs is at the heart of that. We have helped businesses create a million jobs, now we want to help create a million more."

# REVEALED: The black hole at the heart of Labour's spending plans

Labour's spending plans contain a black hole of up to £28 billion, according to analysis from a think tank favoured by Ed Miliband.

The IPPR, considered Labour's favourite think tank, analysed Labour's spending plans and found that most of Labour's planned tax rises would do nothing to reduce the deficit – as Labour have already spent the money elsewhere.

The money from Labour's planned tax on the family home, for instance, has already been committed – as have the proceeds of their plan to abolish the tax allowance for married couples.

The report from the think tank makes clear that Labour will have to raise up to £28 billion to fill the black hole at the heart of the plans - "through a combination of cuts to departmental spending, cuts to welfare and tax rises."

This independent analysis confirms what we've known all along – that a Labour government would mean higher taxes, more debt and a stalled economy.

Share this important post to let everyone know about the black hole at the heart of Labour's spending plans.

## Shale gas is not going to solve our problems

Of the 102 bathing waters in Wales, 90 met the higher Guideline standard, with the others all achieving the Mandatory European standard. These results demonstrate the excellent bathing water quality which both the people of Wales and visitors can enjoy.

Commenting on the results, Carl Sargeant, Minister for Natural Resources said:

"Our bathing waters are an important natural resource that has environmental, social and economic benefits for the whole of Wales, with our fantastic beaches and beautiful coastlines enjoyed by millions every year.

"I'm delighted to see Wales achieve these excellent results for the 2014-bathing season. We must now continue to work with our partners to build on the high standards we have set so that communities across Wales and beyond

can continue to bathe in top quality Welsh water for years to come."

The bathing water statistics in Wales are taken from samples taken by Natural Resources Wales at regular intervals during the bathing season (15 May to 30 September) and are verified by the European Commission.

Emyr Roberts, Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales, said:

"The results from this summer show that bathers were able to enjoy clean water at our fantastic beaches.

"Our coast and Llyn Padarn, the first lake in Wales to be designated a bathing water, are major attractions for visitors in Wales and are an important part of the economy.

"Tougher new standards for bathing waters are being introduced next year, which classifies waters over an average of four years instead of one.

"Early projections indicate that three-quarters of the bathing waters will meet the excellent standard next year, which is great news for the people, environment and economy of Wales".

# The Art of Manufacturing

## Part 5

The Art of Manufacturing has been produced by Keith Welters to promote and encourage the desire to make manufacturing a prolific career path and enterprise within the UK.



Keith Welters is a leading UK manufacturer

Since the war, there has been a steady decline in manufacturing employment but a continuing rise in manufacturing output. Growth in technological advancement has enabled

greater production using fewer workers who are generally more highly skilled.

The mass employment of workers performing labour-intensive and repetitive tasks has largely been replaced by machines or out sourced to 'offshore resources' such as China and India where manpower, products and components can be cheaply supplied.

Whilst it could be argued that it's 'all built in China now', the UK still maintains its lead as a high-end manufacturer and is the sixth largest manufacturer in the world. The danger lies in these offshore resources 'squaring the circle' by producing highly skilled workers manufacturing high-end products of their own.

It is in fact the initiation and control of the full process that we need to pass on to future generations in order for the UK to continue to maintain and grow its skill base. Outsourcing will be detrimental to the future of our trades if it means using the skills of trained workers elsewhere, leading to the inevitable brain drain as home grown talents are forced to seek opportunities abroad.

This serialisation highlights the importance of training in trade skills to create the manufacturers of tomorrow.

In this fifth instalment we look at intellectual property and imports vs exports.

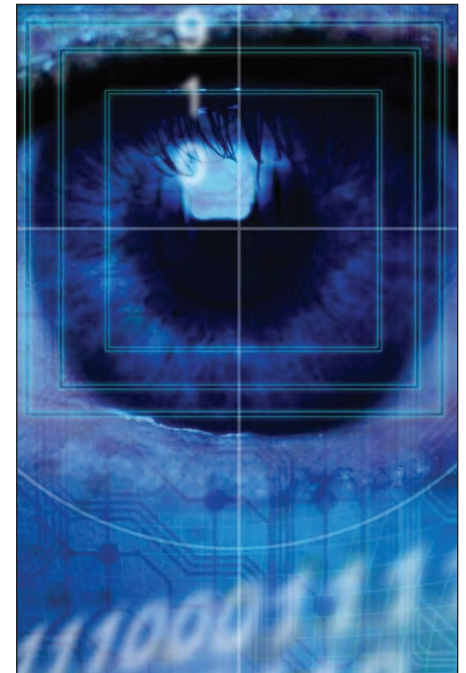
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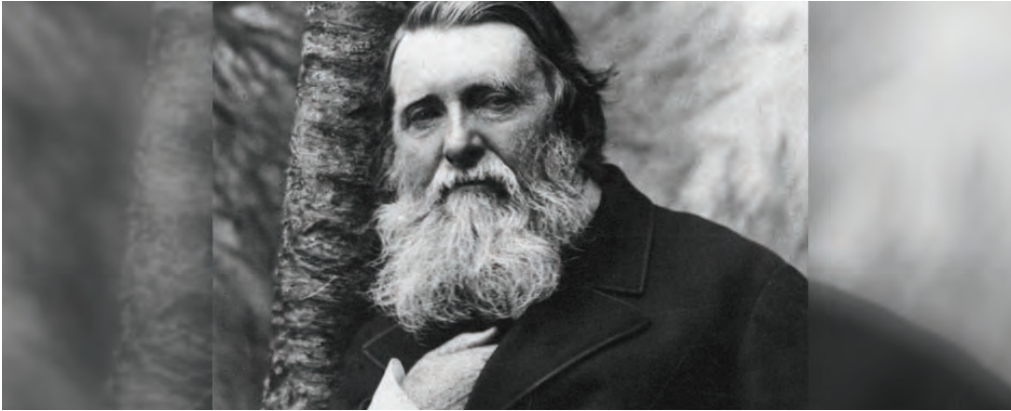


## Intellectual property - Cost of loss and theft

Patents protect inventions, ideas and designs from unauthorised use by third parties. However, a patent is only enforceable in the participating country or countries specified within the patent application. Many countries do not enforce or recognise patent protection law and allow the large scale copying of designs and goods to be carried out unabated.

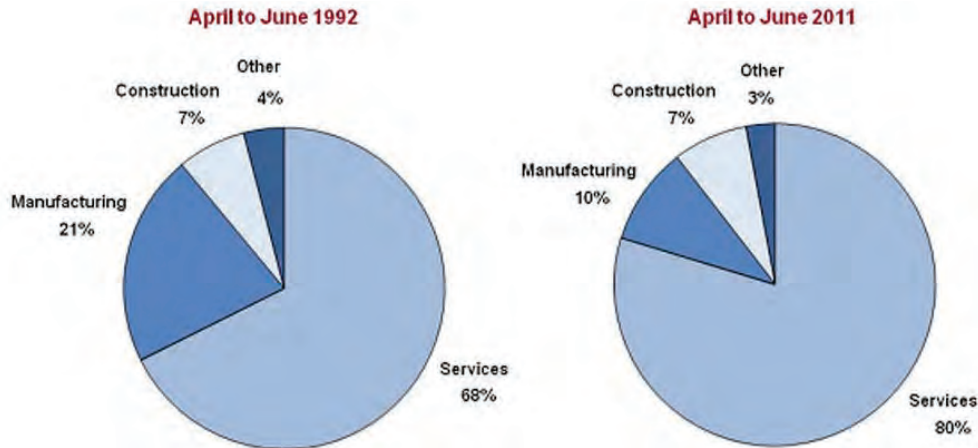
Theft of intellectual property is on the increase and even small companies now have to protect themselves from attack from industrial espionage with cyber crime costing the UK more than £27bn a year.





## Feeling Good

John Ruskin, artist, critic and philanthropist said in his essay on economy *Unto This Last*, (1860): "That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."



## Feel good factor

When the nation was gainfully employed in manufacturing there was a distinct pride in the goods that were made.

The growth of the service sector over recent years does not imbue this sense of national pride and is seen as somewhat 'soulless'

## Imports vs Exports

The UK has a trade deficit if it imports more goods than it exports. In 2011 the trade deficit was over £8 Billion.

To balance this deficit the UK needs to be able to produce goods competitively and of high quality to be attractive to foreign buyers.







## Manufacturing is key

If we can increase our exports through manufacturing we can perhaps nurture a sense of pride and happiness in what many feel is now lacking in a consumer driven society.

Art, science and innovation go hand in hand to make Britain great, not as an exercise to drive down cost.

# Vaccinate toddlers against flu advises Chief Medical Officer

Healthy under-5s are more likely to be admitted to hospital with flu than any other age group – and 5 times more likely than 65-year-olds.

Two million 2, 3 and 4-year-olds are eligible for the free nasal spray flu vaccine from their GP.

Analysis shows that vaccinating half of all children aged between six months and four would prevent almost half a million cases of flu.

But just over a quarter have received it so far – fewer than this time last year. And half of parents do not know the free spray exists or that children need vaccinating every year.

Flu leads to hundreds of thousands of GP visits and tens of thousands of

hospital stays a year.

Young children are more likely to spread flu because they tend to have greater contact with others, and may not cover their mouths when coughing and sneezing or wash their hands enough.

There are more than 15 million people in England with at least one long-term health condition and they are 11 times more likely to die if they catch the virus.

The nasal spray vaccine offers the best protection for children and the only likely side effect is a slight runny nose for a short time. This year the free vaccine was extended to 4-year-olds and the aim is to gradually roll it out to all 2 to 16 year olds.

Groups eligible for free flu vaccinations on the NHS

are:

- children aged 2, 3 and 4.
- pregnant women
- under 65s with long-term conditions
- over 65s

Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies, said:

Flu can be really nasty for toddlers, leading to time off nursery which has a big impact on mums and dads and sometimes even a stay in hospital.

They also spread the virus easily and often pass flu to grandparents and other relatives who can become very ill, fast.

Giving 2, 3 and 4 year olds the free nasal spray really is in everyone's interests if you want to help avoid a miserable winter for all the family.

## Statement on US-China climate deal

Statement by the Secretary of State, Edward Davey on the US-China climate deal announcement.

Responding to climate announcements from the US and China, UK Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Davey said:

“These climate announcements from the US and China are a clear sign that major economies are serious about getting a global deal in Paris next year.

“The UK led the drive to achieve an ambitious new EU target, and others are now following the EU's lead and putting targets on the table.

“I'm looking forward to discussing with the US and China how we can achieve our shared goal of keeping the global temperature rise under 2 degrees, and avoid the most dangerous effects of climate change.”

# David Cameron and Theresa May's net migration target has been ripped to shreds

Yvette Cooper MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, said:

"David Cameron and Theresa May's net migration target has been ripped to shreds.

"Net migration - which the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister handpicked as their measure and target for migration - is going up. It is now 16,000 higher than when they took office, and almost three times their target level.

"Yet David Cameron promised "no ifs, no buts" he would meet his target. It is no wonder that concerns rise when politicians make such grand promises they don't keep. And though migration from the EU has risen again, so has

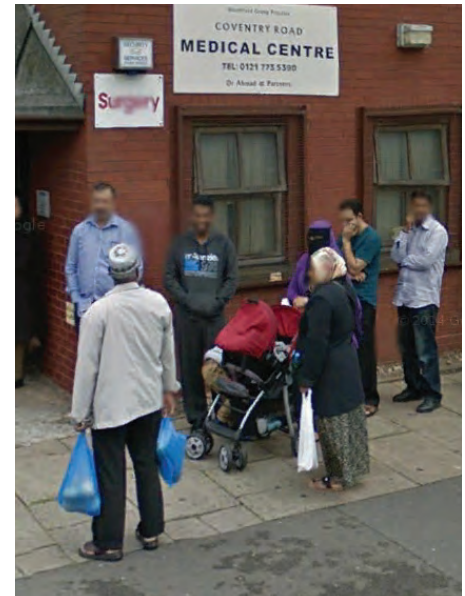
migration from outside of the EU – despite claims from the Home Office that this was reducing.

"The net migration target is the worst of all worlds. It doesn't include illegal immigration, where we know enforcement has got worse. Yet it has encouraged the Government to target valuable university students, where the numbers have flat lined, even though they bring billions into Britain. And it is just wrong to include refugees in the target too. At the same time the Government haven't put in place proper border controls so we can count people in and out to enforce the rules.

"Immigration needs to be

controlled and managed because it is important to Britain but the system needs to be fair. A Labour Government will get a grip of our borders with 1,000 more staff, stronger enforcement to stop employers exploiting cheap migrant labour to undercut wages and jobs, new rules to make sure people contribute first and can't claim benefits until they have lived here for two years, and pursue European reform to strengthen transitional controls and change child benefit rules. We would bring in different controls and targets for different kinds of immigration so we can cut illegal immigration, reduce low skilled migration but still get the University students who benefit Britain.

"David Cameron and Theresa May have simply ramped up the rhetoric without ever bringing in practical measures to address the impact of immigration or make the system fair. That has deeply damaged confidence in the whole system and proved divisive too. Their strategy is failing and their false promises ring hollow. They need to stop taking people for fools and set out a sensible debate with practical policies instead."



# Immigration is important to Britain

**- that's why it needs to be controlled and managed responsibly so that the system is fair**

Yvette Cooper MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, speaking ahead of David Cameron's immigration speech, said:

"Immigration is important to Britain - that's why it needs to be controlled and managed so that the system is fair. But David Cameron's "no ifs, no buts" immigration target has completely failed. Four and a half years in to his Government, his promises on an immigration target are in tatters.

"Rather than ramping up the rhetoric, David Cameron must now set out sensible, practical plans. Labour has already announced plans to stop

recruitment agencies and employers exploiting immigration to undercut wages and jobs, longer waiting periods for out of work benefits, reform so that in-work benefits aren't available until someone has contributed and action to stop child benefit being sent abroad, so the system is more fair. In place of broken promises we need sensible plans."

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"I'm looking forward to discussing with the US and China how we can achieve our shared goal of keeping the global temperature rise under 2 degrees, and avoid the most dangerous effects of climate change."

## NHS volunteers deployed to fight Ebola in Sierra Leone

More than 30 NHS staff from across the UK will depart for Sierra Leone on 22 November 2014 to join Britain's fight against Ebola, International Development Secretary Justine Greening and Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt have announced.

They are the first group of NHS volunteers to be deployed by the UK government. After arriving in the capital, Freetown, early tomorrow morning where they will complete a week of training before moving to British-built Ebola treatment centres across the country.

Following this training and acclimatisation the group, which includes GPs, nurses, clinicians, psychiatrists and consultants in emergency

medicine, will then begin work setting up procedures, diagnosing and treating people who have contracted the deadly virus.

They will work in treatment centres built by British Army Royal Engineers and funded by the Department for International Development.

Justine Greening said:

Our fight against Ebola in West Africa is one of Britain's biggest responses to a disease outbreak. Almost a thousand military personnel, scientists, healthcare and aid workers are already on the ground in Sierra Leone working to contain, control and defeat this terrible disease.

But to beat Ebola we desperately need the

experience and dedication of skilled doctors and nurses to care for the thousands of sick and dying patients who are not receiving the treatment they need.

Every one of these NHS heroes will play a vital role in the fight against Ebola. It is only because of their combined efforts that we stand a chance of defeating this disease.



NHS medics in protective suits prepare for deployment to Sierra Leone. Picture: Simon Davis/DFID

## Labour to demand government gets a grip of DWP chaos

Rachel Reeves MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, speaking ahead of a Commons debate (Monday 30 June 2014) on the chaos within the Department for Work and Pensions, said:

"David Cameron's failure to get a grip of the chaos within the Department for Work and Pensions has led to huge distress and hardship for hundreds of thousands of people and threatens to land taxpayers with a huge bill.

"Last week the Government admitted serious failings in its Department for Work and Pensions Annual Report on benefit fraud, Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments, but ministers refuse to act.

"That's why Labour has called a debate in parliament to demand Iain Duncan Smith gets a grip of his failing department starting by setting a time limit for making disability benefit assessment decisions. The £12.8 billion Universal Credit has ground to a halt and rising spending on Employment Support Allowance is threatening to breach the government's welfare cap."

# Harnessing Scotland's wave power

Scotland is to establish a wave energy technology development body to encourage innovation in the industry. Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism Fergus Ewing has announced.

'Wave Energy Scotland' will bring together the best engineering and academic minds to collaborate in a research and development programme to accelerate wave technology further.

Mr Ewing will provide more detail on Wave Energy Scotland during a Parliamentary statement on marine energy which he plans to make next week.

The Scottish Government recognises that early stage technologies, such as wave energy, can take time to flourish.

The development of wave energy has also been hampered by the uncertainty facing the energy sector more widely, following the lengthy and delayed changes to the electricity market resulting from the UK Government's Electricity Market Reform process.

Given that uncertainty, it is not surprising that investors are presently reluctant to commit to higher risk marine technologies. In spite of generous support for the sector from the Scottish Government, the lack of private capital has seriously hampered the progress of both wave and tidal energy developers.

Fergus Ewing said:

"With the extraordinary ocean energy resources off Scotland's coasts,

our belief in the future success of wave energy is undiminished.

"Now is the right time to consider the future of our support for wave energy in Scotland. This is a young industry and we still have a lot of learning to do in marine renewables.

"We want to encourage further innovation in wave energy development and we recognise the need for a bold new approach to supporting this emerging technology. There is also a lack of design convergence in wave energy with many different concepts in development, while tidal appears to be converging on a front-runner design.

"With Wave Energy Scotland, we are proposing a fresh and collaborative way to accelerate

wave technology development. The best minds in industry and academia will work together to develop technologies that can be commercialised by the private sector.

"The Scottish Government and its enterprise bodies are absolutely committed to supporting the development of the wave and tidal sectors to unlock the potential of our seas.

"Marine energy is an important part of our renewable energy portfolio offering real economic opportunities for Scotland.

"This means that while the tidal energy sector is ready to build array demonstration projects – the MeyGen project in the Pentland Firth is one such example – the wave energy sector must evolve further to gain the confidence of investors."

# Promoting a sense of community through the bereavement process using excellent design and aesthetics

A **welters®** Cemetery Village™ is a carefully 'designed' and affordable area within a cemetery that incorporates a multitude of below and above ground full body burial and cremated remains interment and memorial facilities creating the ultimate in customer service options provision.

We can achieve this sensitively without the disturbance of existing remains which allows the cemetery authority to re-use areas of land that are difficult to bury in or do not have the required depth or ground conditions to facilitate traditional earthen burial.

**welters®** Cemetery Villages™ are a process of progression, a new

and pragmatic look at old problems, tearing up the rule book of local authority procedures and protocols to establish positive outcomes with financial viability.

- Essentially, installations are mostly in ground that could not be utilised for traditional burial in the first place - at all.
- Cemetery authorities have an obligation to provide "fit and decent" burial provision if a burial service is being provided.

**welters®** Cemetery Villages™ can also be created as new build cemeteries in the same way but on a larger scale that allows the use of

very problematic ground conditions which enables the land selection process to be much wider and varied.

Cemetery Villages™ are designed fundamentally to "promote community through the bereavement process and beyond".

They do this by providing:

- Multiple interment and memorial options
- Sustainable and affordable structural modular interment cells
- The correct balance of architecturally sympathetic decorative stonework

Being 'Community Facilities' Cemetery Villages™ are carefully designed not to

allow an overpowering or ostentatious look or feel.

Although we do carry out large scale construction projects, **welters®** Cemetery Villages™ critically are NOT construction projects but low level phased specialist and sensitive installation schemes provided on a fixed pre-agreed unit price to ensure that it is compatible with local burial fees and charges.

**welters®** Cemetery Villages™ are an affordable, communal and sustainable municipal public space for the interment and memorialisation of loved ones created with the correct balance of sustainable materials and procedures.



# Weeding out non-native invasive species in Cambridgeshire

Maintenance teams are more than half way through a 6-week programme, removing the invasive non-native species (INNS) to try to stop it spreading further.

Using floating weed harvesters and lifters, the Environment Agency teams have removed more than 1000 tonnes of wet cut invasive weed, while another team followed up behind, hand removing and spraying the smaller pieces of weed.

Floating Pennywort is normally found in tropical aquaria and garden ponds. It is, however, being found more and more in rivers across the country.

It forms very dense mats of vegetation which can grow rapidly (up to 20

centimetres per day) out from the riverbanks.

These mats have the potential to cause serious problems for fish and anglers by suffocating fish and preventing access to the water.

The plant also obstructs movements of animals and boats, restricting navigation and recreational use of watercourses.

Darren Trumper, Environment Agency Operations Delivery Team Leader said:

Floating Pennywort has become a major problem for us all in the River Cam and Ely Ouse.

Some of the Floating Pennywort mats we

are removing from the riverbanks along the Ely Ouse are 22 metres long and 10 metres wide, and can be a depth size of about 30 millimetres. In one location the teams removed a mat weighing 1.7 tonnes!

An especially worrying factor in the infestation is the invasion of the River Cam Washes, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and crucial to all kinds of wildlife.

The rivers and its tributaries in our area provide the perfect breeding ground for Floating Pennywort which has formed dense mats. These block out oxygen and light in what was very good aquatic habitats for fish, and native plants. It also deprives birds and

creatures from feeding from the waters.

Native to North America, Floating Pennywort is a fast growing invasive species of freshwater plant. It is widespread and well established in the south and east of England and appears to be spreading rapidly north and westwards.

As such, this makes it one of many high priority invasive non-native plant species in Great Britain.



Pennywort in the river looks like a mat





Owls  
Part of **welters**® Nature Art range



In-house burial professionals



In-house installation teams

**Sustainable, structural and affordable for any ground conditions**



**Contact us today for a free evaluation and details regarding our unique financial, partnership and facilities management options**

**Safe, clean year-round access**

## **Extending the UK's Burial Provision**

Cemetery Village™ schemes typically consist of above and below ground burial systems combined with amenity facilities to create a safe and accessible environment for both visitors and staff.

These schemes are designed to utilise the 'spare' land that exists in all cemeteries which for many reasons have been classed as unsuitable for earthen burial.

Similarly, land that has previously been buried in can be reclaimed and brought back into use with no disturbance of the remains therein.

We believe that there is no shortage of burial space in the UK only misconceptions relating to procedures practicalities and cost.

Today we have the ability very straight forwardly to create new burial space in very difficult ground conditions or extend the life of existing cemeteries dramatically whilst increasing service options provision and generating valuable revenue for the service.



**Cemetery Village™ re-use scheme providing above and below ground interment options**

# Expert predicts 'renaissance' for North Sea

The SNP is today calling for responsibility for Scotland's oil and gas industry to be transferred from Westminster to Scotland – after an industry expert predicted a “renaissance” for the North Sea in the years to come.

Chief operating officer of Maersk Oil, Gretchen Watkins has said that “... the future of the oil and gas industry in the UK North Sea, which I think really stands at something of a...on the brink of a renaissance if certain things can be overcome; certain hurdles.”

Ms Watkins also called for “a much keener sense of collaboration between the industry, operators, partners, but also for the government and the

regulators as we move forward.”

Commenting, SNP MSP Maureen Watt

“These are very welcome comments which highlight the bright future ahead for our oil and gas sector. That the North Sea can look forward to a ‘renaissance’ in the years to come shows just how wrong it has been for Westminster politicians to talk down the industry over the last few years.

“Gretchen Watkins is right to say that we need greater collaboration between the industry and government to allow the North Sea to fulfil its potential. That is why control over the industry should be transferred to Scotland—with a government that

works constructively with the industry rather than using it as a cash cow like successive Westminster Governments.

“There is now an emerging consensus amongst experts – including Professors Alex Russell and Peter Strachan – that responsibility for the North Sea should be in Scotland's hands.

“The Westminster parties promised extensive new economic powers for Scotland in their Vow before the referendum – and with experts lining up to back the devolution of energy policy, there are simply no excuses not to deliver.

“With control over the North Sea's taxation and licensing in Scotland's hands, we can ensure we extract maximum benefit from our natural resources – and can guarantee that the benefits from this North Sea

renaissance are felt by the people of Scotland, rather than flowing to the Treasury in London.”

