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*Summer 2019 Edition*



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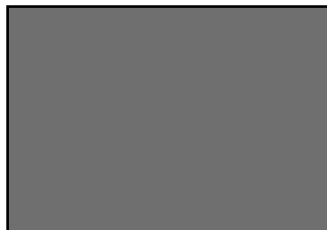
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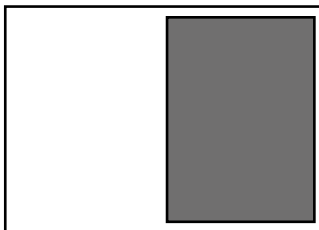
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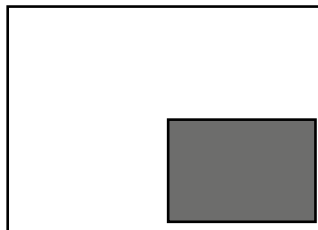
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Cover picture: Coastal Rocks by Keith Welters



# News & Sports Roundup

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

By Paul G Bazeley for Government World

## April News Review

Theresa May announced a further withdrawal extension from the EU was required and asked Jeremy Corbyn to join her for talks. The UK and the EU agreed to delay Brexit until October 31st 2019, this deadline meant that the UK would take part in the European Parliament elections the following month.

Ecuador withdrew

Julian Assange's asylum, meaning he was forced to leave the Ecuadorian embassy and was subsequently arrested by police in London. He was sentenced to 50 weeks in prison for breaching his bail terms and may face extradition to the US over claims he acquired classified government documents.

The 240-year-old department store, Debenhams entered administration. It was

later announced that 20 stores could face closure in 2020 putting 1,000 jobs at risk, this was part of a previous plan to close 50 stores over the next three to five years.

Firefighters in Paris rushed to tackle a large fire that broke out at Notre Dame. The 850-year-old Cathedral suffered serious damage as its gothic spire collapsed during the blaze. The fire was eventually brought under control, saving the main structure and iconic two towers. Luckily there were no serious injuries during the fire, with a handful of people needing some medical attention, including a firefighter. French President Emmanuel

Macron pledged to rebuild the UNESCO world heritage landmark and a fundraising page was set up, while others pledged significant donations.

Black hole photo released – The first-ever image of a black hole was released by astronomers. The picture was taken by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) which is a group of eight telescopes. The black hole, which is in a distant galaxy named M87, is believed to be 40 billion km across and larger than our entire solar system.

In entertainment news, Taylor Swift broke a Vevo record with her single 'Me' which was viewed 56.9 million times in 24 hours. The latest Marvel film, Avengers: Endgame broke several box office records, including the largest opening weekend in cinema history grossing \$1 billion worldwide.

## April Sports Review

Tiger Woods won the first major of the year. The former world number one, won the Masters tournament in Augusta by one shot to claim his 15th major and get one step closer to Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 majors. His previous major win was 11 years before at the 2008 US Open.

## May News Review

In Brexit news, Andrea Leadsom, the Commons Leader, resigned from the Cabinet as she did not believe the government would deliver Brexit. She was the 36th resignation Theresa May has faced and the 21st to resign due to Brexit. A couple of days later, after further

pressure had mounted, Theresa May announced she would resign as Conservative leader on 7th June 2019 in a tearful speech.

In the European elections, the newly formed Brexit party gained huge momentum across the country, with Liberal Democrats and Green Party also doing well. The Conservative Party and the Labour party suffered losses. Although Nigel Farage and his Brexit Party were victors on the night, it was noted that Anti-Brexit parties secured more votes than parties which advocate a no-deal Brexit.

Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of Defence, was sacked following an

inquiry regarding a leak from a National Security Council meeting. The inquiry began after a leak suggested a plan to allow Huawei access to the UK's new 5G network. Penny Mordaunt was brought in as his replacement and became the first ever female Secretary of Defence. Mr Williamson strongly denies that he was involved in the leak.

The UK became the first country to declare an environmental and climate emergency after Parliament passed a motion. Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, put forward the motion after a wave of protests from Extinction Rebellion had occurred and declared that 'We have

no time to waste' and that 'We are living in a climate crisis'. The environment secretary Michael Gove announced that legislation would be brought in to ensure the UK has the 'highest standards of environmental protection'.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, announced the birth of their first child, Archie. The latest royal baby is seventh in line to the throne and is the eighth great-grandchild of the Queen and he will have the opportunity to have US nationality through his mother.

Uber debuted on the New York Stock Exchange. The ride-hailing app, which allows you to call a taxi to your location in minutes, was estimated to be worth \$45 a share (meaning the company had an \$85 billion estimate), however, shares opened at \$42. Although the shares recovered over the day they never reached their \$45

estimate.

Twenty-two of Jamie Oliver's restaurants were closed after administrators were called in. The announcement meant the loss of 1,000 jobs. The TV chef had put the restaurants up for sale amid a tough casual dining market and put £4 million of his own money in to try and rescue the business but no deal was made. Oliver stated he was 'deeply saddened' by the outcome. The three Jamie Oliver Gatwick restaurants remain open with administrators seeking a buyer at the time of writing.

In entertainment news, Parasite, the black comic thriller, won the Palme

d'Or at the Cannes film festival. Tel Aviv, Israel hosted the Eurovision song contest, the winning country was the Netherlands with the song 'Arcade' performed by Duncan Laurence. The Jeremy Kyle Show was taken off air after a man committed suicide shortly after appearing on the show.

## **May Sports Review**

Manchester City won the Premier League title ahead of Liverpool. Pep Guardiola's City managed to secure the title on the final day of the season by racking up 98 points and beating a Liverpool team that had lost once in the season and amassed a staggering 97 points. At the other end of the table,

the end of the season meant that Cardiff, Fulham and Huddersfield were relegated.

Manchester City also won the FA Cup after beating Watford 6-0 in the final at Wembley Stadium. It was the joint largest margin of victory, equalling Bury's 6-0 win over Derby County in 1903. The win also meant that Man City were the first English team to ever win the domestic treble in one season.

## **June News Review**

On the 7th June, Theresa May stepped down as leader of the Conservative Party, although she would remain as Prime Minister until a successor has been determined. A Tory

leadership contest occurred with a large number of MPs throwing their hat in the ring, nevertheless that was quickly whittled down to two candidates Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt. A leader is planned to be elected in July.

NASA announced that it would allow tourists to stop at the International Space Station (ISS) from 2020. Priced at £27,500 a night, private astronauts will be able to stop at the ISS for up to 30 days. NASA announced it would permit two short private missions each year. Interestingly the first tourist to visit was Dennis Tito, a US businessman, who is believed to have paid Russia \$20 million for a round trip in 2001.

US President Donald Trump officially launched his election campaign for the 2020 Presidential election. Trump formally announced his campaign to 20,000 people in Orlando Florida,

a known swing state which narrowly voted for the President in 2016. The current US President told his supporters 'I will never, ever let you down' and that 'We are going to keep America great again'.

David Gilmour auctioned off his guitar collection making almost £17 million. The auction was to raise money for ClientEarth, an environmental charity and included a 1969 black Fender Stratocaster which made £3.1 million alone making it a record for any guitar sold at auction. The 73-year-old Pink Floyd star who auctioned his collection at Christie's in New York managed to beat Eric Clapton's record of the

most valuable sale of musical instruments.

Japanese anime developers announced that the industry is in crisis despite its popularity being at its highest ever. Poor pay and long hours are said to be responsible for a lack of young, talented animators in an industry which just recently had three of ten feature films in the running for the top prize at an important animation festival in France and looks like it could soon challenge Disney in the animation stakes.

The world's most famous festival, Glastonbury, took place with Stormzy, The Killers and The Cure headlining the Pyramid

stage.

## **June Sports Review**

Liverpool won the Champions League after beating Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in Madrid. Goals from Salah and Origi meant the Reds won their sixth Champions League title even despite what was one of their worst performances of recent time. The win gave Klopp and Liverpool something to celebrate after closely missing out on the Premier League title the month before, however, it was a bitter pill to swallow for Spurs after they arguably played the better football in the match.

Andy Ruiz Jr defeated Anthony Joshua at

Madison Square Garden, New York in one of boxing's biggest upsets. Ruiz Jr, who had been brought in one month before the fight as a replacement for Jarrell Miller who had failed a drugs test, managed to win the fight with a TKO in the seventh round having previously floored Joshua.

Rafael Nadal won a record 12th French Open after beating Dominic Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 on the clay. Ashleigh Barty became the first Australian since Margaret Court in 1973 to win the French Open after she beat Markéta Vondroušová 6-1, 6-3 in the final.

The Toronto Raptors won the NBA finals as they beat the Golden State Warriors 4-2 in a best of seven series. It is the first NBA championship for the Raptors and the first time a Canadian team has won the Championship.

**END**

# Biggest ever increase to National Living Wage comes into effect

**1.8 million workers earning the National Living Wage will receive an additional £690 over the year from April 1st**

- Full-time workers receiving National Living Wage will be more than £2,750 better off a year compared to 2015, when the rate was first announced
- the National Living Wage will go up today by the highest rate since it was first introduced, increasing by almost 5% to £8.21 per hour
- 2.1 million workers set to benefit from minimum wage increases, including almost 800,000 retail and hospitality workers
- increases to the minimum wage rates form part of government's commitment to protect the UK's lowest paid workers through its modern Industrial Strategy

1.8 million workers earning the National Living Wage (NLW) will receive an additional £690 over the year from 1st April, as the biggest ever increase to NLW comes into effect.

The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is also increasing. This includes £7.70 per hour for 21 to 24-year olds, providing an additional £580 over the year for full-time workers, and £6.15 for 18 to 20-year olds, providing full-time workers with an additional £455 over the year. Taken together with changes to NLW, 2.1 million people will be receiving a pay increase from today, with workers in the retail and hospitality sectors due to benefit the most.

The UK's minimum wage is currently growing faster than other countries with



similar or higher minimum wage, such as Belgium, France and Germany.

The government aims to end low pay and later this year will announce the independent Low Pay Commission's remit after 2020. At Spring Statement, ministers also announced that the world-leading academic Professor Arindrajit Dube will lead a review of the impact of

minimum wages internationally.

Wage increases follow hot on the heels of the biggest increase to workers' rights in a generation, launched in 2018, and are a vital aspect of the modern Industrial Strategy.

As part of this, on 6 April all workers, including casual and zero-hour workers, will have the right to receive a payslip and the maximum employment tribunal fines for employers will quadruple from £5,000 to £20,000.



# Government to harness power of sport to help tackle youth violence

The Government has renewed its commitment to use sport to support young people in serious violence hot spots. Jeremy Wright, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, has said.

On 1st April Jeremy Wright chaired a roundtable with Minister for Sport and Civil Society Mims Davies, bringing together sports bodies, charities and creative organisations as part of the Prime Minister's Serious Youth Violence Summit to tackle knife crime.

The Premier League said it will work in partnership with Government to increase one of its flagship community programmes, Premier League Kicks. Currently reaching 75,000 participants a year, the programme uses football

to inspire young people to develop their potential and build stronger, safer communities.

Government will also work with a range of sports' organisations including basketball, boxing and cycling and community-based sports charities to see what more they can do to use sport to engage young people in hard to reach areas.

Sport England, which invests more than £10 million in projects that use sport to support crime reduction, has also pledged to increase investment in sport and physical activity for children in hot spot areas. This will include increasing the number of sports 'satellite' clubs, which are held after school and at weekends for 14 to 19 year-olds and aim

to bridge the gap between school, college and community sport. A total of 10,000 satellite clubs have been established in England, helping over half a million young people to get active.

The Serious Youth Violence Summit in Downing Street will bring together over 100 attendees from a diverse range of backgrounds, including young people with experience living in communities impacted by serious violence, law enforcement, health, the voluntary sector, and businesses and education leaders.



## New register to help all children get the education they deserve



Landmark proposals for a register of all children not being educated in school, including those being taught at home, have been set out by Education Secretary Damian Hinds.

The Government is consulting on proposals which will, for the first time,

provide a clear picture of where children are if they are not in school. Estimates suggest almost 60,000 children are deemed to be educated at home – a figure that is thought to be rising by around a quarter every year.

A register of children not

in school will transform a local council's capacity to identify and intervene where the standard of a child's education isn't good enough or, in the rare instances, where they are at risk of harm. It will also help the authorities spot young people who may be receiving a solely religious education, attending an unregistered school or not receiving an education at all.

The Department is also proposing new measures to support parents who choose to educate their children at home, in the form of a legal duty for local authorities to provide assistance like helping to pay for exam costs and more.

Under the plans, it will be parents' responsibility to register their child if they are not being taught in a state-funded or registered independent school.

The Government is also consulting on proposals that would require local authorities to provide support such as teaching resources or financial contributions to exam fees - at parents' request.

The Government is also publishing today guidance for local authorities and for parents that clarifies their powers and responsibilities under current law, setting out the action councils can take if they have concerns a child is not receiving a suitable education. This includes school attendance orders – a legal power that already exists, compelling parents to send their child to a registered school.

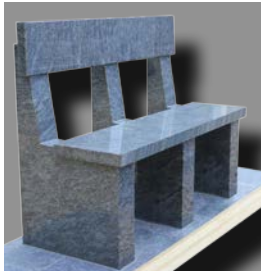
For parents, the guidance sets out considerations they should make when deciding whether home education is the right choice for them and their child.

Today's consultation follows a call for evidence carried out last year which collected views from across the sector. The consultation will be open for 12 weeks until Monday 24 June.



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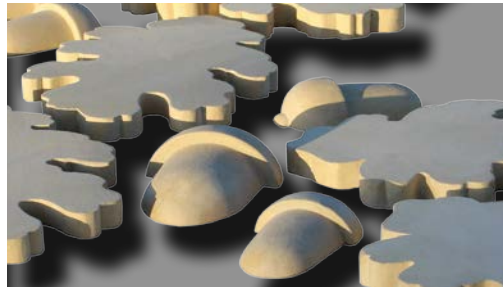
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## New government measures to update crematoria provisions

**A package of measures to update crematoria to reflect the needs of different cultures and faiths in modern Britain has been announced.**

A package of measures to update crematoria to reflect the needs of different cultures and faiths in modern Britain has been announced today (8 April 2019).

The announcement follows the review of crematoria provision and facilities, where the government received around 150 responses from many faith and belief groups.

The plan will help make sure communities of all faiths have facilities that are fit for purpose and sensitive to their needs.

This includes a consultation to revise national guidance on the siting and design of crematoria, and an offer of support to community groups interested in operating their own crematoria.

Faith Minister, Lord Bourne said:

“Cremations have become more and more common. This is why it is vital that there are high quality crematoria that respect cultural and religious traditions of all faiths and beliefs, and those of no faith.

“This package of measures will make sure that local authorities and providers offer the appropriate facilities that reflect the communities they serve.”

Cremations have become more and more common. In 2017 there were 467,748 cremations representing 77.05% of all deaths, with each crematorium having an average of 1,607 cremations in 2017.





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# *Industrial Designers*

# Arts Minister steps in to save rare £3 million Baroque Cabinet for the nation

Arts Minister Michael Ellis has placed a temporary export bar on a 350 year old Italian Baroque cabinet in an attempt to save it for the nation.

Giacomo Herman (1615 - 1685) was Rome's leading cabinet maker during the 1660s and 1670s and worked for successive Popes and a number of leading Roman families. The German furniture-maker was most active in Italy, having settled in Rome in 1655 where he entered the papal service.

Documented works of significance from this period are very rare. The ebony veneered cabinet, valued at £3.3 million, is one of four created in Herman's workshop between 1669 and 1678.

Arts Minister Michael Ellis said:

"This intricate cabinet is an outstanding example of the work of 17th century Italian cabinet makers. I hope that a buyer can be found to keep it in the country so that future generations can admire it and learn about our rich heritage."

Veneered with lapis lazuli, a blue semi-precious stone, and jasper gemstones and mounted in gilt bronze, the cabinet



includes 14 gouache miniature paintings depicting Roman basilicas and the city-wide processions that took place following the coronation of a new Pope.

The cabinet also features a clock by Giovanni Wenderlino Hessler and a virginal by Giovanni Battista Maberiani. It is supported by an elaborate carved giltwood table formed of two male figures, masks and scrollwork.

The other cabinets making up this series of works are now housed at the Chapel of the Virgin of Loretto in Krakow, Poland, and at Rosenborg Castle and Fredensborg Castle, both in Denmark.

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA) made its recommendation on the grounds of its outstanding significance to the study of Baroque decorative art and cultural history.

The decision on the export licence application for the Italian Baroque Cabinet by Giacomo Herman will be deferred until 8 July 2019. This may be extended until 8 November 2019 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £3,300,000.

# Communities bid to make their high streets fit for the future



**More than 300 bids from local authorities across the country have been received for a share of the £675 million Future High Streets Fund to transform their local high streets into modern vibrant community hubs.**

Launched in December 2018 as part of the government's Plan for the High Street, the £675 million Future High Streets Fund will help local leaders implement bold new visions to transform their town centres and make them fit for the future with co-funding to consolidate properties on the high street, improve transport and access into town centres and convert retail units into new homes.

Up to £55 million of the fund has also been allocated to support the regeneration of heritage high streets. Bids will help to restore historic high street properties for new work spaces or cultural venues. More details of this will be announced in due course.

## **Eight ways the government is backing the Great British high street:**

- The Budget saw business rates relief cut small retailers' bills by a third, building on over £10 billion of business rates support since 2016.
- The government appointed an independent expert panel, headed by Sir John Timpson to diagnose and respond to the challenges

facing the high street.

- In response to recommendations from the expert panel, the government has announced a £675 million Future High Streets Fund to help improve infrastructure and access to high streets, put historic buildings back to use and make town centres fit for the future.
- We have also announced a Town Centre Task Force to give local leaders expert advice and support in implementing their plans to revitalise their local high streets.
- The Open Doors scheme will see empty shops being opened up to community groups offering

services to the most vulnerable in our communities. This week we announced the first trial areas

- The Great British High Street Awards 2018 was a hotly contested competition to find Britain's best high street, and the huge response highlighted retailers and community groups across the country working in innovative ways keep town centres vibrant and strong. The competition is returning later this year.
- We have published a planning consultation to help support change on the high street. This will aim to make it easier for high streets to adapt for the future, with a wider range of retail, residential and other uses.
- We are empowering businesses to contribute to the success of their high street by providing loans to establish Business Improvement Districts across the country

The 1960's was an epic era for creativity. Due to an arms and space race with the then USSR, technology was being pushed to its limits and mankind was breaking free from the Earth's gravity pull and pushing towards the moon.

These massive jumps in technological advancements saw a cultural shift in modern design as manufacturers sought to give their products a Space Age aesthetic. This was reflected most notably on the fashion and furniture industries. Traditional organic based manufacturing materials such as wood and cotton were replaced by man-made synthetics. Polyester and Perspex were triumphed as symbols of the technological growth and superiority of the West.

## Man-made in the 1960's



Bed in moulded acrylic  
Designer Keith Walters, 1968

Synthetics were everywhere; synthetic fibres for clothing, synthetic dyes for printing and synthetic textiles for manufacturing - and all were affordable.

Pop artist Andy Warhol took full advantage of the new technological

wave, screen printing vibrant synthetic colours on materials that had little risk of fading. In fact, the 1960's was to become known as the Peacock Revolution due to the brightness of colours used, especially on mens clothes.

Perspex, Lucite and Acrylic were most favoured by the leading furniture designers of the decade and Keith Walters was at the forefront with his range of acrylic tables, chairs, and beds.

One notary purchase of the Keith Walters acrylic bed was by the famous fashion designer Digby Morton, which Keith today recalls,



was installed in the Digby's London apartment under the direction of his fashion journalist wife, Phyllis. If any readers are aware of the existence of this bed today we would be happy to hear from you!

Digby Morton was influential in British and American fashion culture during the 1930's and 60's and is primarily known for his designs of women's suits.

Born in Dublin in 1906, he first studied architecture at Dublin Metropolitan School of Art before moving to London in 1923 and became involved in the fashion industry through working at Selfridges and Liberty.

By the early 1930's Digby had set up his own couture house and married Phyllis, the then editor of Women and Beauty magazine in 1936.

During the War, Digby became a founder member of the Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers (IncSoc) and was among those invited by the Board of Trade to design for wartime clothing.

After the War, Digby foresaw the trend towards ready-to-wear fashion and designed a range of successful adaptations of men's shirts to fit the female form, which resulted in Time Magazine calling him 'Daring Digby'.

In 1957 he closed his couture house and launched Reldan-Digby Morton with fashion producer Nadier. The brand had an air of couture in ready-to-wear styles and was very successful in both the UK and America.

In 1963 he set up another company called Digby Menswear and collaborated with German chemical

firm Hoechst who had innovated a wash-and-wear fibre enabling Digby to produce a range of 'easy-care' clothing.

Digby and Phyllis retired to the Cayman Islands where they resided until their deaths in 1983 and 1984.



Fashion Designer Digby Morton. Photo: uncredited

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## Plans announced to introduce new laws for internet connected devices

- Basic cyber security features to be built into products
- Consumers will get better information on how secure their devices are
- Consultation now launched ahead of potential legislation



**Plans to ensure that millions of household items that are connected to the internet are better protected from cyber attacks have been launched.**

Plans to ensure that millions of household items that are connected to the internet are better protected from cyber attacks have been launched by Digital Minister Margot James.

Options that the Government will be consulting on include a mandatory new labelling scheme. The label would tell consumers how secure their products such as ‘smart’ TVs, toys and appliances are. The move means that retailers will only be able to sell products with an Internet of Things (IoT) security label.

The consultation focuses on mandating the top three security requirements that are set out in the current ‘Secure by Design’ code of practice. These include that:

- IoT device passwords must be unique and not resettable to any universal factory setting.

- Manufacturers of IoT products provide a public point of contact as part of a vulnerability disclosure policy.
- Manufacturers explicitly state the minimum length of time for which the device will receive security updates through an end of life policy.

Following the consultation, the security label will initially be launched as a voluntary scheme to help consumers identify products that have basic security features and those that don’t.

Digital Minister Margot James said:

“Many consumer products that are connected to the internet are often found to be insecure, putting consumers privacy and security at risk. Our Code of Practice was the first step towards making sure that products have security features built in from the design stage and not bolted on as an afterthought.”

National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) Technical Director, Dr Ian Levy said:

“Serious security problems in consumer IoT devices, such

as pre-set unchangeable passwords, continue to be discovered and it’s unacceptable that these are not being fixed by manufacturers.”

CEO of techUK Julian David said:

“techUK welcomes the publication of the Government’s consultation on regulatory next steps for consumer IoT. This follows the Government’s voluntary Secure by Design Code of Practice for consumer IoT security launched last year, which techUK supported. The Code advocates for stronger cyber security measures to be built into smart products right from the design stage.

“We are pleased that the security requirements outlined in the consultation are consistent with the Secure by Design Code of Practice and key industry standards that already exist for consumer IoT devices. This is an important first step in creating flexible and purposeful regulation that stamps out poor security practices, which techUK’s research shows can act as significant barriers on the

take-up of consumer IoT devices.”

The consultation follows the government’s voluntary Secure by Design Code of Practice for consumer IoT security launched last year. The Code advocates for stronger cyber security measures to be built into smart products right from the design stage, and has already been backed by Centrica Hive, HP Inc Geo and more recently Panasonic.

The proposals come a day after Margot James held a roundtable on IoT security with global technology companies. As a result Amazon, Philips, Panasonic, Samsung, Miele, Yale and Legrand affirmed their commitment to taking steps to ensure that effective security solutions are being implemented across IoT products on the market.

The Government is working with international partners to ensure that the guidelines drive a consistent approach to IoT security. The proposals set out in the consultation have the potential to impact security of devices made across the world to meet the UK’s future standards.

Alternative options to the label that Government are also consulting on would be to mandate retailers to not sell any products that do not adhere to the top three security requirements of the Code.

# UK employment rate at joint record high

**Higher skilled roles drive joint record high employment rate of 76.1% and over 32 million people are in work in the UK, up over 3.6 million since 2010.**

A booming higher-skill jobs market is driving continued record employment in the UK, new figures published today (14 May 2019) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show.

The UK unemployment rate fell again to 3.8%, its lowest level since 1974, with female unemployment falling even further to a record low of 3.7%.

14.8 million are now employed in higher skilled roles, from professional tradespeople to scientists, nurses and accountants – a boost of 2.6 million since 2010, making up

over 75% of the growth in employment.

Unemployment also remains at its lowest rate since the 1970s at 3.8%, as the figures also showed a record proportion of people from ethnic minorities are now in work, at 66.5%.

Minister of State for Employment Alok Sharma said:

“Maintaining our record employment rate with unemployment falling again to just 3.8%, its lowest rate since 1974, once again shows the success of our balanced approach to managing the economy.

“Rising wages and booming higher-skilled employment means better prospects for thousands of families, and with youth unemployment



halving since 2010, we are creating opportunities for all generations.

“We now need to shift some of our focus to upskilling people and supporting them into roles with real career progression to create a modern workforce fit for the challenges of the 21st century.”

Wage growth also

continued its upward trend this month, growing by 3.2%, a 1.3% rise in real terms.

Figures also show 3.9 million people from ethnic minority backgrounds are in work. Despite this encouraging trend, the department is already going further to support workers in these groups. Rolling out new jobcentre programmes such as mentoring circles and establishing closer working links with local community centres and mosques.



## Government awards £25 million to fund zero-emission transport innovations

New projects are powering the future of zero emission vehicles.

- 22 projects in total will benefit from government investment to decarbonise UK transport
- innovations to be funded include a quick-charging fully-electric motorbike prototype and agricultural vehicles with reduced emission capability
- investment a key Industrial Strategy milestone, and part of wider measures towards a net zero carbon economy

Projects across the country are set to benefit from £25 million investment to develop ground-breaking zero emission technologies for new vehicles.

A boost for green transport, the investment is a key part of the government's Industrial Strategy, and part of wider

efforts towards developing a net zero carbon economy.

One project aims to develop innovative, new electric motorcycle technology lowering vehicle emissions and noise, with faster battery charge times and making electric motorbikes attractive to the market.

Led by Triumph Motorcycles, the project adds award-winning motorsport and electrification experience from Williams Advanced Engineering, propulsion innovation from Integral Powertrain and Warwick Manufacturing Group's success integrating academic research with public and private sector projects.

Other winning projects

include:

- a project that will add an electric drive axle to a conventional diesel-powered truck, creating a hybrid engine which will store and reuse the electrical energy on the trailer
- a research and development project to replace metals with new materials using recycled carbon fibres from aviation waste
- a feasibility study into the potential of hydrogen fuel cell technology as a zero-emission solution for utility and off-road vehicles

The support for these projects is key to the delivery of the government's modern Industrial Strategy's Future of

Mobility Grand Challenge and the Road to Zero Strategy, both of which aim to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. This transition is also a crucial part of the UK's move to a net zero emissions economy to end the country's contribution to global warming entirely.

The government's ambition is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040. The numbers of ultra-low emission vehicles on UK roads is currently at record levels, with around 200,000 ultra-low emission vehicles registered in the UK.

Since 2010, the government has designed and funded a series of collaborative, industry led competitions with Innovate UK, creating a diverse range of high-quality projects that have driven forward advanced technologies and strengthened UK industrial and supply chain capability. Government and private sector investment in these competitions has already provided over £600 million of funding.

# Asian Longhorn Beetle eradicated in the UK

**The Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) has been eradicated in the UK following six years of trapping and surveillance work**

The Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) – an insect which poses a risk to broadleaved trees such as oak and silver birch – has been eradicated in the UK following six years of trapping and surveillance work by the Animal and Plant Health Agency and the Forestry Commission.

The pest was initially discovered in Kent in 2012, most likely introduced through infested imported wood packaging material.

The pest is a serious threat to a range of broadleaved trees, including species grown commercially for timber and fruit production. The larvae of the beetle feed on the wood of living trees, boring galleries, or tunnels in the trunks and branches. The galleries can penetrate all the way from the outer layer to the heart wood, and a severe infestation can kill the tree.

Lord Gardiner, Defra Biosecurity Minister said:

“I am delighted that we have been able to eradicate Asian Longhorn Beetle – this is a testament to the dedication and hard work carried out by our Plant Health service.

“Globalisation in trade, increased travel and the diversity of plants entering the UK mean more threats to plant health. Our strong response includes investing more than £4.5m to strengthen our border security, recruiting and enhancing training for new plant inspectors.

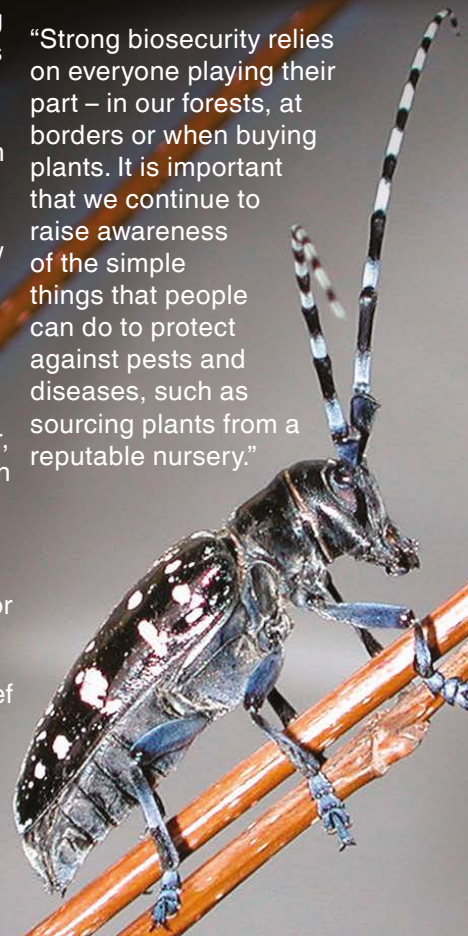
“Furthermore, we identify and assess new threats to our trees by using the UK Plant Health Risk Register, the most comprehensive in the world, containing over 1000 pests and diseases which are regularly reviewed and prioritised for action

Nicola Spence, Defra Chief Plant Health Officer said:

“Asian Longhorn Beetle would pose a serious threat to our treescape if allowed to establish, so it is great news that it has

been officially eradicated in the UK.

“Strong biosecurity relies on everyone playing their part – in our forests, at borders or when buying plants. It is important that we continue to raise awareness of the simple things that people can do to protect against pests and diseases, such as sourcing plants from a reputable nursery.”



May

## Government joins bus companies to celebrate vital form of transport

**The Department for Transport joins bus companies across the country to support #loveyourbus day.**

Major companies across England are highlighting the important role buses play in communities as part of #loveyourbus day.

The Department for Transport is joining bus companies across the country to support the initiative, which showcases operators' best practice to encourage more people to travel by bus.

Buses Minister Nusrat Ghani has also written to local authorities and companies today to highlight good work across the country as well as reminding them of the powers they have to take greater control of their area's bus services, such

as franchising or enhanced partnerships.

Buses Minister Nusrat Ghani said:

“Buses are the most popular form of public transport and play a vital role in communities.

“Today is about celebrating the many success stories of rising passenger numbers to inspire further growth in the future – right across the country.”

Areas which have seen passenger numbers rise between 2009 and 2018 are Bristol (50%), South Gloucestershire (36%), Reading (31%), Central Bedfordshire (27%), Poole (38%) and Brighton (21%).

The government continues to look at ways to increase bus patronage and has

given additional power to local authorities, through the Bus Services Act, to set fares, routes and timetables to give passengers the service they deserve.

Each year the government pays £250 million to support bus services in addition to the £1 billion spent on providing older and disabled people free travel through the bus pass scheme.

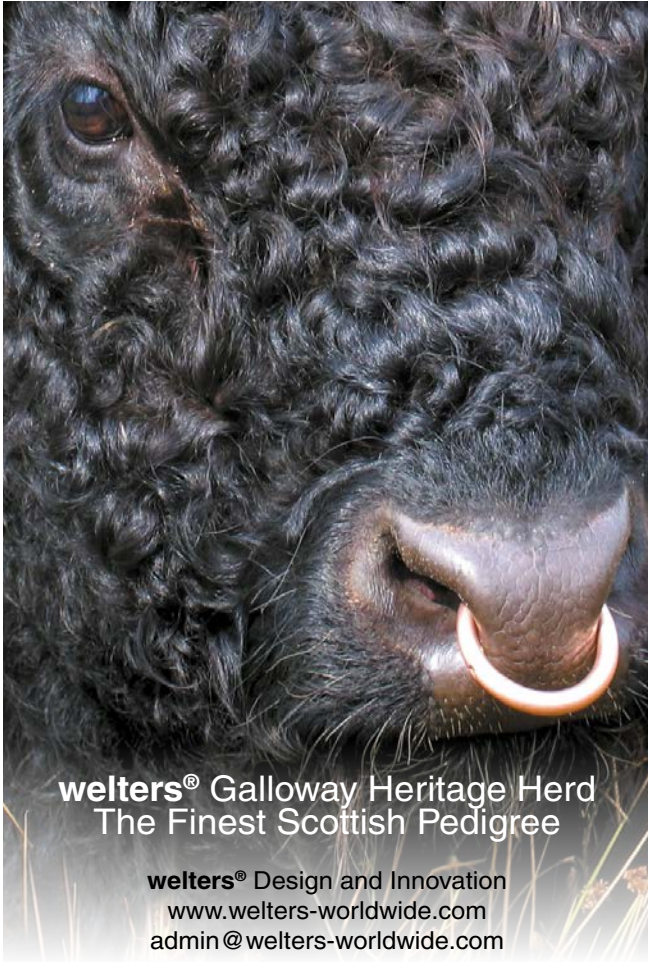
In addition, the Department for Transport announced this year that it was funding an open data platform to enable companies to develop smartphone apps so people

will have bus times, locations and fares at their fingertips, giving them more confidence in using buses to help drive up passenger numbers.

To help make buses environmentally friendly, the government has also invested £161.5million to pay for new buses and vehicle upgrades, which has led to more than 5,700 green buses on our roads.

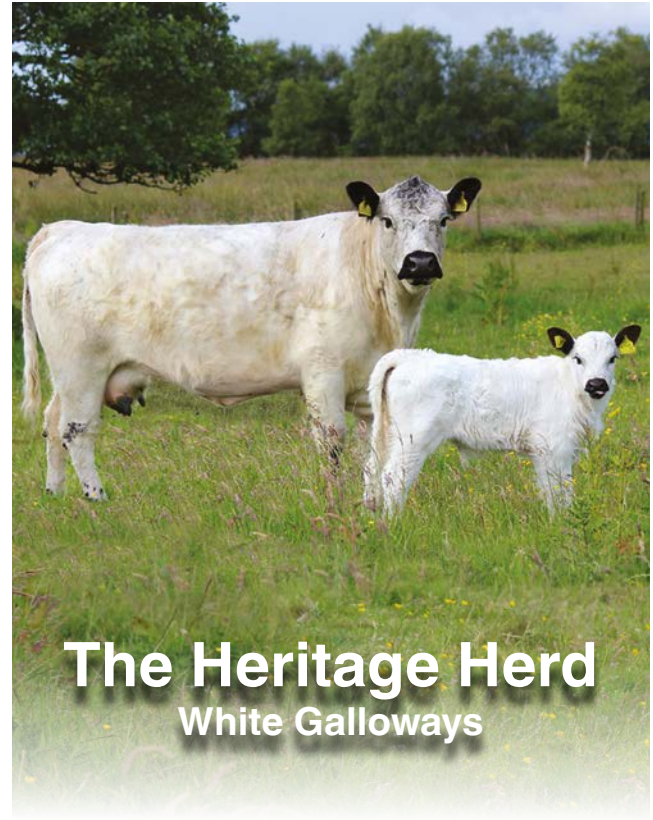






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May

## Gove takes action to ban plastic straws, stirrers, and cotton buds

Environment Secretary Michael Gove has confirmed a ban on plastic straws, drinks stirrers, and plastic stemmed cotton buds in England, following overwhelming public support for the move.

Following an open consultation, a ban on the supply of plastic straws, drinks stirrers and cotton buds will come into force in April 2020. The ban will include exemptions to ensure that those with medical needs or a disability are able to continue to access plastic straws.

The government's response to the consultation published 22 May reveals over 80% of respondents back a ban on the distribution and sale of plastic straws, 90% a ban on drinks stirrers, and 89% a ban on cotton buds.

There are instances

where using plastic straws is necessary for medical reasons and the government will therefore ensure that those that need to use plastic straws for medical reasons can still access them. Registered pharmacies will be allowed to sell plastic straws over the counter or online. Catering establishments such as restaurants, pubs and bars will not be able to display plastic straws or automatically hand them out, but they will be able to provide them on request. The government believes this strikes the right balance between reducing environmental impact while protecting the rights of people with medical conditions and disabilities. The government will carry out a stocktake after one year to assess the impact of these measures and whether the balance is correct.



In England, it is estimated that annually we use 4.7 billion plastic straws, 316 million plastic stirrers and 1.8 billion plastic-stemmed cotton buds. An estimated 10% of cotton buds are flushed down toilets and can end up in waterways and oceans.

Even though non-plastic alternatives are readily available, it is estimated that 95% of straws are still plastic. Cleaning up the effects of littering costs local government millions of pounds every year, with costs also imposed on the tourism and fishing industries, and the effect of plastic pollution worrying 89% of people.

# From airport to spaceport: £2 million available to develop horizontal spaceflight in the UK

Future spaceports can apply for a share of £2 million to support plans for small satellite launch from aircraft and sub-orbital flight from the UK.

# LAUNCH UK

- UK Space Agency opens £2 million development fund for horizontal spaceflight
- Existing airports could develop new infrastructure to allow aircraft or spaceplanes to take off and deploy satellites in space
- Horizontal spaceport runways also offer an attractive option for space tourism in the future.

Future spaceports can apply for a share of £2 million to support plans for small satellite launch from aircraft and sub-orbital flight from the UK, Science Minister Chris Skidmore announced today.

Sites such as Newquay in

Cornwall, Campbeltown and Glasgow Prestwick in Scotland, and Snowdonia in Wales are already developing their sub-orbital flight, satellite launch and spaceplane ambitions. The £2 million strategic development fund, opened by the UK Space Agency, will help sites like these accelerate their plans further.

The potential spaceports can now submit applications to enable research into the market opportunities offered by new and emerging horizontal spaceflight technologies. Grant recipients can then use this research to develop an individual business case for offering horizontal

launch services from the UK in the early 2020s, better positioning themselves to engage with potential suppliers and investors.

As part of its £50 million spaceflight programme, in July 2018 Government announced support for the establishment of a vertical spaceport in Scotland. This additional funding opportunity will support the development of horizontal spaceports in the UK, further growing the market for both small satellite launch and sub-orbital flights.

The UK Space Agency is driving the growth of the space sector as part of the Government's Industrial

Strategy and continues to be a leading member of European Space Agency, which is independent of the EU. The UK is also playing a major role in space exploration and science, with a British built rover going to Mars in 2020.

The demanding environment of space means that investments in the sector generate new knowledge and innovations that extend far beyond the space industry. For example, satellites provide services that enable a wide range of economic activities, supporting industries worth £300 billion to the UK.

Earlier this year, the UK Space Agency revealed that every £1 of public spending generates up to £4 in value for the recipients in the space industry, with additional benefits to the UK economy.

# welters® supporting the Industry

**Local Authorities across the UK are benefitting from welters® Cemetery Village partnership programmes.**

As a leading force in the design and installation of innovative burial and memorialisation systems, **welters®** prides itself on creating viable working partnerships with Local and private Burial Authorities to achieve long term solutions and economic advancement.

Before the advent of our proprietary interment and memorial systems, many local Authorities considered cemeteries to be an unprofitable burden and a drain on resources. With the introduction of WOW burial chambers, memorial systems and mausolea facilities the fortunes of these cemeteries has been transformed into aesthetic and viable commodities generating real income and enhancing service provision.



Keith Welters leading Industry Designer and Manufacturer





# UK on verge of revolution to make parking easier and help British high streets

New national parking data standards introduced which could mean the end of outdated parking systems.

- world-leading project sees new data standards introduced which could revolutionise parking, improving the driver experience
- data could identify available parking spaces, permitted times and price, in simple formats that apps can use right across the country
- could mean the end of outdated parking systems, encouraging more shoppers onto Britain's high streets

By introducing the new standards, the government's ambition is for all parking data released by local councils and companies across the country to use the

same language, supporting the development of apps to make parking easier for drivers.

Created by the Alliance for Parking Data Standards (APDS) and funded by the Department for Transport, the standardised data could lead to smoother and easier payment methods right across the country and could transform the way we park as the Oyster card transformed the way we travel in London.

The announcement follows the publication of the government's Future of mobility: urban strategy, and is a world-first for parking. By helping to streamline the parking experience and making it easier for drivers to find a suitable parking place, the standards could ultimately free up crucial space, easing congested

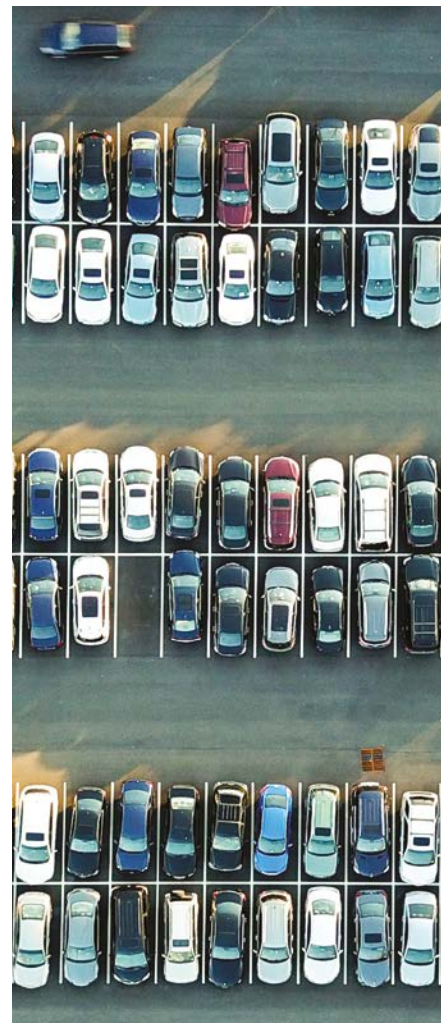
cities and boosting British high streets.

Local Government Minister Rishi Sunak said:

“Hunting for a parking space and then checking if you have the right change to pay for it isn't the best start to any shopping experience, but it can be the reality more often than not.

“An intelligent parking system will not only make life easier for commuters, but could also improve footfall to our town centres – meaning both people and local businesses benefit.”

The development of the parking language will make it easier for local authorities and private companies to exchange data, ensuring cars of the future navigate both driver and passengers to an available space based on the price, quality of the space, safety of the space and availability of on-site services — including being near to electric chargepoints.





## Green light for investment in electric car battery development

Companies across the country are set to benefit from £23 million government investment to help them keep the UK at the forefront of developing the latest electric vehicle technology.

Businesses ranging from small designers to major car manufacturers are among the winners of the government's Faraday Battery Challenge announced by Business Secretary Greg Clark.

It forms part of the government's drive to maintain the UK as a world-leader in the latest technologies and emerging markets, through its modern Industrial Strategy.

The Faraday Battery Challenge brings together world-leading academia and businesses to accelerate the research needed to develop the latest electric

car battery technologies – a crucial part of the UK's move towards a net zero emissions economy.

It is also a key contributor to all new cars and vans being effectively zero emission by 2040.

- Mining consultancy firm Wardell Armstrong who will work with experts at the Natural History Museum and mining firm Cornish Lithium to lead a new study looking to develop a UK supply of lithium, helping to meet the massive demand expected from the transition to electric vehicles
- A Jaguar Land Rover-led project to maximise battery performance while maintaining safety
- A study looking into the

use of artificial intelligence in battery manufacture, led by materials technology company Granta Design.

Faraday Battery Challenge Director Tony Harper said:

“Across the three rounds of funding competitions we have now awarded a total of £82.6 million to 63 projects.

“This is a massive investment in business-led battery R&D in the UK, supporting innovative technologies and helping to build a UK supply chain that can compete on the global stage”.

The £23 million investment forms part of the total £274 million that will be awarded to consortia across the UK through the Faraday Battery Challenge, part of the government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF).



# A greener UK

By John Redwood

**One of the best strands of conservatism is the urge to protect and conserve the flora and fauna in our landscape, to preserve the best of our built inheritance and to undertake new development in a way that is sympathetic to what has gone before and to the natural contours of our world.**

This is not to say we want a fossil country. Sometimes the best way to conserve and keep an old building is to allow adaptation and renovation for a new purpose. Sometimes we need to build on green fields as well as on regeneration

sites. Some modern buildings are fabulous and add to our traditions. Some changes to the way we farm or garden can enhance the natural world around us. Some old buildings are best recorded for history then demolished for a better replacement.

In recent years large scale migration has meant a much faster new build rate, which has upset some local communities and given rise to a wish to adjust the pace of change. It is difficult to follow a convincing green policy if we expand the population too rapidly and have to build on too many fields or fell too many

woods. If we want to limit the national carbon dioxide output we need to limit the number of people we invite in.

There are good economic and social arguments for allowing reasonable numbers of new people to come and settle with us. We may need their skill or they may be family members to people already living here who would like to be reunited with their kith and kin. We will want to take our share of people fleeing war and terror. In the last century we typically invited in around 50,000 additional people every year. This century it has been five times that

amount, which has been far too rapid.

I welcome initiatives to use less energy to cut our bills through insulation, modern controls and more fuel efficient systems. I like the idea that we will clean up our landscape and our seas by being better at limiting the use of plastic and ensuring it is properly handled once it is waste. I am all in favour of recycling and of passing on and re using products that an individual no longer needs or likes. I have found limiting food miles works well, with little need for imported temperate foods in my meal planning. There is good UK food available, and more can be grown if more people want to buy it. I continue to encourage more tree planting as we green our landscape.



## Blooming lovely display to support wildlife on A38

**A magnificent wildflower display can be seen along the A38 in Devon thanks to Highways England's work to increase biodiversity and help provide wildlife habitats.**

As well as improving roads, Highways England is committed to a national Biodiversity Plan which is supported by a £30 million investment programme over five years. The plan recognises road verges and adjoining land can be managed to provide areas of wildlife habitat, relatively free

from human access. These road verges can also be used to connect fragmented areas of habitats, enabling plant and animal populations to move and interact, and so become stronger and more resilient.

The wild flower scheme on the A38 was started last year when seeds from over 20 variety of flowers, including cornflowers, oxeye daisies, yellow rattle and poppies were sown over five hectares of roadside verge between Ashburton and Ivybridge, adding to the ten hectares that have recently been

created along the A38 and A30 in Devon and Cornwall.

Highways England senior ecologist Leonardo Gubert said:

“This is the third wild flower scheme we have delivered in the South West and we're delighted it's proving so successful.

“The scheme will add to the diverse mosaic of habitats along the A38 and will support a number of pollinators and other invertebrates, including five rare species of beetles and a whole host of other

wildlife we recorded at the site before the work was undertaken.

“We are also planning more wild flower areas and a number of schemes are being designed for verges on the M5 and M4 in the future.

Over the last year a number of other biodiversity scheme have been undertaken by Highways England including extensive habitat connectivity planting, grassland management and a scheme to protect and promote the habitat of England's rarest ant, the narrow-headed ant, on the A38 in Devon. Further afield Highways England has been working with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, to boost pollinator habitats alongside key A roads in the county, including the A590 and A66.



Wildflower verge along the A38



Common corn cockle

## Fund opens to reduce waste from plastic packaging and textiles

**The government is inviting organisations to apply for funding under a multi-million pound grant scheme to help boost the recycling of plastic packaging and textiles.**

From June 12th, organisations in England can apply for government funding for innovative solutions to drive up the recycling of hard-to-recycle plastic packaging such as plastic trays, pots and tubs, plastic films and pouches, as well as funding for innovative projects that boost the recycling of textiles when they have reached the end of their life.

For plastics this could include innovative sorting or segregation equipment, and smarter systems to enable sorting of different polymers. For textiles this could include machinery for recycling textiles, technology for disassembling or sorting textiles, automated processes

for removing items from textiles such as zips, and technology to sort textiles by fibre type and colour.

The UK generates around 2.4 million tonnes of packaging waste per year. Around 40% of all plastic produced in the UK is used in the packaging of goods.

In 2015, there were 300,000 tonnes of clothing in the UK going to landfill or incineration.

The government has recently announced a range of measures to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste including taking over 15 billion plastic bags out of circulation with our 5p plastic bag charge with plans to raise the charge to 10p and extend it to all retailers.

Earlier this year, the government consulted on a world-leading tax on plastic packaging which does not contain a minimum of 30% recycled content from April



2022 to cut the use of virgin plastics and encourage more sustainable packaging.

The UK government has also committed a £61.4 million package of funding to boost global research and help countries across the Commonwealth stop plastic waste from entering the oceans. Building on

this, the government's £20 million Plastics Research and Innovation Fund encourages researchers and businesses to develop new innovations that can bring changes in the UK's plastics manufacturing and consumption patterns, which will be key to developing a cleaner, greener economy through the Industrial Strategy.



## UK supermarkets sign government pledge to help halve food waste

**Leading firms and organisations back game-changing action following landmark symposium.**

More than 100 of the biggest players in food, including all of the UK's major supermarkets, have signed a pledge to take ground-breaking action to drive down food waste following a call to action from the government.

Big-hitters from the world of food and sustainability including Aldi, Asda, Caffè Nero, Co-op, Costa Coffee, FDF, Lidl, Sainsbury's, Starbucks, Tesco, M&S, Morrisons, Nestlé, Ocado, UKHospitality, Unilever, World Wildlife Fund for Nature and Waitrose have signed a pledge committing to help halve food waste by 2030 and raise public awareness of the issue through a week of action.

Currently in the UK an estimated 10.2 million tonnes of food and drink are wasted annually after leaving the farm gate, worth around £20 billion. It is estimated that UK householders spend £15 billion every year on food that could have been eaten but ends up being thrown away, equating to £500 a year for the average household.

Today's announcement comes after the government's Food Surplus and Waste Champion Ben Elliot urged organisations to 'Step up to the Plate' at a landmark symposium last month. The event brought together around 300 key players from various parts of the food industry for a day of targeted discussion and action.

Earlier this year the government launched a

£15 million game-changing scheme to tackle food waste, building on its landmark Resources and Waste Strategy which sets out how the government will introduce annual reporting of food surplus and waste by food businesses.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove has invited organisations to apply for the second round of more than £6 million funding under the government's game-changing scheme to slash food waste. We would like to see larger food businesses report their food waste transparently on an annual basis in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3. We will consult later this year on mandatory reporting for larger businesses.

The government is committed to supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 to help halve food waste by 2030, report on progress and prioritise action.





## £778m investment in Birmingham and the West Midlands to deliver 2022 Commonwealth Games



### **Birmingham and the West Midlands region will benefit from a £778 million investment to stage the 2022 Commonwealth Games, the government has confirmed.**

The public funding, which includes contingency, will be split approximately 75% / 25% between investment from central government (£594 million) and Birmingham City Council and a number of its key partners (£184 million).

This investment will deliver significant benefits for Birmingham, the West Midlands and the UK long after the 11 days of sport in 2022 are over. Birmingham

2022 will open up a wealth of opportunities, including business and trade, cultural engagement, volunteering, physical activity, jobs and skills, education and tourism. Over 1 million tickets will be made available for spectators from across the UK and around the world.

Additional commercial revenue will be raised by the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee and Commonwealth Games Federation Partnerships through ticket sales, sponsorship, merchandising and the sale of broadcast rights.

Regular financial updates on the budget will be provided in

the lead up to the Games.

Birmingham was awarded the rights to host the Games in December 2017. This announcement comes following a detailed budget review that took place after Birmingham was awarded host city rights.

### **Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games budget**

Birmingham 2022 will open up a wealth of opportunities for people across the West Midlands region and the UK, including cultural engagement, business and trade, volunteering, physical activity, jobs and

skills, education and tourism.

With an estimated global audience of 1.5 billion, Birmingham 2022 offers a unique opportunity to harness the power of sport and cultural activities to boost the West Midlands region and to promote Global Britain across the Commonwealth as we leave the EU.

The evidence from previous host cities demonstrates the significant benefits of staging the Games. Gold Coast 2018 Games is expected to have delivered a £1.3 billion boost to the Queensland economy.

The economic benefits from the Games will include new employment and improved skills, investment and export opportunities and increased tourism.

# Speed limit change helps increase productivity

Report shows that allowing HGVs over 7.5 tonnes to travel 10mph faster has saved business millions of pounds a year and may have improved road safety.

A change in lorry speed limits has saved businesses millions of pounds a year and could have helped improve road safety.

A report shows that allowing heavy goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes to travel 10mph faster, bringing them closer to the speed of other traffic, has contributed to an increase of 1.5mph in average speeds on single carriageway roads.

An increase of just 1mph would free up 650,000 driver hours and save hauliers more than £10 million a year. The change, which came into force in 2015, allows lorries to travel at up to 50mph on single

carriageways and 60mph on dual carriageway roads in England and Wales. It means they are travelling at similar speeds to other vehicles, instead of much slower – with the aim of improving road safety.

This report shows there is a possible “statistically significant” improvement to road safety on study roads; which will be further explored in the final report.

Roads Minister Michael Ellis said:

“I am pleased to see the improvement in safety while helping to unlock the UK’s potential – encouraging growth and enhancing productivity.

“Increasing the speed limit for lorries has helped companies save time and money, enabling them to re-invest this in their business and buying newer

and greener vehicles.

“This move has also potentially improved road safety as it appears to have reduced the risks some drivers take when overtaking slow-moving vehicles.”

The report also shows that the number of speeding lorries has fallen by about 70%.

Since the change in speed limit was introduced, the average lorry speed on single carriageways increased by 1.5mph to 45.6mph, and other vehicles also saw increased speeds. On dual carriageways, the average speed increase was 0.4mph, to 52.4mph.

A final report will be published in due course and will provide further evidence on the effects of the change, particularly on road safety.





# Environmental Issues: Pollution

By Paul Bazeley

**Welcome to the first in a new series discussing current environmental issues. In this first article we will discuss basic types of pollution and the impact they have on the environment.**

A dictionary defines pollution as 'the presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects'. To put it another way, pollution is a harmful substance that negatively impacts the environment or its organisms and can be broken down into five main categories: air pollution, water pollution, land pollution, light pollution and noise pollution.

## Air Pollution

The most common types of air pollution include the burning of fossil fuels and vehicle and factory emissions. It should also be noted that air pollution can occur from natural disasters, such as volcanic

eruptions, however, these have a very small impact on the planet, especially when compared to man-made forms of air pollution.

Air pollution is seen as the cause of smog over cities such as Beijing, Delhi, Lahore and even Paris and London. In fact, German researchers recently concluded that approximately 8.8million deaths each year are attributed to dirty air and respiratory issues such as lung cancer, asthma and bronchitis are all issues which are exacerbated by poor air quality. Also, large amounts of sulphur oxides and nitrogen in the air can cause acid rain which has a serious impact to rainforests and animals that live in water. Plus, there is

the elephant in the room and that is that air pollution has a serious consequence on the ozone layer.

This is a global issue and earlier in the year some interesting research revealed that the majority of cities in the Middle East, Africa and Asia far exceed World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for air pollution while 64% of cities globally exceeded the WHO guidelines. Out of the top 30 most polluted cities, 22 were of them were identified to be in India.

## Water Pollution

Major sources of water pollution include industrial waste, agricultural waste and rubbish which has been improperly disposed of. All of these various wastes get themselves into bodies of water and have detrimental effects on the planet and life, in fact roughly 80% of the world's wastewater is dumped back into rivers, lakes and oceans and is usually untreated.

It is currently estimated that 1 billion people globally do not have access to a clean water source and WHO research suggest that 2 billion people use a drinking water source contaminated with faeces. To further put it into perspective, unsafe water kills more people each year than wars and violence put together.

Water pollution does not just impact humans, marine wildlife is seriously in



Air pollution



Water pollution



decline with waste, mainly plastic, entering the ocean daily. Research suggests hundreds of thousands of marine animals die from ocean waste each year. 92% of all marine wildlife that comes into contact with debris will encounter plastic and 10% of those will ingest it.



Recent studies have shown that the oceans have absorbed almost 25% of the world's carbon emissions. This combined with the large amounts of waste currently in the oceans are not just killing wildlife, but whole ecosystems such as coral reefs which sustain marine life and act as a natural



water filtration system in the oceans. While the BBC documentary Blue Planet 2 brought the pollution issue to the masses, it is a crisis that is currently getting worse, not better.

## Land Pollution

Land pollution, sometimes referred to as soil pollution,

can come in many forms, the most common are deforestation, mining, debris, industrial wastes and agricultural products such as pesticides and insecticides. An issue with a lot of these contaminants is that they can also find themselves washed into water sources polluting water as well as the land.

All of these examples of land pollution combined are having some serious effects on the land. Due to the use of chemicals and pesticides topsoil begins to erode as it becomes more susceptible to harmful bacteria and in 2011 3.6 million hectares were destroyed due to soil erosion. Plus, the contaminants in soil can spread due after things such as heavy rainfall, thus further increasing pollution.

Land pollution is a major factor in deforestation which means animals are forced to move to find more suitable habitats. This change leads to some animals dying and is a major factor for increasing numbers of endangered species. Worryingly, data suggests that over 80% of the world's forests have now been destroyed and 90% of South Africa's tropical rainforest has already been demolished.

Although we have merely scratched the surface of land pollution, it is clear that it has a significant impact on our planet and while many seem concerned with air and water pollution, land pollution is a major factor to both of these. Gases from polluted soil can be emitted into the air we breathe and can have a variety of health impacts such as headaches and nausea to kidney and liver damage and certain cancers. Meanwhile, it is claimed 22% of coral reefs have been destroyed directly because of land pollution. A small and simple step that could be taken quickly would be to raise awareness of recycling and make it more accessible to some population, as it is currently believed 80% of waste that ends up in landfill could be recycled.

## Light Pollution

While light pollution may not seem like the most serious matter a 2016 study

revealed that it affects 80% of the world's population. Interestingly, the study also noted that 99% of the population in the US and Europe live under skies that are 10% brighter than their natural state. This constant light means that as humans we are no longer accustomed to using our night-time vision and that increasing amounts of us now suffer from sleep disorders. Growing amounts of artificial light are also linked to obesity, diabetes and some cancers.

The problems also extend to wildlife. Light pollution has been shown to disrupt birds migrations, which kills millions of birds every year. It also has a major impact on animals that rely on dark nights for recovery or for hunting and there is also an impact to animals that base their breeding habits on changing light levels over the seasons. One of the big stories from a few years ago was that sea turtles lay their eggs on a beach and

these hatchlings use the moonlight on the waves to find their way to the sea, however, the turtles were becoming disorientated due to the light coming from buildings, lampposts and cars. It's a story that was well documented by Sir David Attenborough on Planet Earth 2.

It seems that people are becoming more aware of light pollution, with some cities changing lamppost lights to LED bulbs, which not only use less energy but cause less light pollution, and a number of dark sky preserves or parks, where the amount of artificial light in the surrounding area are restricted, are beginning to crop up across Europe and the US. Still, there is a lot of work to be done as



Light pollution



June

the impact light pollution is having on wildlife seems to be growing and the number of people that cannot see the Milky Way is now at 60% in Europe and 80% in North America, with one-third of people worldwide being unable to see it.



## Noise Pollution

Last but not least, we have noise pollution. There have been several studies linking high-noise levels to increased blood pressure, stress, type 2 diabetes and headaches. In fact, in 2018, a Doctor from Imperial College London stated

that he believed there was strong evidence linking road traffic noise to heart-attacks and the European Environment Agency attributes noise pollution to 10,000 premature deaths a year.

Once again, it seems that noise pollution isn't just

having a detrimental effect on the human species, but also wildlife. Noise pollution has been shown to affect the migrating patterns of sea mammals, such as dolphins, and also impact the nesting success of birds. Loud noise has a similar impact on animals as it does on humans, raising their heart rate and blood pressure, as well as inducing fear in some species all of which leads to some animals leaving their habitat in search of quieter places. While larger amounts of sea vessels are leading to a 16-fold increase in ocean noise, which is greatly affecting sea life that relies on sound to hunt, mate, communicate and migrate.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, these are brief introductions to a range of environmental issues and their impact they are having on our planet. As this series continues we will further explore these problems, the steps we can take to control them and other obstacles we may face.

**Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your opinions on environmental issues. Your comments could be featured in future editions of Government World.**



# National News Headlines April 2019

## 1st April

- Boost for 1.8 million as living wage rises
- Internet needs rules admits Zuckerberg
- Schools and NHS could be held accountable over youth crime

## 2nd April

- Jumpin' Jack Splash! Mick hits beach before heart op
- Brexit: No deal more likely but can be avoided - Barnier
- Two million live in areas with pollution that is over legal limit

## 3rd April

- Retired are losing almost a third of their income to tax
- Brexit: May to meet Corbyn to tackle deadlock
- Spring snowfall surprises much of England

## 4th April

- Gender pay gap is 'deeply ingrained'
- MPs' fury as cost of delayed Crossrail soars by £3billion
- Downturn fears grow as business weakest in six years

## 5th April

- More older people living home alone
- Foreign aid surges by £500m in just one year
- Brexit: UK asks EU for further extension until 30 June

## 6th April

- Ten million people face higher pension payments
- Brexit: Hammond 'optimistic' over Brexit talks with Labour
- Labour: May is refusing to compromise in Brexit talks





# National News Headlines April 2019

## 7th April

- Furious Tory MPs will bid to oust May if UK fights Euro poll
- Contract staff left behind as NHS pay rises
- Royal Navy and RAF 'must cut ties' to sultan of Brunei

## 8th April

- Anti-Semitism 'Corbyn's fault'
- Websites to be fined over 'online harms' under new proposals
- Brexit: Labour hopes for more talks with No 10

## 9th April

- Millions will lose access to cash as branches shut, says Bank of England
- Divorce law: Reforms to end 'blame game' between couples
- Debenhams on brink of administration

## 10th April

- Low IQ criminals to get lighter sentences
- Tesco profits jump 'in uncertain market'
- No-deal Brexit could wipe £70bn off UK's economy in two years, warns IMF

## 11th April

- Theresa vows to defy rebel calls to quit
- Julian Assange: Wikileaks co-founder arrested in London
- Brexit: UK and EU agree delay to 31 October

## 12th April

- NHS left 'creaking' after record winter
- £1.5bn plans for No Deal are axed after Brexit delay
- Upskirting now a crime after woman's campaign



# National News Headlines April 2019

## 13th April

- Fury at Labour for 'ignoring Assange sex attack claims'
- Record number pay into pensions
- May warned of breaking up party as talks reopen with Labour on customs union

## 14th April

- Corbyn told: back a public vote or lose Remainers
- Revealed: the return of Victorian slums
- 'Corbyn bound for No 10' as Tories face 60-seat loss

## 15th April

- Jihadi bride 'had a rifle and sewed explosive vests on suicide bombers'
- No-fault evictions to be banned in England
- Hillsborough: Liverpool to mark 30 years since disaster

## 16th April

- Anger as Labour councils rack up £112m bill for an army of advisers
- Alarm as study shows winds can blow microplastics around world
- Notre Dame Fire - A tragedy in the heart of Paris and a loss to the world

## 17th April

- War could see '800,000 Libyans flee to Europe'
- Extinction Rebellion London protests enter third day
- House price growth at six-year low

## 18th April

- Retail sales boosted by mild March weather
- Met gets £17 million cash injection to tackle knife crime over Easter holiday
- Khan feels heat from police over climate protest chaos



# National News Headlines April 2019

## 19th April

- Is the £73bn credit card timebomb set to explode?
- Spending soars as milder weather lures shoppers back to high street
- MPs to investigate huge cost of Brexit planning

## 20th April

- Rush to the beaches as Britain gets set for 'hottest ever' Easter
- Return of the low-deposit mortgage
- Bercow's Trump snub 'will harm the special relationship'

## 21st April

- Harry urged to axe Apple deal over 'slave labour'
- Labour's fudge on Brexit a gift to Farage, says Corbyn deputy
- Derry is facing 'a new breed of terrorist'

## 22nd April

- One in seven pupils uses drugs to sit GCSES
- Warning over impact of gender act change
- Climate change activists to try negotiations

## 23rd April

- Brexit: Cross-party talks to resume
- Gag order ban for NHS staff who blow whistle
- MPS to tell May: name departure date or face a June 12 ejection

## 24th April

- Huawei row: UK to let Chinese firm help build 5G network
- Council spending on single homelessness 'down by £5bn since 2009'
- Thunberg's message to MPs: you lied over climate





## 25th April

- Kim arrives for first summit with Putin
- Patients will be hit by doctor pension crisis
- Measles: Half a million UK children missed vaccine

## 26th April

- Betty tells Bercow: You're out of order over Trump's visit
- Invasion of the monster jellyfish
- Huawei row: Top civil servant demands leak inquiry co-operation

## 27th April

- Storm Hannah lashes UK amid severe weather warnings
- '£7bn cost of kicking out overseas graduates'
- Corbyn accused of hypocrisy as he snubs Trump state banquet

## 28th April

- Corbyn launches bid to declare a national climate emergency
- Opioid painkillers to carry warning on addiction risk
- Ignore spy fears over Huawei, says China

## 29th April

- The over-50s 'could pay £300 extra NI to cover care'
- 'Use aid cash on refugees in UK'
- Sir Mick Jagger 'doing well' after op

## 30th April

- Greenhouse gases 'to be wiped out by 2050'
- Giant ice shelf 'melting 10 times faster'
- Huawei poses 'unacceptable risk' says US





# National News Headlines May 2019

## 1st May

- Tory poll fears as May blocks vital Brexit bill
- Anger at Bercow ban on Trump's Parliament speech in state visit
- Fury at Corbyn's 'fudged' manifesto

## 2nd May

- Gavin Williamson sacking: Former defence secretary denies Huawei leak
- Climate change: UK 'can cut emissions to nearly zero' by 2050
- Election 2019: Council polls to take place across England and NI

## 3rd May

- Local elections: Main parties hit by Brexit backlash in polls
- Future of 1p and 2p coins secured 'for years to come'
- Peter Mayhew: Harrison Ford leads tributes to Star Wars' Chewbacca star

## 4th May

- Local elections: Tories call for unity after election drubbing
- NI council elections: First openly-gay DUP candidate elected
- Crossrail station costs soar by six times as contract hitches hit £1bn

## 5th May

- Anger grows at May-Corbyn bid to stitch up Brexit deal
- Don't seize rape victims' mobiles, say police bosses
- Plan to stop schools using exclusions to boost their results

## 6th May

- 'New kidnap suspect' claim in Madeleine McCann case
- May in secret discussions on second referendum
- Labour MPs 'will not back Brexit deal without second referendum'



# National News Headlines May 2019

## 7th May

- Royal baby: Congratulations pour in for Meghan and Harry
- Fraudsters 'stole £7m' from holidaymakers in 2018
- Brexit: Theresa May to meet Sir Graham Brady amid calls to resign

## 8th May

- Nursing workforce hits a record high
- GP pressure: Numbers show first sustained drop for 50 years
- Hopes fade for cross-party Brexit deal after latest talks

## 9th May

- Danny Baker fired by BBC over royal baby chimp tweet
- Grenfell Tower: Government to pay £200m for safer cladding
- Southend burial site 'UK's answer to Tutankhamun'

## 10th May

- 2.6m children at risk of toxic air at school
- Freddie Starr found dead in his Spanish home
- School break times 'cut short to cram in more lessons'

## 11th May

- £8.5m to help young families buy homes
- Javid: I'm too brown for the Right... but not brown enough for the Left
- Boris: Corbyn's Labour is 'medieval'

## 12th May

- 2019 newlyweds are the least likely to get divorced since 1969
- Poll surge for Farage sparks panic in Tories and Labour
- UK's organised crime threat at record level



# National News Headlines May 2019

## 13th May

- 42 migrants pulled from the Channel
- Jeremy Kyle Show suspended after guest death
- Payouts for NHS errors double in five years

## 14th May

- Row over online sales tax plan to rescue high street
- UK jobless rate falls to lowest since mid-70s
- Jeremy Kyle: MP calls for ITV show to be axed for good

## 15th May

- We need a timetable czar to hit stop button on train chaos, says watchdog boss
- Doris Day dies aged 97
- Plastic killing millions, says Attenborough

## 16th May

- Corbyn plots raid on your power shares
- Thomas Cook says Brexit hitting holiday plans
- Jeremy Kyle 'devastated' at ITV axing of chat show

## 17th May

- Brexit: Jeremy Corbyn says cross-party talks have 'gone as far as they can'
- EasyJet chief defends Champions League final flight costs
- TfL makes £220,000 every day as fewer dirty vehicles enter low-pollution zone

## 18th May

- Job centres to open late to help older workers switch role
- General election 'could let in Corbyn'
- Travel to Iran and you risk jail, Hunt tells dual nationals





# National News Headlines May 2019

## 19th May

- Thomas Cook forced to reassure customers amid fears it will fold
- PM told: Fully compensate NHS blood victims now
- Labour MPs fear Brexit line will hand votes to Lib Dems

## 20th May

- Brexit: New UK PM will not alter withdrawal deal - Coveney
- Britons could be banned from Syria under counter-terrorism laws
- Labour MP dismisses claims he was Czech spy as a 'complete fabrication'

## 21st May

- US food chief hails 'great chance' of a Brexit deal
- Police arrest 586 people in county lines crackdown
- Nigel Farage milkshake attack: Man charged with assault

## 22nd May

- Thousands of jobs at risk as British Steel asks for £30m emergency bailout
- Brexit Party faces review over foreign donation claims
- Prime Minister in the last chance saloon where support has run dry

## 23rd May

- European elections 2019: Polls take place across the UK
- Theresa May faces pressure after Andrea Leadsom resigns
- Colluding drug firms 'cost the NHS millions of pounds'

## 24th May

- Theresa May to resign as prime minister
- Mothercare sales plunge as losses widen
- Children's author Judith Kerr dies at 95



## 25th May

- Tory leadership: Rivals clash over support for no-deal Brexit
- Donald Trump: Details of first state visit to UK revealed
- Homeowners in England free to build bigger extensions

## 26th May

- Stop Boris Johnson: Tory moderates open battle to block no-deal Brexit
- Cuts may leave NHS short of 70,000 nurses, leaked report warns
- Gove: Back me to beat Corbyn

## 27th May

- Tory knives out for Johnson over No Deal stance
- European elections 2019: Brexit Party dominates as Tories and Labour suffer
- MEP quits Labour over Corbyn's 'disastrous' stance ahead of Euro vote

## 28th May

- Let me heal Brexit divide, urges Javid
- Tory leadership contest: Jeremy Hunt warns against no-deal Brexit 'suicide'
- Port Talbot Banksy mural move to get under way

## 29th May

- Hundreds of Boots high street stores at risk, says US owner
- Brexit: Boris Johnson to appear in court over £350m claim
- 'Giant Christmas bauble' in Thames sparks bomb alert

## 30th May

- Low pay 'could be thing of the past'
- Warning as cuts hit police forensic tests
- Mueller breaks two-year silence to say: 'I have not exonerated Trump'

## 31st May

- Extinction Rebellion plans Heathrow drone protest
- Immigrants 'detained for years at Heathrow centre in human rights breach'
- Trump: Boris is a good guy



# National News Headlines June 2019

## 1st June

- Housing wake-up call as buyers sleep in cars to get homes
- Donald Trump says Boris Johnson would be 'excellent' Tory leader
- We'll use drones to shut Heathrow this summer, say climate activists

## 2nd June

- Trump is like a 20th-century fascist, says Sadiq Khan
- Blunkett: Corbyn should sack his top aides
- Javid would scrap top rate of income tax as Tory leader

## 3rd June

- Tories bow on Huawei as Trump lands in UK
- Trump arrives amid rising anger at US trade demands
- EU intentionally sacrificed migrants at sea to deter others, legal papers claim

## 4th June

- Trump to meet May on day two of state visit
- Brexit: No-deal could be used as 'weapon for breaking up UK', says Fox
- Sex diseases on the rise in England

## 5th June

- Boris: Tories face extinction unless we deliver Brexit
- Fury over Labour plot for tax raid on homeowners
- Donald Trump joins Queen for 75th D-Day anniversary

## 6th June

- 75th D-Day Anniversary: On behalf of the free world... I thank you
- D-Day: May and Macron in France to mark 75th anniversary
- Climate change: Emissions target could cost UK £1tn, warns Hammond





# National News Headlines June 2019

## 7th June

- Veterans make their final pilgrimage to honour friends who never came back
- Antibiotic resistance may render STIs impossible to treat, warns health agency
- Only Boris can fight off Farage, poll finds

## 8th June

- Michael Gove: Cocaine 'mistake' a 'deep regret'
- Police dog Finn's law comes into force
- It may be too late to save the natural world, fears Prince

## 9th June

- Glamorous Raab aide at centre of dirty tricks bust-up
- Gove is branded a hypocrite after admitting using cocaine
- Boris 'clean exit' pledge wins over top Eurosceptics

## 10th June

- Call for 10-hr week to tackle climate change
- Tory leadership contest: Boris Johnson pledges income tax cut for high earners
- Birmingham school LGBT row: Trial date set over protests

## 11th June

- Fury as report says net perverts should not be prosecuted
- Amazon gets £460m from taxpayers
- BBC warned off scrapping free TV licence

## 12th June

- Quarter of mums enduring mental health problems
- Oxfam 'ignored allegations of sexual abuse by staff' in Haiti
- 'Abuse victims sent back to war zones' in Oxfam cover-up



# National News Headlines June 2019

## 13th June

- 1,000 jobs at risk as Green saves empire
- At last, folic acid to be put in our bread
- Tory leadership contest: Boris Johnson tops first ballot

## 14th June

- US accuses Iran after torpedo attack on Gulf oil tanker
- Grenfell Tower fire: 'Agonising memories' of families and friends
- Julian Assange extradition case 'outrageous assault on journalism'

## 15th June

- Work 10 years extra, millions are warned
- There'll be no Brexit this year, says EU
- Jeremy Hunt brands Labour leader 'pathetic' over Iran comments

## 16th June

- Hunt in last-ditch bid to beat Boris with tax break on granny flats
- Top Tories attack Johnson's plan for no-deal exit
- Corbyn plots tax raid on parents' gifts to children

## 17th June

- CCTV in every care home will save the NHS £370m a year
- Tory leadership race: Contenders clash over Brexit
- School pupils and parents block South Circular in protest over air pollution

## 18th June

- Tension as Iran 10 days from breach of nuclear treaty
- Apple chief hits out at social media sites
- UK homeless crisis triggers council purge of 'tent cities'



# National News Headlines June 2019

## 19th June

- Russia takes aim at Trump plan to boost troops in Gulf
- Tory leadership race: Candidates face third vote
- Woman, 83, in hospital after William and Kate convoy crash

## 20th June

- Hammond warns Boris over No Deal
- UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia unlawful, court rules
- Javid out of Tory leadership contest

## 21st June

- Boris sets out plan to unite UK as Gove and Hunt vie for second
- Boris exacts his revenge as Gove is squeezed out
- War fears in Gulf after Iran downs US drone

## 22nd June

- Minister suspended after grabbing protester by neck
- Boris Johnson: Police called to Tory leadership contender's home
- Windrush memorial to be built at Waterloo station

## 23rd June

- Outrage at plan for hospital cleaners to feed NHS patients
- Angry parents head to court over cuts in special education
- RSPCA hardline faction behind move to ban angling and horse-racing

## 24th June

- Corbyn's new tax grab from homeowners
- Facebook secrecy a risk to children, says NSPCC
- Hunt piles pressure on Johnson over police visit





# National News Headlines June 2019

## 25th June

- Children hit by online sex crimes every hour
- UK could split apart if Boris becomes PM, warns Brown
- Hillsborough match commander David Duckenfield retrial

## 26th June

- £126m penalty for water firm that hid waste spilling into sea
- UK population growth rate stalls, official estimates show
- Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt divided over Brexit plans

## 27th June

- Justice system 'hostile to victims'
- Japan urges UK to avoid no-deal Brexit
- Boris vows to restore faith in UK borders

## 28th June

- 'Stay safe' warning as thousands pitch-up at Glastonbury
- PM tells Putin Salisbury attack 'can never be repeated'
- UK will fail to hit recycling target

## 29th June

- Red-hot alert as UK gets ready to swelter
- Almost 80 festival-goers hit by heatstroke at Glastonbury
- UK weather: Hottest day of the year as temperatures soar

## 30th June

- Boris: My Brexit will unite Britain and save the Union
- MPs to Corbyn: get a grip or lose election
- Glastonbury faces heat over failure to give female acts higher billing





# COVER OPTIONS

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