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Winter 2019 Edition

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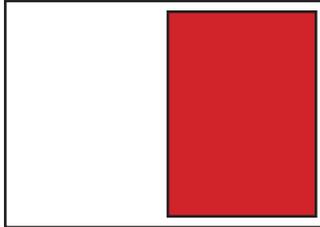
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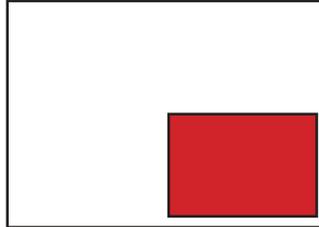
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ISSN 1744-6996



Bristol Cathedral roof detail



News and sports Roundup

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

By Paul G Bazeley for
Government World

October News Review

It is announced that the European Union agrees to delay the Brexit deadline to the 31st January 2020. The House of Commons votes to approve Boris Johnson's call to hold a general election on the 12th December.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle announced they were

suing The Mail on Sunday. They claim they are publishing 'false and deliberately derogatory stories' about their personal lives.

Peter J. Ratcliffe, William Kaelin Jr. and Gregg L. Semenza were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering how cells sense and adapt to the availability of oxygen. Jim Peebles won the Nobel Prize in Physics for theoretical discoveries

in physical cosmology and to Michael Mayor and Didier Queloz for the discovery of 51 Pegasi b an exoplanet. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was given to John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino for development of lithium-ion batteries.

Authorities arrested 13 men for smuggling drugs into the UK. The suspects were believed to have smuggled tens of millions of pounds worth of illegal drugs from the Netherlands over the years.

Christina Koch and Jessica Meir two crew members from Expedition 61 on the International Space Station completed the

first all-female spacewalk.

Hundreds of tourists climbed Uluru, also known as Ayres Rock, in Australia's Northern Territory before a ban on climbing it was put in place. The ban is to respect the Anangu people who hold Uluru sacred.

California became the first state in the U.S. to ban the sale of fur products, the ban will take effect in 2023.

October Sports Review

Eliud Kipchoge managed to complete a marathon in 1 hour 59 minutes and 40 seconds. It is the first sub-2hour marathon, however, it is not officially recognised as Kipchoge was assisted by a car and pacemakers were used.

In the Premier League Leicester equalled a 24-year-old record for the biggest win and the biggest

away win after they beat Southampton 9-0 at St. Mary's Stadium.

Tiger Woods won the Zozo Championship in Japan it was his 82nd PGA Tour title, the win ties him with Sam Snead on the all-time list.

In Baseball, the Washington Nationals beat the Houston Astros 6-2 to win the World Series.

November News Review

A terrorist attack around the London Bridge area killed two people and left others injured. The attacker, who was wearing a fake explosive vest, was confronted by members of the public before being shot dead

by police. It was later confirmed, the attacker was a former prisoner convicted of terrorism offences who had links to terrorist groups.

The continuing rape allegation against Prince Andrew led several large companies including Standard Chartered and AstraZeneca to cut ties with the Prince. Later in the month, Prince Andrew halted all public duties citing his 'ill-judged' association with Jeffrey Epstein was causing major disruption to the Royal Family's work.

Two prison officers were arrested in connection with the death of American financier Jeffrey Epstein. It is

claimed they falsified records of their watch the night the billionaire died.

The United States informed the United Nations that it was withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, it is an agreement to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Google bought the company Fitbit for 2.1 billion U.S. dollars so that the company can break into the smartwatches and digital health markets.

Sir Lindsay Hoyle from the Labour Party is elected as the new speaker of the House of Commons after John Bercow retired.

An immediate moratorium

on hydraulic fracking, also known as fracking, was imposed in the UK.

November Sports Review

South Africa beat England 32-12 in the Rugby World Cup final. It is the third time South Africa have won the championship.

Lewis Hamilton wins his sixth Formula One Drivers Championship title after finishing second in the United States Grand Prix.

December News Review

Voters took to polling stations to vote in the General Election. The results, as predicted by the exit poll, saw a comfortable Conservative win with the party making significant gains. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn announced he would step down after the party's defeat, while Joe Swinson, the Liberal Democrat

leader lost her seat in East Dunbartonshire.

The House of Commons voted to pass the Brexit withdrawal agreement for the UK to leave the EU on the 31st January 2020. The bill headed to the House of Lords for final approval.

The United States House of Representatives voted to impeach President Donald Trump. He becomes only the third president to be impeached after Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. The impeachment process will move to the senate who will have the final verdict.

Larry Page and Sergey Brin announced they

were stepping down as CEO and president respectively of Google. The two co-founded the company and were replaced by Sundar Pichai who became president of Google and the parent company Alphabet.

A volcano on the Whakaari/White Island in New Zealand erupted killing several people with others still missing at the time of writing.

Japan announced it was to increase military spending by 1.1% for an eighth consecutive year to counter a perceived threat from North Korea and China.

The Dutch government announced it would

not stop using the term 'Holland' instead the country will only use its official name the Netherlands from January 2020.

December Sports Review

The World Anti-Doping Agency banned Russia from the 2020 Summer Olympics, the 2022 Winter Olympic and the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Russian athletes that wish to compete may be able to as part of a neutral team. The ban can be appealed.

END



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New measures announced to help boost the nation's skills

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has announced a series of measures to help make sure the country can continue to build the skilled workforce it needs for the future and improve productivity.

The government recently announced an additional £400 million for sixth forms and colleges for 2020-2021 - the single biggest annual uplift since 2010. The new measures will build on this significant investment and support the government's ongoing work to transform technical education including through the introduction of new T Level qualifications from next year, new Institutes of Technology and the creation of more high-quality apprenticeship opportunities.

Second wave of Institutes of Technology planned

The government will provide up to £120 million of additional funding to enable every region in England to establish a high-quality Institute of Technology.

Institutes of Technology are unique collaborations between further education colleges, universities, and employers – including Nissan and Microsoft – offering higher technical education and training mainly at Levels 4 and 5 (above A levels and T Levels but below degree level) in key sectors such as digital, construction, advanced manufacturing and engineering. Twelve Institutes are already being established across the country – backed by £170 million of

government investment – to provide employers with the skilled workforce they need to drive growth and productivity across the country and get more people into rewarding jobs.

New Skills and Productivity Board

A new Skills and Productivity Board will also be established to provide the government with expert advice on how to ensure the courses and qualifications on offer to students are high-quality, are aligned to the skills that employers need for the future and will help increase productivity.

More specialist maths schools

To continue driving up standards and support more disadvantaged young people aged 16-19 to study maths, Mr Williamson also committed to opening a network of 11 Maths Free

Schools across every region of the country – and confirmed that a new Maths Free School will open in the North East through a partnership between Durham University and Durham Sixth Form College.

STEM subjects – which include maths – are some of the most in-demand skillsets in the labour market. Maths is already the most popular subject at A Level, with almost 25% of students choosing to study it.

UK will step up efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030

UK aid will invest in more vaccines, prioritise access to healthcare for women and girls, and invest in research to diagnose and treat diseases.

A commitment has been made to prioritise ending preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030.

To achieve this, UK aid will invest in more vaccines for deadly diseases, prioritise access to healthcare for women and girls around the world, and invest in research to diagnose and treat diseases more quickly and effectively.

Every day, over 800 women lose their lives from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth and around 7,000 new-born babies die. The majority of these deaths are

in the developing world and are preventable. Significant progress has been made to reduce these unnecessary deaths over the last 30 years. But we still fall short of a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every child lives a healthy life.

International Development Secretary, Alok Sharma, said:

“Every 11 seconds, a pregnant woman or new-born baby dies somewhere in the world. These deaths are mostly preventable, and we should not allow this needless loss of life to continue.

“We will boost our support for developing countries to ensure everyone has access to healthcare. We will invest more in vaccines and research so developing countries benefit from the

very best of British and international expertise. And we will put sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women and girls at the heart of this commitment.



“Everyone in the world deserves to be able to access the healthcare they need to live a healthy life.”

This follows the announcement of a £600 million aid package to give millions more women and girls living in the world’s poorest countries access to family planning.

Motorists urged to be deer aware



At this time of year, deer collisions peak as many of the animals cross roads seeking new territories. The highest risk of collisions is between sunset and midnight, and the hours shortly before and after sunrise.

The Deer Initiative and Highways England have teamed up to back up the advice to drivers.

Leonardo Gubert, Senior Ecologist at Highways England, the Government company responsible for motorways and major A roads in England, said:

“You may be well-travelled

and on a well-known route without ever seeing a deer before, but there may be one hidden in nearby foliage or woodlands and some species of deer can often gather in large groups; you may have seen one and avoided it but others may follow and unexpectedly dart out into the roadway. You may have also seen deer signs at locations where you have never spotted deer but the fact is that they have been installed in areas with high deer numbers and their purpose is to alert drivers that there is a higher possibility of encountering them along that particular stretch of road.

“We want everyone travelling on our roads to reach their destination safely and with as many as 1.5 million wild deer living across Britain it is vital for drivers to be aware of their presence, to be extra vigilant, especially at this time of year when deer are on the move.”

Deer signs are placed at locations where the animals are known to be active and are likely to cross; they help inform drivers of the need to slow down to give more time to react.

Figures collated from several studies suggest that while it is safe to say 40,000 deer are killed in vehicle collisions every year, this figure could be as high as 74,000 across Britain. Conservative estimates of 400 injuries to motorists and passengers related to these collisions could in fact be nearer 1000 annually with up to 20 fatalities per year.

Accurate records of deer-

vehicle collisions are vital as they help build an accurate picture of the roads most at risk of deer collision which can then be assessed, and appropriate measures to tackle the issue can be put in place. Drivers are urged to report any incidents via the Deer Aware website.

Highways England works with partners including the Deer Initiative to identify deer-related collision ‘hotspots’ and to take appropriate measures to reduce the risk, including installing deer proof fencing and constructing larger culverts which provide an alternative route for deer to cross the road.

If you hit a deer while driving, your priorities in this order are:

- Keep yourself and anyone with you as safe as you can.
- Park your car in the safest place with hazard lights on. Consider using it also to warn other road users
- Call an ambulance if injuries warrant it.
- Call the police

25 million to be offered free NHS flu jab this winter

Record numbers of people in England will be offered a flu vaccine this winter. For the first time, all primary school children will be offered the nasal spray.

The health service in England has prepared for its largest ever flu protection drive to help keep people well and ease pressure on urgent care services over the colder months.

The number of people eligible has topped 25 million this year as the offer of the vaccine is now extended to all primary school aged children – an extra 600,000 children. NHS commissioned school vaccination teams, maternity services, general practices and local pharmacies are all now gearing up to provide

vaccines to primary school aged children, 2 and 3 year olds, those with underlying health conditions, pregnant women and older adults (aged 65 years and over).

Employers of frontline health and social care workers also have a responsibility to ensure their staff can get the free vaccine. A record number of NHS staff – almost 3 quarters of a million, or 70.3% of frontline workers – took up their workplace jab last year.

This year, a wider range of flu vaccines are available which should offer better protection. This includes the ‘adjuvanted’ vaccine which was offered to those aged 65 years and over for the first-time last year. The adjuvanted vaccine provided a higher level of

protection compared to the standard non-adjuvanted vaccines in this age group last year.

In addition, a new cell-based vaccine which protects against 4 strains of flu (quadrivalent) will also be available. The cell-based vaccine has been recommended for both older adults and for under 65s with underlying health conditions and pregnant women. Children will continue to be given the nasal spray vaccine unless they have a medical condition that means they should receive the injectable version.

Flu vaccination is the single best defence against what can be a serious illness. Flu is a highly infectious disease and can lead to serious complications particularly for people with underlying health condition such as COPD, bronchitis,

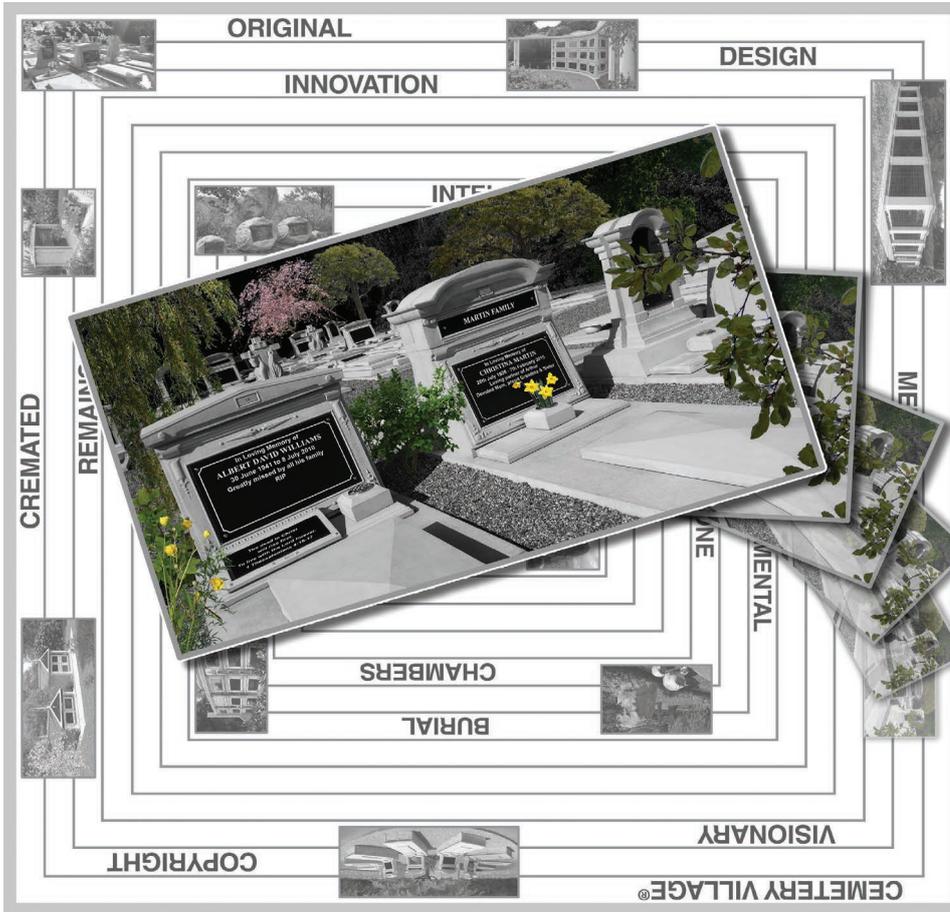
emphysema, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease or a chronic neurological disease like multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and some learning disabilities. Flu on top of health conditions like these increases the chance of serious health complications resulting in a hospital visit.

Eligible adults are encouraged to get their free vaccine from their GP or pharmacy to help protect themselves and their families before flu reaches its seasonal peak.

As well as getting the vaccine, practising good hand hygiene by catching coughs and sneezes in a tissue, throwing it away and washing your hands after can help limit its spread – catch it, bin it, kill it.



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China opens doors to British Beef

The Chinese government has finalised details of a historic trade agreement, opening access for the UK beef industry to the Chinese market.



The British beef industry is set to benefit from an estimated £230 million boost as the Chinese government finalised details of a historic UK-China agreement.

For the first time in over 20 years, UK farmers and beef producers will have full access to the Chinese market, marking the end of a ban imposed by China following the BSE outbreak

in 1996.

The announcement follows extensive inspections by the Chinese authorities – who have confirmed that British beef producers meet the necessary standards to export to their market – and marks the final step in securing access.

The Chinese authorities have cleared 4 beef sites for export in the first instance

– with further sites under review – and the first exports are expected to be shipped in the next few months.

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers said:

“Sealing this landmark agreement with China is huge news for our world-renowned food and farming industry, meaning more people across the globe can enjoy British beef.

“Today’s milestone marks another step towards unlocking the industry’s full potential, and reflects our ambition to maximise trading opportunities for British produce across the world as the UK leaves the EU.”

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

“Chinese diners can now enjoy the best beef in the world. I’m delighted that our dedicated UK producers can now sell quality products to one of the world’s largest economies, supporting local

jobs and bringing millions of pounds to the UK economy each year.

“This is another step forward in realising our global trading ambitions with unbeatable British food. As we leave the European Union, we will continue to break down market access barriers to make it easier for UK businesses to trade across the world.”

The China-UK beef agreement is the culmination of several years of engagement between UK and Chinese government officials. China’s ban was lifted in June last year when market access engagement for UK beef exports began.

The announcement comes after China recently approved five British pork plants to export products to China, which will build on a market which is already worth £70 million per year. We look forward to further approval of qualified UK pork plants by the end of the 2019.

China is currently the UK’s eighth largest export market for food and drink, with more than £610 million worth of products bought by Chinese consumers last year.



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Regulator calls on businesses to do more to protect the environment



The Environment Agency's report includes a review of business compliance, greenhouse gas emissions, serious pollution incidents and illegal waste activity.

A new report shows the majority of England's regulated businesses are working to protect the environment and support prosperity, although more work is needed to reduce serious pollution incidents and illegal waste activity.

The Environment Agency's (EA) annual Regulating for People, Environment and Growth (RPEG) report reveals that greenhouse

gas emissions from industry have been cut by half in the last 10 years and compliance rates of energy efficiency and emissions trading schemes are above 98%.

It also shows 92% of operators demonstrated good compliance with their environmental permit conditions. A record 72% of the waste produced by activities with permits was recovered, and high levels of bathing water quality have been maintained.

The report gives an overview of the regulatory performance of all businesses with

environmental permits in England and shows the effectiveness of the EA's regulatory approach.

Earlier this month, the EA set itself the aim of becoming a net zero organisation by 2030 – ensuring that its own activities and its supply chain are taking as much carbon out of the atmosphere as it is putting into it.

The EA continues to target those who flout the rules with enforcement action, including prosecution. In 2018, the prosecutions brought by the EA resulted in almost £2.8 million in

finances for environmental offences.

Despite good progress, the report highlights the need for businesses to do more to safeguard the environment as the number of serious pollution incidents and illegal waste sites increases.

The report highlights:

- there were 533 serious pollution incidents in 2018, 14% fewer than 10 years ago, but 27% more than in 2017
- 912 illegal waste sites were closed down by the EA last year, a 12% increase on previous year
- 896 new illegal waste sites were discovered last year, blotting the country's landscapes and undercutting legitimate businesses

£22 million awarded to farmers to boost productivity

More than 3,600 farmers receive money to spend on time-saving and innovative farm equipment

More than 3,600 farmers are set to benefit from £22 million in productivity-boosting equipment from round two of the government's Countryside Productivity Small Grants scheme.

Under the scheme, farmers can apply for grants of between £3,000 and £12,000 to invest in new and innovative equipment – from livestock monitoring cameras to precision farming technology – which help businesses save time and money and improve productivity.

Farming Minister George Eustice confirmed that all eligible applications have been approved as part of round two of the successful scheme, with the Rural

Payments Agency writing to the 3,677 successful applicants.

The first round of funding opened in 2018, with £15 million spent to support farmers investing in technology to boost their productivity. The announcement means that £37 million has been allocated to farmers in the scheme's first two funding rounds, with a third and final

funding round to open in autumn 2020.

Farming Minister George Eustice said:

“Boosting farm productivity is hugely important, and I’m delighted we’ve been able to fund all applications, supporting farmers to invest in game-changing technology.

“As a former farmer I know that new equipment can provide a real boost, saving businesses time and money while improving yields.

“When we introduce our landmark Agriculture Bill we will set out further measures to help farmers become more productive, efficient and resilient.”

New items were added to the list of the equipment available for the second round of the Small Grants Scheme, with grants available to minimise soil compaction in fields, monitor ammonia levels in farm buildings, and increase machinery precision when applying slurry.

Farmers are encouraged to make early orders to leave time for deliveries to arrive and payment claims to be processed by the end of May 2020.





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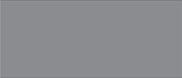
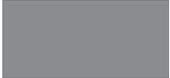
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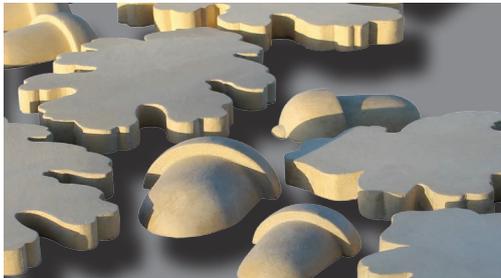
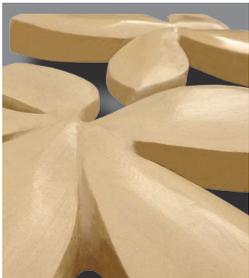
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Government proposes enhanced protections for workers facing workplace discrimination

New proposals include consulting on whether employers should be required to provide references for former employees.

provide at least a basic reference for any former employee.

These proposals form part of the government's

addressed in a raft of proposals announced in July to crack down on misuse of non-disclosure agreements, including legislation ensuring that confidentiality clauses cannot prevent individuals disclosing to the police, regulated health and care

a settlement agreement and in a written statement for an employee, so individuals signing them fully understand what they are signing and their rights

- extending current legislation so that individuals signing NDAs will get independent legal advice on the limitations of a confidentiality clause – including making clear that information can still be disclosed to police, regulated health and care professionals, or legal professionals regardless of an NDA
- introducing new enforcement measures to deal with confidentiality clauses that do not comply with legal requirements - for example, an NDA in a settlement agreement that does not follow new legislative requirements will be legally void



Employers could be stopped from withholding references to any employee under new proposals announced by Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom.

This would mean that employers could, for the first time, be required to

response to an inquiry on non-disclosure agreements conducted by the Women and Equalities Select Committee (WESC).

Many of the recommendations made by the Committee were

professionals or legal professionals.

Other recently proposed legislation includes:

- ensuring employers make clear the limitations of a confidentiality clause, in plain English, within

These plans reinforce the government's commitment to balance the needs of workers and businesses, delivering a UK labour market fit for the modern world of work.

Government acts to improve road safety by closing mobile phone loophole



Law to be tightened to close loophole that allows people to escape prosecution for hand-held phone use behind the wheel.

The government has confirmed it will close a legal loophole which has allowed drivers to escape

prosecution for hand-held mobile phone use while behind the wheel.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has announced that he will urgently take forward a review to tighten up the existing law preventing hand-held mobile use while driving.

At present, the law prevents drivers from using a hand-held mobile phone to call or text. However, people caught filming or taking photos while driving have escaped punishment as lawyers have successfully argued this activity does not fit into the ‘interactive communication’ currently outlawed by the legislation.

The revised legislation will mean any driver caught texting, taking photos, browsing the internet or scrolling through a playlist while behind the wheel will be prosecuted for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving.

Grant Shapps, Transport Secretary said:

“We recognise that staying in touch with the world while travelling is an essential part of modern day life but we are also committed to making our roads safe.

“Drivers who use a hand-

held mobile phone are hindering their ability to spot hazards and react in time – putting people’s lives at risk.”

It is already a criminal offence to use a phone while driving without a hands-free device. This latest move will see the government go further to ensure the law reflects the use of devices that allow other distracting activities.

The impact of this behaviour is proven – if a driver looks at their phone for just 2 seconds when travelling at 30 miles per hour, whether to reply to a message or send a quick snap, they will travel 100 feet blind, drastically increasing the chance of an accident.

The review will be urgently taken forward with further proposals expected to be in place by next spring, making the offence clearer for drivers and police forces.

While ministers have also announced that they will consider the current penalties in place for hand-held mobile phone use, there are no plans to ban hands-free phone use.

The German plan for net zero carbon

By John Redwood MP

A recent German study puts the cost of taking Germany to net zero carbon by 2050 at Euro 7.6 trillion. Much of this will fall on German consumers to pay. They will need to buy different cars, insulate their homes, change the heating systems in their homes, pay more for their travel and the rest.

Some of this cost will be displacement of investment renewal that takes place anyway. Cars, boilers, trucks, planes all have a finite life. The additional cost comes from replacements that are dearer than the originals, and above all from regulators requiring early retirement of the existing investment.

The business world will be at the forefront of this transition.

The petrol companies have to move from a big chain of filling stations to a big chain of electric chargers. The airlines have to buy a new generation of jets that burn alternative fuels. The plastics industry has to close capacity whilst the paper and wood industry needs to expand for packaging and other items.

It would be good to see a proper costing for the UK, and more work on what this means by way of transformation of our shops, homes, industrial plants and transport systems. Clearly there need to be plenty of closures of hydrocarbon based ways of working, living and travelling. Car plants making petrol and diesel vehicles, oil and gas companies exploiting natural resources, manufacturers of traditional heating systems, fuel intensive production of many things will all need to adapt or be closed down.

Official portrait of John Redwood
Photo by [Chris McAndrew](#) via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Blueprint for 100 multi-million pound Town Deals revealed



Towns Fund prospectus paves the way for a new generation of Town Deals to regenerate town centres, boost businesses and improve infrastructure.

The blueprint for a new generation of multi-million Town Deals was announced by Communities and Local Government Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP.

The Towns Fund prospectus provides information to councils in 100 places chosen to pioneer Town Deals –

they will receive a share of £16.4 million capacity funding to kick-start their innovative plans and bring their communities together.

Each place will have the opportunity to bid for funding of up to £25 million as part of the government's £3.6 billion Towns Fund.

The funding could be used to redevelop vacant buildings and land, drive private sector investment by supporting small businesses and ensure young people have the skills they need to get good jobs. Communities will

also be able to consider how they can boost their transport links and increase access to high-speed broadband.

Communities and Local Government Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

“This government is committed to levelling up all parts of the country. We created the £3.6bn Towns Fund to help businesses grow, connect communities and give people the skills they need to succeed.”

The announcement follows the launch of the My Town

campaign, giving local people the chance to share what they love about their town and how they want to see it grow. In just one week, the campaign has drawn over 10,000 responses from across the country.

Lead councils in each place will now bring together a Town Deal Board including representatives from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop bespoke Town Investment Plans by summer 2020.

These plans will provide a clear vision for building on their town's unique strengths to transform its economic growth prospects and form the basis of negotiations with the government.

Heavy industry to cut 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions with new tech

The government is looking for most effective ways to cut industrial greenhouse gas emissions, as part of £315 million investment drive to decarbonise heavy industry.

The government is on the hunt for the most effective ways to help cut industrial greenhouse gas emissions, as part of a £315 million investment drive in decarbonising heavy industry to help reach net zero by 2050.

The government has set out plans to drastically improve the energy efficiency of

commercial buildings, with businesses set to benefit by saving up to £1 billion a year on their energy bills by 2030. This includes improving the energy performance of rented commercial buildings and setting a minimum energy efficiency standard of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band B by 2030.

The Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) will help businesses with high power use, such as energy-intensive industries, to cut their bills and carbon emissions through investing in efficiency measures. It will shrink

industrial emissions by around 2 million tonnes between 2028 and 2032 - the equivalent of taking nearly 200,000 cars off the road every year. This consultation seeks views on how the fund will work.

In June the UK government became the first major economy to legislate to end its contribution to climate change by 2050. Emissions from industry, currently accounting for around a quarter of all UK emissions, will need to be cut to nearly zero to achieve this.

Eight industrial sectors (cement, ceramics, chemicals, food and drink, glass, iron and steel, oil refining, and pulp and paper) currently emit around 2 thirds of industrial carbon

emissions. Ministers are keen to fund tried and tested low-carbon industrial processes, as well as exploring new options that will keep British industries agile.

Businesses in various sectors are already taking steps to reduce their energy consumption and carbon footprint, including:

- Nestle, who are using high temperature heat pumps for heating and cooling during the chocolate manufacturing process - cutting energy costs by nearly £150,000 every year
- manufacturer Ibstock Bricks, who are using brick-building robots to help make repetitive manufacturing processes more efficient, halving emissions output for every brick produced
- manufacturer Saint-Gobain, who are saving £165,000 a year in energy costs by becoming more responsive to demand, powering down its factories at peak energy periods
- in the ceramics sector, whose energy accounts for a third of its production costs, heat reduction programmes have reduced the heat used to glaze tableware by 5%, helping cut their carbon footprint by 25%



Independent review backs Chancellor pledge for higher National Living Wage



The government has published the independent Dube Review into minimum wages.

The independent review into the evidence on minimum wages by leading expert Professor Arindrajit Dube has concluded a more ambitious National Living Wage (NLW) is the right approach, following the Chancellor's pledge to increase the NLW further.

The review concludes minimum wages in a range of countries have had a negligible or zero effect on jobs, but significantly increased the earnings

of the lowest paid. The Chancellor has pledged a more ambitious NLW so that on current projections it is set to reach £10.50 per hour by 2024, as part of his commitment to do more to end low pay.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid, said:

"The evidence is clear that our approach is the right one.

"We will end low pay by

putting the National Living Wage on a path to increase to £10.50 over the next five years.

"I thank Professor Dube for his important work and recommendations."

Professor Arindrajit Dube said:

"Based on the overall evidence—with a special emphasis on the recent, high quality, evaluations of the National Living Wage and other more ambitious policies internationally — my report concludes that that there is room for exploring a higher NLW in the UK up to two-thirds of the median wage.

"It will also be important to empirically evaluate and recalibrate any such ambitious policy based on new evidence down the road."

The report, 'Impacts of minimum wages: review of

the international evidence', examines the international evidence from Germany, the US and other countries on the impacts of minimum wages, as well as recent research on the impact of the NLW in the UK.

Professor Dube, from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, National Bureau of Economic Research and IZA Institute of Labor Economics, was commissioned by the government to review minimum wage policies in Spring 2019. As part of his work, Professor Dube consulted with the Low Pay Commission, academics and policy experts in collating his evidence and developing his findings.

The previous NLW target was to reach 60% of median earnings by 2020. In line with the conclusions of the Dube Review, the Chancellor Sajid Javid has pledged to increase the NLW towards a new target of two-thirds of median earnings by 2024, provided economic conditions allow. The Chancellor additionally committed to expand the living wage to more young people by bringing down the age threshold for the NLW to cover all workers over the age of 21.

Government launches new scheme to boost tree-planting



£50 million Woodland Carbon Guarantee scheme will encourage farmers and landowners to plant more trees and help to tackle climate change

The government has launched a £50 million scheme to help boost tree-planting rates in the fight against climate change.

The new Woodland Carbon

Guarantee will encourage farmers and landowners to plant more trees and create new woodland in return for payments as those trees grow.

It gives land managers in England the long-term financial income they need to invest in carbon sequestration - the process by which trees lock up and store carbon from the

atmosphere.

Successful participants will be offered the option to sell Woodland Carbon Units to the government over 35 years at a guaranteed price set by auction, providing new income for land managers who help businesses compensate for their carbon emissions.

Forestry and Climate Adaptation Minister Zac Goldsmith said:

“Woodland creation is an excellent way to help combat the effects of climate change.

“By supporting farmers and land managers who decide to invest in tree-planting, we are making sure we tackle climate change through nature-based solutions and – as part of our 25 Year Environment Plan - help leave the environment in a better state than we found it.

“The Woodland Carbon

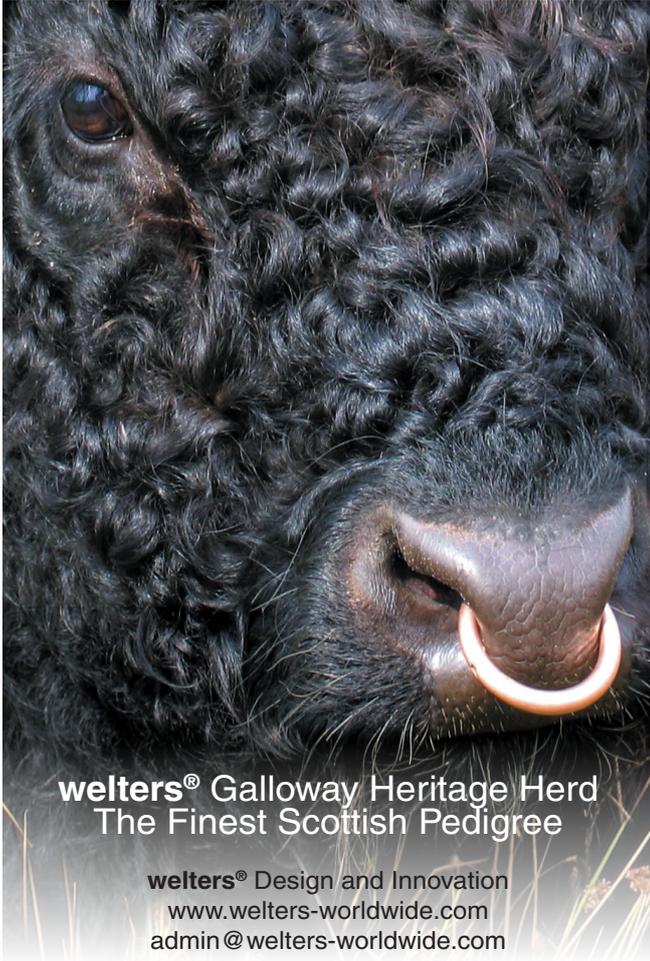
Guarantee means that now - more than ever - there is no reason to delay planting trees.”

Trees are a precious natural asset and, as a natural carbon sink, are a vital part of the fight against climate change. Woodlands and forests will play an important role in the UK's efforts to hit net zero carbon emissions by 2050, which is why the government is committed to planting 11 million trees by 2022. Funding for this scheme was announced by HM Treasury in the 2018 Autumn Budget.

By planting more trees and creating new woodland, land managers also provide a range of other ecosystem benefits such as preventing flood risk, soil conservation and boosting biodiversity.

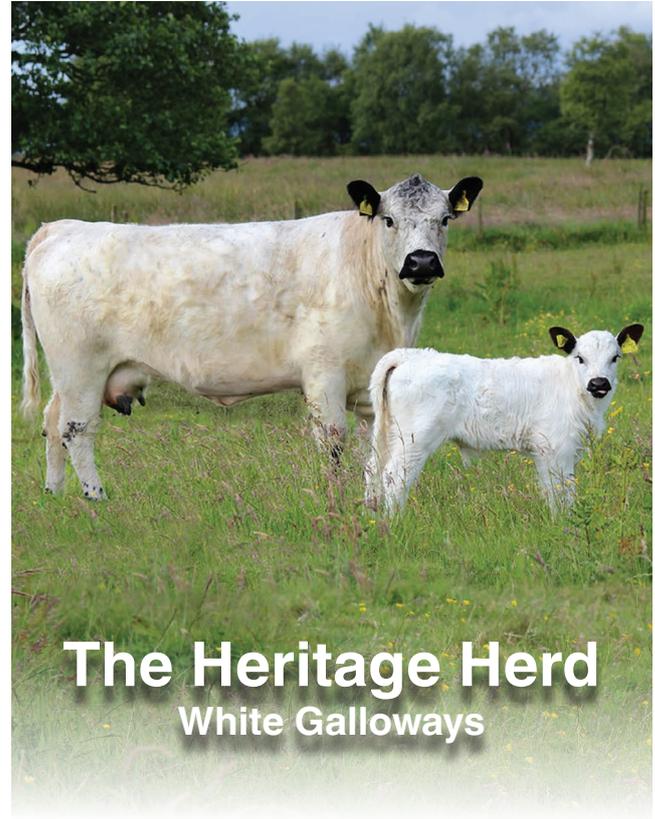
To apply for the Woodland Carbon Guarantee, land managers need to register their projects with the Woodland Carbon Code - the voluntary standard for UK woodland creation projects where claims are made about the carbon dioxide they sequester.

<https://www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/>



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Export bar placed on rare bronze sculpture by François Girardon

The export of a figure of Apollo by François Girardon has been temporarily stopped

An export bar has been placed on a 17th-century bronze figure of Apollo in a bid to keep the work in the UK.

The £1.2 million sculpture by François Girardon (1628-1715), depicts the mythological sun god Apollo. The figure is holding a lyre, representing his association with music, and is crowned with a laurel, alluding to his pursuit of the nymph Daphne.

Girardon defined the sculptural style of French Baroque and made a significant contribution to the decoration of the Palace of Versailles which was the principal royal residence of the French kings from the late 1680s until the French

Revolution.

This particular piece epitomises the tastes of the French 'Sun King' Louis XIV and may have been made for him personally. The figure is a rare statuette and one of only two known extant bronzes based on an earlier terracotta model made by Girardon.

The decision follows the advice of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA). The Committee noted that the statue was an exceptional example of Baroque sculpture, comparable to some of the best French bronzes of the period.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the statue's outstanding beauty and outstanding significance for the study of the history of French bronzes, François Girardon and his working

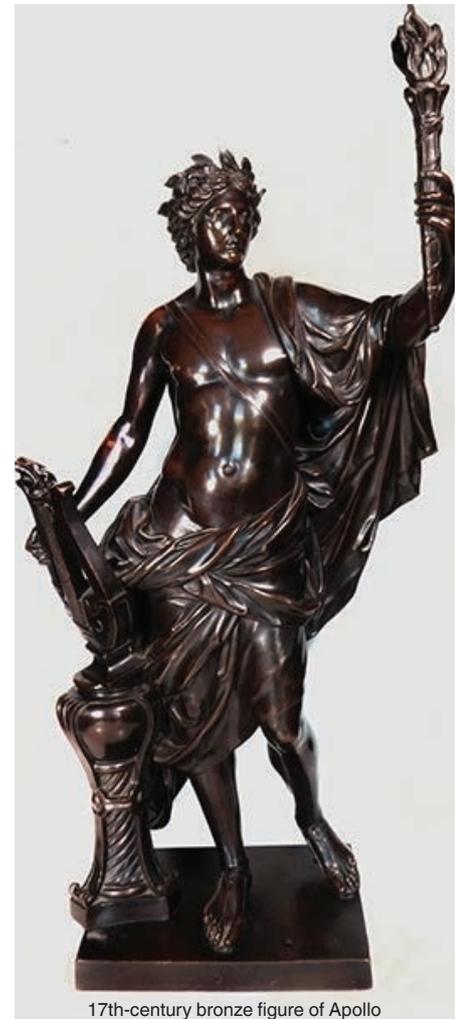
practises.

Committee Member Stuart Lochhead said:

“Produced on a grand scale, this sumptuously cast bronze of Apollo with his lyre and a flaming torch epitomises the splendour of the court of Louis XIV. François Girardon, sculptor to the self-styled Sun King himself, played a leading role in the decorative schemes at Versailles.

“As this bronze represents only one of a handful of works by Girardon in UK collections, its export abroad would certainly be a loss to active scholarship in this field and to the nation in general.”

The decision on the export licence application for the bronze statuette will be deferred until 24 February 2020. This may be extended until 24 June 2020 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £1,200,000 plus VAT of £240,000.



17th-century bronze figure of Apollo

DASA awards £2m contracts to counter hostile drone threats

Funds will develop new technology to tackle rising security risks posed by Unmanned Air Systems

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) has announced it has awarded nearly £2m to develop new capabilities to detect, disrupt, and defeat the hostile and malicious use of drones.

Eighteen bids have been funded as part of the Countering Drones competition launched earlier this year by the then-Defence Secretary.

Among the proposal being developed are methods for detecting 4G & 5G controlled drones, cutting edge applications of machine learning and artificial intelligence for

sensors to automatically identify UAVs, and low risk methods of stopping drones through novel electronic defeat or interceptor solutions.

The competition, run by DASA – the MOD’s innovation hub – on behalf of Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), is the latest stage in Dstl’s ongoing research programme into countering unmanned air systems (UAS) which has been

running for ten years.

The competition has also been supported by the Department for Transport and NATO to counter the rapidly evolving threats from UAS.

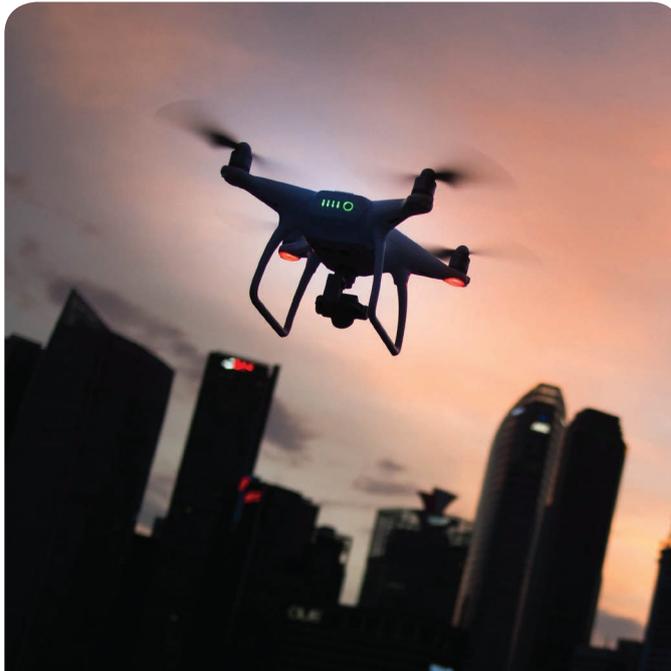
There was a very high level of interest from industry with over 90 bids from a wide range of organisations from micro businesses, small and medium-sized enterprises, large defence firms and academia.

This led to a doubling of initial funding from around £1m to around £2m being awarded to organisations in Phase 1.

The first phase of this competition is intended to demonstrate proof of concepts that can be further developed and integrated during later phases.

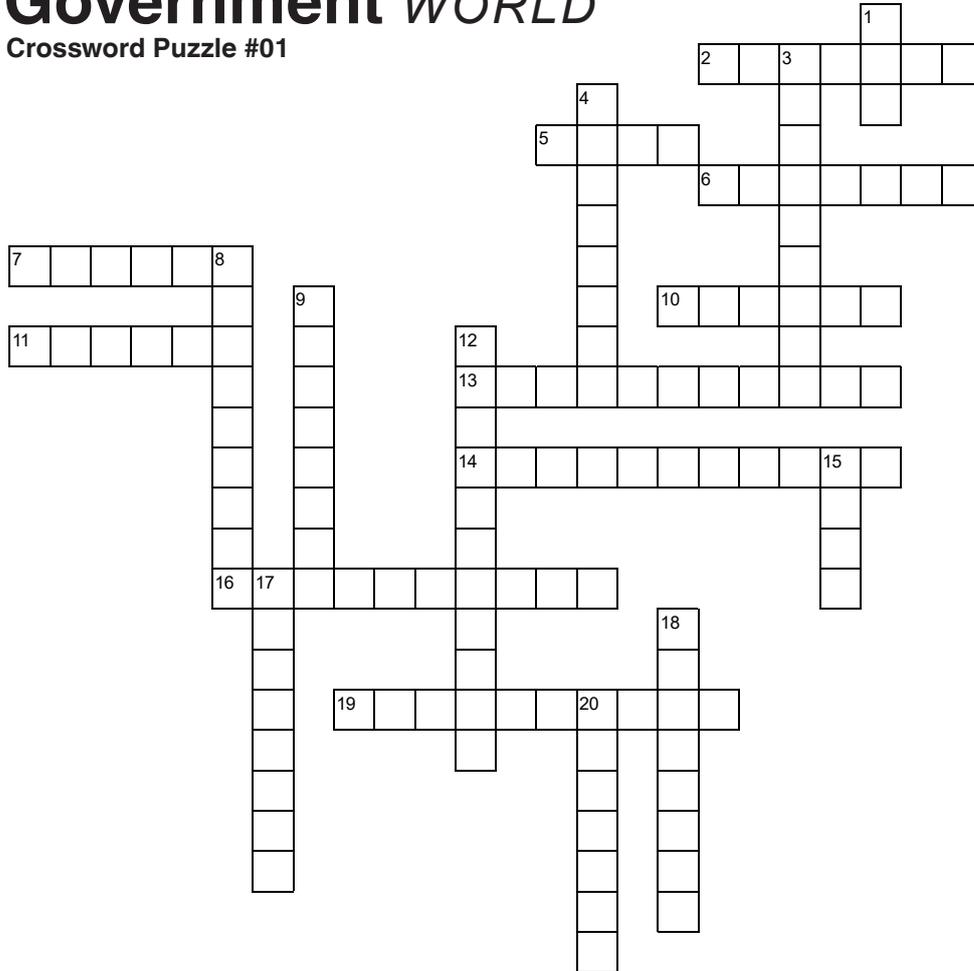
Phase 2 is planned to launch next year with a focus on developing and maturing successful research into integrated solutions

Phase 1 of the competition is due to run until summer 2020.



Government *WORLD*™

Crossword Puzzle #01



Across

- 2 A swaps within the communication
- 5 Includes 12 inches or 5 toes
- 6 You're mad if you lose these
- 7 Cleaning the void
- 10 Not the nadir
- 11 A case for shopping?
- 13 Helps fill an empty position
- 14 Not boring
- 16 Words fail me
- 19 Low budget footwear fastner

Down

- 1 Stick it on bread
- 3 Waves roll against it
- 4 The PC brigade has one
- 8 Roads with hard shoulders
- 9 Cursing the dialect
- 12 An eloquent lorry?
- 15 Events from teh compass
- 17 A cutting edge with no ink
- 18 A house with no stairs
- 20 Glow with warmth

Log on to:

***[www.government-world.com/
crosswords](http://www.government-world.com/crosswords)***

for the answers!

Environmental Issues: Water Pollution By Paul Bazeley

In the third in our series on Environmental Issues, we take a look at water pollution. We will explore the main types of water pollution and the causes and the steps that can be taken to save a vital resource.

Our earth is made up of 70% water, nevertheless, we have a finite quantity of water and preserving its quality is essential for life. Still, research suggests that 70% of industrial waste is dumped into water, over 2 billion people worldwide drink water that has been contaminated with faeces and that 15 million children under five-years-old die every year due to diseases from drinking water.

Pesticides from agricultural work, metals and solvents from industrial work and oil spills and fuel leaks are all examples of chemical water pollution and can

have drastic effects on rivers and seas. After the 2011 tsunami hit a nuclear plant in Japan over 11 million litres of radioactive water was washed into the Pacific Ocean. Japan is believed to currently be holding 1 million tonnes of contaminated water which it is trying to treat, however, it has been said that space will soon run out and within the next few years, they may have to release some of the contaminated water into the sea. It was a suggestion which quickly caused a backlash with a Greenpeace representative saying 'The sea is not a garbage dump'.



Pollutants being dumped into the ocean



A child drinks from a polluted water source



Plastic ocean pollution

While the 2011 Fukushima tsunami is an unfortunate disaster that could not have been planned for, chemical water pollution is an issue we may all face and isn't just due to natural disasters. In Europe, approximately

7% of all groundwater stations have reported excessive levels of one or more pesticides and for every 1 million tons of oil that are shipped one ton of oil is spilt into waterways.

Another common water pollutant is wastewater. This is made up of anything from your sink,

shower or toilet as well as stormwater run-off - where heavy rainfall can carry oil, salt, grit and other debris from surfaces into a water source. According to the United Nations, 80% of the world's wastewater flows straight back into the environment without receiving any treatment or being re-used and in lesser-developed countries this figure can rise to 95%. Another scary piece of research found that nearly 2 million tonnes of human waste is exposed to water daily.



Petroleum & other chemical pollution, Samet Island, Thailand



Air pollution



Polluted drinking water



While wastewater is more commonly seen as a problem only found in less-developed countries research found that America treats 34 billion gallons of wastewater every day, yet over 2.3 billion gallons of untreated wastewater is released into a water

source every day.

The third and final main type of water pollution is plastic pollution. It is something of a hot topic in recent years, probably largely to do with the BBC Blue Planet 2 documentary,

however, it is still a huge issue we are faced with. Ocean Unite claims that approximately 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the sea yearly and that by 2050 we may have more plastic in our oceans than fish.

Inadequate waste management is seen as the biggest driver for plastics entering our water and although this is a worldwide problem, five Asian countries (China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) are believed to account for around 60% of all plastic waste entering the oceans. Although it's easy

to blame these five countries, we cannot hold these countries responsible alone for some of the quite frankly horrifying statistics I came across while researching this article. According to the Plastic Oceans UK, 100% of

sea turtles species are known to ingest plastic debris, 57.9% of North Atlantic right whale death between 2003-2018 were caused by entanglement in plastic fishing gear and plastic makes up 75% of marine litter.

It is fair to say there is undoubtedly an issue with water pollution; the question is what can we do about it? From an individual level, there are quite a few things such as using a refillable water bottle, using bags for life for your shopping,

recycling (make sure to check your local recycling collection lists for what can be put in) and to stop using plastic straws.

While all of us making small changes can lead to big changes, there are, as always, things that can be done which require large-scale change. Reducing the amount of chemical used in agriculture and industry and more efficient ways of disposing of them, creating better and more efficient wastewater management, particularly in poorer countries and governments, manufacturers, supermarkets etc. cutting down the use of plastic, are all steps that, if done properly, would make vast differences to the water of the planet.

This isn't an overnight fix but these things need to be implemented and much sooner rather than later, as Sir David Attenborough has said 'We have to act now to try and clear up some of the appalling damage we have made to the ocean'.



Plastic ocean pollution



Plastic bottles washed up in Mauritius

Farmers in England begin receiving payments from December for 2019



Farm support payments for the 2019 scheme year start landing in bank accounts

From December farmers and land managers across England will start receiving their 2019 Basic Payment Scheme money

All payments are made directly to bank accounts via BACS transfer so farmers should make sure the RPA has the most up-to-date account details. Once a payment has been made a remittance advice is sent in the post, confirming the amount paid. Claim statements will also be sent, explaining how payments have been worked out.

For 2019 all eligible Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship agreement holders will start receiving one full payment against their claim for the environmental work they do, rather than having this in two payments. Farmers and land managers are paid for the work they do for the environment under these schemes – from providing habitats for wildlife to reducing the risk of flooding through natural flood management strategies.

Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year



All nursing students on courses from September 2020 will receive a payment of at least £5,000 a year which they will not need to pay back.

Nursing students will benefit from guaranteed, additional support of at least £5,000 a year to help with living costs.

The funding will be given to all new and continuing degree-level nursing, midwifery and many allied health students from September 2020. It is expected to benefit more than 35,000 students every year.

The funding comes as part of

the government's pledge to increase nurse numbers by 50,000 over the next 5 years.

Students will receive at least £5,000 a year, with up to £3,000 further funding available for eligible students, including for:

- specialist disciplines that struggle to recruit, including mental health
- an additional childcare allowance, on top of the £1,000 already on offer
- areas of the country which have seen a decrease in people accepted on some nursing, midwifery and allied health courses over the past year

This means that some students could be eligible for up to £8,000 per year, with everyone getting at least £5,000. The funding will be available from next year. Further details on who can access the support will be available in early 2020.

The funding will not have to be repaid by recipients. Students will also be able to continue to access funding for tuition and maintenance loans from the Student Loans Company.

The announcement comes alongside the latest push in the biggest nursing recruitment drive in decades, with a campaign boost ahead of the UCAS deadline for university applications on 15 January 2020.

The NHS 'We Are the NHS, We Are Nurses' campaign, backed by the Health Secretary, targets teenagers who are about to choose their degrees as well as career switchers considering going into nursing.

The measures will be part of the upcoming NHS People Plan, which will set out work to reduce vacancies across the NHS and secure the staff needed for the future.

As part of a wider drive to make sure the NHS continues to have the staff it needs to meet demand, the government has also confirmed that it will carry out an urgent review of the pensions annual allowance taper problem. This issue has caused some doctors to turn down extra shifts for fear of high tax bills.

Treasury and health ministers will meet the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the British Medical Association as part of this review and the government will continue to hear evidence from other relevant professional bodies. The review will report at Budget.

The move comes following NHS England's recent announcement of special arrangements for 2019 to 2020, meaning no doctor in England will be worse off as a result of taking on extra shifts this winter.

The government is also increasing day-to-day NHS funding so that by 2023 to 2024 it will receive an extra £33.9 billion a year to deliver the NHS Long Term Plan.



Motorists saving hundreds of thousands per day since Severn tolls' abolition

Commuters, tourists and businesses are all benefitting from free road travel into Wales one year since removal.

Motorists are collectively saving hundreds of thousands of pounds per day on the Severn crossings as the first anniversary since the removal of tolls is marked this December. All drivers are saving around £365,000 per day, based on the charges which were in place when the tolls were abolished.

The UK Government removed tolls on the

westbound M4 and M48 crossings in December 2018, making it easier to travel between Wales and south west England with the aim of boosting business, enhancing inward investment, increasing tourism and creating jobs.

Since the tolls' abolition, journeys into Wales from England over the Prince of Wales Bridge have increased by 16% with an average of more than 39,000 journeys now being made each day.

Following the UK Government's abolition

of the tolls, the Western Gateway partnership was launched last month to maximise the economic potential of south Wales and the south west of England.

By bringing together world-renowned universities, businesses and local authorities across a wide region either side of the Severn, the Western Gateway will mirror the successful, established work of the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine and will seek to ensure that the region is globally competitive.

UK Government Minister for Wales David TC Davies said:

“Over the last year, drivers have reaped the benefits of free road travel into Wales which is paying dividends for businesses across both sides of the Severn.

“We are better connected economically as a result and through the Western Gateway initiative we will harness the joint strengths of these two regions while respecting our distinct identities and traditions.

“The UK Government is committed to boosting Wales' transport infrastructure and connectivity which is central to ensuring we raise our game economically and boost our productivity as a result.”

Biggest multi-billion pound spending increase for councils in a decade

Local authorities across England will receive a share of £49.1 billion local government funding for the coming financial year to help them deliver essential services for local communities, including an extra £1.5 billion for social care.

The funding plans provide certainty for councils and represent the biggest year-on-year real terms increase in spending power in a decade.

Measures set out by Local Government Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, will support and reward local growth, protect the most vulnerable in society and secure value for money for the taxpayer.

The provisional financial settlement includes:

More funding for social care

The provisional settlement

makes £1.5 billion of new funding available for adult and children's social care, supporting local authorities to meet rising demand, fund more care home places and social workers and protect the most vulnerable in society.

This includes £1 billion of new grant funding, a continuation of all existing social care grants, and the ability for authorities to raise up to £500 million more for adult social care, where needed.

In total, local authorities will have access to over £5.5 billion of dedicated funding across adult and children's social care in 2020 to 2021.

Protection for core funding

Core funding will be protected in 2020 to 2021, conserving vital, core services which residents rely on. The provisional settlement proposes that settlement core funding is increased in line with inflation, and any



Negative Revenue Support Grant is directly eliminated.

Rewards for building new homes

The government has committed £907 million to continue the New Homes Bonus scheme in 2020 to 2021. The scheme financially rewards local authorities for the number of new homes they build locally, incentivising housing growth and creating homes for local residents.

Preventing excessive Council Tax rises

Local residents will have the power to veto excessive Council Tax rises, with a referendum being required if local authorities propose

raising the tax above 2%, with extra flexibility for some authority types.

Mayoral Combined Authorities and town and parish councils will be exempt from the rule, and local authorities with responsibility for adult social care will be able to set a further 2% increase, ringfenced exclusively for adult social care. This strikes the right balance between addressing pressure on services and protecting Council Tax payers from excessive bill hikes.

Support for rural areas

The government is committed to ensuring the unique needs of rural areas are met, and so will maintain last year's Rural Services Delivery Grant at £81 million, matching the highest rural grant paid to date.

Funding boost for the great British pub

Communities Secretary backs the great British pub this Christmas with a new £1.15 million fund.

Regulars across the country will be raising a toast to the Great British Pub this Christmas with over £1 million of new government money for community pubs, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced.

The funding will help an estimated 100 new groups to take ownership of and save their local or support their essential community services based in pubs in rural and remote areas.

Secretary of State for Communities Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

“The Great British pub is one of the cornerstones of British life.

“From the Rose and Crown, to the King’s Arms, our pubs remain at the very heart of

our cities, towns and villages.

“This new funding will boost the number of community-owned pubs and pub-based community services. It will offer sustainability and create valuable new jobs in the process, both in our great pubs and within our great communities.

“Pubs run by the community and for the community help bring people closer together. Importantly, they are a space for older, vulnerable and more isolated residents to access important local services and feel part of their communities.”

The £1.15 million fund will support community pubs through two key programmes. £650,000 will be allocated to the second More Than a Pub programme.

More Than a Pub provides small grants and specialist advice for community

groups at the start of their journey to community ownership. It also supports groups later in the process who require specialist professional advice with larger grants and loans to help with business planning, conveyancing, architectural help or financial advice.

£500,000 will be allocated to Pub is The Hub to enable a range of projects providing new, pub-based community services from post offices and shops to libraries and allotments. This will increase the services available in rural and remote communities and help sustain pubs as community assets and businesses.



The World's End Pub, Camden

2022 National Festival update

Martin Green CBE, the mastermind behind the hugely successful Hull UK City of Culture 2017, and the former Head of Ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, has been asked by government to develop plans to curate, manage, and promote a UK-wide festival in 2022.

The major nationwide festival, backed by £120 million funding from government, was first announced in 2018. As a UK-wide celebration of our creativity and innovation, the Festival will be designed in collaboration with the devolved administrations to showcase the best of our art, culture, heritage, design and technology sectors.

From early January, Martin and his team will begin working with these sectors across the UK. Over the coming months, he will develop a vision which

engages communities across the United Kingdom and ensures the delivery of a world class festival of creativity.

The project will be delivered by a dedicated team established within

the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee, led by Green in addition to his role as the Chief Creative Officer of the Games.

Culture Secretary Nicky Morgan said:

“The nationwide festival will give us a fantastic

opportunity to champion all that is great about the UK. It will be a tremendous showcase for our creativity and innovation, which will not only celebrate our values and identities, but will also help attract new inward business and investment.”

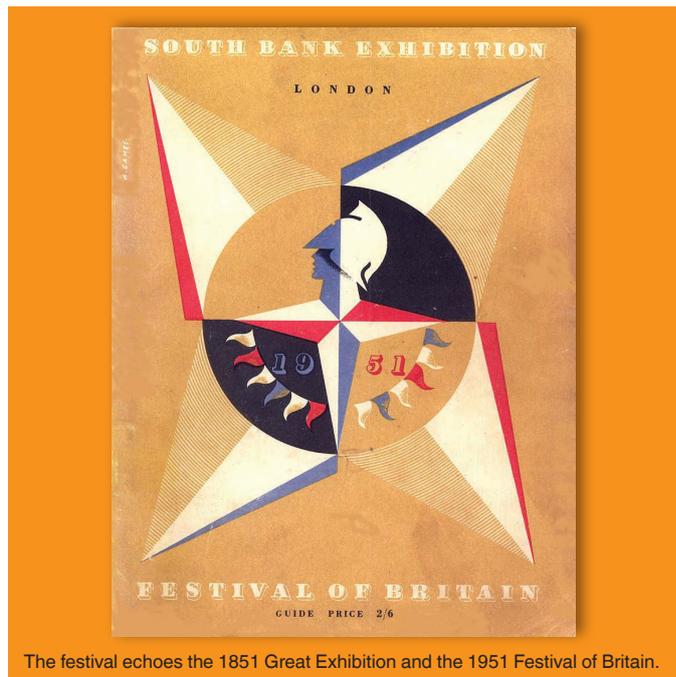
Martin Green CBE said:

“I am honoured to be asked to lead the Festival. As a passionate believer that art and culture has the power to bring people together, I am immensely proud to be working on the project to showcase and celebrate the cultural dynamism and distinctiveness of the UK.”

There are three main aims for the festival that will underpin the planning process:

- To bring people together to celebrate our strengths, values and identities, and boost pride throughout communities
- To celebrate all four nations’ offer to the world, supporting our brand and helping attract new inward business and investment
- To leave a lasting legacy across the UK.

Additional details on the festival will be made available in due course.



The festival echoes the 1851 Great Exhibition and the 1951 Festival of Britain.

Nearly 30 million walks demonstrates huge popularity of England's coastal paths

New figures showcase the health and economic benefits of walking on England's coastal paths

New figures released reveal the huge popularity of England's coastal paths with 29.1 million walking trips made over a six-month period, boosting local economies and bringing health and wellbeing benefits to visitors.

The never-before-released data was collected by Natural England – the government's adviser on

the natural environment. It shows the significant value of coastal walking for health and wellbeing, with 97% of people feeling refreshed and revitalised as a result of their visit.

The data also revealed that visits boosted the economy by £350 million, with day-trippers spending on average £8.65 per day in coastal shops and overnight visitors spending on average £36.73. This supported more than 5,900 full-time equivalent jobs

along the English coast.

Natural England is currently establishing a 2,700-mile path around the entire English coastline. Walkers will be able to enjoy, explore and experience some of our finest and most important cultural and natural heritage – from the white cliffs of Dover, to the industrial heritage of the North East. When completed, the England Coast Path will be the longest continuous coastal walking route in the world.

The study, which collected data from July 2017 and January 2018, will provide a baseline to help evaluate the benefits of English

coast paths to local economies and communities..

Once complete, the England Coast Path will become a National Trail – the nation's finest and most popular long-distance paths. It will be a continuous, easy-to-follow, well-maintained walking route which is being carefully designed to help with managing recreation alongside other land uses.

The work connects long-established national trails such as the 630-mile South West Coast Path with new sections such as the 58-mile stretch between Minehead and Brean Down in Somerset. The most recent part of the path opened in September 2019, increasing access to the Tees Valley coastline with a 10-mile route from Newport Bridge to North Gare.



Coastal walk along Hengistbury Head, Christchurch, Bournemouth

UK's iconic first red public telephone box listed

The K2 prototype telephone box in London has been listed at Grade II*

- Telephone box has been outside the Royal Academy in London since 1924
- Box was built as part of a competition to create the iconic design

Heritage Minister Helen Whately has announced that the prototype for the UK's first red public telephone box has been upgraded to Grade II* in recognition of its iconic design status.

Created in 1924 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1880 - 1960), the prototype K2 (Kiosk No.2) telephone box formed the basis of the design of future telephone boxes across the country.

The timber K2 prototype was designed for a competition launched by the Royal Fine Arts Commission at the

request of the Postmaster General to find an alternate to the unpopular concrete K1 structure which had been introduced in 1921.

Scott's timber prototype was initially displayed in 1924 outside the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square with four other designs, and in 1925 it was announced that the K2 telephone box was the one 'most suitable for erection in busy thoroughfares of large towns'.

Scott's winning design was originally intended to be made of steel and painted silver with a blue-green interior, however, upon selection of the K2 design, the General Post Office chose to make it of cast-iron and painted red.

Heritage Minister Helen Whately said:

"The red telephone box is an internationally famous British

icon and I am delighted that we are able to protect the first of its kind.

"In an increasingly digital world, it is important to preserve structures - like the K2 prototype phone box - that have played a part in our nation's industrial story."

After the successful competition, the first cast iron K2 was installed in London in 1926, with more than 1,700 appearing across the city over the course of the next decade. Only a small number were placed outside London and just over 200 K2s survive today. The K2 was replaced in 1935 by the streamlined, more compact and cost-effective K6 model which was also designed by Scott and is the most common red telephone box still in existence today.

The telephone box prototype in question still remains where it was placed in 1924, at the western side of the entrance portal to Burlington House, home of the Royal Academy. First listed at

Grade II in 1986, its upgraded status better recognises its more than special architectural and historic interest.

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was one of the most important modern British architects and is famous for iconic British landmarks such as Battersea Power Station and Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral. In 2006 the K2 telephone box was voted one of Britain's top ten iconic designs.



Wooden prototype K2 telephone box, located in the portico of the Royal Academy in London



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National News Headlines October 2019

1st October

- The Pru fined £24m over not revealing best pension deals
- Boris Johnson: Irish customs checks will be 'reality' after Brexit
- UK weather: Flood warnings issued as rain lashes Britain

2nd October

- Boris Johnson: No-deal only alternative to Brexit plan
- Drug poisonings blamed for big rise in deaths among homeless
- Delay Brexit and risk 'chaos' of indyref, Johnson warns

3rd October

- Johnson set to ask the Queen for ANOTHER Parliament suspension
- Abortion: NI law 'breaches human rights'
- Scotland to be first UK country to ban smacking

4th October

- Recession fear after services sector output falls
- Patel: Facebook is creating a blind spot for paedophiles
- Court to rule on homeopath register amid autism row

5th October

- Insurance firms are overcharging loyal customers by £1.2bn
- Harry Dunn crash: US diplomat's wife leaves UK amid police probe
- Johnson pins his hopes on Hungary veto for Brexit delay

6th October

- Britain warns China over protests
- Storm as BBC star tells Rory: You are too white and posh to be London Mayor
- One in five murders committed by prisoners on parole



National News Headlines October 2019

7th October

- Millions of over-65s spending days alone
- Boris to seek Supreme Court ruling on no-deal
- Macron sets Johnson deadline to revise Brexit plan

8th October

- Pizza chain's crisis talks over £655m debt
- NHS chiefs' social care warning
- Voters will blame Parliament for Brexit delay, poll finds

9th October

- Brexit: Scottish court delays decision on extension letter
- Brexit deal now 'essentially impossible'
- Trump backtracks on Syria troop withdrawal

10th October

- Your protests are important, Boris's father tells 'crusties'
- No extension without new referendum or election, EU insists
- Ban eating on the train, says health chief

11th October

- Care cash boost saves NHS £177m
- Dyson electric car project scrapped
- Economy hits reverse gear as City raises no deal fears

12th October

- Anger over £28m Facebook tax bill
- BBC staff blockaded by climate change protest
- Locums earn £3,500 a shift as hospital crisis deepens



National News Headlines October 2019

13th October

- Stay-at-home sons cost £20k more than daughters
- Support grows for new Brexit poll amid fears over PM's plan
- Corporate landlords rake in profits from housing crisis

14th October

- Adoption crisis for youngsters in care
- 1 in 7 grans banned from grandchildren
- Queen's Speech: New laws on crime, health and the environment

15th October

- We're not there yet on Brexit deal say Irish
- Extinction Rebellion protests continue in London despite ban
- Prince William speaks about mental health on Pakistan school visit

16th October

- Russia moves in to stop Turkey's invasion of Syria
- Hate crimes top 100,000 with one in six happening in the capital
- First-time buyers at highest since credit crunch

17th October

- Lidl to invest £15bn in its UK suppliers
- Former pit villages 'scarred by the past'
- Brexit: EU and UK reach deal but DUP refuse support

18th October

- Knife crimes soar to 44,000 in a year
- US strikes ceasefire deal with Turkey to let Kurds withdraw
- Scottish Court reviews bid to stop 'illegal' Brexit deal



National News Headlines October 2019

19th October

- Cafes and markets boost High Streets
- Brexit: Commons set for knife-edge votes on deal
- Primary schools give free food to hungry families

20th October

- No delays, vows Johnson after humiliating Commons defeat
- Johnson refuses to sign Brexit delay letter
- The public will not stand by meekly as MPs continue to block Brexit

21st October

- 'Birth' of a new era in cancer prevention
- Brexit: No 10 to push again for vote on Boris Johnson's deal
- Waitrose and John Lewis to stop putting plastic toys in Christmas crackers

22nd October

- Our food 'tainted by a cocktail of pesticides'
- Brexit: Boris Johnson in last push to get deal through
- UK government borrowing up by a fifth over past six months

23rd October

- Police foil 24 Islam and 'Nazi' terrorist plots in just 2 years
- Patel orders inquiry into Manchester bombing
- Boris faces trench warfare of amendment 'sabotage'

24th October

- Ealing Abbey: Paedophile priests acted 'like the mafia'
- Brexit: No 10 denies government is split over pre-Christmas election
- Ofcom: BBC must do 'much more' for young audiences



National News Headlines November 2019

1st November

- Rape cases collapsing from weight of digital evidence, warns chief
- General election 2019: Farage calls on Johnson to 'build Leave alliance'
- Whirlpool 'silenced customers' amid tumble dryer fire scare

2nd November

- Glorifying terror 'is as bad as child porn'
- Grenfell fire chief is told to quit by ex-minister
- Springboks beat England to win Rugby World Cup

3rd November

- MPS attack online gambling industry for failing addicts
- £5bn Tory boost for OAPs and benefits
- Tories act to prevent NHS crisis hitting poll hopes

4th November

- Heart failure cases have risen by a third
- Mothercare UK administration plan threatens 2,500 jobs
- General Election 2019: Don't politicise health service - NHS boss

5th November

- Farage under fire from his own party
- General election 2019: Vote could deliver 'seismic change' - Swinson
- None of pledged starter homes built, says watchdog

6th November

- Unrealistic! EU leader blasts Corbyn Brexit plan
- Free TV is a welfare issue not target for cuts, say peers
- Queen's beloved fur coats will now be faux



National News Headlines November 2019

7th November

- Energy firms slated for 'ignoring elderly'
- Labour moderate axed in 'hard-Left stitch-up'
- General election 2019: Labour promises billions for public services

8th November

- William and Kate meet Grenfell victims at launch of disaster fund
- England flooding: Woman dies after being swept away in Derbyshire
- General election 2019: Sturgeon says Scotland's future at stake

9th November

- General election 2019: Tory pledge to boost GP numbers
- Brexit deal: NI firms must declare goods heading to rest of the UK
- 1.5m elderly denied the care they need to live with dignity

10th November

- Tories promise veterans discount rail cards
- Fury as decision on police probe into PM shelved until after poll
- Bercow: Cameron thinks he is born to rule

11th November

- Annual care cost to soar £18bn in 15 years
- General election 2019: Brexit Party will not stand in Tory seats
- Armistice Day: Nation falls silent in remembrance for 100th time

12th November

- £70m Chinese deal 'saves' British Steel
- Tories reveal 'a £200-a-month Labour tax hit'
- EU border checks 'still too weak'



National News Headlines November 2019

13th November

- Hong Kong law 'on brink of collapse'
- Councils cut services by 40% to pay care bill
- General election 2019: Labour vows to outspend Tories on the NHS

14th November

- Biggest show on American TV... Trump's impeachment
- Hospitals 'imploding' as waits at worst-ever level
- Seventeen arrested in human trafficking raids in London

15th November

- House building bonanza sees million homes built in 5 years
- Smart meter deadline to be missed again
- Germany to fine parents £2,000 if they fail to vaccinate children for measles

16th November

- Councils' £454m parking fines jackpot
- Prince Andrew interview: Jeffrey Epstein stay was 'wrong thing to do'
- General election 2019: Tories and Lib Dems in rival tree-planting pledges

17th November

- Corbyn vows to protect NHS from US drugs firms
- Stressed Whitehall staff at 'breaking point' over Brexit
- Labour to promise free dental check-ups for every adult

18th November

- International Criminal Court may investigate UK 'war crimes cover-up'
- General election 2019: PM puts corporation cuts on hold to help fund NHS
- Khan's number of affordable home starts branded 'pitiful'



National News Headlines November 2019

19th November

- Retail chains close 6,000 shops this year
- City's polluted air kills five people every week
- Repatriated IS Briton on terror charge

20th November

- General election 2019: Lib Dems promise £50bn 'windfall' from stopping Brexit
- Millions 'missing out' on NHS dentistry
- Knife thugs will go before the courts within days, vows Boris

21st November

- Funds crisis could lead to end of dental care on NHS
- Outcast Andrew: Summoned by Queen & Charles to Palace and told: It's over
- Alex Salmond accused of sexual assaults on 10 women

22nd November

- 7,000 coastal homes lost in UK by 2100
- Donations pour into Conservative coffers
- Syria conflict: UK to repatriate orphaned children

23rd November

- Corbynomics really DOES make business go up in smoke!
- General election 2019: Corbyn defends 'neutral' Brexit stance
- UK ticket-holder claims £105m EuroMillions jackpot

24th November

- Eamonn in race storm for calling Meghan 'uppity'
- Labour pledges £58bn to help women caught in pension trap
- Johnson tax vow to 'put money back in pockets'



National News Headlines November 2019

25th November

- Most millennials have already had six jobs
- PM 'guarantees' care crisis cure within 5 years
- TSB to close 82 branches next year to save costs

26th November

- General election 2019: Chief rabbi attacks Labour anti-Semitism record
- LGBT teaching row: Birmingham primary school protests permanently banned
- Tory majority would bring vote on Brexit deal before Christmas

27th November

- General election 2019: SNP vote 'will send clear message on indyref2'
- 'Proof NHS at risk under US trade deal' - Labour
- Rail strike will be £400m Christmas nightmare

28th November

- Poll puts Boris on course for a majority of 68
- General election 2019: Tory and Labour spending plans 'not credible' - IFS
- EU net migration to the UK falls to lowest level since 2003

29th November

- Npower to axe up to 4,500 jobs under closure plan
- General election 2019: Boris Johnson pledges new immigration rules by 2021
- Damilola's father: how have we let society turn so violent?

30th November

- London Bridge: Attacker had been convicted of terror offence
- Smoke alarms fail in a third of house fires
- Rail fares to rise by 2.7% in January



National News Headlines December 2019

1st December

- PM thrusts terror attack into centre of election battle
- Cambridge graduate died 'trying to help the underdogs'
- PM's fury over 70 freed terrorists

2nd December

- Doctors' backing for home abortion pills
- Commuters face rail strike misery as unions resume train guards row
- London Bridge: Families mourn victims at vigil

3rd December

- Scandal of child made homeless every 8 minutes
- Ultrasound can kill prostate cancer
- Donald Trump on UK election: 'I can work with any prime minister'

4th December

- Conservatives pledge £4.2bn for trains, buses and trams
- Boris Johnson: UK's commitment to Nato is 'rock solid'
- Nearly a third of children overweight or obese

5th December

- Facebook secrecy 'will make it easier to groom children'
- General election 2019: Tories promise Brexit and Budget in first 100 days
- Long waits 'leave mental health patients in limbo'

6th December

- Seizures of cocaine triple to record high
- General election 2019: Major urges support for ex-Tory Brexit rebels
- More than 50 terrorist prisoners freed in past year, Home Office reveals



National News Headlines December 2019

7th December

- Girl, 15, charged after singer Katherine Jenkins mugged
- Ex-Met chief: We need to do more to tackle home-grown terror threat
- Oceans are losing oxygen at an unprecedented rate

8th December

- Calls grow to stop Johnson with tactical voting as race tightens
- Patient data from GPs' surgeries sold to US
- Tories unveil strict limits on unskilled migrants

9th December

- PM's bid to woo Labour voters with his 'one-nation' pitch
- Christmas price war sees mortgage rates hit 1.05%
- General election 2019: Labour vows Budget 'to end austerity' in first 100 days

10th December

- Outrage at £254m bill to park at hospitals
- Drug-cheat Russia hit with world sport ban
- Falklands veteran 'forced out over sexuality' will get medal back

11th December

- MPs urged to back free TV licence for over-75s
- Bird flu outbreak in Suffolk leads to chicken slaughter
- Horror tales of volcano survivors as deaths rise

12th December

- Doctors' crisis alert as toll of homeless using A&E rockets
- Boris: It's on a knife edge, don't vote for more dither and delay
- General election 2019: Voters head to polls across the UK



National News Headlines December 2019

13th December

- Election results 2019: Boris Johnson hails ‘new dawn’ after historic victory
- Jeremy Corbyn: ‘I will not lead Labour at next election’
- Election results 2019: Lib Dem leader Jo Swinson to step down

14th December

- Boris Johnson thanks North for trusting Tories
- Battle in Labour for control of the party
- Lib Dems facing leadership crisis

15th December

- Corbyn refuses to take rap for Labour disaster
- ‘Let the healing begin’ – but as Brexit battle ends, indyref2 fight resumes
- Johnson has no right to stand in way of referendum, says Sturgeon

16th December

- ‘Get a jab now’ alert as NHS is braced for Christmas flu crisis
- Boris Johnson’s Brexit bill planned for Friday
- ‘£50m in jewellery’ stolen from heiress Ecclestone

17th December

- Scrooge! Banks slash savings accounts that beat base rate
- Brexit bill to rule out extension to transition period
- Whirlpool washing machine danger revealed as recall launched

18th December

- Blair attacks Corbyn’s ‘comic indecision’ on Brexit
- Whirlpool forced to recall 500,000 tumble dryers
- Nurses’ strike NI: Thousands of nurses go on strike



National News Headlines December 2019

19th December

- Whirlpool customers frustrated as helpline jammed
- Queen's Speech: Monarch outlines PM's Brexit and NHS agenda
- Scottish independence: Sturgeon requests powers for referendum

20th December

- MPs set to vote through Brexit Bill
- J K Rowling engulfed by transgender rights storm
- Department for Brexit to be axed after January 31

21st December

- Brexit: MPs debate Johnson's Brexit bill ahead of vote
- Flooding brings travel disruption to south-east England
- Andrew Bailey appointed as new Bank of England governor

22nd December

- Home Office 'ignoring offers to give homes to child refugees'
- BBC could restrict journalists' Twitter use
- Shadow minister at centre of police sex assault investigation

23rd December

- Big Ben's chimes will ring us out of the EU
- New EU chief in defence contracts storm 'had mobile phone wiped'
- Tesco Christmas card factory in China denies 'forced labour'

24th December

- Five face being beheaded over murder of Khashoggi
- Prince Philip leaves hospital for Christmas with Queen at Sandringham
- Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn praise NHS in Christmas messages



25th December

- Royal Family attend Sandringham Christmas Day church services
- Labour 'risks horror film sequel in town hall polls'
- Bank links low interest rates to a baby boom

26th December

- Rowan Williams: Climate change 'largest challenge ever'
- Bootcamps to get cancer patients fit for surgery
- 2020 predicted to be a year of growth

27th December

- Patients threatened with bailiffs by the NHS car park sharks
- Climate change: Migrant species do well in warm and wet UK in 2019
- Legal aid: UK's top judge says cuts caused 'serious difficulty'

28th December

- 'Brutality' of Labour Party drove me out, says Watson
- 2 in 3 want BBC licence fee scrapped
- UK railways need 'radical overhaul', campaigners say

29th December

- Blow to high street as shoppers shun discounts of 75 per cent
- Prisons chaos fuels massive legal bill as violence surges
- Honours fiasco as 1,000 addresses revealed

30th December

- First police online hate crime unit charges only 1% of web trolls
- Bank of England chief Mark Carney issues climate change warning
- Top schools defend rejecting bursary for white boys

31st December

- Mixed-sex pairs' civil ceremonies start today
- National living wage to rise by 6.2% in April
- Jeremy Corbyn urges Labour to lead 'resistance' to Conservatives in 2020





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Alternative Cover Options

On the left are potential alternative cover designs determined by our Editorial Department for the Winter 2019 edition of Government World

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