

Official Statistics: Sub-national electricity consumption in Northern Ireland, 2016

Experimental statistics on Sub-national domestic and non-domestic electricity consumption in Northern Ireland for 2016.

National Statistics: Sub-national total final energy consumption during 2016

Data which aggregates the sub-national electricity, gas, road transport and other fuels consumption datasets produced by BEIS.

Press release: UK leads the fight against increasing drug resistant TB

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced at the UN General Assembly yesterday (Wednesday 26 September) that UK aid will be dedicated to developing shorter, safer and more effective treatments for TB.

These new treatments could also help tackle the rise of drug resistant TB. In 2017 an estimated 600,000 people developed drug resistant TB but the success rate with current treatments is 55 per cent – making it a major public health crisis.

Scientists and health workers in developing countries are constantly battling to combat this leading killer infectious disease, with mortality rates being higher in low income countries such as Mozambique and the Central African Republic.

This latest support for the TB Alliance will help develop new, safer drugs for the disease, which last year infected 10 million people.

Speaking after a high-level meeting on TB at UNGA yesterday Ms Mordaunt said:

TB is the biggest killer among infectious diseases globally. The UK is already leading the way to tackle TB through investment in research and development. UK aid will help develop three new TB drugs, which offer quicker-acting treatments for the millions of people affected by drug-resistant TB each year.

The work of our expert scientists is bolstering our efforts to ensure we can tackle these diseases that do not respect borders. It is a win for the UK and a win for the developing world.

The UK government has been clear this research alone is not enough to meet the Global Goal target to end TB by 2030. That is why Heads of State will meet at the high-level meeting at UNGA to sign a political declaration, signalling a step-change in the international leadership and commitments necessary to drive progress on fighting TB.

DFID has also supported Aeras, a non-profit organisation working with GSK and other partners, to develop and test a new TB vaccine. Early results show the number of HIV-negative people developing TB was reduced by about half.

The UK already provides substantial support to international organisations, including the Global Fund, Unitaid and world-class research to develop new health products. These investments support large-scale TB programmes and critical research into innovative new medicines and diagnostics to help tackle TB. The UK's work in strengthening country health systems also plays a vital role in tackling the disease.

Yesterday the University of Oxford also announced its team of scientists and global experts have led a major breakthrough in the understanding of TB's genetic code. Their research has the potential to shape how TB is diagnosed in the future to make sure the right drugs are prescribed.

Dr Timothy Walker, Academic Clinical Lecturer in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Oxford, said:

This is a new exciting era for TB diagnostics. These advances will soon mean those suffering with TB can get individual treatment that is right for them to help them fight the disease, moving beyond treating patients on a "best guess" basis.

Public Health England announced this week TB rates in England have dropped to the lowest level since 1990. The data showed a 38 per cent drop in new diagnoses from the peak in 2011 to 2017 (from 8,280 to 5,102).

Notes to editors

- £7.5 million new UK aid support has been given to the TB Alliance to develop shorter, simpler treatments against TB that are affordable to the poorest countries in the world.
- The [latest figures on TB published by the World Health Organization](#) show

that in 2017, 10 million people developed this preventable and treatable disease and 1.6 million people died.

- Through our support to the Global Fund in the fourth replenishment round (2014-2016) the UK ensured TB treatment was provided to 1.26m people worldwide.
 - The UK supports the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, which is developing new diagnostic tests for TB. Funding to date has included support for the highly successful GeneXpert test, which is now used in 140 countries, including the UK, to help improve diagnosis for TB.
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News story: New appointments to Competition and Markets Authority confirmed

Business Secretary Greg Clark has today (Thursday 27 September) confirmed appointments to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) panel.

The CMA has subsequently appointed Martin Coleman as an Inquiry Chair and Panel Chair. As 1 of 4 Inquiry Chairs, he will be responsible for chairing groups of CMA panel members making decisions on Phase 2 merger inquiries, market investigations and regulatory appeals.

The Panel Chair supports the effective operation of the inquiry process, including appointing members to inquiry panels. Mr Coleman takes over the role from Anne Lambert, whose term of office ended on 31 August 2018.

Currently a non-executive director of the CMA board – a role in which he will continue – Mr Coleman is also Deputy Chair for the Office for Students, the regulator for higher education in England, and a member of the CMA Remuneration Committee. He was formerly Global Head of Competition at an international law firm. His experience and expertise will aid the CMA's work in promoting competition for the benefit of consumers, businesses and the economy.

Kirstin Baker, who was recently appointed as a non-executive director and panel member by the Business Secretary, has also been confirmed by the CMA as a further Inquiry Chair. Ms Baker had a long career in the civil service and was most recently HM Treasury's Finance and Commercial Director.

The CMA is a non-ministerial department and the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It has responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries, and enforcing competition and consumer law.

[News story: UK Asset Resolution sale of an £860 million mortgage portfolio](#)

The sale of an £860 million equity release mortgage portfolio, owned by Bradford & Bingley (B&B) and NRAM Limited (formerly part of Northern Rock), has been authorised by the Chancellor.

These mortgages were acquired by the taxpayer during the financial crisis and their sale simplifies the books of both B&B and NRAM, bringing the government closer to the final wind-down of these companies. It also marks a milestone in the plan to recover taxpayers' money – ten years on.

Following a highly competitive auction, these mortgages will be sold to Rothesay Life, a Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority regulated firm.

There will be no changes to the terms and conditions of the mortgages sold. Borrowers do not need to take any action.

UK Asset Resolution (UKAR), the holding company for B&B and NRAM, will also at the same time terminate interest rate swaps, which hedge the risk of changes in interest rates, held against these mortgages. These swaps were taken out by B&B and Northern Rock more than 10 years ago when the loans were issued, in line with good risk management practice. Due to the fall in long term interest rates, there is a substantial cost for terminating the swaps which is expected to exceed the profit on the sale of the loans, resulting in a net overall accounting loss on the two transactions.

The assets will be sold for a price above their book value. Proceeds from this sale will be used to pay down the national debt. However, given the unwinding of the swaps, national debt will be reduced by an amount which is less than the sale proceeds. These figures are subject to an adjustment mechanism and will be known when the transaction completes in the next few weeks, and subsequently disclosed to Parliament.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond said:

We're continuing to recover the money the taxpayer committed during the financial crash, and the sale of these loans moves us one step closer. The proceeds of this sale will go towards reducing our national debt.

B&B's and NRAM Limited's closed loan books are managed by UKAR on behalf of the taxpayer. Following this transaction, UKAR now owns c.£13 billion worth of assets, down from £21 billion in September 2017 and from £116 billion in

2010.

As a result of this transaction UKAR expects to repay approximately £1 billion of the government loan which is made up of a number of components in addition to the actual sales proceeds. Following repayment, UKAR will have repaid 94% of its loans from the government.