

[National Statistics: Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: Headline reports and technical reports 2016-2017 to 2017-2018](#)

The MENE survey provides trend data for how people use the natural environment in England.

[Guidance: Woodland creation grant: Countryside Stewardship](#)

You can apply for this grant all year round.

The grant is for a 2 year capital works programme to plant and protect young trees.

A woodland creation maintenance grant [WD1](#) of £200 per hectare for 10 years is available through Higher Tier. You have to meet the objectives of the capital works agreement and have had your final claim approved first.

Use the manual on this page to understand:

- the eligibility requirements
- how to apply
- the payments you could receive
- the rules and conditions for the scheme

If you applied for the grant between 2 January and 16 February 2018 refer to the [previous manual](#).

[News story: Funding boost for green](#)

last mile delivery bikes

- government announces a £2 million funding pot to support uptake of e-cargo bikes
- e-cargo bikes offer a zero emission alternative to traditional last mile delivery vehicles
- older diesel vans making short deliveries are currently a major source of congestion and harmful emissions

The government has announced £2 million to support the uptake of e-cargo bikes, driving UK companies towards a greener future.

The funding will help pave the way for the nimble electric delivery vehicles to replace older, polluting vans – helping to improve the environment and reduce congestion.

The announcement is part of the international [Zero Emission Vehicle Summit](#) being held in Birmingham this week. The event is bringing together policy makers, industry experts and opinion formers from around globe to tackle carbon emissions and to explore ways to improve air quality.

Jesse Norman, Minister for Low Emission Vehicles, said:

Support for e-cargo bikes will help to ensure that Britain leads the way in the development and deployment of the technologies of the future.

Encouraging electric delivery bikes on to our city streets will cut traffic and improve air quality, and will show how these vehicles have the potential to play an important role in the zero emission future of this country.

The government's plans will encourage alternate green technologies to counter the increasing usage of diesel delivery vans that has accompanied the boom in internet shopping, and comes as 16 of the UK's largest van fleet operators have signed up to the clean van commitment in a bid to go electric.

In the last year alone spending online in the UK increased by 15.3% and the latest road traffic estimates indicate van traffic increased by 4.7% to 49.5 billion vehicle miles in 2016.

Most of these vans are diesel, which cause congestion and have a detrimental impact on the environment. Over time the government expects to see increasing numbers of electric vans on UK streets but there is also a place for other delivery modes including e-cargo bikes.

The announcement of the grant is an early response to the [last mile call for evidence](#), which closes today (10 September 2018). The call for evidence asked for views on how the government can harness the opportunities for greener

delivery in the commercial and residential parts of our cities and towns. Further detail about the distribution of this funding will be outlined shortly along with the government's full response to the call for evidence.

It also builds on previous government-funded UK trials for e-cargo bikes in Spring 2017. The Department for Transport's [Innovation Challenge Fund](#) grant enabled London-based e-cargo Bikes to set up their first Micro Hub on an industrial estate in Islington from which grocery delivery trials with Sainsbury's were conducted.

The trials exceeded expectations in its potential commercial viability and efficiency, which showed that 96.7% of orders could be fulfilled in a single e-cargo bike drop.

This funding builds on the [government's Road to Zero Strategy](#) which outlines the government's ambition to lead the world in the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles.

It also forms an important part of the government's work on the [Future of Mobility Grand Challenge](#), part of the modern [Industrial Strategy](#), which is considering how emerging technologies and services can be used to address a range of transport challenges.

[Press release: Public Health England and Drinkaware launch Drink Free Days](#)

A YouGov poll has found that one in five of UK adults are drinking above the [Chief Medical Officer's low risk drinking guidelines](#) and more than two thirds of these say they would find cutting down on their drinking harder to do than one or more other lifestyle changes – improving their diet, exercising more, or reducing their smoking, if they were smokers.

Working together for the first time, Public Health England and alcohol education charity [Drinkaware](#) are today (10 September 2018) jointly launching a new campaign 'Drink Free Days' to help people cut down on the amount of alcohol they are regularly drinking.

The campaign will be encouraging middle-aged drinkers to use the tactic of taking more days off from drinking as a way of reducing their health risks from alcohol.

The more alcohol people drink , the greater their risk of developing a number of serious potentially life limiting health conditions, such as high blood pressure and heart disease, as well as 7 types of cancer.

Regular drinking also increases the amount of calories consumed and can

contribute to weight gain and obesity. Evidence from behavioural science suggests that simple and easy ways of helping people to change their behaviour are the most effective, which is why Drinkaware and PHE have chosen to focus on Drink Free Days.

Pre-campaign research also found that the concept resonated strongly with people and was seen as clear to follow, positive and achievable.

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive at Public Health England, said:

Many of us enjoy a drink – but whether it’s a few in the pub after work a couple of times a week, some beers on the sofa watching the football or regular wine with our dinner – it’s all too easy to let our drinking creep up on us.

While the link with liver disease is well known, many people are not aware that alcohol can cause numerous other serious health problems, such as high blood pressure, heart disease as well as several cancers. It’s also an easy way to pile on the pounds.

About 10 million people in England are drinking in ways that increases the risks and many are struggling to cut down. Setting yourself a target of having more drink free days every week is an easy way to drink less and reduce the risks to your health.

Commenting, Drinkaware Chief Executive Elaine Hindal said:

The more you drink, the greater the risk to your health. It’s really that simple.

But an increasing number of people, particularly middle aged drinkers, are drinking in ways that are putting them at risk of serious and potentially life limiting conditions such as heart disease, liver disease and some types of cancer.

That’s where this campaign comes in and we’re delighted to be joining forces with Public Health England for the first time to help give people that knowledge.

Having a few drink free days each week, will help reduce the risks to your health and improve your wellbeing.

This new partnership between Public Health England and Drinkaware is a fresh and bold step in our work to reduce alcohol harm. PHE’s One You digital platform has a strong track record on encouraging behaviour change; Drinkaware is an independent educational charity with an extensive reach to the key audiences. Working together to help communicate the message that having drink free days will reduce the risks to your health is the first move in what we hope will be a long term partnership.

Former England and Liverpool footballer John Barnes is supporting the campaign which will be providing people with a range of tools and resources to help them cut back and make better choices about their drinking.

John said:

This is an important campaign highlighting how many of us don't realise that we are drinking in ways that could be harming our health and how we are struggling to moderate.

A beer here and a glass of wine there might not seem like much but the units can add up and so too can the health risks.

Having a few more days a week that are drink free is a great way of taking control of our drinking and making healthier choices for the future which is why I am supporting this fantastic campaign.

A dedicated website provides all the information, resources and apps to help support people, including the [One You Drink Free Days app](#) and Drinkaware's [Drink Compare Calculator](#).

YouGov Survey

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from [YouGov](#). YouGov interviewed 8,906 UK adults aged 18 to 85 online between 14 May and 5 June 2018. This included a subset of 1,847 adults who drank over 14 units in the last week. Data has been weighted to be representative of the UK adult population according to gender, age, social grade and region.

Proportion of adults drinking above the lower risk guidelines

Research shows that middle-aged drinkers are more likely to be drinking more (above the 14 units lower risk guidelines) than the general population: [Adult Survey for England 2016 – Adult Health Trends \(table 10\)](#).

Campaign evaluation

PHE and [Drinkaware](#) will separately undertake full independent evaluations and peer review processes.

The public health burden of alcohol

Evidence review: this PHE review looks at the [impact of alcohol on the public health and the effectiveness of alcohol control policies](#).

Alcohol consumption: advice on low risk drinking

[UK Chief Medical Officer's guidelines](#) on how to keep health risks from drinking alcohol to a low level.

Drink Free Days app

The [Drink Free Days app](#) is a simple and easy way to track the days you drink alcohol and the days you don't.

One You

Launched in March 2016, [One You](#) from Public Health England is the first nationwide programme to support adults in making simple changes that can have a huge influence on their health, could help prevent diseases such as type 2 diabetes, cancer and heart disease and reduce risk of suffering a stroke or living with dementia, disability and frailty in later life. It aims to inform, energise and engage millions of adults, especially those in the 40 to 60 'middle-aged' group, to make changes to improve their own health by eating well, moving more, drinking less and quitting smoking. One You also provides information on free health checks and how people can reduce their stress levels and sleep better.

About Drinkaware

[Drinkaware](#) is an independent charity which aims to reduce alcohol-related harm by helping people make better choices about their drinking. We achieve this by providing impartial, evidence based information, advice and practical resources; raising awareness of alcohol and its harms, and working collaboratively with partners..Follow them on Twitter [@drinkaware](#).

About PHE

[Public Health England](#) exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and providing specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific expertise and support. Follow us on Twitter: [@PHE_uk](#) and Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland.

Press release: Justice Secretary unveils Victims Strategy

- Government acts to boost support for victims across the justice system
- Victim entitlements enshrined in law and Victims' Code to be strengthened
- More powers for the Victims' Commissioner to hold government to account
- Review of Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme; unfair "same roof" rule

abolished

- Greater support for victims of disasters through Independent Public Advocate

Support for victims of crime will be overhauled following the launch of the first ever cross-government Victims Strategy.

The strategy will be published here when it has been laid in Parliament. Please join the conversation on social channels using [#SpeakOut](#).

The Justice Secretary today set out how the government will ensure that support for victims – including those of violent offences such as terrorism and child sexual abuse – is aligned to the changing nature of crime, and boost services at every stage of the justice system.

The strategy makes clear the specific support victims can expect – beginning immediately after a crime, and ending long after any court proceedings. The government currently spends roughly £200 million per year on support services for victims of crime.

Today's launch also serves as the next step in the delivery of Manifesto commitments to establish an Independent Public Advocate for victims of public disasters and enshrine victims' entitlements in law.

Commenting on the importance of this work to the government, Prime Minister Theresa May said:

Nothing can take away the distress and trauma of being a victim of crime, but ensuring people get the support they need as they rebuild their lives is vital.

How we support victims is fundamental to a caring society, and in recognition of that we are taking steps to enshrine their rights in law for the very first time.

The duty of a government is to keep people safe, but it is not enough to simply bring offenders to court. Victims need to know they are protected and listened to, and we will continue to work with charities and support groups to improve their experience.

Justice Secretary David Gauke said:

Many of us will be lucky enough to not have to encounter the justice system as a victim of crime – but those who do must not also become a victim of the process.

We will enshrine victims' entitlements in law by beginning a consultation early next year, and otherwise seek to boost the

Victims' Code.

This strategy addresses the changing nature of crime, and sets out the support victims should receive at every stage of their journey through the justice system – from providing statements to police, appearing in court or in front of the Parole Board, and every step in between.

Key aspects of the strategy

The strategy sets out how the government will:

- Consult on a revised [Victims' Code](#) to ensure entitlements better reflect the needs of victims and the changing nature of crime. For example, we will reduce the points of contact for victims through reviewing the roles and responsibilities of agencies that support victims, and review support for victims of mentally disordered offenders.
- Consult on a Victims' Law to underpin the code, which will include strengthening the Victims' Commissioner's powers. We will launch a consultation in early 2019, with the aim of an amended code being in place in 2019.
- Consult on the establishment of an Independent Public Advocate (IPA) to help bereaved families following a disaster. They will help guide families throughout an investigative process, ensuring their voices are heard at inquests, and that they are directed to appropriate support services.
- [Review the entire Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme \(CICS\)](#) so it reflects the changing nature of crime – particularly around applications relating to child sexual abuse and terrorism. We will consider reform of the eligibility criteria, and will abolish the unfair and arbitrary pre-1979 'same roof rule.' We will launch a consultation by early 2019 on a review of the scheme.
- Improve communication and support for victims during the parole process. We will simplify the [Victim Contact Scheme](#) and improve the quality of communication; allow [Victim Personal Statements](#) at parole hearings; and roll out revised training for Victim Liaison Officers.

Significant progress has been made to address the causes of crime, including the work announced in the [Serious Violence Strategy](#), and the introduction of the [Modern Slavery Act](#).

But ministers are clear that more must be done for victims. For example, fewer than 20% of victims were aware of the Victims' Code, which sets out the minimum entitlements and services they should receive by law. Only 15% said they were given the opportunity by the police to make a Victim Personal Statement.

Baroness Newlove, Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales said:

This is a timely focus on the needs and rights of victims, and is a

major step forward towards ensuring they receive the care, support and justice they deserve.

Victims consistently tell me that they feel their status in the criminal justice system is not comparable with that of the offender. As Victims' Commissioner I have long been calling for a Victims Law to ensure that the rights of victims are central to the delivery of our justice system.

I welcome this Victims' Strategy which brings us a step closer to seeing a Victims Law on the statute books. Such a law will mean that no victim in the future will have to fight for the support they're entitled to.

I will continue to push government to ensure that victims whose lives may be devastatingly transformed by the crime committed against them, are afforded the rights they so justly deserve.

Diana Fawcett, Chief Officer of the independent charity Victim Support, said:

As the national charity for victims we welcome the steps set out today to bring forward a Victims' Law and to strengthen the Victims' Code. We are also pleased that the government has announced a much-needed review of criminal injuries compensation for victims.

We have worked closely with the government as they've developed their strategy and we look forward to continuing this, to ensure that the reforms truly work for victims.

The strategy sets out new policy, and brings together existing funding commitments made by various government departments.

The strategy also outlines plans to improve support for victims of major tragedies to ensure that the painful experience of the Hillsborough families is not replicated.

Further measures in the strategy include:

- Commitments to increase spending from £31 million in 2018 to £39 million in 2020/21 to improve services for victims of sexual violence and abuse who seek support from Sexual Assault Referral Centres.
- Greater support for families bereaved by homicide, including new funding for advocacy support for families bereaved by domestic homicide.
- Boosting the number of Registered Intermediaries – communication experts helping vulnerable victims and witnesses give their best evidence at police interview and trial – by 25%.
- Improving court environments, with new victim-friendly waiting areas and an emphasis on accessibility for the most vulnerable.
- Keeping the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme under review, and considering

an extension so victims and the public can have sentences reconsidered by the Court of Appeal.

- Focus on better enforcement of the Victims' Code, with increased responsibility for Police and Crime Commissioners in monitoring the delivery of services.
- The creation of a short, user-friendly overview of the Victims' Code in hardcopy and electronic formats.
- Developing a new delivery model for victim support services, and coordinating funding across government.

Notes to editors

- This strategy marks the latest milestone in improving the support for victims and builds on important progress over the last few years:
 - In 2006, The Code of Practice for Victims (the Victims' Code) established for the first time in law services that must be provided to victims of crime in England and Wales by criminal justice agencies.
 - In 2010, the first Victims' Commissioner was appointed. The statutory position was set up to champion the interests of victims and witnesses and encourage good practice in their treatment.
 - 'Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses' was published in 2012 and set out the government's approach for making sure victims and witnesses get the support they need.
 - The creation of the Victims' Panel to represent the voice of victims in government policy making.
 - Wider provision of special measures for vulnerable and intimidated witnesses many of whom are victims.
 - Seeking new laws and stronger powers to protect and support survivors of domestic abuse.
 - Creating new offences to protect more victims and bring offenders to justice including: revenge porn, coercive or controlling behaviour, and sexual communication with a child.
- The latest Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) estimates suggest one in five adults experienced crime in the year ending March 2018.
- Despite crime having fallen since the mid-1990s, the types of offences being committed are changing. Fraud and cyber offences now make nearly half of all crime in England and Wales. Additionally, more victims are coming forward to report crimes that have traditionally been under-reported. For instance, reported sex crimes have risen by nearly a quarter in a year, with demand for male rape support services rising 176% in the last three years.
- There has been a sharp rise in serious violence, with police recorded knife crime up by 16% in England and Wales in 2017/18 and the number of homicides rose by 12% in the same period. In London, acid attacks have more than doubled since 2014. The government's Serious Violence Strategy, published in April, puts a stronger focus on steering young people away from violence, whilst continuing to ensure the strongest possible response from law enforcement agencies.
- In April the Justice Secretary published findings of a review of parole processes, and measures to increase its transparency and improve the

treatment of victims. One immediate step has been to change the rules to allow the Parole Board to explain its decisions to victims, media and the public. Since this change, the Parole Board has received over 850 requests for summary decisions.

- The government's intention to establish an Independent Public Advocate (IPA) "for victims of public disasters" was outlined in the 2017 Conservative Party Manifesto and confirmed in the Queen's Speech. The consultation, launched today, seeks views on the remit and powers of the IPA and closes on 3 December.
- Stakeholder engagement on the review of Victims' Code, strengthening the Victims' Commissioner's powers and the Victims' Law will commence in the coming weeks, with a view to a formal public consultation in early 2019, and an amended Code being in place in 2019.
- The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme awards taxpayer-funded payments to victims injured as a result violent crime, paying out more than £150 million to victims in 2017/18. Full details of the review of the scheme will be announced in due course, with a public consultation to be launched in early 2019.