

# News story: New strategy launched to keep consumers safe and protect businesses that do the right thing

- Plan forms part of the government's modern Industrial Strategy, building confidence in the system delivering the highest level of protection for consumers and helping British businesses to thrive
- Strategy will also help protect responsible businesses from unfair competition posed by unsafe products

Plans to strengthen the UK's world-leading product safety regime have been set out today (10 August 2018) by the government's newly established Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS).

The OPSS was established in January to help keep consumers safe and enforce the UK's strict safety laws and the strategy and delivery plan launched today sets out a bold programme of action to enhance the UK's ability to identify risks, protect consumers and co-ordinate large scale product recalls and repairs.

Included in the plan are ambitious new measures such as:

- a new national incident management team for product safety incidents capable of coordinating large scale product recall and repair programmes
- establishing a new website to support consumers with reliable information and advice about recalled products
- increased support for local authority enforcement teams at ports, borders and points of entry to ensure the safety of goods that are entering the UK
- close working with manufacturers to ensure they are compliant with safety regulations from an earlier stage of the production process
- developing tools and guidance to assist local authorities in improving risk assessments, identifying mistakes before they happen

Consumer Minister Kelly Tolhurst said:

Our top priority is keeping the British public safe and we established the Office for Product Safety and Standards in January to play an enhanced role in strengthening our tough and well-respected product safety regime.

Today's strategy will fulfil that promise, allowing consumers to buy products with confidence, secure in the knowledge there is a robust and effective system in place to keep people safe and hold companies accountable.

It will also ensure that the vast majority of businesses that do the right thing and comply with the law are protected from the unfair competition presented by companies that bypass the rules and sell unsafe products.

Chair of the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety, Neil Gibbins, said:

I am pleased to see this strategy is designed to lead to the implementation of one of the key steps identified by the group. National capacity to support our locally based trading standards officers is warmly welcomed.

Today's strategy forms a key part of the government's modern Industrial Strategy, delivering on its commitment to provide consumers with the highest levels of protection while ensuring the UK has a business environment that protects businesses that do the right thing.

The delivery plan 2020, published alongside the strategy, also sets out a number of additional commitments for the OPSS including:

- working with white goods manufacturers, gaining assurance that their compliance systems are robust and that they are implementing the Product Recalls Code of Practice
- publishing a Strategic Research Programme, setting out priorities for scientific research into potential product safety risks
- preparing the first national Strategic Assessment to prioritise product safety actions, based on scientific evidence
- working with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and public health bodies to further improve injury data collection
- working with the government's Behavioural Insights Unit to understand how to most effectively reach consumers in product recall scenarios and with wider product safety messages
- encouraging greater diversity in standards committee membership
- supporting consumer awareness campaigns about specific hazards

Since its formation in January, the OPSS has been working closely with regulatory bodies such as National Trading Standards, other government departments and manufacturers to upgrade the product safety system.

This has included publishing the world's first Code of Practice for Product Safety Recall which sets out how businesses should recall products, work with manufacturers and retailers to improve labelling and raise consumer awareness of the risks of laser pointers, and beginning work, ahead of EU exit, with Trading Standards at key border checkpoints to strengthen our ability to stop unsafe products at the border.

Backed up by a clear delivery plan to 2020, the strategy sets out how Safety and Standards will:

- analyse: strengthening analysis to support effective decision making,

- making the best use of scientific evidence, risk and intelligence
- inform: providing information to support consumers in making informed choices and ensuring that businesses have the information they need to be responsible and comply with the law
  - enforce: delivering responsive, effective and targeted enforcement to maintain protection, fairness and confidence
  - build: creating a robust product safety system infrastructure that supports innovation and ensures the UK system is fit for the future

## Office of Product Safety and Standards

The government created the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) on 21 January 2018 to identify consumer risks and manage responses to large-scale product recalls and repairs, enabling the UK to meet the evolving challenges of product safety by responding to expanding international trade, the growth in online shopping and the increasing rate of product innovation.

Alongside the product safety strategy and delivery plan, the government will today publish an incident management plan, a strategic research plan and a summary of key achievements by the OPSS since its launch in January.

The strategy does not lessen any of the legal responsibilities of manufacturers, importers and retailers to present safe products to the market, and to take rapid effective action when safety issues arise with their products.

There are no changes to the roles and responsibilities of local authorities or other market surveillance authorities. The office will provide a number of specialist services centrally to support consistent national enforcement, including aspects of product testing and technical expertise.

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## [News story: Special Recognition for Ministry of Defence Police Inspector Anne Turner](#)

Inspector Anne Turner, a training manager in the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) Operational Capability Centre in Scotland, was presented with a Special Recognition Award by the British Association for Women in Policing (BAWP) at their awards ceremony in June. There were 247 nominees for the awards from 34 forces.

Sponsored by Deloitte, Anne's award category was open to male and female nominees, either within policing or in partnership with the community who have made 'a significant contribution to gender equality or service to females'.

A normal day for Anne in the office.

Anne was nominated for her dedication and commitment to MDP training (and in particular police firearms training) throughout her career, and more specifically for the work she has done to support female officers. Anne has always been viewed as a role model by her female colleagues in the MDP and says that:

Being the first female firearms instructor was a proud achievement for me, and let me show other females they too could push themselves into any career path they wished.

When I was contacted by the BAWP to tell me of my award I was dumbfounded. I never think of myself as doing anything special, I just get on with a job I enjoy and help others where I can. When I heard the stories behind the others who had been nominated for awards I felt privileged to be considered in the same group, but I think all of us felt the same. We were just doing our job and if there is one thing that this award has taught me it is to do just that. Do what you can to support others whenever the chance arises because it's amazing the difference it can make to everyone, as well as making you feel good about yourself.

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## [News story: Billion-pound backing for British innovation](#)

- £780m of extra funding for high-tech hubs
- This builds on £180m announced last month for North East
- Backing for British expertise at 40-year high
- Latest GDP figures confirm economy continues to grow

Britain's world-leading researchers and entrepreneurs will benefit from an additional £780 million to create the technologies of tomorrow, the Chancellor announced today (10 August 2018).

Philip Hammond will expand successful 'catapult centres' which are fuelling innovation across the country as part of the UK's ambitious, modern Industrial Strategy. This new funding backs Britain's brightest talent – supporting work in high-tech labs, cutting-edge factories and advanced training centres.

So far this has helped create hundreds of new products, services and inventions, including a portable pollution sensor that parents can attach to a child's buggy, cellular therapies to fight cancer and improve recovery of

stroke victims, LED treatment for blindness, and more-efficient wings for aeroplanes.

The Chancellor made the announcement during a visit to the West Midlands on the day GDP figures showed the UK economy has grown by 0.4%.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said:

We are working hard to build a stronger, fairer economy – dealing with the deficit, helping people into work, and cutting taxes for individuals and businesses. Unemployment is at its lowest since the 1970s, our national debt is starting to fall, and the economy has grown every year since 2010.

It is by backing innovative British companies to grow and create jobs that we will continue this progress and build an economy fit for the future. Today's £780 million investment will support innovators across the country to create the technologies of the future, and the better, highly-paid jobs we urgently need.

This builds on £180 million announced by the Prime Minister for centres in the North East last month, taking the total of additional funding to almost £1 billion.

Mr Hammond met with apprentices and workers, who specialise in automation and machining, at the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry. This high-tech facility has benefited from £122 million of government funding, and is currently a world-leader in 3D printing.

The UK has a reputation for innovation and is building on this strength with the largest investment in research and development in 40 years. This is part of our balanced approach, getting debt falling while investing to create more opportunities for the high-skilled, well-paid jobs of the future.

The catapult network supports sectors and technologies that are going to be in high demand in the years ahead. It brings together the best of UK business, science and engineering to work side by side in research and development to 'catapult' products from ideas to market. It helps remove barriers to growth, which often can include access to finance, inadequate facilities or skills shortages.

Business Secretary Greg Clark added:

We are a nation of innovators, creators and entrepreneurs. Through our modern Industrial Strategy, backed by the largest investment in R&D in 40 years, we are boosting growth, creating new highly skilled jobs and helping change people's lives for the better.

This government wants to make the UK the most innovative nation in the world and the investment in our world leading catapult network

will play a key role in building on UK strengths, bringing new ideas and products to market and helping drive local economies across the UK.

Dr Ian Campbell, Interim Executive Chair of Innovate UK, said:

Today's significant announcement means our world-class network of catapults can build on their success and continue helping thousands of businesses across the UK to undertake innovative R&D. This long-term investment will mean the catapults can help deliver the Grand Challenges of the Industrial Strategy in their sectors and help the UK achieve its ambition to raise investment in R&D to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

In their first five years the catapults have supported around 3,000 small businesses to develop and exploit new technologies. They operate more than £850m world-class facilities and are also training hundreds of apprentices and doctoral students, such as at the High Value Manufacturing Catapult where in the last year 900 apprentices have gained invaluable practical experience with cutting-edge technologies used in modern manufacturing.

## Further Information

Regional breakdown of funding:

Region	New funding	Project
West Midlands	£270.9m	For the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry and Warwick Manufacturing Group (both part of the High Value Manufacturing Centre) and the Energy Systems Catapult, in Birmingham.
Yorkshire and the Humber	£126.7m	For the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, in Rotherham and Sheffield, and Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in Rotherham (both part of the High Value Manufacturing Centre).
North East	£180.3m	For the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult in Blyth and the Centre for Process Innovation in Redcar.
Greater London	£70.6m	For the Cell & Gene Therapy Catapult in London (and Stevenage).
South West	£65.4m	For the National Composite Centre (part of the High Value Manufacturing Centre) in Bristol.
South East	£68.3m	For the Satellite Applications Catapult in Harwell.
Wales	£51.3m	For the Compound Semiconductor Catapult in Cardiff.
Scotland	£96m	For the Advanced Forming Research Centre in Strathclyde (part of the High Value Manufacturing Centre) and the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult.

Today's announcement includes an allocation, confirmed by the Prime Minister

last month, that the [Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult](#) in Blyth and the [Centre for Process Innovation](#) in Redcar, part of the [High Value Manufacturing Catapult](#), will benefit from additional £180 million to support hundreds more businesses to develop products and services which will be in high demand in the future.

The purpose of [catapult centres](#) is to remove barriers to innovation, help new entrants to increase competition and innovation in the economy by levelling the field for disruptors to challenge incumbents. They address these market failures by:

1. strengthening industry-academia links (maximising impact of our world-class science base)
2. maintaining open-access, cutting-edge facilities which individual companies could not afford to invest in, particularly SMEs (e.g. the Manufacturing Technology Centre houses multiple experimental facilities for prototyping different manufacturing techniques)
3. helping to build ecosystems conducive to innovation, by assisting regulators to be agile in response to technological advancement (e.g. the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult worked with the medicines regulatory agency to cut the time it took firms to get gene therapies into clinical trials, from over a year to 60 days)

The catapults are private entities, which work in close partnership with Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation and industry. Started in 2011, the catapult network is based on successful international models (e.g. the German Fraunhofer Institutes), which generate income from a balance of public grant, collaborative R&D awards and commercial contracting (in a 1:1:1 ratio). They operate in areas where the UK has significant economic opportunities and an international competitive advantage to drive growth.

## **Case studies**

### **Hybrid Manufacturing Technology (High Value Manufacturing Catapult)**

This new technology combines 3D printing with high speed computer controlled machining. It has the potential to save UK industry millions of pounds by re-manufacturing high value components that would otherwise have gone for scrap. Work is being taken forward to further commercialise this R&D, which has already made Britain a world leader in developing hybrid manufacturing technology.

### **Project Eyes on the Seas (Satellite Applications Catapult)**

The Satellite Applications Catapult has been working to tackle the global challenge of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by combining satellite technology with big data. 'Project Eyes on the Seas' has already had major successes in combating this, improving the efficiency of enforcement and could in the future help to protect marine reserves and the overall wellbeing of the Earth's oceans.

### **New manufacture processes (High Value Manufacturing Catapult)**

Local SME Technicut have partnered with Japanese-owned Nikken to develop the TiTan X-Treme – a new tooling system that dramatically speeds up the cutting of tough alloys such as titanium. The system is now sold and used worldwide, including in the new £100m Rolls-Royce Advanced Aerospace Disc Manufacturing facility, which was opened in June 2014, creating many valuable jobs.

### **Medical devices to cure common causes of blindness (High Value Manufacturing Catapult in Durham)**

PolyPhotonix is on the verge of revolutionising treatment for degenerative sight-threatening conditions caused by age and diabetes. The current treatments are both costly and unpleasant and this innovation could potentially fill an urgent need for an effective, repeatable, value for money treatment.

### **Improving offshore wind turbines (Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult)**

SMAR Azure has developed products used by 200 organisations in 29 countries, specialising in creating lighter, more efficient blades for offshore wind turbines that create more energy than existing offerings. It is now developing a new test rig at its world-leading National Renewables Energy Centre at Blyth, Northumberland, to validate and demonstrate a section of the blade prototype.

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## **[Guidance: The Renewables Obligation: the biomass co-firing and conversion exempt combustion unit estimate, 2018 to 2019](#)**

The [Renewables Obligation \(Amendment\) Order 2018](#) came into force on 20 July 2018. It strengthens cost control measures for certain biomass conversion and co-firing stations by implementing annual flexible caps on the amount of support that units not protected by grandfathering policy can receive.

The caps come into operation from 1 September 2018 and apply to 2 types of biomass co-firing and conversion stations:

- capped generating stations, which comprise only non-grandfathered 'capped' units'
- mixed generating stations, which comprise non-grandfathered 'capped' units and grandfathered 'exempt' units

This explanatory note explains how both types of cap will operate during 2018 to 2019 and announces the level of the 2018 to 2019 exempt combustion unit estimate which will form part of the overall station cap for mixed generating stations.

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## [World news story: British Embassy launches National Wildlife Protection Themed Campaign in China](#)

Designed to raise public awareness of the global effects of illegal wildlife trade (IWT), the 'End Wildlife Crime' campaign will include more than eight events across China over the coming months, all leading up to the fourth global IWT conference hosted in London in October.

The launch event took place in Beijing Fang and was in partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

'End Wildlife Crime' comes at a particularly crucial time when our nature, forests, oceans and wildlife, have all been increasingly affected by human activities. Excessive deforestation and the expanding cities deprive the wildlife of their habitats. Many species are being poached for use in illegal trade. In the last decade, the number of elephants alone has declined by almost a third and around 20,000 a year are still being slaughtered because of the global demand for ivory.

With its continued commitment to wildlife protection, the UK will host the fourth global IWT Conference this October, convening over 40 countries, including China, to discuss and agree a way forward for tackling this important global challenge together.

The UK government in China launched this nationwide wildlife protection campaign to raise public awareness of the severe situation endangered species are facing to survive, including elephants, pangolins, rhinos and tigers. By introducing the global effects of illegal wildlife trade, the UK government would like to encourage the public to take a more active role in diminishing the demand of illegal wildlife products. This campaign will include a series of photography exhibitions, film festivals and panel discussions across China including in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Chengdu, Chongqing and Guangzhou.

During the opening ceremony, Martyn Roper, the Chargé d'Affaires of the British Embassy, said:

The UK and China have been working closely towards our joint goal of sustainable development, this includes through collective

actions between our governments and our people on ecological and environmental protection and combating illegal wildlife trade together to protect the planet.

At the beginning of this year, China's domestic ban on the commercial trade of ivory took effect. Likewise, the UK is committed to working ever closer with China in these areas. This October, the UK will host the fourth Conference to tackle the illegal wildlife trade in London, where we look forward to joining hands with China again in the rise of this global challenge.

We hope that through our campaign 'End Wildlife Crime' that more people will be aware of the important role we have to play in eradicating this global issue and saving our planet together.

Xu Maomao, the Project & Operations Director of IFAW said:

Irresponsible consumption and trade of wildlife productions are damaging the global biodiversity. Poaching and hunting of species like elephant, pangolin, rhino and tiger, excessive and mindless consumption of wildlife productions by some consumers are pushing the species to the brink of extinction.

We call for everyone to stop consuming wildlife and save their lives.

## Notes to Editor:

### About 'End Wildlife Crime'

Time	City /Venue	Events
10th Aug	BEIJING FUN	National Launch
10th Aug- 14th Aug	BEIJING FUN	Photo Exhibition and screening
17th Aug	BEIJING/ Lumière Pavilions	Screening and Panel Discussion
19th Aug	CHONGQING / Yuejie Movie City	Screening and Panel Discussion
19th Aug	CHONGQING / Fangsuo Screening	and Panel Discussion
24th Aug	BEIJING/ Lumière Pavilions	Screening and Panel Discussion
1st Sep	CHONGQING / UME	Screening and Panel Discussion
15th Sep	BEIJING/ British Ambassador's Residence	Open Day Wildlife theme activities

Coming soon: Guangzhou, Shanghai, Wuhan.

### About IFAW

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is a global non-profit organization that protects animals and the places they call home. IFAW has offices in 17 countries and projects in over 40 countries, with over 200

experienced campaigners, legal and political experts, and internationally acclaimed scientists. Our work connects wildlife rescue and conservation, as we believe that the value of the individual animal is linked to the health of the population and ecosystem at large.

### **About Lumière Pavilions**

Lumière Pavilions is a cinema investment company focusing on the development and operation of high-end cinemas in China. Since its establishment, the company has positioned itself as the trendsetter in the industry by way of its global vision, innovative designs and adoption of advanced technology. Its introduction of the world-class practices in design, construction, technology, content and service in compliance with international standards has not only garnered acclamation from the general audience but also elevated the company to emerge as a leading brand amongst the competition.

### **About the Jackson Hole Film Festival**

The Jackson Hole Film Festival is a biennial 6-day conference, well-known and the most prestigious media event of the year devoted to the nature conservation, which gathers more than 650 international leaders in science, broadcasting, conservation, and media. That festival is dedicated to helping filmmakers find their own audiences, providing acquisition, marketing and distribution services. Also Jackson Hole Film Festival is a very exciting, social and educational event devoted to the Wild Nature, its problems and forecasts. It is supported by Jackson Hole Film Institute, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to empower filmmakers and audiences through film and new media.