

News story: Government promises more funding to fight superbugs

The announcement was made at the Call to Action on AMR summit in Ghana.

The UK government is co-hosting the Call to Action on AMR event with the governments of Ghana and Thailand, Wellcome Trust, World Bank and the UN Foundation.

The 2-day event celebrates innovative AMR initiatives from around the world and urges the international community to work together to slow the spread of AMR.

The UK is being represented at the summit by the Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Dame Sally Davies. It will announce a number of commitments at the summit, including:

- £9 million to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)
- £5 million to fund the development of new ways to diagnose and tackle drug-resistant 'super gonorrhoea'
- £3 million from the Department for International Development to fund an accelerator which will find new ways to diagnose AMR and ensure antibiotics are being used appropriately
- £1 million to evaluate technologies to detect poor quality and fake medicines that pose a risk to public health
- £1.5 million funding for a fellowship programme in developing countries to build capacity for calculating and mitigating the economic cost of AMR
- £1 million to an International Reference Centre providing practical support to developing countries to improve their ability to collect data on AMR to better tackle it across human health, animal health, agriculture and the environment

AMR is a global issue due to the ease and speed with which drug-resistant infections can spread across countries.

The government is also developing a new longer-term vision where AMR will be contained and controlled by 2040. This will be published in the new year and supported by a new 5-year national action plan across human and animal health, the food chain, agriculture and the environment.

Professor Dame Sally Davies said:

Antimicrobial resistance threatens the future of modern medicine and global food security, placing millions of lives across the world in danger.

The UK is committed to tackling AMR, both at home and internationally, through a variety of concrete actions. There is no

single solution, it will take time and commitment from all sectors but working together as a global community we will mitigate this threat.

[Speech: Michael Ellis' speech to the Historic Houses AGM](#)

It is an absolute pleasure to be here today at the Annual General Meeting of Historic Houses. Please let me start by extending my sincere thanks for inviting me here to speak today.

Almost this time last year the Government's Heritage Statement recognised the crucial role of private owners as custodians of much of the UK's very special heritage, so I am delighted to be here today to thank you all for the extraordinary work that you do. Historic Houses does an excellent job of promoting and supporting historic buildings across the UK – and deserves its fine reputation.

As Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, I am always heartened to see the passion and vigour our nation's heritage evokes. Wherever they are located, historic houses provide an important anchor to the evolution of this country, and a reminder of our past.

Since joining the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in January this year, I have been championing heritage and tourism across government. I was pleased to welcome Historic Houses as one of the members of my Heritage Council – a forum that brings together key players in the heritage sector with government departments to enable dialogue to drive progress in key policy areas affecting heritage.

Historic Houses is an active and energetic contributor to the Heritage Council, and I look forward to continuing to work together in 2019 to ensure that our much-loved heritage is able to thrive into the future. In fact, we have our second Heritage Council meeting tomorrow.

We in Government recognise that there are many more independently owned historic houses open to the public across the UK, than the 250 or so country houses looked after by colleagues at national charities such as the National Trust and English Heritage.

Without the passion, hard work and commitment of people like you, our heritage sector simply could not be the economic powerhouse and world-leading cultural asset it is today.

This country has an astonishing variety of buildings and places. They

stimulate domestic tourism and attract millions of people to our shores which is vital to our social and economic development.

In 2016/17 an estimated 33 million, that is 74% of all adults, visited a heritage site and 80% of people think that local heritage makes their area a better place to live.

We all know that protecting our nation's heritage enhances our wellbeing and quality of life, improving the way places are perceived.

You are already welcoming over 26 million visits to your houses every year (a huge number; more than the total number of inbound visitors to the whole of Japan in 2016!), generating £1 billion in visitor spend and engaging with hundreds of thousands of education visitors in your local communities.

One year on from the Heritage Statement's commitment to keep tax incentives for repair and maintenance under review, I am grateful to your team at Historic Houses for the production of your new Green Book style evidence assessing the costs and benefits of reducing the income tax burden on Heritage Maintenance Funds.

I have advocated for robust evidence of the need to act and the benefit of doing so and the net economic benefit detailed within the proposal is compelling.

Recently, I visited Holdenby House to hear first-hand how reforming Maintenance Funds could help houses such as Holdenby to generate more funds from their own resources dedicated to the conservation of nationally important heritage open to the public.

I understand that your houses are facing a repair and maintenance backlog totalling approximately £1.38 billion, and that practical and cost-effective changes to the fiscal framework would be part of the solution to help you to address this.

Next week members of my team at DCMS will be joining Historic Houses to meet the Treasury to discuss Heritage Maintenance Funds; I look forward to the feedback from this meeting.

The powerful combination of culture, community and commerce that's replicated at Historic Houses places across the country creates vibrant places in which to live and work, invest or start up a business, learn and holiday; it is little wonder that in a recent Historic England survey members of the public voted for historic houses and castles as their most-valued part of the UK's historic environment.

If I could leave you all with only one message today, it would be this:

The whole of government recognises the central importance of heritage and the protection of historical buildings. Far from being a satellite within the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, there is universal acknowledgement in Whitehall that heritage matters.

This recognition of the importance of our country's heritage was reflected in the recent Autumn Budget Statement. We saw £55 million being allocated into heritage assets in high street areas to kick start regeneration.

This message will be heard far and wide across the country: heritage will always matter.

And as we prepare for the UK's exit from the European Union, heritage can help us forge a new relationship with the rest of the world.

The world knows and loves us for our great palaces; our ancient churches and our eclectic styles of architecture. This shared heritage is the inheritance of all UK subjects. It binds us together and reminds us that we are part of an on-going story.

[Press release: £2.1m programme of improvements to River Thames locks](#)

The Environment Agency has launched its annual winter programme of investment into the infrastructure that enables and enhances boating activity on the non-tidal River Thames.

It will carry out major projects at five of the 45 lock sites it owns and operates along the 135 miles of river, for which it is the navigation authority – from Cricklade in Wiltshire to Teddington in Middlesex – but all sites will benefit from some level of investment.

Work began on 29 October, and will continue through to March next year, avoiding the peak boating months to minimise disruption to river-users.

Barry Russell, River Thames Waterways Manager, at the Environment Agency, said:

This year's £2.1m programme of work is one of the most extensive for some time.

The work our specialist navigation engineers, craftsmen and contractors will carry out is absolutely vital. It will directly support both recreational and commercial boating on the Thames, and indirectly support the many thousands of businesses along the river sustained by the spending power of our boating customers. That's not just marinas, boat yards and chandleries, but shops, hotels, restaurants, pubs, visitor attractions and so on.

In order of value the major projects are:

- Teddington Lock, Teddington, Middlesex – refurbishing the concrete-lined lock chamber of the launch lock, one of three different locks at this unique site, at a cost of £450,000
- Day's Lock, Little Wittenham, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire – fabricating four brand new gates at our workshop in Osney at a cost of £100,000 for installation in 2019/20
- Caversham Lock, Reading, Berkshire – refurbishing the concrete-lined lock chamber at a cost of £400,000
- Rushey Lock, Buckland Marsh, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire – replacing the facing timber and balance beams on all four lock gates at a cost of £100,000
- Molesey Lock, East Molesey, Surrey – replacing the facing timber on all four lock gates at a cost of £70,000.

Additional works include refurbishing the concrete sill underneath the tail gates at Cookham Lock near Maidenhead in Berkshire, structural surveys of the lock chambers at King's Lock near Wolvercote in Oxfordshire and Whitchurch Lock near Reading in Berkshire. The agency is also refurbishing mooring facilities at Blake's Lock in Reading.

Other work being carried out as part of this year's programme includes upgrading lock control systems so they are easier for members of the public to operate on their own; repairs to numerous towpath bridges; bank protection works at a number of locations; improved site-security systems and a survey of all lock offices to check on their condition and identify where improvements could be made to improve staff welfare and facilitate greater commercial activity.

Barry Russell continued:

We're proud to be the custodians of the navigation infrastructure on the non-tidal Thames, and we take the responsibility that comes with it very seriously.

This includes major structures like locks, weirs, lock houses, access roads and bridges. Many have significant heritage value, and collectively they have a replacement cost in the region of £1bn.

Keeping everything in safe working order is absolutely vital to ensure boating on the Thames is not only possible in the first place, but also as safe and enjoyable as we can reasonably make it.

The income we get from boaters' registration fees isn't enough to cover the cost of all the work we need to do each year, however.

Fortunately, we receive a significant top-up from government that we invest very carefully to ensure maximum value-for-money for the wider tax-paying public.

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NOTES TO EDITORS: Barry Russell, Environment Agency Waterways Manager, is available for interview at any of the sites listed. Filming opportunities can be arranged around the most visually striking elements of the work for example, when lock when lock gates are craned in or out of position. Please call to discuss and arrange.

For the latest updates on the programme go to the [River Thames page](#)

All media enquiries: 0800 141 2743. E-mail to southeastpressoffice1@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Follow us on Twitter at [@EnvagencySE](#)

[Press release: £2.1m programme of improvements to River Thames locks](#)

Work will support recreational and commercial boating along 135-mile stretch of water

[Speech: Secretary of State's speech to Northern Ireland Business Leaders](#)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, today gave the keynote speech at an event at Belfast Metropolitan College, arranged jointly by the Confederation of British Industry Northern Ireland, the Federation of Small Business NI, the Institute of Directors NI and the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce. She told the audience of business leaders that the UK Government has made a decisive step forward towards delivering a Brexit deal which works for the businesses and people of Northern Ireland.

Thank you all for being here this morning and thank you in particular to the CBI, the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small

Businesses and the Institute of Directors for organising this event.

This is a truly decisive moment for Northern Ireland and the whole of the United Kingdom. The Government has agreed in principle the terms for a smooth and orderly exit from the EU and the broad terms of our future relationship.

We are now close to a deal that will deliver in full on the result of the referendum. A deal that will see the UK take back control of our borders, our laws and our money.

And it is a deal that will see us uphold in full our commitments to the people and businesses of Northern Ireland:

- Protecting the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in all its parts – including the principle of consent, citizenship rights and human rights provisions;
- Avoiding a hard border and preserving North-South cooperation and funding;
- Preserving the Common Travel Area and reciprocal rights for UK and Irish nationals;

And, of course, maintaining the constitutional and economic integrity of the United Kingdom.

I am fortunate that I get to spend much of my time in this position speaking with political parties, with businesses, trade unions, third sector groups and people from all sides of the community here in Northern Ireland. I know that for all the great diversity of views that there are, everybody starts from the position of wanting to see the best interests of Northern Ireland protected. I believe this deal will do just that.

And I want to pay tribute to all of you here today, including members and representatives of the CBI, Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, and the Institute of Directors, for the thoughtful and constructive insights and contributions you have made over the past two and a half years which have helped to bring us to this point.

As Secretary of State, I have had the pleasure to meet businesses across the Northern Ireland economy, covering a wide variety of sectors, from agri-food to technology; life sciences to tourism, including the fitness software developer Statsports in Newry, the shipping company Surefreight International and green-tech developers Artemis Technologies.

These engagements have helped me to understand better the interests of Northern Ireland's businesses as we prepare to leave the EU, and to ensure that these interests have been represented as this draft Agreement was developed.

Stability and certainty for businesses underpins the thriving economy that we all want to see for Northern Ireland. So I hope that you will continue speaking up and speaking out on this deal and the benefits it brings for Northern Ireland in the coming crucial days and weeks.

As business leaders, all of you know how far Northern Ireland has come in recent years. I can tell you that today is the 20th anniversary of the Northern Ireland Act, which followed from the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement the previous April and established the devolved administration. Sadly, Stormont is not sitting at present for reasons I don't need to go into and I am doing everything I can to restore the institutions.

But I think it is worth remembering that not only did this bring about the relative peace we all enjoy today and provided certainty on the constitutional status of Northern Ireland, it provided the platform for the Northern Ireland economy to prosper. You look around today at the burgeoning film and TV industry, tourism, creative industries, cyber security and investment and growth in many other areas to see the impact the Northern Ireland Act has had since 1998.

And all this has been at the forefront of our mind during the Brexit negotiations and is reflected in the deal we have reached.

Under the Withdrawal Agreement we have agreed:

- Protection for the rights of more than three million EU citizens living in the UK and around one million UK nationals living in the EU. Many of these citizens are of course employed by businesses in Northern Ireland and providing a vital contribution to our economy and society.
- A time-limited implementation period that provides a bridge to the future relationship, meaning businesses have the certainty and continuity they need to continue trading as now until the end of 2020.
- A fair financial settlement for UK taxpayers estimated to be between £35-39bn, resolving our obligations.
- A mechanism for resolving any disputes between the UK and the EU. First, disputes will be consulted on in a Joint Committee and, if no mutually agreed solution can be found, it will be resolved by an independent arbitration panel.
- Geographical Indications like Comber New Potatoes, Armagh Bramley Apples and Lough Neagh Eels will be protected until a future economic relationship is put in place.

And we have agreed an outline political declaration on our future

relationship with the EU, building on the progress that has already been made and signalling the ambition of both sides to embark on a new, deep and special partnership after the UK leaves the EU.

At its heart, that partnership will comprise a free trade area for goods with zero tariffs and no quotas. This is combined with deep regulatory and customs cooperation and underpinned by provisions ensuring open and fair competition. This is the first such agreement between an advanced economy and the EU.

With all the withdrawal issues resolved the ground is now cleared to focus entirely on this for review by the Prime Minister, and the leaders of the EU27 which we hope can happen before the end of the month.

Even in the unlikely event that the UK's future relationship with the EU is not in place by the end of the implementation period, we have agreed a Protocol on which guarantees that there will be no hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland and no customs border down the Irish Sea.

The agreement preserves the economic and constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom, upholds the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, and ensures people and businesses that rely on an open border between Northern Ireland and Ireland can continue living their lives and operating as they do now.

It does so through a temporary single customs territory between the EU and the whole of the UK, or, as an alternative to bringing in that backstop arrangement, an option for the UK to extend the implementation period for a short period of time until the new economic relationship is in place.

And it is important to reflect here just how much of a change this represents from the proposals initially put forward by the the EU. This agreement meets each of the clear red lines that the Prime Minister laid down:

- There will be no customs border down the Irish sea.
- There will be no hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, and no physical infrastructure or related checks and controls;
- Northern Ireland's constitutional status is unequivocally guaranteed;
- The integrity of the UK's internal market, and Northern Ireland's place within it, is preserved; and
- Any arrangement will be explicitly temporary

The Protocol provides the insurance policy that businesses throughout Northern Ireland can rely on. It also provides for:

- A UK lock on new areas of law being applied without UK consent;
- Guarantees that UK bodies can continue to approve goods for sale throughout the UK market;
- The continued ability for NI businesses to sell into both the UK and EU markets;
- A recognition of the special nature of trade from GB to NI with a mutual commitment to facilitate trade and minimise assurance processes at NI ports and airports;
- UK trade deals to be available to all UK exporters with NI exporters able to benefit in full from future UK trade deals.

That is not to ignore, as the Prime Minister has made clear, that difficult and sometimes uncomfortable decisions have had to be made. But I do not accept some of the arguments which I have heard in recent days.

This deal does not open the door to divergence. The extent of EU law which would apply under the Protocol is limited only to regulatory elements necessary to avoid a hard border. And new areas of law cannot be added to the Protocol without agreement, and in that situation, the UK would ensure an appropriate role for the Northern Ireland Assembly, in line with our commitments.

But the practical reality is that there wouldn't be divergence, given the temporary nature of the Protocol. Neither the UK nor the EU wants or expects to move into this backstop. And there would be the choice to extend the Implementation Period – for the UK as a whole – instead of doing so. But if they do, the Protocol is clear that Article 50 should not be the basis of a permanent future relationship, with operative legal text clearly stating the mutual objective that it be temporary, and that we will both use best endeavours to supersede the backstop. In the event that we believe it is no longer necessary, it provides a mechanism which either side can trigger to review the arrangements, which can lead to the backstop being terminated. And of course, the UK would also have the option of extending the implementation period rather than entering the Protocol.

I know that there have been some discussions about what would be the potential impact of new checks. Taking agrifood as an example, access to the EU single market for Northern Ireland businesses would necessitate an increased proportion of checks on live animals and on products of animal origin, but the deal provides clear protections.

As I have mentioned, it is made explicit that nothing in the Protocol will prevent unfettered access for Northern Ireland products in Great Britain, protecting NI to GB trade. For GB to NI, it is acknowledged by both parties

that the checks at ports and airports and the licensing regime for movement of products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland are already well established and that these will continue to provide the platform for protection of public and animal health. The operative legal text makes clear that the Joint Committee will need to take into account the relevant regulatory regimes already in place when determining the practical arrangements for any checks. Additionally, the deal ensures that any relevant checks would always be carried out by UK or Northern Ireland authorities as is the case now.

As the Prime Minister has said there is no deal which delivers the Brexit people voted for which does not involve this Protocol. But I am also clear that in the unlikely event this is needed, the deal does not pose threat to our own precious union. Article 1 makes clear that the Protocol is without prejudice to the Belfast Agreement, expressly respects the territorial integrity of the UK and the principle of consent. The Agreement is the cornerstone of Northern Ireland's constitutional status. So protecting the Agreement in this way will protect Northern Ireland's constitutional position as part of our United Kingdom.

In summary, the Protocol – if it ever needed to come into force – would act as a safety net for Northern Ireland's economy, avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland and a customs border down the Irish Sea, take Northern Ireland out of the EU's Common Fisheries and Agricultural Policies, and ensure Northern Ireland could benefit from UK free trade agreements.

Negotiations will now continue to finalise the full Political Declaration on our future relationship, focusing on adding detail, defining further what balance of rights and obligations should apply in the context of trade in goods, and identifying which additional operational capabilities should be prioritised for consideration in the context of internal security.

Both sides are determined to conclude the full Political Declaration by the 25 November European Council, bringing the Article 50 negotiations to a close.

Once agreed, we will then put the final deal to Parliament and MPs will have to decide whether to back or reject it. But they should not be under any illusions that the EU will be prepared to start all over again and negotiate a different deal.

Debate inside and outside of Parliament will rightly be robust, lively and in the best democratic traditions of this country. And I would again encourage you and your members to make sure that your voice is heard throughout this process, so that the crucial benefits for businesses across Northern Ireland are made clear.

Because the country now faces a choice – between this deal, the only workable deal that fulfils the will of the referendum, or back to square one on Brexit.

Clearly, this is a deal that has involved some difficult choices at times and

an element of compromise. That is an unavoidable fact of negotiations and I accept not everybody is going to agree with every point of detail or choice that we have made.

But it is fundamentally a deal which is in the national interest. It is a deal that will protect jobs, our national security and the integrity of our precious United Kingdom.

A deal which means we can look ahead to a close and productive future relationship with the EU.

A deal which means we will be able to sign and implement ambitious free trade deals around the world, while maintaining zero tariffs and zero quotas with one of our most important trading partners.

A deal which delivers for the businesses and people of Northern Ireland and across our United Kingdom.

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