

[News story: GP indemnity: development of state-backed scheme for England](#)

Department of Health will work with GP representatives on how a scheme could work.

The government is planning to develop a state-backed indemnity scheme for GPs, to protect them from the costs of clinical negligence claims, subject to further work on relevant issues.

Our ambition is to provide a more stable and affordable system for GPs. The scheme could provide financially sustainable cover for claims arising from the delivery of NHS services.

We have been working with the 4 medical defence organisations that currently provide indemnity cover to GPs and with GPs on how a state-backed scheme could work. Any new scheme should:

- meet the needs of current and future GPs
- be in the interest of patients
- represent value for money for taxpayers

We will discuss urgently with GP representatives how best to engage with the sector. The scheme will need careful negotiation and will take at least 12 to 18 months to establish. GPs should continue to make sure they have appropriate indemnity cover, in line with General Medical Council (GMC) requirements, to enable them to practise.

See the [indemnity in general practice factsheet](#) for more information.

Read the [written ministerial statement](#).

[Detailed guide: Innovations in the built environment](#)

Updated: Smart Meter Enabled Thermal Efficiency Ratings Innovation Competition launched

Innovation in the built environment

Across government, Innovate UK, Research Councils, and BEIS expect to invest

around £184 million in research and innovation in the built environment.

As part of this commitment, within the BEIS Energy Innovation Programme, BEIS expects to invest around £90 million in low carbon heating and energy efficiency options for UK homes and businesses.

Modern Energy Partners – Public Sector Energy Efficiency

Reducing energy consumption in, and greenhouse gas emissions from, the public-sector estate helps reduce costs to taxpayers and enables the UK to meet carbon budgets.

A new pilot project, Modern Energy Partners, will explore novel ways to drive more ambitious efforts to drive down consumption and emissions across the public-sector estate.



[Modern energy partners: brief project description](#)

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A Prior Information Notice (PIN) has been published. Parties interested in tendering for work on this project should consult the [PIN](#).

Smart Meter Enabled Thermal Efficiency Ratings (SMETER) Innovation Programme

Government has launched a funding scheme to invest up to £5 million to develop, test and demonstrate technologies that measure the thermal performance of homes using smart meter and other data. These have been termed Smart Meter Enabled Thermal Efficiency Ratings (SMETER). Of this funding, up to £4.1 million is provided for innovation projects to develop SMETER tools, for which applicants may apply for funding up to £1 million. Government is also providing up to £900,000 for a Technical Assessment Contractor to independently test and demonstrate SMETER tools developed during the

innovation projects.

Full details about the Innovation Competition and Technical Assessment Contractor and the funding available is set out in the guidance and application notes:



[Smart Meter Enabled Thermal Efficiency Ratings \(SMETER\) Innovation Competition: application guidance notes](#)

PDF, 745KB, 83 pages

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[Smart Meter Enabled Thermal Efficiency Ratings \(SMETER\): Technical Assessment Contractor – Invitation to Tender](#)

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For more information, please email BuiltEnvironmentInnovation@beis.gov.uk using the title 'SMETER Innovation Competition' or 'SMETER Technical Assessment Contractor' in the email subject.

Building for 2050

Announced as part of the [Construction Sector Deal](#), government is investing £1.4 million in a research project called '[Building for 2050](#)'. Led by AECOM, this project is gathering evidence from 3 housing developments located in Swansea, Bristol and Manchester with the aim of uncovering the barriers to developing low cost, low carbon housing. The project will test innovative methods of construction and will involve working closely with households throughout the project to track their views, and to report on progress as we seek to reduce the environmental impact of UK homes by 2050.

Investing in Low Carbon Heating Technology Innovation

Government has launched a grant scheme to invest up to £10 million to develop technologies that reduce the carbon emissions associated with providing heat and hot water to UK buildings. Innovative technologies, processes and tools are eligible for support and applicants may apply for a grant of £200,000 to £2 million.

Full details about the grant scheme are set out in the guidance notes.

This competition is now closed to applications. Details of the projects offered funding in this Competition are set out here:



[BEIS Low Carbon Heating Technology Innovation Fund: summary project details](#)

PDF, 160KB, 3 pages

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For more information, please email BuiltEnvironmentInnovation@beis.gov.uk using the title Low Carbon Heating Technology Innovation Fund in the email subject.



[Low carbon heating guidance and application notes](#)

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[Low carbon heating and technology innovation fund Q&A](#)

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Investing in Building Thermal Efficiency Innovation

Government has launched a grant scheme to invest up to £10 million to develop technologies and approaches to improving the energy efficiency of existing UK buildings. Innovative technologies, processes and business models are eligible for support and applicants may apply for a grant of £200,000 to £2 million.

Full details about the grant scheme are set out in the guidance notes.

This competition is now closed to applications. Details of the projects offered funding in this Competition are set out here:



[BEIS Thermal Efficiency Innovation Fund: summary project details](#)

PDF, 167KB, 4 pages

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For more information, please email BuiltEnvironmentInnovation@beis.gov.uk using the title Thermal Efficiency Innovation Fund in the email subject.



[Thermal efficiency innovation guidance notes](#)

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[Thermal efficiency innovation fund Q&A](#)

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Investing in hydrogen innovation for heating

BEIS is undertaking a £25 million project to explore the potential use of hydrogen gas for heating UK homes and businesses. Following a competition, BEIS has appointed Arup+, a team of contractors led by Ove Arup to run this project.

This project will run from 2017 to 2021 and will aim to define a hydrogen quality standard, and to explore, develop and test domestic and commercial hydrogen appliances.

Investing in smart heating systems

BEIS is investing £9.8 million in phase 2 of the [Smart Systems and Heat Programme](#), run by the [Energy Systems Catapult](#). This phase will build on the work from phase 1, including developing a 'Home Energy Services Gateway' to change the relationship between consumers, heating systems, and energy suppliers. The project will also include work with local authorities on developing low energy plans, including the support the development and expansion of domestic low carbon heating projects.

Notice: TA10 9HG, Anglo Beef Processors UK: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Anglo Beef Processors UK
- Installation name: ABP Langport
- Permit number: EPR/HP3330CQ/V002

Research and analysis: Seasonal risks of marine activities

Requirement R113

Requirement detail

The timing of marine works is generally driven by measures to mitigate risks to seasonable birds / migrating fish. This often means that works take place during summer months which could potentially lead to a larger impact on social and economic factors (for example tourism) than might occur during other seasons. This work would outline a process to balance the risks of an activity (environmental, social and economic) against the benefits and potentially propose approaches to mitigate the risk within the licensing framework.

News story: The Ofqual handbook is now live

Ofqual publishes preview version of new online handbook.

Today, Thursday 12 October, Ofqual has published a preview version of the Ofqual handbook, a new online resource that brings together all our general rules and guidance.

The handbook can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofqual-handbook>, as well as from the Ofqual homepage and our awarding organisation portal.

To help users navigate their way around the content we hosted a webinar. A recording of the webinar is now available.

[A recording of the webinar is also available](#)

We will be [gathering feedback](#) on this new format for the rest of the year, before taking decisions on roll-out early in 2018.