

News story: Fairer funding system to end 'postcode lottery' for schools

Education Secretary Justine Greening today (14 September) confirmed details of a new fairer funding system for schools in England, putting an end to the historic postcode lottery that saw huge differences in funding between similar schools in different parts of the country.

The National Funding Formula (NFF), the biggest improvement to the school funding system for decades, will ensure that for the first time funding is based on the individual needs and characteristics of every school in the country. The publication of the final NFF for 2018-19 and 2019-20 in Parliament today follows two major consultations, generating more than 26,000 responses, and the Education Secretary's announcement in July of an additional £1.3 billion boost to the front line schools budget.

The NFF will provide funding gains for schools across England, allocating:

- an increase in the basic amount allocated for every pupil;
- a minimum per pupil funding level for both secondaries and primaries to target the lowest funded schools;
- a minimum cash increase for every school of one per cent per pupil by 2019-20, with the most underfunded schools seeing rises of three per cent per pupil in 2018-19 and 2019-20
- a £110,000 lump sum for every school to help with fixed costs, and an additional £26 million to rural and isolated schools to help them manage their unique challenges

Education Secretary Justine Greening said:

Standards are rising across our school system and a fairer funding formula will ensure we can build on that success. It will replace the outdated funding system which saw our children have very different amounts invested in their education purely because of where they were growing up. That was unacceptable and we have now made school funding fairer between schools for the first time in decades.

It's a long overdue reform and our £1.3 billion extra funding means every school can gain.

The introduction of the NFF from April 2018 means the Government is delivering on a key election commitment. Figures published today show regional and school-level allocations under the new formula, although local authorities will continue to decide individual school allocations up to 2020. The Education Secretary's oral statement on school funding from July is available [here](#).

Further information:

- The core funding for schools and high needs will rise from almost £41.0 billion in 2017-18 to £42.4 billion in 2018-19. In 2019-20 it will rise again to £43.5 billion.
- On the ground, the formula will result in a significant boost directed towards secondary schools that would have been the lowest funded under our December proposals, which will gain on average 4.7%, rural schools, which will gain on average 3.9%, with those schools in the most remote locations gaining 5.0%, and those schools with high numbers of pupils starting with low attainment, which will gain on average 3.8%
- Alongside the formula published for schools today, the government also confirmed reforms to funding for children and young people with high needs. Every local authority will see a minimum increase of 0.5% per head in 2018-19, and 1% per head in 2019-20 . And underfunded local authorities will receive up to 3% per head gains a year for the next two years. Overall, local authorities will gain 4.6% on average on their high needs budgets.

Press release: PM call with Australian Prime Minister Turnbull: 14 September 2017

This morning the Prime Minister spoke to Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull. The leaders discussed the impact of Hurricane Irma and PM Turnbull passed on his sympathies for the loss of life and the damage that Irma had caused to the British Overseas Territories.

On North Korea the Prime Minister and Mr Turnbull welcomed the recent UN Security Council Resolution and the agreement of stronger sanctions. The Prime Minister welcomed the important role that Australia has played on sanctions. She added that the UK will continue to work on securing further EU sanctions.

The Prime Minister also stressed the importance of China's role in putting pressure on North Korea and of the international community continuing to work together to achieve a diplomatic solution.

The two leaders spoke about bilateral trade and welcomed the progress made in the UK-Australia Trade Working Group negotiations. They reiterated their commitment to an ambitious UK-Australia trade deal once the UK has left the EU.

The PM commended the work of the Australian authorities in foiling the recent plot to place a bomb on a plane in Sydney. She added that it is vital that

the international community continue to work together to improve aviation security.

The leaders spoke about the ongoing situation in Burma with the PM making clear that the UK condemns the violence in Rakhine and calls on the Burmese security forces to take immediate steps to end the violence, de-escalate the situation, and to ensure the protection of civilians.

Speech: Shipping industry is keystone of global trade

Good morning. It is a great pleasure to be here today to address London International Shipping Week.

When talking about shipping, it is often all too easy to drop into clichés or to rest on our laurels as Jeremy mentioned.

Those unfamiliar with the modern industry might hark back only to the United Kingdom's past as a 'great maritime power', with a 'long history of seaborne trade'.

Such statements are of course true, and our history is important. Yet where images of masted clippers and steam freighters are a part of our great heritage, and I have a few of them at the world of DIT, they bear little relation to shipping today.

The maritime industry is one of the most innovative on the planet, with a pace of development and willingness to embrace and adopt new technology that few can match.

From crewless ships to alternative power sources, advances in shipping continue to make headlines around the world.

And in the age of mass air travel and the digital economy, it is shipping that remains the foundation of the United Kingdom's prosperity.

As Secretary of State for International Trade, I lead a department that is tasked with boosting Britain's exports, combining a policy framework with practical and financial help to UK companies aiming to tap into new markets overseas.

All of our efforts, however, would be in vain without the continued strength of Britain's shipping and ports, which handle 95% of this country's imports and exports, by volume.

It is fortunate, then, that this country boasts the second-largest maritime cargo industry in Europe, handling 500 million tons of freight each year

through 120 commercial ports.

The wider maritime sector in the UK, and its associated industries and business services, contribute £22 billion a year to our economy, and employ at least 360,000 people.

Many of these are in the UK's world-leading marine technology sector, allowing the industry to tap into, and support, Britain's vast research capabilities and pool of scientific talent.

In the year to July, UK exports rose by 11.5%, boosted by a strong performance in the sales of physical goods into overseas markets.

Similarly, the UK manufacturing industry has also seen robust growth, with order books of British factories climbing to their highest level in over two decades.

Needless to say, these successes would not have been possible without the support of the international shipping industry.

Yet the real impact of shipping is far wider than these headline figures – it has facilitated the rise of globalisation.

New communication technology has done much to eliminate the barriers of time and geography, but it is shipping that has made it economically viable to transport materials and components across the world, and expedited the development of the global economy.

These value chains have had a very real impact on the lives of ordinary people across the world. In this country, living standards have climbed to their highest level in history, as more goods become available at better prices, and wages go further.

And in the world's developing economies, the impact has been greater still.

According to the World Bank, the 3 decades between 1981 and 2011 witnessed the single greatest decrease in material deprivation in human history.

The economic liberalisations of China and India could not have produced an economic boom without the ability to access global markets by sea. Without shipping, this great emancipation of the world's poor could not have taken place.

So the impact of the industry on the lives of ordinary people is important to remember and communicate through in expounding the vast economic benefits of shipping, at London International Shipping Week no less, I am well aware that I am preaching to the converted.

Everyone here today will have witnessed first-hand how sea transport and container shipping have supported the explosion in global trade.

Yet this event is all about looking to the future and not, as I alluded to at the beginning of my speech, dwelling on the past successes of the industry.

So, as we move further into the 21st century, it has become increasingly apparent that shipping will be at the heart of the most important international developments of our time, not only for our economic prosperity but also our security.

There is an increasing awareness that trade and security are intimately linked. An open free trading environment, social and political stability, and security are all part of the same continuum; you cannot disrupt one of these without disrupting the whole.

Maintenance of the world's sea lanes, and ensuring that they remain safe, open and navigable, will be essential to ensuring continued economic openness and global stability.

Using diplomatic and military resources to protect the world's maritime trade routes will become increasingly important; especially as melting summer sea ice opens up navigable lanes across the top of Russia and through the Canadian archipelago.

These northern sea routes represent a global opportunity, and are part of the ever-closer link between east and west. They are, after all, the first new sea trade routes since the end of the Age of Discovery.

This government entered office with the ambition to make Britain the world's greatest advocate of free trade, forging agreements with old allies and new friends to extend commercial freedoms across the globe.

And if the shipping industry is the keystone of global trade, then we will do everything we can to extend and support your operations here in the UK. As a government, and as a country, we are committed to strengthening this vital sector.

At the heart of our approach will be our Industrial Strategy. It is an ambitious blueprint for the industrial and economic future of this country, and will ensure that we are equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century, and ready to take up a new place at the centre of global trade.

An essential aspect of this is, of course, our infrastructure. In the last decade, Britain's ports have prepared themselves for growth by investing billions of pounds in expansions, upgrades and modernisations.

Our National Policy Statement for Ports sets out a secure planning framework for yet further investment, including taking into account the economic benefits of ports and shipping when granting applications to expand.

And, as my friend the Secretary of State for Transport announced at Monday's International Shipping Week roundtable at No. 10 Downing Street, we will launch a renaissance in UK shipbuilding as part of the [National Shipbuilding Strategy](#), designed to make our maritime industry even more competitive, and export British ships to the world's merchant navies.

In all respects, we in the United Kingdom are opening a new chapter in our history.

We remain one of the best places in the world to start and grow a business, and the top destination for inward investment in Europe, commercially attractive, and with a fundamentally strong economy.

After we leave the European Union, we will work to build a close and special relationship with our European partners, based upon the ties of industry and commerce that have long united us, and ensuring that businesses will continue to trade as openly and freely as possible with the EU.

Yet, as a nation, we will also forge new trading partnerships across the world, promoting freedoms of commerce and partnering with those emerging economies that are the future of global growth.

In all our endeavours, the international shipping industry will be our vital partner.

Just as shipping supports the UK economy, so we will support your industry. I am here today because my department, and the whole government, will continue to do all that we can to support shipping and ensure its global success.

Yours is, after all, an industry that will shape the coming century.

The benefits of globalisation are enormous, and it is shipping that will ensure that they can spread to all humankind. There is vast potential to unlock, and government and industry must work in tandem to meet the challenges and realise the opportunities of the future.

Together, there is nothing we cannot achieve for ourselves and the world beyond.

Thank you.

Statement to Parliament: Written ministerial statement on energy policy

As part of preparations for EU Exit, the UK is establishing a domestic nuclear safeguards regime to ensure that the UK continues to maintain its position as a responsible nuclear state and that withdrawal from Euratom will not result in the weakening of our future safeguards standards and oversight in the UK.

This Government believes that it is vitally important that the new domestic nuclear safeguards regime, to be run by the Office for Nuclear Regulation, is as comprehensive and robust as that currently provided by Euratom. The government has therefore decided that it will be establishing a domestic regime which will deliver to existing Euratom standards and exceeds the

standard that the international community would require from the UK as a member of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

International oversight will be a key part of the future regime. The UK is seeking to conclude new agreements with the IAEA that follow the same principles as our current ones. This will ensure that the IAEA retains its right to inspect all civil nuclear facilities, and continue to receive all current safeguards reporting, ensuring that international verification of our safeguards activity continues to be robust.

Discussions with the European Union are on-going. We will be exploring a number of options for smooth transition from the current Euratom regime to a domestic one. The unique and important nature of the civil nuclear sector means that there is strong mutual interest in ensuring that the UK and Euratom Community continue to work closely together in the future. The UK's ambition is to maintain a close and effective relationship with the Euratom Community and the rest of the world that harnesses the UK's and the Euratom Community's expertise and maximises shared interests. By maintaining our current safeguards and standards we are providing the best possible basis for continued close cooperation with Euratom in the future.

Whatever the outcome of those discussions, the Government is committed to a future regime that provides at least the existing levels of assurance. The legislation to provide for this was announced in the Queen's speech and will be brought forward in due course. This policy statement provides important context both for parliamentary consideration of that Bill, and for the forthcoming talks with the European Union, which take place in the last week of September.

Press release: New national innovation centre to put UK at forefront of big data

- £15m Government investment in centre will be matched by £15m from Newcastle University
- UK economy will benefit from big data with potential growth of up to £241 billion
- Key part of Government's aim to make Britain best place to start and grow a digital business

The National Centre, whose funding has today been confirmed by Minister for Digital Matt Hancock, aims to link up leading academic talent in universities with industry and the public sector to help them develop the skills they need to solve real world problems using advances in data science.

This forms part of the Government's Digital Strategy which set out plans to boost the nation's digital skills, infrastructure and innovation, including measures to support Britain's world-leading artificial intelligence (AI) sector with an industry-led review.

The NICD will create a pipeline of talent to power the ground-breaking businesses of tomorrow and is further progress in the Government's Industrial Strategy which aims to create an economy that helps Britain secure a future as a competitive, global nation. Based in Newcastle, the centre builds on the strengths of great institutions in the Northern Powerhouse and forms an integral part of the Government's approach.

Speaking at Nesta's Data Skills For The Future conference today, Minister for Digital Matt Hancock said:

We're determined to unlock the huge potential of big data which could add billions of pounds to our economy – from powering price comparison sites to improving the flow of transport around cities.

Our new National Innovation Centre for Data will help us achieve this aim by making sure the skills and talent in our universities is being transferred into industry and the public sector.

It will not only spark innovation among the next generation of tech experts but also help businesses across the whole country capitalise on the immense value of data.

Data science provides real benefits to everyday life. For example, it powers internet searches and apps, can predict and help treat health issues, and is behind new technology for maintaining cars and other machinery, allowing people to benefit from intelligent household appliances.

According to independent research, companies using data science are 10 per cent more productive on average than those that do not, and companies that exploit data can reduce costs, innovate and develop new goods and services faster than those that do not and make faster and better decisions.

Studies by Nesta, the innovation foundation, show UK firms who use data most effectively are 40 per cent more likely to launch new products and services ahead of their competitors.

The centre will have a programme of projects where academics and industry can share and develop their data skills to solve challenges – for example, industry wanting advice on how to develop the data analysis skills to predict when a machine may stop working to prevent costly breakdowns.

The £15m funding from Government, which is managed through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), will be matched by £15m from Newcastle University and will also help supply the next generation of skilled and educated researchers.

Newcastle has one of the largest and fastest growing digital clusters in the country with multi-national companies including Sage – the UK’s largest software company – Hewlett Packard and Accenture, as well as significant public sector IT facilities, including the HMRC Digital Delivery Centre, and major commercial data centres.

Newcastle University has a core group of specialists who have expertise in working closely with a wide range of industrial organisations through its Cloud Innovation Centre, and it also hosts the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Cloud Computing for Big Data Analytics at Newcastle University.

Professor Nick Wright, PVC Innovation and Business, Newcastle University, said:

NICD will help to address the data skills gap by taking a practical hands-on approach. We will work with organisations on their domain related problems, transferring the skills into the organisation that will enable them to innovate through data.

Notes to editors:

1. Media enquiries – accredited journalists only: DCMS News and Communications team – 020 7211 2210.
2. Public enquiries: DCMS enquiries team on 020 7211 6000 or enquiries@culture.gov.uk.
3. By providing world-class facilities and services under one roof, the NICD building will act as a ‘beacon’ for Data Innovation. It will accelerate innovation by delivering key technical and practical data skills into organisations, enabling them to improve their competitiveness and grow their business. Its activities will deliver economic growth and enable the UK to become a global leader in innovation through data.
4. A 2016 report by SAS estimated that from 2015 to 2020 the total benefit to the UK economy of big data analytics amounts to £241 billion, or £40 billion on average per year.
5. Nesta’s Data Skills For The Future conference also saw a new briefing by the Data Skills Taskforce setting out the benefits of using data and plans to boost the nation’s data skills.
6. Sources: Nesta, Rise of the Datavores (2012), Nesta and Universities UK 2015 report “Analytic Britain”, Tech Partnership, Employer Insights Skills Survey (2015), Nesta, Skills of the Datavores (July 2015)

The Data Skills Taskforce, chaired by Accenture, draws on best practice from the UK's leading institutions. The taskforce was established to review and promote recommendations made in Analytic Britain across schools, universities and the labour market. It comprises UK businesses, data skills stakeholders and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.

The Data Skills Taskforce will:

- Raise awareness of the value of data for UK businesses: work must be done to highlight where opportunities exist for UK businesses. Importantly, information is required on how companies could go about identifying and capitalising on these opportunities.
- Raise awareness of data science career opportunities for young people: work must be done to build the perception that data skills are valuable for development of a dynamic, fulfilling and well paid career, so young people seek the skills that companies require.
- Develop links between government, business and educators: the government's 2017 Digital Strategy outlines a commitment to working with the Data Skills Taskforce.
- The approach identified by NICD to work with employers in the private and public sector to transfer essential skills into their organisations through concrete, industry-driven collaborations squarely addresses a key risk identified.