

[News story: Encouraging cycling and walking: apply for business funding](#)

Organisations can apply for a share of up to £470,000 for innovative proposals to encourage people to make more journeys by bike or on foot.

Up to £470,000 is available for organisations with innovative projects that lead to people walking and cycling more. Innovations may include technology, infrastructure, manufacturing or behavioural change.

This is a [Small Business Research Initiative](#) (SBRI) competition. It has 2 phases. Up to £170,000 is available for phase 1, and up to £300,000 for phase 2.

Natural choice for shorter journeys

The government's vision is for cycling and walking to become the natural choice for shorter journeys. The [Department for Transport](#) (DfT) is funding this competition and is inviting proposals which:

- remove current barriers to walking and cycling
- encourage people to make more journey stages to by bicycle or on foot

Removing the barriers

The government's [draft cycling and walking investment strategy](#) sets out ambitions to:

- double the total number of cycling stages made per year by 2025
- increase walking activity to 300 stages per person per year by 2025

To meet these aims, DfT intends to focus on:

- better safety – safety and safety perceptions are among the biggest barriers for people wanting to take up cycling and walking
- better mobility – to make cycling and walking normal, easy and enjoyable, we need better links and networks to key destinations
- better streets – well-designed and accessible streets can encourage people to walk or cycle more as part of their daily routine

Competition information

- this competition opens on Wednesday 19 April 2017, and the deadline for registration is midday on 7 June 2017
- this competition is open to individuals, groups and organisations, but is particularly suitable for early-stage, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- industry partners such as local government, independent and third sectors can carry out the project on their own or with others
- total project costs can vary between £25,000 and £100,000 and up to 15 weeks to up to 9 months, depending on the phase
- there will be a briefing event for potential applicants on Tuesday 24 April 2017

[Press release: Welsh Secretary gets set for the London Marathon](#)

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns will be lacing up his London Marathon running shoes for the sixth time this Sunday (23 April) as he prepares to take on the 26.2mile course around the capital city.

Mr Cairns was the first MP to cross the finish line in 2014 (3:34:16), 2015 (3:38:25) and again in 2016, clocking a personal best time of 3:28:02 and placing him in seventh position on the all time list of MP runners.

Alun Cairns said:

Every person who takes to the streets to run the London Marathon will be doing so for a very individual reason. Whether it's to set a personal best, to raise money for a cause, to remember a loved one, or to simply realise a dream, it will be a reason that provides a constant source of motivation during those cold, hard months of training!

One month on from the Westminster attacks, we will see thousands of people lining the streets of London, all in support of those taking part and galvanising this nation's mindset that we will never give into terror or change our way of life.

I am looking forward to joining the thousands of runners taking part – to celebrate the city of London, to raise money for two good causes – and to perhaps pick up a PB along the way!

Notes to editors:

- Mr Cairns will be raising money for two charities in 2017. Heads Together is a group of mental health charities working to remove the stigma surrounding mental health issues. He will also raise money for Age Connects in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- To donate, visit the [Virgin Money Giving page](#)

[News story: HMS Enterprise returns home after three years on Navy operations](#)

During her time away she helped to stop people smuggling across the globe, saved thousands of lives at sea, and protected Britain's interests.

Minister of State for the Armed Forces Mike Penning said:

During her three years deployed away from the UK, HMS Enterprise and her ship's company have helped make the world a safer place.

From disrupting people smuggling in the Mediterranean to assisting in the free flow of trade in the Gulf, and from providing reassurance to our overseas territories to surveying the world's oceans, she has epitomised how the Royal Navy is protecting the UK's global interests.

In almost three years she has steamed 150,000 nautical miles, visited 20 countries, and navigated four of the seven seas.

LH Payne with his twins girls Summer and Amelia

HMS Enterprise's epic deployment began in June 2014, when she headed to the Mediterranean on a routine deployment. At the time, growing unrest in Libya led to the UK government encouraging British citizens to evacuate, and Enterprise was tasked with rescuing more than 200 people from Libya.

She was then tasked with conducting survey operations in the Gulf and southern Red Sea, joining the continuous Royal Navy presence in the region which works to secure some of the most vital shipping lanes in the world and protect Britain's economy.

It was during this time that teams from the ship volunteered to visit an orphanage in India, helping to refurbish several classrooms, build some swings and even fix a trampoline.

Enterprise later moved to the Mediterranean where she joined the naval force set up to deal with people smuggling. Over the course of the following year, the sailors on board destroyed over 100 unseaworthy craft rescued over 9000 people. As a result she was awarded the Firmin Sword of Peace, the Naval Capability Prize and the HM Efficiency Award, as well as receiving a personal commendation from the Chief of the Defence Staff.

PO Everson accepts the Firmin Sword from Minister for the Armed Forces Mike Penning

Following the heat of the Mediterranean Enterprise was re-tasked to the South Atlantic to stand in for Falkland Islands patrol vessel HMS Clyde during her refit in South Africa.

The ship, and her crew of 78 sailors, returned to Devonport today for the warmest of welcomes from friends and families. Commander Philip Harper, Commanding Officer of HMS Enterprise said;

The crew of HMS Enterprise are justly proud of the work they have done since deploying, and the wide variety of operations will be hard to match in the rest of our careers.

At the same time, we are all really looking forward to coming home. The results of our deployment speak for themselves and we are all eager to spend some time with our families before the ship deploys again later this year.

[News story: New Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport](#)

Bernadette Kelly is the new Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport.

Bernadette Kelly has been appointed as the new Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport. This follows Philip Rutnam's recent move to the Home Office which was announced in February. The appointment has been made by the Cabinet Secretary with the approval of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Transport.

The Cabinet Secretary, Sir Jeremy Heywood, said:

I would like to congratulate Bernadette on her appointment. Bernadette has an excellent track record, having worked in a number of departments across government including most recently at the Department for Transport. She will bring that experience together with her strong leadership skills to her new role and I look forward to working with her on the challenges ahead.

The Secretary of State for Transport, The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP said:

I'm very pleased that Bernadette will be the new Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport. Her knowledge and experience of the department mean she is very well placed to make an excellent start in her new role and I look forward to continuing to work with her.

Bernadette Kelly, said:

I am delighted to be appointed as Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport. DfT is a great Department and I have hugely enjoyed working here in rail. It is an honour to be asked to lead the department and I'm looking forward to the challenge ahead.

Press release: More than 400 rod licences checked in Easter crackdown

Environment Agency officers checked more than 400 rod licences in an Easter weekend crackdown on illegal fishing.

Officers patrolling North East river banks checked 421 anglers, reporting 29 offences.

Of these, 21 were for rod licence offences, 7 were byelaw and close season offences and one offence under the Theft Act.

It's currently the close season for coarse fishing, which means fishing for coarse fish on rivers and streams is not permitted. This is done to protect breeding fish, helping to safeguard stocks for the future.

Kevin Summerson, Fisheries Enforcement Technical Specialist at the Environment Agency, said:

It's encouraging that the vast majority of anglers abide by the law, but there are still too many that we find during patrols that are fishing illegally.

We take illegal fishing very seriously – it's not fair on other anglers and endangers the future of the sport.

Our work is intelligence led and we work closely with our partners at the police and Angling Trust to target known hot spots and where illegal fishing is reported to us.

We carry out enforcement work all year round and will be continuing throughout the coming weeks, including the upcoming Bank Holiday weekends.

We really want people to get outdoors and enjoy what is a fantastic sport, and the rod licence is great value for money for all the family.

I'd urge people to help us protect the health of our fisheries by reporting any suspected illegal activity to us.

All the money from rod licence sales goes back into maintaining the health of fisheries and waters, angling projects and much more.

Anyone caught fishing without a valid licence could be fined up to £2,500 and fishing during the close season attracts a fine of up to £50,000.

Coarse fishing is still allowed on most still waters and canals, depending on fishery owner agreement, though a valid fishing licence is still required. You can check which still waters and canals still have a close season in operation by checking the byelaws which apply in your area at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-fishing-byelaws>

Anyone who wants to go fishing needs to buy a fishing licence. A full annual licence costs £30 (short term and some concessionary licences are also available) and are available online at www.gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence.

Environment Agency officers routinely carry out licence checks and anyone with information about illegal fishing activities is urged to report it via the Environment Agency's Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.