

Press release: First measure of industry progress to cut sugar unveiled

Public Health England (PHE) has today (Tuesday 22 May 2018) published the first assessment of progress on the government's sugar reduction programme, measuring how far the food industry has gone towards reducing the sugar children consume through everyday foods.

As part of the government's plan to reduce childhood obesity, the food industry, including retailers, manufacturers, restaurants, cafés and pub chains, has been challenged to cut 20% of sugar from a range of products by 2020, with a 5% reduction in the first year.

Progress towards meeting the 5% ambition is the focus of this report and is assessed against a 2015 baseline.

The assessment shows an encouraging initial start from retailers and manufacturers, achieving a 2% reduction in both average sugar content and calories in products likely to be consumed in one go.

Whilst this doesn't meet the 5% ambition, PHE recognises there are more sugar reduction plans from the food industry in the pipeline – and some changes to products that are not yet captured in the data as they took effect after the first year cut-off point.

For the 8 food categories where progress has been measured, the assessment also shows:

- there have been reductions in sugar levels across 5 categories
- yoghurts and fromage frais, breakfast cereals, and sweet spreads and sauces have all met or exceeded the initial 5% sugar reduction ambition
- sugar levels are generally the same across all sectors, however for the eating out of home sector, portion sizes in products likely to be consumed in one go are substantially larger – on average more than double – those of retailers and manufacturers

Retailers and manufacturers have also reduced calories in products likely to be consumed in one go in 4 categories, for example by reducing the size of the product. Of these, ice cream, lollies and sorbets, and yoghurts and fromage frais have reduced average calories by more than 5%.

Due to limitations with the data, PHE is not yet able to report on the progress made in the cakes and morning goods categories for retailer and manufacturer's products. It is also not possible to report on progress for the eating out of home sector alone as part of this assessment. Progress in these areas will be reported on next year.

As part of the programme, businesses are encouraged to focus efforts on their

top selling products within 10 categories that contribute the most sugar to the diets of children up to 18 years of age. They have 3 options to help them do this – reduce sugar levels (reformulation), provide smaller portions, or encourage consumers to purchase lower or no sugar products.

Progress is also reported on the drinks covered by the government's Soft Drinks Industry Levy (SDIL). Sugar has been reduced by 11% and average calories per portion by 6% by retailers and manufacturers in response to the SDIL. Data also shows people are buying more drinks that have sugar levels below the SDIL cut-off of 5g per 100g.

With a third of children leaving primary school overweight or obese, PHE continues to call for increased action from all sectors of the food industry to achieve the 20% reduction ambition by 2020.

Steve Brine, Public Health Minister, said:

We lead the world in having the most stringent sugar reformulation targets and it is encouraging to see that some progress has been made in the first year.

However, we do not underestimate the scale of the challenge we face. We are monitoring progress closely and have not ruled out taking further action.

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive at PHE, said:

We have seen some of the food industry make good progress, and they should be commended for this. We also know that further progress is in the pipeline.

However, tackling the obesity crisis needs the whole food industry to step up, in particular, those businesses that have as yet taken little or no action.

Dr Alison Tedstone, Chief Nutritionist at PHE, said:

This is about tackling the nation's obesity crisis. Too many children and adults suffer the effects of obesity, as does society, with our NHS under needless pressure. Obesity widens economic inequalities, affecting the poor the hardest.

PHE has also today published new guidelines for the drinks industry to reduce the amount of sugar children consume through juice and milk based drinks.

The drinks categories join the other 10 categories in PHE's sugar reduction programme. Juice and milk based drinks are currently excluded from the government's SDIL, but the exemption of milk based drinks will be reviewed by

Treasury in 2020.

By mid-2021, the drinks industry is encouraged to:

- reduce sugar in juice based drinks (excluding single juice) by 5%
- cap all juice based drinks (including blended juices, smoothies and single juices) likely to be consumed in one go to 150 calories
- reduce sugar in milk (and milk substitutes) based drinks by 20% and cap products likely to be consumed in one go to 300 calories

Fruit juice alone accounts for around 10% of the sugar consumed each day by 4 to 18 year olds. Current advice is that only one 150ml portion counts as 1 of our 5 a day.

The next progress report on the sugar reduction programme is due in spring 2019.

Background

1. The first year of the sugar reduction programme is August 2016 to August 2017.
2. Single juice (also known as mono juice) products include juice from a single fruit with nothing added to it, for example, 100% orange juice.
3. Blended juice products include juice from multiple juice sources.
4. [Public Health England](#) exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and providing specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific expertise and support. Follow us on Twitter: [@PHE_uk](#) and Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland.

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News story: £30 million of funding to tackle antimicrobial resistance

The funding will be delivered through 4 new projects as part of the Global AMR Innovation Fund (GAMRIF):

- £20 million to the [Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator](#) – a non-profit international partnership supporting research on the most dangerous drug-resistant bacteria. This commitment will support scientific research around the world to develop new vaccines and alternatives-to-antibiotics against drug-resistant bacterial infections in humans
- £5 million for a new bilateral partnership with Argentina supporting research to tackle AMR in agriculture and the impact on the environment – delivered via the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Natural Environment Research Council. The bilateral partnership will be delivered and matched-funded, on a resource basis, by the National Scientific and Technical Research Council in Argentina
- £5 million invested in the [Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics](#) (FIND) – a global non-profit organisation aimed at the development, evaluation and delivery of high-quality affordable diagnostic tests for poverty-related diseases. This funding will support FIND's work to enhance the impact of diagnostic tools, in particular the connectivity of point-of-care diagnostics for AMR surveillance
- £1 million invested in the [Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership](#) (GARDP) – a non-profit research and development initiative addressing global public health needs by developing, delivering and assuring sustainable access of new or improved antibiotic treatments. This funding will support GARDP's programme on sexually transmitted infections, focusing on the development of a new antibiotic for drug-resistant gonorrhoea

These projects are funded by UK aid and will primarily benefit people in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of infection is greatest.

AMR occurs when microbes, including bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, no longer respond to the drugs that would normally kill them, such as antibiotics. This leaves us powerless to treat what are normally routine infections. It is estimated that 5,000 deaths are caused every year in the UK because antibiotics no longer work for some infections.

Professor Dame Sally Davies, England's Chief Medical Officer, said:

Today's announcement is further evidence of the UK collaborating with international partners to lead global efforts to tackle AMR. The GAMRIF investments aim to protect the world's most vulnerable and tackle AMR where the burden of infection is greatest.

I am pleased that the UK will be working in partnership with a range of leading organisations to deliver vital research activities across the OneHealth spectrum – together this represents a formidable force against the threat of superbugs.

Health and Social Care Secretary Jeremy Hunt said:

Antimicrobial resistance is no longer a threat of the future – it is a problem here and now, and one that is killing hundreds of thousands of people across the world each year. This new investment cements our commitment to world-leading new research to tackle AMR on a global scale, and these innovative projects have the potential to develop real solutions and save lives.

GAMRIF's other projects include a [UK-China AMR collaboration](#) and [InnoVet-AMR](#), with the Canadian International Development Research Centre.

[News story: New tool calculates NHS and social care costs of air pollution](#)

The health and social care costs of air pollution in England could reach £5.3 billion by 2035 unless action is taken, according to a new report and cost tool published today by Public Health England (PHE). Last year, the costs were £42.88 million. Local authorities will be able to use it to inform their policies to improve air quality.

The report and tool are part of the wider government strategy to reduce air pollution which was announced today, Tuesday 22 May 2018, by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Working with the UK Health Forum and Imperial College London, PHE's report and tool highlight the potential costs to the NHS and social care system of exposure to Particulate Matter (PM2.5) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), 2 of the pollutants to be dealt with under the government strategy.

The costs are for diseases where there is a strong association with air pollution: coronary heart disease; stroke; lung cancer; and child asthma.

When diseases with weaker evidence of association are also added, including

chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; diabetes; low birth weight; lung cancer (for NO₂ only); and dementia, the costs were £157 million in 2017 and could reach £18.6 billion by 2035.

There could be around 2.5 million new cases of all of the above diseases by 2035 if current air pollution levels persist.

A relatively small reduction in the population's exposure to PM_{2.5} and NO₂ could lead to a significant reduction in costs. Modelling was carried out at the national level and for 2 local authorities, Lambeth and South Lakeland, which represent areas with high and low levels of PM_{2.5} and NO₂ respectively.

If there was a 1µg/m³ reduction in PM_{2.5} and NO₂ over a year, relative to the 2015 baseline, the cumulative number of new cases of all diseases and NHS and social care costs avoided could be:

Years	Region	1µg/m ³ reduction in PM _{2.5}	1µg/m ³ reduction in PM _{2.5}	1µg/m ³ reduction in NO ₂	1µg/m ³ reduction in NO ₂
		New cases avoided (per 100,000)	Costs avoided (£m/100,000)	New cases avoided (per 100,000)	Costs avoided (£m/100,000)
2015 to 2025	England	146	0.72	32	0.19
	Lambeth	153	0.72	28	0.15
	South Lakeland	119	0.6	33	0.3
2015 to 2035	England	314	2.42	59	0.6
	Lambeth	310	2.35	57	0.54
	South Lakeland	204	2.05	70	0.75

All local authorities can use the tool to estimate the impact on health and the savings to the NHS and social care under different air pollution scenarios.

Professor Paul Cosford, Medical Director and Director of Health Protection at PHE, said:

Air pollution is a growing threat to the public's health, evidence shows it has a strong causal association with coronary heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and childhood asthma.

PHE has created a new air pollution tool so, for the first time, local authorities can calculate the cost of air pollution, providing impetus to act to improve air quality.

Local authorities are ideally placed to introduce policies to minimise air pollution, especially given the legal air quality powers they have to tackle it locally. The areas where they can act – health, housing, transport, education, local economies, green space and quality of life – are all relevant to local government policy.

Until now, there has been no simple way for local authorities to estimate the potential savings to the public purse from taking local action on PM2.5 and NO2. This tool may help local authorities make a more fully developed economic and financial case for reducing emissions.

The government's Clean Air Strategy provides further support to local authorities.

[Press release: April 2018 Transaction Data](#)

In April:

- HM Land Registry completed more than 1,625,090 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 373,677

The transaction data shows HM Land Registry completed 1,625,098 applications in April compared with 1,688,244 in March and 1,386,147 last April, of which:

- 346,788 were applications for register updates compared with 359,219 in March
- 804,157 were applications to get an official copy of a register compared with 824,859 in March
- 196,560 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 211,464 in March
- 28,161 were postal applications from non-account holders, compared with 26,228 in March

Applications by region and country

Region/country	February applications	March applications	April applications
South East	376,385	384,760	373,677
Greater London	313,340	337,656	314,534
North West	185,253	193,405	184,504
South West	158,433	159,147	159,528
West Midlands	143,338	142,764	140,096

Region/country	February applications	March applications	April applications
Yorkshire and the Humber	122,513	128,654	121,756
East Midlands	115,725	119,374	115,347
Wales	74,301	76,650	75,111
North	71,772	75,246	73,765
East Anglia	71,764	70,448	66,644
Isles of Scilly	75	79	69
England and Wales (not assigned)	70	61	67
Total	1,632,969	1,688,244	1,625,098

Top 5 local authority areas

Top 5 local authority areas	February applications	Top 5 local authority areas	March applications	Top 5 local authority areas	April applications
Birmingham	26,256	Birmingham	26,895	Birmingham	25,990
City of Westminster	21,991	City of Westminster	24,562	City of Westminster	22,505
Leeds	18,730	Leeds	19,505	Leeds	18,630
Manchester	16,972	Manchester	17,708	Manchester	16,698
Cornwall	16,606	Cornwall	17,174	Cornwall	16,343

Top 5 customers

Top 5 customers	February applications	Top 5 customers	March applications	Top 5 customers	April applications
Enact	50,488	Enact	50,160	Enact	48,943
Optima Legal Services	27,904	Optima Legal Services	28,113	Optima Legal Services	26,741
O'Neill Patient	23,851	O'Neill Patient	26,056	O'Neill Patient	25,473
Devonshires	20,684	Infotrack Limited	22,948	Infotrack Limited	24,411
TM Group (UK) Ltd	19,558	TM Group (UK) Ltd	19,320	TM Group (UK) Ltd	18,058

[Access the full dataset on data.gov.uk](#)

Notes to editors

1. Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The May Transaction Data will be published at 11am on Thursday 21 June 2018 at [HM Land Registry Monthly Property Transaction Data](#).

2. The monthly Transaction Data showing how many applications for new titles, leases, splitting titles, updating existing titles, official copies of the register and search and hold queries (official searches) were received, reflects the volume of applications lodged by customers using an HM Land Registry account number on their application form.
3. We are challenging ourselves to reassess our language to make our terms understandable to both our commercial and citizen customers. This is in line with our commitment set out in the [Business Strategy 2017-2022](#) under the 'simplicity' element of our ambition.
4. Completed applications in England and Wales shown by region and by local authority include postal applications as well as those sent electronically.
5. Transaction Data excludes: pending applications, bankruptcy applications, bulk applications, discharge applications (to remove a charge, for example a mortgage, from the register).
6. Transactions for value are applications lodged involving a transfer of ownership for value. For an explanation of other terms used, see [abbreviations used in the transaction data](#).
7. Most search and hold queries (official searches) carried out by a solicitor or conveyancer are to protect the purchase and/or mortgage. For example, a search and hold query will give the buyer priority for an application to HM Land Registry to register the purchase of the property. This can give an indication of market activity.
8. Reasonable skill and care is used in the provision of the data. We strive to ensure that the data is as accurate as possible but cannot guarantee that it is free from error. We cannot guarantee our data is fit for your intended purpose or use.
9. Transaction Data is available free of charge for use and re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL). The licence allows public bodies to make their data available for re-use.
10. If you use or publish the Transaction Data, you must add the following attribution statement: *Contains HM Land Registry data © Crown copyright and database right 2017. This data is licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.*
11. HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales.

12. HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862. It operates as an executive agency and a trading fund and its running costs are covered by the fees paid by the users of its services. Its ambition is to become the world's leading land registry for speed, simplicity and an open approach to data.
13. HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth in excess of £4 trillion, including around £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land Register contains more than 25 million titles showing evidence of ownership for some 85% of the land mass of England and Wales.
14. For further information about HM Land Registry visit www.gov.uk/land-registry
15. Follow us on Twitter [@HMLandRegistry](https://twitter.com/HMLandRegistry) our [blog](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

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News story: New IPO steering board chair appointed

The appointment follows the retirement of Bob Gilbert from the role at the end of March 2018.

He is a member of the Ofcom Board and was previously a non-executive director on the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) Steering Board. As chair, Tim will provide effective strategic leadership to the Steering Board and support to the executive team.

[Tim](#) brings a wealth of experience to the role.

Commenting on his appointment Tim Suter said:

I'm delighted to have been appointed to this important role and look forward to working with Tim Moss and his team. The IPO has an excellent reputation for the quality of rights it delivers for customers. Part of the reason this reputation is down to the value it places on its people. I will work to ensure the IPO continues to deliver for both its customers and its' staff.

The role of our Steering Board is to advise ministers, through our Director General, on our strategies and performance (including targets) as set out in our corporate plan. It provides guidance from a commercial standpoint on our operation and development across a range of issues.

During the last 12 months, the Steering Board has provided advice and guidance on a wide range of topics. These include our corporate plan, agency targets, intellectual property policy, accounts and risk management. The Steering Board meets six times a year.