

# Jonathan Reynolds comment on RBS results

**Jonathan**

**Reynolds MP, Labour's Shadow City Minister**, commenting on RBS's reported £7bn annual loss today, said:

"Today's results show RBS still has much to do to overcome the legacy of the financial crisis.

"Whilst the core banking business of RBS is improving, the financial burden caused by the errors of the past has generated a significant loss.

"British taxpayers have had to stump up huge support for RBS – they need to know that there has been a significant change in the regulation and culture of banking to prevent this happening again.

"The scale of the taxpayers' support also means there needs to be a conversation about what the long-term future of RBS should look like, to best protect the public's money."

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## News story: Avian flu confirmed at a farm near Haltwhistle, Northumberland

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu in a small flock of chickens at a farm near Haltwhistle, Northumberland.

A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises to limit the risk of the disease spreading. We have published [full details of the controls in place](#).

The flock contains about 35 birds. A number have died and the remaining live birds at the premises are being humanely culled. A full investigation is under way to determine the source of the infection.

Public Health England advises that the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency is clear that bird flu does not

pose a food safety risk for UK consumers.

[Read the latest advice and information](#) on avian flu in the UK, including actions to reduce the risk of the disease spreading, advice for anyone who keeps poultry or captive birds and details of previous cases. Journalists with queries should contact [Defra press office](#).

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## **[Press release: Boeing to open new production facility in Sheffield](#)**

Boeing Sheffield will enable the aerospace company to bring the manufacture of key high-tech actuation components and systems in-house. These include components for [Boeing's](#) next-generation 737, 737 MAX and 777 aircraft. This should enhance production efficiency and reduce costs.

Locating the plant alongside the [University of Sheffield's](#) world-class [Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre \(AMRC\)](#) will also allow Boeing to initiate a major research and development programme. Specifically the aerospace company will look to innovate new techniques in manufacturing.

New jobs are also expected to be created in 2018.

Boeing is a co-founder of the AMRC. It is a member of the [high value manufacturing \(HVM\) Catapult Centres](#), supported by Innovate UK.

Sir Michael Arthur, President of Boeing Europe and Managing Director of Boeing UK and Ireland, said:

The UK provides Boeing with the talent and infrastructure we need to grow and maintain a high level of productivity and quality to meet our significant order book.

We are proud to expand our relationship with the UK still further with Boeing Sheffield. Our decision to start manufacturing high-value components in the UK is a step-change in our engagement and a further example of Boeing's commitment to grow here, supporting the UK's long-term prosperity.

The Boeing Sheffield news follows the recently announced [partnership between the AMRC and McLaren Automotive](#).

Ruth McKernan, Innovate UK's Chief Executive said:

This significant further investment and partnership by Boeing in

Sheffield and the AMRC is excellent news for the region. It is testament to world-class expertise and facilities provided by the AMRC, and the high value manufacturing Catapult, supported by Innovate UK.

It comes off the back of McLaren Automotive's recent announcement that it will open a £50 million composites technologies centre next to the AMRC, illustrating the strength of advanced manufacturing innovation in the UK.

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## [Website maintenance 27 February 2017](#)

The BGS website and hosted sites such as OneGeology will be temporarily offline for essential maintenance from 12:00 on Monday 27 February. Hopefully normal services will resume within the hour. Apologies for any inconvenience.

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## [China revises law to boost Red Cross credibility](#)

China's top legislature Friday passed a revised law to boost the transparency and credibility of the country's Red Cross societies.

The legislation was adopted after a third reading at the bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), which runs Wednesday to Friday.

Red Cross societies in China are now required to give feedback to donors on the use of their donations, and staff who fail to do so could face civil and criminal charges.

"The revision primarily focuses on strengthening supervision on Red Cross societies and standardizing their activities," Guo Linmao, an official with the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, told a press conference Friday afternoon.

A previous clause giving Red Cross societies power to "rectify" illegal activities by their subordinate societies and staff was deleted from the new draft.

After several scandals, China's Red Cross has grappled with trust issues in recent years.

Revision work for the law began in 2016.

The first reading of the draft suggested that independent third-party agencies should audit donations and that an information disclosure system should be put into place.

The societies should also establish a system for financial management, internal control, public auditing as well as supervision of funds and assets.

The second draft expanded Red Cross societies' duties in stem cell and organ donation.

The Red Cross Society of China established an organ donation administration center in 2012, becoming involved in organ donations at every stage from donor registration to organ distribution.

The third reading specified that Red Cross societies could participate in and promote blood, body and organ donations, and could carry out work related to stem cell donations.

It stated that leading supervisors at all Red Cross societies must be chosen through a democratic process.

The revision will safeguard and regulate Red Cross societies in performing their duties and boost its credibility, according to Zhang Mingqi, a vice chairman of the Law Committee of the NPC.

The law will come into force May 8, 2017.