As the Times reports today, we are making bosses of companies...

Bosses face £500k fine in nuisance call crackdown

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Directors of companies that make nuisance calls will face fines of up to £500,000 under a government move to

£500,000 under a government move to hold them personally responsible.

Ministers have pushed to make directors liable as evidence emerged that companies are choosing to wind up and then register under a new name rather than pay big financial penalties.

The data protection watchdog revealed last week that it had failed to recover 46 per cent of the £178 million in fines since 2010, due to liquidations. Britons were bombarded with almost four million nuisance calls and texts.

four million nuisance calls and texts last year, according to Ofcom esti-mates. Another study, commissioned by the insurance company Aviva, put the figure at 2.2 billion, or 4,200 calls and messages every minute. The government will begin a consul-

tation today on proposals that mean that on top of the fine of up to £500,000 on a business, the same can be levied by

the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on company directors. Ministers first announced the proposal in October 2016 but it was held up by the snap election and plans to update the UK's data protection framework, according to a Whitehall source. The ICO describes nuisance calls as upwanted describes in that attempts to

unwanted marketing that attempts to promote a product, service, aim or ideal. They can be live or automated. Margot James, the digital and crea-

tive industries minister, described the calls as a "blight on society", adding. "For too long a minority of company directors have escaped justice by liquidating their firms and opening up again under a different name.

Last year a company fined a record amount for making almost 100 million nuisance calls in 18 months was placed into liquidation. Keurboom Communi-cations caused "upset and distress" with its automated calls and was fined £400,000. Gregory Rudd, 52, its direct-or, wound it up soon after. The calls related to schemes such as

road accident claims and compensation for mis-sold payment protection insurance and prompted more than 1,000 complaints to the ICO.

Mr Rudd was also a director of Allied Telecommunications that was linked in 2005 to 16 companies fined £1.3 million for thousands of nuisance calls. It was

also placed into liquidation.

Consumers aged over 65 received more unsolicited calls than any other age group, with 30 per cent of this group saying they had been targeted, according to a study last year. In March the ICO declared that a company suspected of making 200 million illegal nui-sance calls potentially risked lives by clogging a safety line for people at unmanned level crossings in Scotland.

While complaints about the calls to the ICO and Ofcom have been falling year-on-year since 2015, more than 33,585 were still recorded last year. The government has tried to tackle the problem by forcing companies to display their number and increasing fines for rule breaches on direct marketing.

As the Times reports today, we are making bosses of companies which bother people with nuisance calls personally responsible if their firm breaks the law.

"We were world pioneers when the NHS set up in 1948, and we must show the same imagination now"

"We were world pioneers when the NHS was set up in 1948, and we must show the same imagination now"

- Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt writes for today's Telegraph https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/05/27/face-once-in-a-gene ration-chance-reform-nhs/

Today the Education Secretary has announced a £50 million...

Extra £50m grant for 740 special education places

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National Statistics (ONS). About one in seven people living in the UK today were born abroad, according to the ONS. This amounted to 9.4 million people, up from 9.2 million in 2016.

Mr Zahawi said: "All parents want to send their child to a good local school, one that meets their individual needs and supports them to achieve their full potential. This funding will help to create thousands more school places across

the country."

Today, the Government will also pledge an additional £50million towards the creation of 740 more school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

This brings total investment in new school places for children with additional needs to £265 million, following the announcement of a £215 million fund last year. The fund will also be used to provide specialist facilities to support children with complex needs such as sensory rooms and playgrounds with specialist equipment.

Today the Education Secretary has announced a £50 million investment in state-of-the-art facilities for children with special educational needs, helping to ensure that every child has the best start in life

<u>Michael Gove and Jeremy Hunt write for</u> <u>the Telegraph, as the...</u>



Michael Gove and Jeremy Hunt write for the Telegraph, as the Government has announced a new Clean Air Strategy designed to cut air pollution, save lives and leave our environment in a better state than we found it

Sam Gyimah outlines how the use of AI will allow us to save...

Sam Gyimah outlines how the use of AI will allow us to save thousands of lives each year, as the Prime Minister has set out plans to transform the diagnosis of chronic diseases. These plans form part of our modern Industrial Strategy, which is a plan to improve productivity and create better and higher-paying jobs across the country