

Largest ever increase in funding for drug treatment

- Record £780 million to rebuild drug treatment system
- Investment underpins new ten-year strategy published today to tackle scourge of drugs and prevent crime
- Every local authority in England to receive extra funding to combat drug and alcohol misuse over next three years, with areas in greatest need receiving extra funding first

Communities all across England will receive the largest ever funding boost for drug treatment services to help people and reduce crime on our streets, under a new strategy published today.

The money will go towards improving access to treatment and increasing the capacity of services, helping to reverse the upward trend in drug use and level up by tackling this major driver of crime, which we know disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable and poorest communities.

The government's new strategy to tackle drugs, sets out a bold, long-term vision for the next decade. It is designed to cut crime and reduce both the supply and demand for drugs by getting more people into treatment, breaking the cycle of crime driven by addiction and keeping drug-related violence out of neighbourhoods across the country.

The strategy is backed by a new investment of almost £780 million for treatment – the largest ever increase – bringing total spending on drug enforcement and treatment to more than £3 billion over the next three years.

A world-leading treatment system will be developed for those dependent on drugs and support them to kick their addictions, prioritising areas with the greatest need.

Over the next three years, all local authorities will receive new money for treatment and recovery with the 50 local authorities in greatest need receiving this first to ensure that better access to treatment is fast tracked for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Illegal drugs carry a cost to the taxpayer of nearly £20 billion every year and almost half of all burglaries and robberies are committed by the 300,000 heroin and cocaine addicts in England with whole communities forced to endure the misery these cause.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Sajid Javid, said:

This is a huge moment which will not only save lives but help level up the country.

We're investing a record amount into treatment services with money

to break the cycle of drug use and to support communities by cutting the drug use which drives crime.

Treatment services are just one part of the comprehensive strategy which includes helping people back to work, into permanent housing, and cracking down on supply.

To cut crime and reduce drug related deaths and harms over the next three years, the government will:

- Increase and improve treatment services to reduce harm and improve recovery rates significantly. This will mean more people receiving better quality treatment, including developing and expanding the treatment workforce, helping to prevent crime.
- Improve offender drug treatment across the Prisons and Probation Service in England and Wales to get more offenders engaged in treatment, including mandatory and voluntary testing regimes in prison, support for prisoners to engage with community treatment ahead of their release and increasing the use of intensive Drug Rehabilitation Requirements for those on community sentences. This will help cut crime as those receiving treatment for their addiction are known to be half as likely to reoffend.
- Increased housing support and access to treatment for those at risk of sleeping rough.
- Roll out individual employment support across all Local Authorities in England by 2025 based on effective existing models to help people in recovery to get a job by supporting them to be ready for work and helping them to find a job that is right for them.
- Investment to implement employment support including a peer mentoring programme for those with a drug or alcohol addiction.

Dame Carol Black, whose independent review into the issue of drugs helped shape the strategy, will monitor and advise on the progress of the strategy with the government producing an annual update.

Professor Dame Carol Black said:

Enormous human tragedy surrounds the lives of people dependent on drugs. This investment will transform substance misuse services, providing people with high quality treatment and support for recovery.

Therefore, I am delighted that the government is making this very significant investment in drug treatment and recovery services, alongside the funding allocated to tackle drug supply. The investment to improve housing support and employment opportunities is just as critical because people need hope, purpose and practical steps to help them achieve a better future.

This strategy comes with high expectations and I look forward to advising the central unit and relevant government departments to

ensure there is a step change in treatment, recovery and prevention.

The role of dedicated Health and Justice Partnership Co-ordinators, who liaise between prisons, probation and treatment providers, will be expanded to cover every region in England and Wales. This will mean services in prison and the community are better joined up and offenders' treatment plans remain consistent, helping them to stay on track and break the cycle of reoffending once and for all.

A pilot will trial a new approach to how the courts deal with offenders with a history of drug abuse, where they will be seen regularly by the same judge, who has the power to order a number of sanctions and incentives, such as mandatory drug testing. Currently only offenders who agree to undergo treatment programmes can be subjected to regular testing. It is hoped this new approach will increase compliance with treatment and deter offenders from returning to drugs as, should they test positive, they may be in breach of their order and could face prison time.

The strategy also sets out a £300 million investment to crack down on supply chains and criminal gangs profiting from the trade in illegal drugs. This will go towards action to:

- Dismantle over 2,000 county lines – which are used to supply drugs and often involve recruiting children – and making thousands more arrests.
- Carry out 6,400 disruptions against the activities of organised criminals to reduce illegal drug trafficking.
- Invest up to £145 million in the County Lines Programme, continuing to bring line holders to justice, targeting the road and rail networks and protecting those exploited and supporting them to rebuild their lives.

Combating Drugs Minister, Kit Malthouse, said:

Drugs degrade society – they drive crime, destroy families, and illegal drugs use claims more lives each year than all stabbings and road traffic accidents combined.

That is why, today, we are setting out our a 10-year plan to help drive drugs out of our cities, towns and villages and make sure those ensnared in the grip of addiction get the help they so badly need.

This is a record level of investment and will bring our total spending on drug enforcement, treatment and recovery to more than £3 billion over the next three years – but more importantly, it will change the lives of millions of people affected by this poison.

To achieve a generational shift in demand for illegal drugs, further action will be taken to:

- Invest £15 million over 3 years in rolling out drug testing on arrest through police forces across England and Wales.
- Invest £5 million in an innovation fund to develop a world-leading evidence base to better understand what works in driving changes in attitudes towards drug use.
- Invest £9 million on the Tough Consequences out of court disposals scheme which will make sure more people using illegal drugs receive a relevant and proportionate consequence. This will deter people from drug use through a range of potential civil penalties which could include fines, curfews, or in the most exceptional cases, the temporary removal of driving licences or passports.
- Details the government's response to parts 1 and 2 of Dame Carol Black's independent review of drugs can be found [here](#)
- The full strategy is available [here](#)

[Ian's dedication honoured with OBE](#)

News story

Ian Cole, Business Development Director has been awarded OBE for his outstanding contribution to the community and services to defence



Ian with his wife Jacky outside Windsor Castle after receiving his OBE

Her Majesty The Queen honoured DECA Business Development Director, Ian Cole as an 'Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire', (OBE) in the 2020 New Year Honours List recognising his services to Defence and his outstanding contribution to the wider community. Ian was awarded this honour during at his Investiture held at Windsor Castle on 3rd November 2021 and was presented with his OBE by Her Royal Highness Princess Ann, the Princess Royal.

Ian began his working life as an Engineering Apprentice in the Coal Mining Industry in South Wales gaining an outstanding ability to engage with people

with sincerity and integrity, whatever their background. Ian moved into the MOD at RAF St Athan and has used these skills and his unmistakable passion for defence to serve far beyond expectation. Ian led the setup of the DSG Equipment Sustainability System in Camp Bastion, Afghanistan which provided unrivalled support to UK Armed Forces whilst ensuring significant cost avoidance for the UK MOD. Ian's dedication, resilience, tenacity, objectivity and integrity on an international stage were pivotal in forging strong and influential relationships with global partners contributed significantly to the award of the global F-35 contract to Sealand Support Services.

Ian's personal contribution to the wider community has seen him dedicate more than 25 years as a volunteer Coast Guard in HM Coastguard, 19 of which he served as Station Officer, risking his own life to save others. In 2007, Ian received the Chief Coast Guards Meritorious Commendation for his outstanding contribution during the Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Oxfordshire flood crisis. More significantly, Ian was awarded a 'Good Citizenship Award for Bravery' by South Wales Police after rescuing a man in danger of being swept off Porthcawl Pier in adverse weather conditions. He also received Bronze and Silver Citizenship awards from the Borough Council for his voluntary work. Ian's service continues today as the Porthcawl RNLi Water Safety Officer on the RNLi Operations Committee, and as a Watchkeeper with the National Coastwatch Institution and Chairman of the Porthcawl Coastguard Association.

Commenting on his award and achievements, Ian said:

I feel hugely honoured to receive this recognition, and it has only been achieved by having wonderful people around me. It is those who I have worked with over the years that have made things possible both in DECA and within my community and it goes without saying the support of my family has been unstinting.

My Investiture was a fabulous day, and the Princess Royal was most interested and knowledgeable in the work that we are currently undertaking in DECA in support of defence.

Geraint Spearing added:

I am immensely proud that Ian is part of the DECA family, he has worked tirelessly for defence and the community with compassion and dedication and I couldn't be more pleased that his work has been recognised in this way.

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[An inspection of migrants arriving via small boats at Tug Haven](#)

News story

The inspection team anticipate reporting to the Home Secretary by February.



The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration has commenced an inspection of the initial processing of migrants arriving via small boats at Tug Haven. This inspection will focus on the security checks performed to protect the border, and the identification and safeguarding of vulnerable people. The inspection team anticipate reporting to the Home Secretary by February.

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[Collaboration at Christmas: Foreign Secretary signs Joint Declaration with Latvia ahead of tree-lighting ceremony](#)

Press release

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss today (Monday 06 December) met her Latvian counterpart, Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs to sign a Joint Declaration and attend the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony



Foreign Secretary Liz Truss today (Monday 06 December) met her Latvian counterpart, Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs, to sign a Joint Declaration forging stronger UK-Latvian trade and technology ties; and enhancing cooperation in tackling cyber-security issues, protecting democratic values and freedoms and tackling malign state threats.

After the signing, the two Foreign Ministers attended a tree-lighting ceremony at Lancaster House to officially switch-on the Christmas tree gifted to the UK by Latvia.

The ceremony was also marked by hymns from the London Latvian Choir.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

As two nations protecting the frontier of Europe, the UK and Latvia are freedom-loving nations committed to defending democracy, human rights and the rule of law across the world.

This Declaration boosts an already strong relationship as we mark a centenary of diplomatic relations and Latvia celebrates 30 years of independence.

The UK and Latvia are increasingly the target of hybrid threats that aim to weaken our economies, democracies and social cohesion.

The Joint Statement sets out how, in defence of our values, the UK and Latvia will increase our deterrence and resilience capabilities to counter interference in our democracies, and protect against espionage, disinformation, and malicious cyber activity.

The UK and Latvia also committed to continue to build collective resilience against aggressive behaviour by Russia, Belarus and China.

This meeting follows the Foreign Secretary's visit to Riga last week, where she met with European and NATO allies to discuss the UK's enduring commitment to NATO; countering hybrid warfare like cyber and migration; and a collective response to Russian aggression.

Notes to Editors:

- Pictures from the tree-lighting ceremony event are available on the [UK Government Flickr](#) page.
- The Joint Declaration is available [here](#).

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[Government toughens rules to exclude underperforming suppliers](#)

- New rules will mean that companies with a track record of poor delivery, fraud or corruption will be blocked from winning public contracts
- Reform will scrap bureaucratic EU rules, creating simpler, more flexible procurement
- These measures will make it easier for SMEs to bid for and win contracts, which account for a third of public expenditure
- The creation of new businesses and new jobs will now be a key factor in procurement decisions, playing to the strengths of British businesses

New powers have been announced today to allow the government to exclude suppliers from winning public contracts if they have a poor track record of delivering for taxpayers.

The plans are part of the government's wide ranging changes, which take advantage of new powers now that we have left the EU, published as part of the consultation response to its procurement green paper.

Under the new plans, hundreds of complicated and bureaucratic EU rules will be torn up, with simpler, clearer and more flexible rules put in place.

This will give the government more discretion to exclude previously poorly performing suppliers, such as those who have not delivered previous projects on budget or on time.

Suppliers can also be banned if they have undertaken unethical practices, such as a lax approach to safety, or where there are national security or environmental concerns.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay said:

Leaving the EU gives us the perfect chance to make our own rules for how the government's purchasing power can be used to promote strong values.

While doing so we're increasing transparency and ensuring that procurement remains fair and open.

These simpler and more flexible rules will also make it easier for small businesses to win work – placing levelling up at its heart.

Under the current rules, suppliers can only be excluded from winning new government contracts if there has been a significant breach of contract.

With about £300bn spent every year on public projects such as the delivery of new schools, hospitals and roads, public procurement represents about a third of all public expenditure.

Transparency and emergency procurement

New measures on transparency will be introduced, so that members of the public can see exactly where their money is being spent and compare this across a range of services. This will be done through procurement data being published in a standard, open format, accessible to anyone, as well as the increased efficiency of having a single registration platform for suppliers.

The plans will also make procurement more transparent and effective during times of crisis, where government needs to act quickly to ensure vital goods and services are bought.

Competition will be introduced into emergency buying, meaning that government doesn't need to wholly rely on direct awards in times of crisis.

Helping small businesses

The changes will make it easier for small and medium size businesses to bid for and win government contracts, by overhauling the current EU rules, which are bureaucratic and unnecessarily complicated. This often discourages smaller suppliers from bidding.

A simplified bidding process will make it easier and more efficient for SMEs to win work. One efficiency being brought in is creating one single central platform which suppliers have to register on, so they only have to submit their data once to qualify for any public sector procurement.

Levelling up

Procurement changes outlined in today's consultation response will also help level up the country. Under new rules, procurers will be able to give more weight to bids that create jobs for communities, build back better from the Covid-19 pandemic and support the transition to net zero carbon emissions. These 'social value' factors mean that buyers don't just consider price alone.

The greater flexibility in the new rules will allow local leaders and communities to grow the private sector and raise living standards in their area, by being able to procure more locally and flexibly.

Lord Frost, Minister of State at the Cabinet Office, said:

These reforms are just one of the many areas where we are taking advantage of our exit from the EU's rules to design a procurement system that is better tailored to the UK and our economic needs.

They will open up new opportunities for our small businesses to win public contracts, boost efficiency and competition, and deliver better results for UK taxpayers.