

# Bigger, better Probation Service to cut crime

- Lord Chancellor vows to tackle reoffending with extra investment
- newly-unified Probation Service plans record recruitment drive
- offenders face closer supervision and home visits to better protect children and partners

More than £300 million worth of extra funding has been pumped into the service since July 2019.

The funding is helping to more than double the recruitment of probation officers, from the usual annual intake of 600 trainee probation officers to [1,000 last year](#) with plans to recruit a record 1,500 this financial year. This will mean staff can keep a closer eye on the most dangerous offenders and ensure many more take up the opportunity to reform their criminal ways.

Unifying the service will ensure there is better and more consistent supervision of offenders and closer working with the police, NHS and local authorities. The service will work in 12 regions across England and Wales and a new, specialist National Security Division will be specifically tasked with the enhanced monitoring of terrorists, serious organised criminals and very high-risk offenders.

A refresh of the national standards for probation will ensure staff meet face-to-face with all the offenders they supervise at least once a month, with more frequent meetings for higher-risk offenders. For the first time, the standards also set an expectation that probation staff will visit offenders' homes to protect children, partners and other family members from domestic and sexual abuse. In some cases, such safeguarding visits will be joint with police and social services.

Combined with its increasing use of electronic monitoring, [including GPS and sobriety tags](#), the Probation Service will be even more focused on keeping people safe.

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Robert Buckland MP QC, said:

The work probation does to protect the public from harm and rehabilitate offenders is too often overlooked but it is vitally important given 80% of crime is reoffending.

The government is backing the new Probation Service with more money and more staff so that the public is better protected, crime is cut and fewer people become victims.

The Probation Service will continue its important work in helping victims to explain the impact of crime on them at parole hearings and to ask for licence conditions to prevent offenders from contacting or going near them. Eligible victims will now be automatically referred to the Victim Contact Scheme under recent changes to the [Victims' Code](#), and there are plans to extend the Scheme to victims of stalkers and harassers serving less than 12 months in prison.

There will also be extra investment in tackling the drivers of crime and getting offenders to ditch it for good. [Charities and companies have been awarded nearly £200 million](#) to provide and signpost vital support services that help reduce reoffending, such as employment, mental healthcare and housing advice. With reoffending accounting for 80% of all recorded crime, these services will help to prevent thousands of people becoming victims each year and save some of the £18 billion annual cost of repeat offending.

It comes on top of the [£220 million package announced earlier this year to tackle crime](#), including the largest extra investment in drug treatment in 15 years. Every prisoner will be able to continue drug recovery on release and the funding will expand the availability of treatment for those serving community sentences. With offenders around 50 per cent more likely to break the law again if released without somewhere to stay, the funding will also be used to temporarily house around 3,000 otherwise homeless prison leavers in basic hostels this year.

The changes to probation will also give the government greater levers over community sentences, including the delivery of unpaid work which Ministers want to make more visible to the public and used more frequently to clean up the country's streets, parks and waterways.

## Notes to editors

- The supervision of low- and medium-risk offenders and delivery of unpaid work and behavioural change programmes will now be carried out by the public sector Probation Service, alongside the supervision of high-risk offenders which was already the responsibility of the public sector.
- More than 7,000 staff from private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies will come together with 3,500 probation officers already in the public sector in the new Probation Service.

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## [UK and Singapore kickstart negotiations on cutting-edge digital trade agreement](#)

The UK and Singapore will today (28 June) launch negotiations on a new ambitious digital trade agreement that could remove barriers to digital trade

and enable UK exporters to expand into high-tech markets.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss and the Singaporean Minister in charge of Trade Relations Mr S. Iswaran will meet by video call to kick start negotiations.

The UK is the first European country to start negotiations on a Digital Economy Agreement (DEA). Singapore and the UK are both global leaders in the digital economy and 70% of UK services exports, from financial and legal services to music streaming and e-books, were digitally delivered to Singapore in 2019, worth £3.2 billion.

The DEA would open further opportunities for British businesses to deliver their services through digital trade. It would help cut red tape and ensure companies can trade more efficiently through digital technology such as electronic transactions, e-signatures and e-contracts.

Today's announcement is part of the government's strategy to place the UK at the centre of a network of modern free trade agreements with dynamic countries, and to enhance our status as a global hub for services and digital trade.

Negotiations will focus on:

- Securing open digital markets for exporters, allowing them to expand into new markets and sell traditional products in new ways.
- Ensuring free and trusted cross-border data flows, while upholding high standards of personal data protection.
- Cutting red tape for UK businesses by promoting digital trading systems such as digital customs and border procedures that will save time and money when exporting.
- Upholding consumer rights and protecting businesses' valuable intellectual property like source code and cryptography.
- Deepening our cooperation on future growth sectors like fintech and lawtech, while working with Singapore to strengthen our collective cybersecurity capabilities and keep our countries safe.

International Trade Secretary, Liz Truss said:

A cutting-edge deal with Singapore will keep us at the forefront of the technological revolution, ensuring we lead the way in digitally delivered trade and industries like fintech and cybersecurity. We are already the second largest services exporter in the world, with a huge comparative advantage in this area that we intend to capitalise on.

The UK will be the first European country to ever negotiate a Digital Economy Agreement, which shows what we can do as a sovereign trading nation. We are becoming more flexible, more nimble and less defensive in our approach to trade. Our ambition is to make the UK a global hub for services and digital trade, by striking a series of advanced, high-standards agreements with

leading nations across the world that drive productivity, jobs, and growth across the UK.

Sally Jones, Trade Strategy Leader at EY UK and Ireland, said:

Digital transformation can unlock human potential and accelerate new, better ways of working. For the UK's service sector, it's now impossible to distinguish between digital and non-digital trade. Digital is at the core of everything we do. For too long, trade deals haven't taken into account the realities of how businesses trade today.

The UK-Singapore [Digital Economy Agreement] is an important opportunity for the UK to step to the forefront in developing new trade rules that enable the growth of digital trade and promote trust. It will also serve as a strategic platform to help UK companies looking to expand their presence into the dynamic Asia-Pacific region.

Miles Celic, Chief Executive Officer at TheCityUK, said:

As leading international financial centres and data hubs, there are tremendous opportunities to be gained from the UK and Singapore working together on digital trade issues that support and supercharge innovation. Working with like-minded countries like Singapore presents a real opportunity to develop a best-in-class digital agreement.

Digital restrictions are among the fastest-growing trade barriers. Over 50% of trade in services is facilitated by digital exchange, but restrictions on digital trade doubled in the decade leading up to 2019. To ensure the future of open global services trade, it's essential that new agreements support the flow of data across borders. The UK should strive to set clear ground rules for digital trade and build an open and robust framework for future digital trade and technological cooperation. Such a framework can then become a template for other key markets, aiding the free flow of data and preventing unnecessary market fragmentation.

Julian David, techUK CEO said:

We are delighted to see the start of the first UK digital-specific trade negotiation with Singapore, a like-minded country with whom we share longstanding business ties. Digital trade is the fastest growing arm of international trade and getting the rules right will be crucial for our economic recovery. A UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement will put the UK firmly in the frontrunners club

for digital trade policy and facilitation and techUK stands ready to support an ambitious deal.

The UK is already one of the world's biggest exporters of services, with remotely delivered services exports worth £207 billion in 2019 alone.

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## Foreign Secretary warns of growing threat of terrorism in Africa

- Dominic Raab will highlight the growing threat of Daesh-linked groups in Africa
- New UK funds will support efforts to combat terror in the Lake Chad Basin region
- Foreign Secretary will also voice concern at recent violence in north-east Syria

The Foreign Secretary will announce today (Monday) new UK funding to fight the growing threat of terrorism in West Africa.

At a meeting of the Global Coalition against Daesh in Rome this afternoon, Dominic Raab will commit £12.6m to support efforts to counter the group in the Lake Chad Basin, which covers north-east Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

The funds will be used to support both the regionally-led military fight against Daesh, and projects encouraging its fighters to leave the terrorist group.

Foreign ministers from more than 45 countries are meeting today to discuss deepening cooperation to combat Daesh and its affiliate terrorist groups, including emerging threats across the African continent.

The UK will highlight concern over the fragile security situation in Iraq and violence in displacement camps and detention centres in north-east Syria.

Dominic Raab will urge Coalition partners to come together to tackle this pressing threat and target the longer-term drivers of terrorism, both in the Middle East and in areas of Africa where attacks from Daesh-linked groups have been growing.

The UK is funding a new Conflict, Stability and Security Fund programme for

the Lake Chad Basin region of West Africa, where Daesh's affiliate, known as Islamic State West Africa (ISWA), is responsible for significant violence.

This will support regional military efforts to counter Daesh and other groups, as well as efforts to safely demobilise suspected low-level members of terrorist groups.

Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, said:

"Two years since Daesh's territorial defeat in Iraq and Syria, the threat of Daesh and its hateful ideology has not gone away. Worryingly it continues to grow in Africa which is why we must work with our Coalition partners to fight its poisonous propaganda on all fronts.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with our African partners to tackle the growing threat from Daesh-linked groups across Africa, particularly in the Lake Chad Basin."

Daesh recently released a new speech by its spokesman, the first since October 2020.

The spokesman congratulated affiliates for their attacks, including in West Africa. Islamic State West Africa (ISWA) in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin regularly issues propaganda boasting horrific violence against both civilian and military targets. The funding announced today will help counter such propaganda.

As set out in the Government's Integrated Review, the UK is committed to burden-sharing with its security allies, and to serving as a "force for good in the world".

Monday's meeting in Rome will mark the first time Global Coalition foreign ministers have met in person since November 2019, and will be co-hosted by Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio and US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.

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**[Secretary of State for Health and](#)**

# Social Care, Sajid Javid, prioritises ending pandemic

Press release

Sajid Javid says he's honoured to take up new post, acknowledging "huge responsibility"



Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said:

I'm incredibly honoured to take up the post of Health and Social Care Secretary, particularly during such an important moment in our recovery from COVID-19. This position comes with a huge responsibility and I will do everything I can to deliver for the people of this great country.

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our NHS and social care staff who work tirelessly every day, and our phenomenal vaccination programme, we have made enormous progress in the battle against this dreadful disease. I want our country to get out of this pandemic and that will be my most immediate priority.

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## Adult social care given over £250 million extra to continue coronavirus

## (COVID-19) protections

- Over a quarter of a billion has been given to extend adult social care coronavirus (COVID-19) support beyond June.
- Funds will boost Infection Control Fund and vital COVID-19 testing.
- It brings the total specific funding for the sector to over £2 billion.

Made up of £142.5 million Infection Control Funding and £108.8 million for testing, the fund will help protect people in adult social care by continuing to meet the cost of rigorous infection prevention and control measures, as restrictions in wider society are eased, and supporting rapid, regular testing of staff to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

This funding brings the total funding given specifically to social care to £2 billion throughout the pandemic to help support the sector and keep people safe. This is on top of prioritising the sector for vaccines, providing regular, rapid testing to care homes and bringing in regulations to make vaccines a condition of deployment in care homes.

Minister for Care Helen Whately said:

We are keeping up our support for social care through the pandemic. This new funding will help care services continue to protect those they look after and their staff from this cruel virus.

It brings our total support to social care to £2 billion during the pandemic, along with billions of items of free PPE, over 120 million tests and the prioritisation of social care in the vaccination programme.

The new money will be a continuation of [Infection Control and Testing Fund](#), which was due to run until the end of the month and will now last until the end of September.

Infection Control Funding is used by care homes and home care providers to keep their staff and residents safe. It can be used to:

- ensure staff who are isolating receive their normal wages while doing so
- ensure that members of staff work in only one care home where possible
- limit or cohort staff to individual groups of residents or floors/wings, for example paying for extra staff cover to provide the necessary level of care and support to residents
- support recruitment of additional staff (and volunteers) if they're needed to enable staff to work in only one care home

Professor Martin Green OBE, Chief Executive, Care England said:

The extension of the ICF and Testing Fund is very welcome and we applaud the DHSC in securing this extension. The adult social care provider sector has worked extremely hard to continue to protect the people it supports and cares for through extensive infection control and testing procedures. This funding is a recognition of these efforts.

Care England is happy to work at speed to ensure the successful roll out of the money to the front line where it is most needed and where providers have been anxiously waiting for news.

Testing funding will continue to support providers with the costs associated with ongoing testing in care settings. This includes funding to support visitor testing to ensure residents can see their loved ones as safely as possible.

Throughout the pandemic the government has sought to protect everyone working in the social care sector or receiving social care, particularly given the increased risk people in these settings face.

Free PPE is provided to the care sector until March 2022 and to date, more than 35 million PCR swab test kits and 85 million LFDs have been sent to care homes.

Over £2 billion has now been given to the sector including infection prevention and control measures and prioritised the sector for the vaccine.

We will publish detailed grant determination in the coming days.

[More details on the Infection Control Fund are available.](#)

The government had published toolkits through Skills for Care to reinforce infection prevention and control procedures among staff and visitors to care homes: