

DfT announces 650 roles to be created in Birmingham and Leeds

- the Department for Transport (DfT) will create a second headquarters in Birmingham and a northern hub in Leeds as an initial 650 job roles are created in the cities by 2025
- the move demonstrates the government's commitment to levelling up all parts of the UK
- expanding DfT's presence in the Midlands and the North will boost local economies as government builds back better from coronavirus (COVID-19)

DfT has today (15 March 2021) announced the creation of a second HQ in Birmingham and a northern hub in Leeds, as part of a plan to create 650 roles in the cities.

The move is part of the government's commitment to diversifying the Civil Service, ensuring decisions are rooted in the communities it serves.

It is a particularly important step for DfT, given the huge role it has to play in levelling up the UK through investment in vital transport infrastructure and services.

It is the latest step in the government's drive to move 22,000 Civil Service roles from London to communities across the UK by 2030.

Grant Shapps, Transport Secretary, said:

This is a historic move for the department and part of a significant wider culture change across Whitehall.

Transport is absolutely vital to the local communities we serve and having hubs in major cities like Birmingham and Leeds will offer a fresh perspective on how we can better serve these areas.

Chris Heaton-Harris, Transport Minister, said:

Our department has a key role to play in this government's drive to level up across the country. Having hundreds more roles based outside of London will not only bring an economic boost for Birmingham and Leeds, but also ensure we are delivering the changes people around the country want.

The Birmingham headquarters will include new ministerial offices, with ministers expected to spend a significant amount of time there as the government works to rebuild the UK. The news of DfT creating a northern hub in Leeds comes on the back of the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, this month, also

confirming that the UK's first-ever infrastructure bank will also be based in the city.

Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leader of Bradford Council, said:

This is another positive investment recognising our region's strengths, following the decision to locate the UK Infrastructure Bank here, bringing benefits not just to Leeds but Bradford and the wider region. I hope it will help us as we make the compelling case for future investment in our transport system, to better connect our communities and raise living standards while cutting carbon emissions.

Cllr James Lewis, Leader of Leeds City Council, said:

This shows once more the importance of Leeds, not just to our region but to the North of England and the UK. Investment in transport is central to our plans for the future and I hope the presence of more decision-makers in our city helps ensure the case for further investment in Leeds is heard.

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands, said:

The West Midlands has undergone a transport revolution in recent years, with the reopening of old railway lines, expanded tram routes, and an upgraded green bus fleet, along with the rollout of e-scooters and a cycle hire scheme. The DfT will be right at home here, and I look forward to welcoming the team to the best connected region in the UK.

Along with the relocation of MHCLG to Wolverhampton, this is a major vote of confidence in the West Midlands and a huge jobs boost at what is an incredibly difficult economic time. I'm delighted that after months of making the case we've won through, and a second major government department will be calling the West Midlands home.

DfT has already begun recruiting in Birmingham and Leeds, with 100 roles created so far. This includes senior civil servant positions, which otherwise would have been based in London, with attracting senior figures to these locations key to the success of the initiative.

The government is also announcing today that half of senior Civil Service roles will be located outside of London by 2030, addressing the current imbalance with the majority of senior roles being London-based.

Today's announcement will bring economic benefits, with new spending power of those civil servants working in and around the areas outlined. £65 million has been allocated for the overall government hubs programme in 2021 to 2022 for office works and improvements.

Evidence of past relocations of civil servants shows that bringing public sector roles to an area also stimulates the creation of private sector roles, investment in office space and opportunities for local businesses to supply services.

A recent study found that for every 10 public sector roles moved to a town under the Lyons Review of Public Sector Relocation in 2004, 11 private sector roles were created. The move of the 1,150 Met Office roles to Exeter was estimated to add £65 million to local gross value added.

£83m of Government funding to unlock 3,000 new homes in Nottinghamshire

The funding will support the delivery of the infrastructure needed to bring Fairham forward, accelerating the creation of new homes and jobs for the area.

As well as the new homes, Fairham will deliver a new school, community centre, health centre, sports pitches, community parks and woodland.

With 100,000 square metres of employment space, its location on the edge of Nottingham and proximity to East Midlands Airport, the M1 and the East Coast Mainline, the area is also well placed to create and sustain new jobs.

New roads, cycleways, utility provisions and landscaping will also form part of the infrastructure delivered as part of the development.

Homes England, the Government's housing delivery agency acquired 250 acres of the 606-acre site in May 2019 and is working jointly with Clowes Developments as Master Developers to deliver the primary infrastructure needed to create a high quality, sustainable urban extension.

£62m of the funding comes from Homes England's £1.3 billion Land Assembly Fund and Clowes Developments has secured a £2 million loan from the Home Building Fund.

Housing Minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP said:

"This is fantastic for Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands not only because we are building 3,000 new homes but also for the boost this will give to jobs and the local economy. This is part of our mission to build back better from

the pandemic and deliver the homes this country needs.”

Gordon More, Interim Chief Executive for Homes England, said:

“This is a big milestone for Fairham and means that work can start in earnest. As the country starts to think about the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, large projects such as this not only meet a demand for high quality new homes but also support the housebuilding sector by creating a pipeline of work, providing much-needed stability.

“We’ve been working hard with Clowes Development and Rushcliffe Borough Council to ensure that our plans for Fairham will help meet local need and provide facilities that the whole community can enjoy.”

Robert Hepwood, Land and Planning Director at Clowes Developments, said:

“This funding package from the Government really helps us to make progress on site across Fairham and start to realise our vision of a green and distinctive new district for Nottingham.

“By working in partnership with public bodies we can now accelerate the delivery of new jobs and new homes for Nottinghamshire. We’re sure that people will begin to see further progress on site throughout this year with our first new homes due to start construction in the autumn.”

Prime Minister to chair meeting of Crime And Justice Taskforce to discuss Violence against Women and Girls

Press release

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The meeting will be attended by ministers, senior police officers and representatives from the Crown Prosecution Service.

Ahead of the meeting the Prime Minister said:

Like everyone who saw it I was deeply concerned about the footage from Clapham Common on Saturday night.

I have spoken with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner who has committed to reviewing how this was handled and the Home Secretary has also commissioned HM Inspectorate of Constabulary to conduct a lessons learned review in to the policing of the event.

Tomorrow I will chair a meeting of the Government's Crime and Justice Taskforce to look at what further action we need to take to protect women and ensure our streets are safe.

The death of Sarah Everard must unite us in determination to drive out violence against women and girls and make every part of the criminal justice system work to protect and defend them.

On the agenda for today's meeting will be:

- **The strategy on Violence against Women and Girls**

It is right that we listen to the powerful experiences of people across the country which is why we reopened our survey to inform this work. Since it launched again on Friday evening it has already had 53,000 responses.

- **Government work on securing Safer Streets**

We are already working with forces on local schemes, backed up by £25m, to help prevent crime, such as increased street lighting and CCTV. We will look at how this work can further help to make the streets safer for women.

- **Rape prosecutions and the Criminal Justice System**

We are conducting an in-depth review into the criminal justice system from end to end when it comes to rape and sexual assault. Every part of the criminal justice system has to play its role in bringing perpetrators to justice and better supporting victims.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

With Sarah and her family in my thoughts and prayers, I will continue to do all I can in my role as Home Secretary to protect women and girls.

Everyone should be free to walk our streets without fear of harassment, abuse or violence.

The Home Office survey on tackling violence against women and girls has received an unprecedented 53,000 responses since it reopened on Friday and I'd urge everyone to give us their views.

Published 15 March 2021

[Further MHRA response to the precautionary suspensions of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca](#)

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Last updated 16 March 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 16 March 2021

We have issued an updated statement. It is still the case that it has not been confirmed the reported blood clots were caused by the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.

2. 15 March 2021

We have updated our statement.

3. 14 March 2021

First published.

[Iran: Foreign Secretary issues statement on Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe case](#)

News story

The Foreign Secretary has issued a statement on Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case, following a further hearing today.



Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

It is unacceptable and unjustifiable that Iran has chosen to continue with this second, wholly arbitrary, case against Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. The Iranian government has deliberately put her through a cruel and inhumane ordeal.

Nazanin must be allowed to return to her family in the UK without further delay. We continue to do all we can to support her.

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