

# Government launches £2 million transport location data competition

The Geospatial Commission has partnered with Innovate UK to create a new [£2 million competition](#) which will look at how location data can spark innovation and support the future of mobility for the United Kingdom.

Smarter mobility solutions, underpinned by location data, will enable us to make the most of our transport networks by boosting capacity, reducing environmental impacts and decreasing travel times. This competition aims to stimulate commercial innovation to help create geospatial solutions to our transport challenges and support the future of mobility. The competition has four themes:

- Mobility as a service – to help better integration of transport modes
- Active travel – creating safer ways to enable active travel
- Supply chains – helping better distribution, storage and delivery
- Boosting capacity – increasing efficiency of transport networks

Examples of projects that could be awarded funding include:

- Sensors that can support safer transport.
- Making better use of kerbside space for deliveries.
- Near-miss identification tools to identify risk early on.
- Geospatial tools to inform balanced infrastructure investment that supports social and environmental outcomes.
- Apps that integrate a range of location data sources to provide new joined up services to transport users.

Minister for the Cabinet Office, Lord True CBE said “Location data and technology will help improve transport services, enabling the efficient delivery of new networks and transport corridors. Location data helps connect people with the jobs they need, the goods and services they want, and the places they want to go. This competition will help position the UK as a global science superpower, and start to unlock £2 billion of economic value per year in our transport sector.”

Minister for Transport Rachel Maclean said “Data is key for innovation in transport to flourish. Whether helping manage our transport networks, or rolling out connected autonomous vehicles, data is helping provide the new digital tools to change how we travel.

“I’m excited to see the winners of this competition and how they will make our journeys of the future easier, cleaner and more efficient.”

Dr Ian Campbell, Executive Chair, Innovate UK added

“As the UK’s Innovation Agency, Innovate UK is tasked with delivering measurable economic and societal impact across the UK. I am delighted that we are delivering this potentially game-changing competition, cementing the UK’s

reputation as a world leader in shaping the future of mobility. There is clear demand for innovation and we are utilising the proven Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) process to bring together transport challenges and innovators in order to deliver novel solutions.”

This competition follows the publication in June of the [UK Geospatial Strategy, Unlocking the power of location](#). Under the strategy the Geospatial Commission will maximise the commercial opportunities for innovation and promote market-wide adoption of high value emerging location technologies.

### **About the competition**

- the competition will open on 29 September 2020 and the deadline for applications is midday on 4 November 2020.
- the competition is open to UK-based organisations from a business of any size, academic organisation or higher education institute, charity, public sector organisation or local authority, public sector research establishment, research council institute or a research and technology organisation
- there will be a [virtual briefing event on 8 October](#).
- the Small Business Research Initiative will harness the power of public procurement to drive innovation, solve transport challenges and modernise services. It is a key part of delivering on our commitment to economic and societal impact
- successful applicants will be notified later in December 2020

### **Notes for Editors**

#### ***What is the Geospatial Commission?***

The Geospatial Commission was established in 2018 as an independent, expert committee responsible for setting the UK’s geospatial strategy and coordinating public sector geospatial activity. Its aim is to unlock the significant economic, social and environmental opportunities offered by location data and to boost the UK’s global geospatial expertise.

#### ***What is this competition?***

This is a £2m Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition funded by the Geospatial Commission and organised in partnership with InnovateUK. The Geospatial Commission was set up with the mandate to unlock an estimated £6-11bn p.a. from the better use of geospatial data. This competition aims to unlock some of this value in the transport by stimulating market-led geospatial innovation in the transport sector, against 4 key challenge areas:

- Enabling mobility as a service.
- Promoting active travel.
- Optimising supply chains.
- Increasing capacity.

#### ***Who is this competition for?***

This competition is open to projects from any private sector organisation or

consortium in or outside the UK. Projects must identify a UK public sector strategic customer (such as a local authority) to sponsor each solution. Additionally, projects must demonstrate reasonable use of geospatial data & technology. Examples of this could include:

- Earth observation and satellite-derived data
- Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning (AI/ML) algorithms applied to spatial datasets
- Internet of Things (IoT) sensors capturing spatial information
- Surveying, 3-D laser scanning or spatial imaging
- Advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis or geo-visualization and environment modelling

### ***How will it stimulate market-led geospatial innovation?***

SBRI competitions are a tried and tested method for encouraging innovative solutions to public sector challenges. They provide a dedicated procurement route for innovative SMEs who might not otherwise have access to funding opportunities or be crowded out by larger firms.

### ***What is Innovate UK?***

Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation, a non-departmental public body funded by a grant-in-aid from the UK government. For more information, visit the [UK Research and Innovation website](#)

---

## **UK businesses explore retail & e-commerce opportunities in Egypt**

World news story

British retail and e-commerce companies learn about the Egyptian market, how to overcome market access barriers and how to connect to Egyptian partners.



The UK Department for International Trade (DIT) and Egyptian British Chamber of Commerce (EBCC) organised their first retail webinar to explore retail and e-commerce opportunities for British companies in the Egyptian market. More than 50 attendees joined the webinar, among them Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, the UK Trade Envoy to Egypt, who highlighted the growth in opportunities for UK brands in overseas markets. Dr Ibrahim Ashmawy, Deputy Minister of Supply and Internal Trade, also provided a macro-economic overview of the Egyptian market.

A number of Egyptian and British companies participated as well, including

Jumia, the Talaat Moustafa Group, Superdrug, the Entertainer, and TK Maxx. The Matalan Company, which entered the market earlier this year, also joined the meeting to share its success story in Egypt: it is now aiming to expand to reach 20 stores across the country.

The webinar also provided a platform for UK retailers to learn about the Egyptian market, including how to overcome market access barriers and how to connect to Egyptian partners.

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson said:

We view Egypt as a country with huge potential, and one worth investing in. We consider it as our gateway to Africa especially with its advantageous location, the good international and domestic transport links, and all the existing trade agreements with Africa, the EU, and the Arab Region.'

Following the implementation of major economic reforms, Egypt has seen notable macro-economic improvements and was named one of the fastest growing economies in the world in 2019.

Ian Gray OBE, Chairman of the Egyptian-British Chamber of Commerce.:

With a population of nearly 100 million – expanding by roughly 2 million every year – Egypt is a sizeable market for retailers and manufacturers of consumer goods. As we witness the growth of modern retail space in Egypt, we see major international brands move into the market. As a Chamber, we recognise major growth potential in this sector, and actively work in partnership with the Department for International Trade (DIT) to foster new partnerships between UK retail brands and Egypt's commercial developers.

Published 29 September 2020

---

## [UK statement to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body on Appellate Body Appointments](#)

World news story

The UK delivered the following statement to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body on Appellate Body Appointments



The WTO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Thank you, Chair.

The United Kingdom continues its support for this proposal to launch the selection process and we refer to our previous statements on this agenda item. We also support the statement made by Mexico on behalf of all co-sponsors.

We continue to be concerned that the WTO Membership has not been able to launch the selection processes for new Appellate Body members and we are now seeing the increasingly frequent impairment of rights arising from this situation. This cannot be in the interests of any Member, or the system more broadly.

We have listened carefully to the concerns raised and understand the many challenges in agreeing reform. However, we continue to view two-stage dispute settlement with the support of all Members as a central pillar of the multilateral trading system, and call on all Members to engage in a solutions-based discussion on reform.

Thank-you.

Published 29 September 2020

---

## [Retired High Court judge to lead Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry](#)

- Sir Wyn Williams will lead the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry, which will start its work immediately
- inquiry will establish a clear account of the implementation and

failings of Horizon over its lifetime

- it will also now gather available relevant evidence from this period from Post Office Ltd, Fujitsu and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Retired High Court judge Sir Wyn Williams will chair the government's inquiry into the Post Office Ltd Horizon IT dispute, which begins work this week.

Sir Wyn, who has over 28 years' judicial experience, will head up the non-statutory inquiry, which aims to ensure there is a public summary of the failings that occurred at Post Office Ltd, and to make sure something like this cannot happen again.

It follows Post Office Ltd reaching a settlement of £57.75 million in December 2019 to conclude a long-running civil court case brought against it by a group of postmasters over issues related to its Horizon IT system.

The terms of reference for the inquiry have been expanded following feedback from former postmasters since they were first published in June.

As well as establishing exactly what went wrong at Post Office Ltd, the inquiry will also assess whether lessons have been learned and concrete changes have taken place or are underway at Post Office Ltd.

Postal Affairs Minister Paul Scully said:

The Horizon dispute had a hugely damaging effect on the lives of postmasters and their families, and its repercussions are still being felt today.

It is essential that we determine precisely what went wrong at the Post Office during this period, so we can ensure the right lessons have been learnt, and establish what must change to make sure this cannot happen again.

That is why, having listened to former postmasters, we are expanding the scope of our inquiry to ensure it gathers evidence to build on Mr Justice Fraser's findings, and have invited a retired High Court judge with a wealth of experience to lead it.

Sir Wyn Williams said:

I am very much looking forward to chairing this inquiry.

I am determined that the inquiry will provide the forum for a thorough and rigorous examination of all the evidence presented and that a report will be produced which all participants in the Inquiry and the wider public will recognise as having addressed the terms of reference constructively and in detail.

I fully understand that my engagement with participants in the inquiry will be crucial to achieving my aims.

The final terms of reference include a new commitment to build upon the findings of the court case by establishing a clear account of the implementation and failings of Horizon over its lifecycle.

To achieve this, the inquiry will obtain all available relevant evidence from Post Office Ltd, Fujitsu and BEIS from the period in question.

Among other things, the inquiry will examine the governance and whistleblowing controls now in place at Post Office Ltd and whether they are sufficient to ensure that the failings that led to the Horizon case do not happen again.

It will be able to make any recommendations it sees fit.

Both Post Office Ltd and Fujitsu, which supplied the Horizon system, have committed to fully cooperate with the inquiry.

## **Sir Wyn biography**

Sir Wyn Williams was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1974 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992. He was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 1992 and a deputy High Court Judge in 1999. He took up a full-time judicial appointment on 1 April 2004 when he was made a senior circuit judge and the specialist Chancery Judge for the Wales and Chester Circuit. In January 2007 Sir Wyn was appointed to the High Court and immediately upon appointment he was authorised to sit in the Administrative Court. Between 1 January 2012 and December 2015 he was a presiding judge for Wales becoming the Senior Presiding Judge in January 2014. Although Sir Wyn has retired as a full time judge he is authorised by the Lord Chief Justice to sit in retirement when required in the Court of Appeal and in the High Court.

Following his retirement from the High Court Bench Sir Wyn was appointed as the first President of Welsh Tribunals. He was also appointed as a Judge of the Courts of Appeal of Guernsey and Jersey. Since his retirement he has also been actively involved in arbitrating and mediating sports related disputes. Between September 2012 and July 2016 Sir Wyn was the Deputy Chairman of the Boundary Commission for Wales; between 2013 and his retirement in 2017 he was the Chairman of the Wales Committee of the Judicial College. In 2013 Sir Wyn was elected to a fellowship of The Learned Society of Wales in recognition of his services to the law in Wales.

## **Notes for editors**

To reflect the additional focus of Sir Wyn's work to that announced in June, it will be called an inquiry, rather than a review. The inquiry will be non-statutory.

---

## PM's skills speech: 29 September 2020

There are many reasons to – for me I should say – to come here to Exeter College – the outstanding Further Education College in Devon.

You have a total of 462 courses – some which I tried this morning – from particle physics to cake decorating.

And you offer your students an extraordinary chance to skill themselves in everything from football coaching to specialist Devon cookery, industrial robotics, heavy vehicle manufacture and design.

And I am thrilled that you offer philosophy, and languages, and even classical civilisation – but this is the home of the practical, the hands-on, disciplines that are not only academically and intellectually challenging but which are also of immediate practical usefulness and relevance to the world we live in.

And I don't just mean useful for individual jobs and livelihoods.

All of us in this country need you to have those practical skills – we need those practical skills collectively, as a society and as an economy – more than ever.

And so today I want to set out how this government will offer a Lifetime Skills Guarantee to help people train and retrain– at any stage in their lives – and enable us not just to come through this crisis, but to come back stronger, and build back better.

Our economy has been shaken by COVID, and in the hand-to-mouth scrabblings of the pandemic the shortcomings of our labour market – and our educational system – have been painfully apparent.

In the last few months I have been touring labs where people, many of them young, are working flat out on testing samples – testing for the disease, testing for the efficacy of potential vaccines, testing the tests.

And it is hard work. It requires endless patience, and good hand-eye coordination.

It also requires an excellent grounding in lab techniques and in the science – and every time I have been fascinated to find that a sizeable proportion of the technicians are from overseas.

And though I welcome that, because it is one of the glories of our education system that it attracts so many people from around the world, we have to face the fact – that at this moment when we need them so much, there is a shortage of UK-trained lab technicians, just as there is a shortage of so many crucial skills.



We are short of skilled construction workers, and skilled mechanics, and skilled engineers, and we are short of hundreds of thousands of IT experts.

And it is not as though the market does not require these skills. The market will pay richly.

The problem is one of supply – and somehow our post-18 educational system is not working in such a way as to endow people with those skills.

And look I don't for a second want to blame our universities. I love our universities, and it is one of this country's great achievements massively to have expanded higher education.

But we also need to recognise that a significant and growing minority of young people leave university and work in a non-graduate job, and end up wondering whether they did the right thing.

Was it sensible to rack up that debt on that degree? Were they ever given the choice to look at the more practical options, the courses – just as stimulating – that lead more directly to well-paid jobs?

We seem on the one hand to have too few of the right skills for the jobs our economy creates, and on the other hand too many graduates with degrees which don't get them the jobs that they want.

And the truth is we're not giving anywhere near enough of the right kind of training or support to the fifty per cent of young people who don't want to go to university, and so we're depriving them of the chance to find their vocation and develop a fulfilling, well-paid career.

And so the result is business isn't happy; the economy is under-productive; and many working adults are stuck in jobs without much future when they are hungry for new opportunities.

So it is time for change, and for radical change.

Let us begin by admitting that part of the problem is that not every FE college is as superb as Exeter College.

We need to invest in skills, and we need to invest in FE.

That is why we are putting £1.5 billion into upgrading and improving colleges across the country, fixing the leaky ceilings, bringing forward £200 million this year.

The facilities here are awesome. I tried them myself this morning. And improving all FE is part of our levelling up agenda to ensure that the same quality applies everywhere.

And as everybody knows, you can't acquire skills in the classroom alone. You need to learn on the job, to build up the muscle memory and not just the theoretical understanding.

So I can announce today that we will be expanding apprenticeships, reforming the system so that unspent funds can be used more easily to support apprenticeships not just in big companies, but in the SMEs where there is so much potential for job creation.

And we want many more of these apprenticeships to be portable – so you can take them from company to company.

Suppose you are in a small start-up making videos for Youtube, and the project ends – so you've got to move to another such small company. Under our plans, you will be able to take that apprenticeship to your new employer and it won't die with the end of the contract.

But if we are going to reform our post-18 education, we must go much further. We've got to end the pointless, nonsensical gulf that has been fixed for generations – more than 100 years – between the so-called academic and the so-called practical varieties of education.

It's absurd to talk about skills in this limited way. Everything is ultimately a skill – a way of doing something faster, better, more efficiently, more accurately, more confidently, whether it is carving, or painting, or brick laying, or writing, or drawing, or mathematics, Greek philosophy; every single study can be improved not just by practice but by teaching.

So now is the time to end this bogus distinction between FE and HE.

We are going to change the funding model so that it is just as easy to get a student loan to do a year of electrical engineering at an FE college – or do two years of electrical engineering – as it is to get a loan to do a three year degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

The Augar review highlighted the complexity of the funding system, the bias that propels young people into universities and away from technical education. It is time to end that bias.

We will give FE colleges access to the main student finance system, so that they are better able to compete with universities; not for every FE course, but for a specific list of valuable and mainly technical courses to be agreed with employers.

And in the coming years, as part of our Lifetime Skills Guarantee, we will move to a system where every student will have a flexible lifelong loan entitlement to four years of post-18 education – and suddenly, with that four year entitlement, and with the same funding mechanism, you bring universities and FE closer together; you level up between them, and a new vista of choice opens up.

I want every student with the aptitude and the desire to go to university to get the support they need, but I also want all young people to be given a real choice in life, and not to feel there is only one route to success.

At the moment many young people feel they have to go for the degree option.

They feel they have only one chance to study, and to borrow. They might as well go for the maximum, and get a degree.

Under our plans you could go for a one-year technical qualification and launch yourself at life – or you could do that, and then go to university later on. You have the choice.

And it will be easier for older people to borrow to do courses locally – and to study and train part-time – to acquire the skills that can transform their lives.

And of course we need this nimbleness now, this flexibility to acquire new skills, because COVID has massively accelerated changes that were already happening in the UK economy, whether in retail or in restaurant chains.

And while the government is building on our furlough scheme,

And we're devising ever more imaginative ways to safeguard jobs and livelihoods, including the Winter Economy Plan, which Rishi Sunak the Chancellor announced last week,

Alas as Rishi said, we cannot save every job.

But what we can do is give everybody, give people the skills to find and create new and better jobs.

Of the workforce in 2030, ten years from now, the vast majority are already in jobs right now. But a huge number of them are going to have to change jobs – to change skills – and at the moment, if you're over 23, the state provides virtually no free training to help you.

In fact we have seen a haemorrhage, in the last 20 years, in adult education – a million fewer than there were.

We are going to change that right now. We are expanding the digital boot camps – where you can learn IT, whatever your age, replicating our highly successful training camps in Manchester and Birmingham in four more locations.

Above all, from next April, we will introduce a new funding promise. As part of our Lifetime Skills Guarantee, we will now fund technical courses for adults equivalent to A level, all of which teach skills that are highly in demand.

They'll give anyone who left school without an A-Level, or equivalent, the qualifications they need when they need them, when they need them, helping people to change jobs and find work in the burgeoning new sectors that this country is creating.

So suppose you work in retail or hospitality, and you think you are going to need to find a new job. And before COVID people were already shopping more online, and already sending out for food. But the crisis has compressed that revolution.

So let's imagine that you are 30 years old, and you left school without A levels, and you are thinking you could find a job – you were in retail or hospitality – you could find a job in the wind farm sector in the north east, or in space technology in Newquay, or in construction here in Exeter, or retrofitting homes so as to reduce carbon.

You might see a job for yourself on one of the vast engineering and infrastructure projects that this government is leading: a surveyor or a rail technician. You might want to work in adult care. Crucial sector for our country.

You have a huge range of options – in theory – but you need that technical knowhow, you need that A-level equivalent qualification; and we will fund it. We will give you the skills you need.

The British economy is in the process of huge and rapid change, driven by the internet and the possibilities of remote communication.

But as old types of employment fall away, new opportunities are opening up with dizzying speed – vast new sectors in which this country already leads or can lead the world.

And over the last few centuries there is no other country that has shown the same adaptability, the same ingenuity in matching the demands of new technology.

But for the last few decades, alas, we have been hamstrung as a country by a lack of investment in infrastructure, in science, by our antiquated planning system and by our failures in technical education.

And this Government is putting that right

We're making unprecedented investments in infrastructure – and doubling the investment in science and technology from £11 billion to £22 billion a year by 2024.

We're changing the planning rules so that it's easier to provide homes for young families and for businesses to grow and invest.

And we're transforming the foundations of the skills system so everyone has the chance to train and retrain.

And this combination of reforms will tackle the fundamental problems in our economy of productivity and growth

helping the country to invent new industries and contribute to humanity's great challenges, from fighting pandemics to achieving net zero carbon emissions.

Above all, it will make this country, our United Kingdom richer and it will make our country fairer.

So my message today is that at every stage in your life, this government will help you get the skills you need.

Through our Lifetime Skills Guarantee,

we'll upgrade Further Education colleges across the country with huge capital investment;

we'll expand apprenticeships, making it easier to get a high quality apprenticeship, and connect them better to local employers who know where the jobs of the future are going to emerge;

we'll fund free technical courses for adults equivalent to A level, and extend our digital boot camps;

we'll expand and transform the funding system so it's as easy to get a loan for a higher technical course as for a university degree, and we'll enable FE colleges to access funding on the same terms as our most famous universities;

and we'll give everyone a flexible lifelong loan entitlement to four years of post-18 education – so adults will be able to retrain with high level technical courses, instead of being trapped in unemployment.

And this long-term plan – learning from what has worked around the world – will finally enable our amazing country to close the gap with other countries that in this one respect have had – or thought they had – the edge on us when it comes to skills and technical education. They thought they had the edge on us for 100 years. Well we have the talent. We have the potential. All we need to do is give people the chance.

And yes we face a once a century pandemic but now is the time to fix a problem that has plagued this country for decades.

Now is the time to end the pointless, snooty, and frankly vacuous distinction between the practical and the academic.

And now is the time to give everybody – with this Lifetime Skills Guarantee – give people of all ages the means and the confidence to switch and get the skills they need.

And now is the time for all of us to begin to build back better.