

# New release shows the value of the Union to the nations of the UK

The Block Grant Transparency Report confirms that as of Main Estimates this year, the devolved administrations in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales had received £9.5 billion more new funding in 2020-21 through the Barnett formula since the previous report in December 2018. Of this, £6.0 billion was allocated at Main Estimates to tackle Coronavirus.

This means the devolved administrations have received an additional:

- £5.0 billion for the Scottish Government
- £2.9 billion for the Welsh Government
- £1.7 billion for the Northern Ireland Executive

In addition to this extra funding through the Barnett formula, the devolved administrations are also receiving over £950 million in 2020-21 to maintain direct payments to farmers.

The report details changes in the devolved administrations' block grant funding made since the last release in December 2018 up until the 2020-21 Main Estimates announced in May.

The funding for 2020-21 will also increase, following a guarantee from the UK Government last week that the nations will receive further funding to help tackle coronavirus.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Steve Barclay, said:

Last week I announced an unprecedented funding guarantee to give the devolved administrations certainty to plan ahead and deliver their own support schemes to tackle coronavirus.

Today's publication shows that this guarantee builds on the financial support that we have already provided, showcasing the strength and value of the Union.

As well as the block grant funding, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland benefit from UK Government spending on unprecedented UK wide measures, such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employed Income Support Scheme, which have helped to protect over 1.7 million jobs in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Businesses and individuals in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will also benefit from the UK wide measures included in the Chancellor's Plan for Jobs announced earlier this month, including the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme, VAT cut and the Job Retention Bonus.

Spending by the devolved administrations is not funded exclusively by the block grant. The devolved administrations are also funded by local and devolved tax revenues, other revenue-raising powers – including fees and charges, and sales of goods, services and assets – grants from European institutions, and borrowing.

See Block Grant Transparency: July 2020 data [here](#).

## Notes

- The block grant publication sets out a detailed breakdown of the devolved administrations' block grant funding and is intended to increase transparency of the block grant calculation process.
- This third edition provides information for the years covered by the 2015 Spending Review and Spending Round 2019, and includes funding up to Main Estimates 2020-21. The last release was in December 2018.
- The publication includes funding allocated to tackle coronavirus up to Main Estimates 2020-21. This totalled £6.0 billion; £3.1 billion for the Scottish Government, £1.9 billion for the Welsh Government and £1.0 billion for the Northern Ireland Executive.
- The UK Government announced last week this is increasing to at least £12.7 billion; £6.5 for the Scottish Government, £4.0 billion for the Welsh Government and £2.2 for the Northern Ireland Executive.

	SG	WG	NIE	Total
<b>Coronavirus funding included in the publication</b>	£3.1bn	£1.9bn	£1.0bn	£6.0bn
<b>Additional coronavirus funding not included in the publication</b>	£3.4bn	£2.1bn	£1.2bn	£6.7bn
<b>Total coronavirus support to DAs</b>	£6.5bn	£4.0bn	£2.2bn	£12.7bn

Block grant factsheet:

- The devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have control over policy areas which are devolved, such as education and health, but not over others which are reserved and therefore controlled directly by the UK Government, for example defence.
- The devolved administrations receive funding from the UK Government largely through 'block grants' for devolved areas, while policy which is reserved is funded directly by the UK Government.
- The Barnett formula determines changes to the block grant funding in relation to changes in UK Government departmental spending. The formula essentially provides the same pounds-per-person change in funding in each nation of the UK. It is applied when departmental budgets change at Spending Reviews, fiscal events and Main/Supplementary Estimates.
- The Barnett formula comprises three elements: the change in departmental spending; the extent to which the departmental spending is on a policy

area that is devolved in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; and population.

- The Barnett-based block grants are increased in relation to devolved welfare powers and reduced in relation to devolved tax powers (with the devolved administrations retaining devolved tax revenues).
- The UK government funding provided to the devolved administrations is the Barnett-based block grant after these adjustments for welfare and tax devolution.
- Once the block grant has been determined, the devolved administrations have freedom to make their own spending decisions in areas of devolved responsibilities within the overall totals.

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## Funding boost for UK tech innovators to seize opportunities of 5G technology

Projects in Sunderland, Preston, Liverpool, Manchester, Brighton and Suffolk will test what revolutionary high-speed connectivity can do for UK industries.

The use of AI-controlled traffic lights to reduce pollution and congestion will be tested in Manchester and the potential for remote music festivals using 5G will be tested by Brighton Dome.

A project in Preston will aim to deliver the RAF's Tempest fighter jet at half its current cost while BT Sport will explore how 5G can transform watching live sports through virtual reality.

With coronavirus requiring new ways of delivering health services, a private 5G network will be developed in Liverpool to provide remote NHS video consultations for low-income families unable to afford good connectivity.

Another trial at the Nissan factory in Sunderland will look at 5G's ability to boost productivity through use of autonomous trucks.

**Matt Warman, Minister for Digital Infrastructure, said:**

We are helping innovative thinkers across Britain use their

creativity to harness the power of 5G and boost economic productivity, cut pollution and congestion, and develop the next generation of entertainment.

The new funding we are announcing today will help us pioneer new ways to seize the opportunities of 5G and bring tangible benefits for consumers and businesses across the country.

The projects will receive a share of £30 million through 5G Create, an open competition combining British creativity with innovative new uses for 5G as part of the wider £200 million [5G Testbeds and Trials programme](#) (5GTT).

The government is pushing ahead with its plans to unlock new economic benefits and productivity boosts from 5G while commercial rollout continues at pace. It has now funded 24 5G testbeds across the UK, which have trialled almost 70 different 5G technologies, products and applications.

Today's £30 million package consists of £16.4 million from the government match-funded by organisations ranging from large tech and telecoms companies to SMEs and local authorities.

Seventeen UK SMEs are involved in the projects, including those that will help to drive forward the government's work to open up the UK's telecoms supply chains. Three of the six projects – 5G Edge-XR, 5G Smart Junctions and Liverpool 5G Create – will involve British SMEs trialling the use of open access 5G infrastructure and network solutions.

BT's 5G Edge-XR project will be tested in a platform that includes Samsung kit, marking the first time the South Korean telecoms vendor is participating in a UK-based 5GTT project.

A second round of new projects to receive funding through 5G Create will be announced in the autumn.

**Further information on the winning projects and additional quotes:**

**5G FoF (Factory of the Future):**

- Total project value: £9,517,019
- DCMS funding: £4,793,162
- Project location: North West

**Project Summary:**

BAE, Advanced Manufacturing Catapult and IBM will lead a large project in Preston that ultimately aims to deliver the Tempest fighter jet at half its current cost, and to drive UK global manufacturing competitiveness. The project aims to develop integrated solutions to some of the key challenges to deploying 5G technologies in manufacturing, using 5G to test use cases such as robotic assembly, reconfigurable product assembly lines and distributed and shared VR/AR. The programme will establish a primary site at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) North West and secondary sites in BAE

Systems Warton and AMRC Sheffield.

**Austin Cook, Lead Engineer for Emerging Technologies & Systems at BAE Systems said:**

5G technology is core to enabling the next generation of digital manufacturing processes and the acceleration of digital technology adoption across the manufacturing sector. The 5G FoF programme will drive forward holistic connectivity and unlock the potential of industrial digitisation. It will define a new paradigm for how future factories will operate enabling connectivity and business agility both across manufacturing operations and beyond into the supply chain. The transformative potential of 5G technology will be developed and demonstrated via a strong consortium, including the UK Catapult Network and the BAE Systems Factory of the Future which is applying game-changing digital technologies to advance manufacturing on the UK's next generation combat aircraft system, Tempest.

#### **5G Festival:**

- Total project value: £3,438,497
- DCMS funding: £2,238,692
- Project location: South East

#### **Project Summary:**

The '5G Festival' (5GF) project will demonstrate how 5G can enable the empowerment of the music industry to bring live festivals and music events to audiences no matter where they are in the world. Using a cutting edge, immersive platform that leverages high bandwidth and ultra-low latency 5G technology, audiences and artists will connect seamlessly across continents, driving new experiences from the home as well as major venues such as the Brighton Dome and the O2 Arena, using most advanced 5G facilities by Digital Catapult and Telefonica. For example a music fan in Edinburgh could experience their favorite artist live in LA, collaborating with another artist in London, all without having to leave their front room.

**Jeremy Silver, CEO, Digital Catapult said:**

As live performers have been totally prevented from working because of the Coronavirus, a lot of bright minds have been focused on how to create exciting alternative experiences for a virtual world. The result of this work was an exciting bid into the 5GCreate competition to produce a virtual festival that could offer 5G enabled experiences in which performers could reach audiences in an entirely new way. We're thrilled now to be able to bring the 5G Festival to life, working with world leading venues, organisations and artists to push forward with the next evolution of entertainment.

## **Smart Junctions 5G:**

- Total project value: £2,336,392
- DCMS funding: £1,160,778
- Project location: North West

### **Project Summary:**

Visionable, Weaver Labs (both UK SMEs) and Transport for Greater Manchester aim to deliver AI traffic control systems to reduce congestion and pollution as well as improving productivity by cutting waiting times at traffic signals. The project aims to use a 5G small cell networks to decrease infrastructure costs for the connection of sensors at every junction, removing the need to mount hardware onto buildings in district centre locations as well as supporting connected bus projects and other mobility based public services. This project fosters innovation in the telecoms using open architectures and a new network deployment approach that allows for new domestic SMEs to contribute.

### **Peter Mildon, Vivacity C00, said:**

Vivacity are delighted to be continuing our collaboration with TfGM on developing our Smart Junctions product. Small Cell 5G technology offers the perfect solution to our need for low latency communications between our sensors and junction control algorithms, making this a compelling proposition in its own right. Beyond the junction, the provision of 5G connectivity within a city centre offers opportunities to both Public and Private sector. We are looking forward to working with Weaver Labs, a new company formed from the team who were core contributors in delivering the UK's first 5G pre-standards compliant test-bed at King's College London. We first worked with this team in 2018, where Vivacity provided our sensors as a test use case for the 5G network that was demonstrated.

## **5G Edge-XR**

- Total project value: £2,558,494
- DCMS funding: £1,486,004
- Project location: East Anglia

### **Project Summary:**

BT's Media and Research teams are working with TheGridFactory, Condense Reality, Dance East, Bristol University and Salsa Sound. Among the work to be developed are virtual and augmented reality experiences to complement BT Sport's services. 5G Edge-XR will for example demonstrate how 5G networks, coupled with cloud graphics processing units, could enable people to view immersive sporting events from all angles across a broader range of devices including smartphones, tablets, AR and VR headsets and TVs. It will also help realise the vision and potential of 5G networks to create new opportunities

for UK businesses at home and internationally, and encourage inward investment.

**Tim Whitley, Managing Director, Applied Research, BT, said:**

5G Edge-XR will combine cloud computing and EE's 5G network to support real time services that require uncompromised audio and visuals. We're excited to work alongside world-class British companies to develop a range of prototypes for virtual, mixed and augmented reality and create experiences that will transform culture, education, engineering and entertainment. Our prototypes will be designed at Aadastral Park and showcased across the UK to demonstrate the benefits 5G technology can bring to people and businesses across the nation.

#### **Liverpool 5G create**

- Total project value: £7,146,261
- DCMS funding: £4,302,596
- Project location: North West

#### **Project Summary:**

A group of local healthcare bodies, the University of Liverpool, BluWireless (a UK 5G kit vendor) Broadway Partners (a small UK mobile operator) will build a 5G network designed to benefit local NHS, social care services and other public bodies in a post-Covid-19 world. It will use private 5G networks to develop affordable connectivity for remote health and social care, improving future resilience and reducing inequalities that arise from lack of affordable access. This builds on the existing 5GTT funded project in Liverpool and develops the commercial business case for and testing new applications in the health and social care sector. The project will stimulate the development of low-cost 5G technology as well as improving future pandemic resilience and reducing inequalities.

**Professor Joe Spencer, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Electronics, University of Liverpool, said:**

The Liverpool 5G Create project will develop a private 5G network for health, social care and education services in selected areas of Liverpool. This network will reduce digital poverty for vulnerable people, providing safe, free and accessible connectivity to these services via 5G. We look forward to working with DCMS to take the project from small scale to a wider rollout for the benefit of the people of Liverpool and to inform the national strategy for digital health, social care and education services.

## 5G CALV

- Total project value: £4,851,780
- DCMS funding: £2,422,370
- Project location: North East

### **Project Summary:**

5G CAL will deliver a huge stride forward in Connected and Automated Logistics (CAL), taking 5G enabled solutions out of the testbed into an operational manufacturing environment. Nissan, Sunderland Council, the North East Motor Manufacturers Group and Three will deliver 5G-connected, autonomous 40-tonne trucks to distribute parts and assemblies across the Nissan plant, linking to many local SMEs in their supply chain. As with 5G FoF, this is about driving operational efficiencies and improving productivity. Their vision is to develop a globally unique centre of excellence and operational test facility for CAL at the Nissan Sunderland site.

**Paul Butler, Chief Executive of the North East Automotive Alliance, said:**

Automated last mile logistics is one of the major innovation challenges, this is especially true in the automotive sector with its synchronous and highly complexed supply chains. This project will prove last mile delivery for an autonomous HGV, the 5G will uniquely enable the removal of the safety driver from the process, allowing remote teleoperations to overcome abnormal situations. Through our industrial base and the unique assets of our road transport sector the North East offers a globally unique location to support the design, development and manufacture of Connected and Automated Logistics solutions. This project represents a major opportunity to support and accelerate economic growth, creating an exemplar that will encourage further private and public sector investment.

ENDS

**Notes to editors:**

Call DCMS press office on 020 7211 2210.

### **5G Create**

Launched in April, [5G Create](#) called for proposals from sectors where the UK has a competitive advantage to use the unprecedented speed, coverage and capacity of 5G to explore and develop new commercial opportunities for it can be used for – including new prototype technologies, use-cases and business models – which could then be scaled up, used across the economy and exported.

5G will give consumers mobile internet speeds between ten and twenty times faster than 4G, enabling them to use their phones for a wide range of new



services and apps on the go. But it's about more than a speedier internet connection. It will allow thousands of new 'smart' devices in our homes and at work to speak to each other with much larger data transfers, ultra-reliability and minimal time lags.

This will give rise to innovative new services in manufacturing such as factory robotics, connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs) and interconnected infrastructure in smart cities. It will also give mobile operators the ability to 'slice' parts of their network to create dedicated private virtual networks for industry to use for specific purposes.

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## [First far north "blood bike" named](#)

### News story

The first "blood bike" to be based in the far north is to be named in honour of NHS workers fighting covid-19.



Volunteer rider Davy Manson and HAIBB president Ross Sharp at Dounreay with the newly named "bloodbike"

"Hero" was put forward by a Dounreay engineer after the site's operator, DSRL, gave £10,000 to the charity Highlands and Islands Blood Bikes to expand its service in Caithness and north Sutherland.

HAIBB provides an out-of-hours courier service to the NHS, carrying urgent medical samples and supplies between healthcare facilities.

During the covid-19 pandemic, it has been working up to 14 hours a day in support of the NHS, taking coronavirus samples from facilities such as Caithness General Hospital to the testing labs at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. The charity names each of its motorcycles and invited DSRL to come up with one for the latest addition to its fleet. Management passed the invitation to staff to come up with ideas.

Chris Simpson, a mechanical engineer decommissioning the site's nuclear reactors, came up with the name.

My idea for the bike would be to name it 'Hero' after all the amazing NHS heroes who have done a great job throughout this pandemic,

he said.

Two Dounreay workers – project engineer Davy Manson (pictured, with HAIBB president Ross Sharp) and executive director Steve Young – are among the pool of volunteer who are riding Hero.

Published 30 July 2020

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## **£450,000 repair work for Hereford flood wall damaged in winter floods**

The 3 named storms in February – Storm Ciara, Dennis and Jorge – caused extensive disruption and severe impacts with many areas flooded, including parts of the Midlands.

With ground already sodden from last autumn's heavy rains and floods, the area quickly became flooded, with many rivers reaching some of the highest levels ever seen, including the Wye which reached the highest level ever recorded in Hereford.

Despite this our flood defences protected 201 properties in Hereford, including 165 residential and 36 businesses, which otherwise would have flooded.

Making sure flood defences are in top shape to protect communities is a priority for the Environment Agency and an £8m flood recovery programme of the repair of flood defences in the Environment Agency's West Midlands area<sup>1</sup>, damaged in the February floods is now underway. This includes the £450,000 project to repair the Hereford flood wall.

Hereford's riverside flood wall is a key part of the flood protection for the town and scaffolding is now in place to allow our consultants safe access. They will be surveying the extent of the damage to the brick cladding before work on repairing the damage can begin.

The repair work will begin as soon as we understand the extent and nature of repairs needed. The scaffolding will remain for the duration of the repairs.

Richard Henderson, Asset Recovery Manager for the Environment Agency, said:

This is a significant project to repair an area of the cladding on the Hereford flood wall. It poses quite a challenging project for our contractors to reach the damage, hence the need to erect the scaffolding. However, there is no damage to the core of the wall.

Repairing this flood defence asset will help to strengthen the flood wall and make a big difference to reducing the risk of flooding to the local area.

The sheer volume of water in rivers in the February floods put pressure on many of our flood defences. Since then, where possible, and, whilst adhering to government guidance, our teams have been inspecting defences to check for any damage and the need for any repairs, so that we can ensure they are ready for any future floods. We have also used drone footage to help with the process.

Environment Agency teams work around the clock to help protect people from flooding, but flood risk can never be eliminated completely, everyone still has a responsibility to take steps to protect themselves.

Check whether you're at risk of flooding, and sign up to receive our free flood warnings by calling 0345 988 1188 or [registering online](#). By registering, you can choose how you'd prefer to be reached – by text, phone call to a mobile or landline, or even email – giving you vital notice to prepare if flooding is expected.

Since the floods in November 2019, the Environment Agency has checked 3,750 flood assets across the West Midlands<sup>1</sup> and identified over 95 individual repairs that are required at a cost of £8m, to protect around 4,000 properties.

The repair works are being carried out by the Environment Agency's contractors, Jackson and design consultant ARUP as a collaborative delivery team.

## Notes to editors

- <sup>1</sup>The Environment Agency's West Midlands' area includes Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Birmingham and the Black Country.
- In the February 2020 floods 166 properties were flooded in Hereford.
- The Environment Agency worked as part of an operational team alongside emergency response partners including Herefordshire Council, West Mercia Police, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and health partners

to support residents and protect the most vulnerable.

- According to Met Office statistics, February 2020 was the wettest February on record for England with double the average monthly rainfall. It was also the 5th wettest of any calendar month since 1862 and some areas experienced a month's worth of rain in 24 hours. In England 154.9mm rainfall fell, 258% of the average rainfall for the month. Some places received over 4 times the average monthly rainfall.

We encourage all those who may be at risk of flooding to take steps to protect themselves by:

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## [Plastic carrier bag sales slashed by more than 95% since 5p charge introduced](#)

Plastic carrier bag sales [have dropped by more than 95% in England's main supermarkets](#) since the 5p charge was introduced in 2015, new government data reveals.

In the last year alone, Asda, Marks and Spencer, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, The Co-operative Group, Tesco and Waitrose sold 226 million bags – 322 million fewer than in 2018/19 (59%).

The average person in England now buys just four bags a year from the main supermarket retailers, compared with 10 last year and 140 in 2014.

As a result of the charge, £178 million has been donated to charitable causes, with £9.2 million donated in the last year alone.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said:

It is so encouraging to see in such a short space of time the huge difference our plastic carrier bag charge has had in reducing the amount of plastic we use in our everyday lives.

We have all seen first hand the devastating impact that plastic bags have on the environment, littering our beautiful countryside and threatening the world's marine life. I am committed to driving this progress further and I hope this continues to inspire similar action across the globe.

The 5p charge currently applies to all retailers employing over 250 people, and government has [consulted on extending this to all businesses as well as increasing the minimum charge to 10p](#). The formal response to this consultation will be published in due course.

The UK continues to be a global leader in tackling plastic waste to protect oceans and marine life, and our [landmark Resources and Waste Strategy](#) sets out a range of measures to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste.

Key government actions include a [world-leading ban on microbeads](#), consulting on introducing a [deposit return scheme to drive up the recycling of single-use drinks containers](#), and a [ban on the supply of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds](#) which will come into force in October.

The government will also introduce a [new world-leading tax on plastic packaging](#) which does not meet a minimum threshold of at least 30% recycled content from April 2022, subject to consultation, to encourage greater use of recycled plastic to tackle the problem of plastic waste and protect the environment.