

A Short Guide to the **Department for Business, Innovation & Skills**

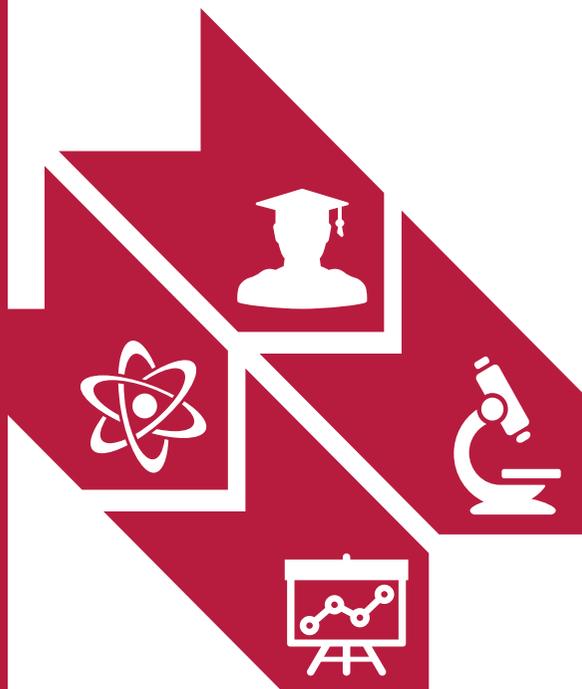
June 2015



National Audit Office



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The National Audit Office scrutinises public spending for Parliament and is independent of government. The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Sir Amyas Morse KCB, is an Officer of the House of Commons and leads the NAO, which employs some 810 people. The C&AG certifies the accounts of all government departments and many other public sector bodies. He has statutory authority to examine and report to Parliament on whether departments and the bodies they fund have used their resources efficiently, effectively, and with economy. Our studies evaluate the value for money of public spending, nationally and locally. Our recommendations and reports on good practice help government improve public services, and our work led to audited savings of £1.15 billion in 2014.

This Short Guide summarises what the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills does, how much it costs, recent and planned changes and what to look out for across its main business areas and services.

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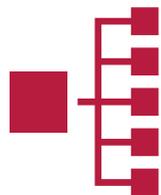
Interactive

For full iPad interactivity, please view this PDF in iBooks or GoodReader

Key facts



About the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills



45 agencies and public bodies support the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS)



£4.6 billion ring-fenced research budget until 2015-16

Key trends

Department spending



22% reduction in resource spend over five years to 2015-16



40% reduction in administration budgets between 2010-11 and 2014-15

Spending reductions

Staff and pay

Staff attitudes and engagement



£100 billion The face value that **outstanding Higher Education student loans** is forecast to reach by 2018



Around **55%** of the value of student loans is likely to be repaid

Major programmes and developments

Key themes from NAO reports



Increased capital expenditure over the last Parliament included **£800 million** allocated to the Green Investment Bank



22% spending reduction on the Further Education sector over the past five years

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The role of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) is to: support business to grow; encourage science and innovation to flourish; improve productivity; and shape the UK as a global knowledge economy. The Department invests in skills and education, boosts innovation and helps people start and grow a business. BIS is also responsible for protecting consumers and reducing the impact of regulation. It has the following major delivery areas and associated delivery partners:

Higher Education

Secure open access to higher education, increasing productivity and **growth**

Higher Education Funding Council for England; Student Loans Company; and Office for Fair Access

Further Education

Build a competitive skills base, helping businesses to **grow**; increase apprenticeships

Skills Funding Agency; and UK Commission for Employment and Skills

Science, Research and Innovation

Increase productivity and **growth** to develop a world class research base

Seven Research Councils; Innovate UK; and UK Space Agency

Business Support and Markets

Improve businesses' access to finance and deliver an effective industrial approach

Create a regulatory framework that supports economic growth and reduces costs on business

- British Business Bank
- Green Investment Bank
- Competition and Markets Authority
- Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service

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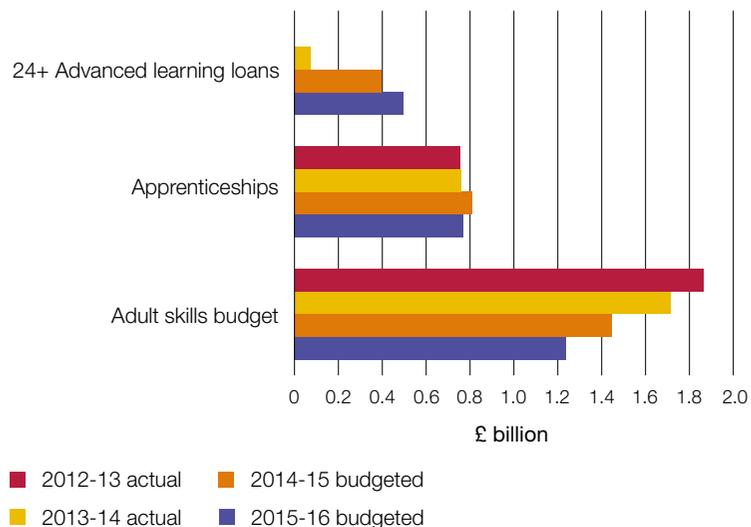
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Key themes from NAO reports

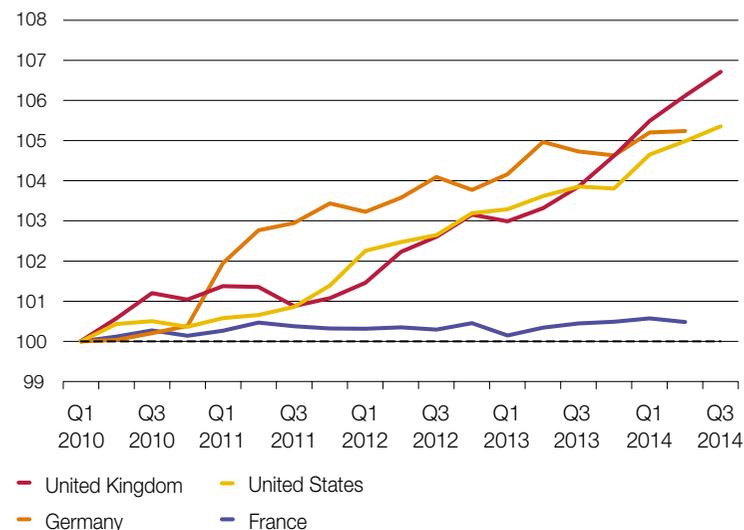
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Further Education – Changes in total expenditure



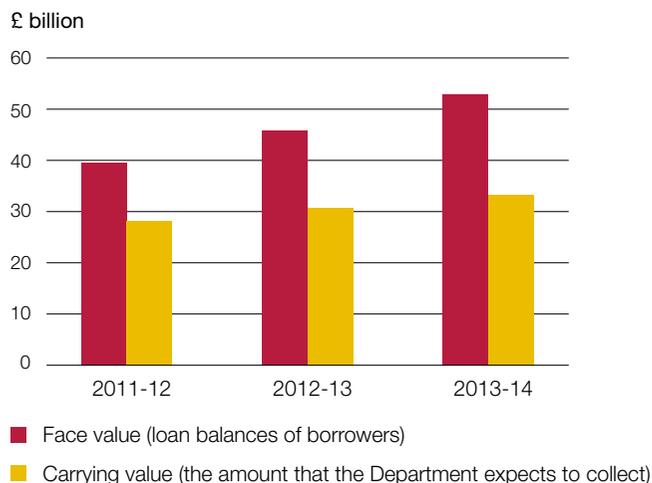
Source: Actuals SFA annual report and accounts 2012-13 to 2013-14 and budgeted figures Skills Funding Statement 2013-2016

Business – Change in employment levels



Source: National Audit Office analysis of OECD short-term labour market statistics – baseline at 2010

Higher Education – The change in the value of the Student Loan Book



Source: Business, Innovation & Skills, Annual Report and Accounts 2011-12 to 2013-14

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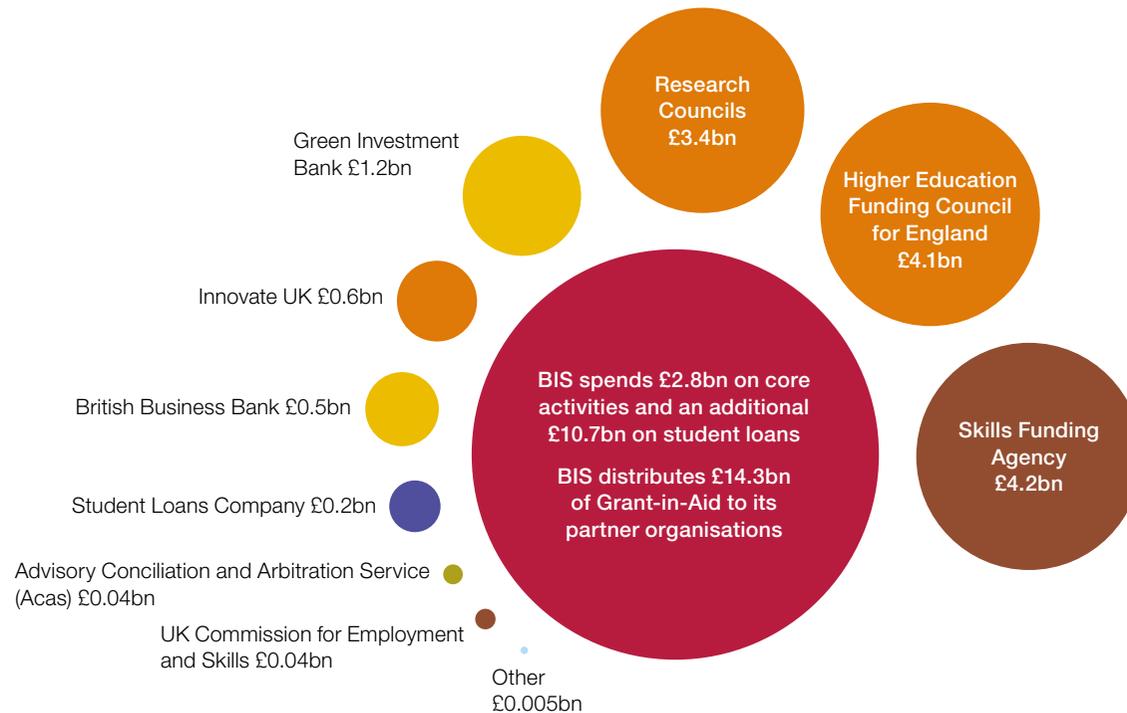
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- Public Limited Company
- Crown Executive NDPB and Executive Agency
- Executive NDPB and Limited Company
- Crown Executive NDPB
- Executive NDPB (non-departmental public body)
- Other

Source: 2014-15 Supplementary Estimates, page 205

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The Department receives budget for two types of activities – capital funding for new investment and resource (ie non-capital) funding for current expenditure on front-line services.

In the 2010 Spending Review, BIS was required to make resource savings of £3 billion (25% in real terms) by the end of 2014-15, compared to its original budget for 2010-11.

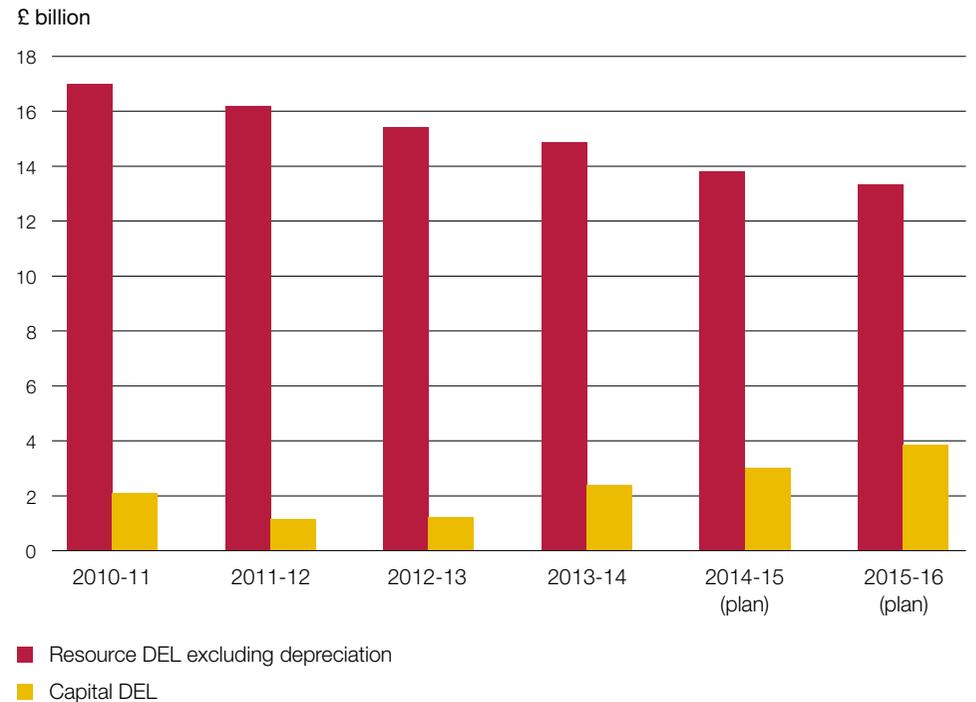
In the 2013 Spending Round, BIS committed to further reduce resource expenditure by £0.6 billion (5.9% in real terms) between 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Overall, this represents a resource spending reduction of 22% over the five years from 2010-11 to 2015-16, although capital DEL increased by 84% in line with government priorities.



There was a 40% reduction in administration budgets between 2010-11 and 2014-15, to be achieved through: a fall in headcount; consolidation of procurement and estates functions; and streamlining of HR and Finance.

Departmental spending – outturn and planned¹



Note

¹ Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 2013-14 annual report and accounts unaudited figures – net of income, and excludes Annually Managed Expenditure which is more volatile.

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BIS and its Partner Organisations have 23,981 staff, including 3,011 in the core Department and UKTI.

The seven Research Councils are some of the largest employers. By contrast, the British Business Bank has 36 employees.

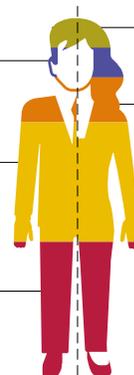
BIS's workforce is broadly reflective of the population of England & Wales in terms of gender. Declaration rates on diversity and inclusion within BIS are relatively low, and it is therefore not possible to draw a similar conclusion in relation to ethnicity or disability status.

Staff breakdown

2,000
Student Loans Company

8,000
Other NDPBs and designated bodies

9,000
Research Councils



2,000
Agencies

3,000
BIS Department and UK Trade & Investment

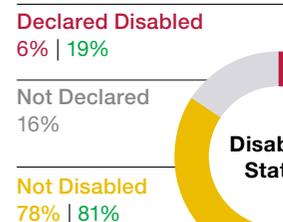
BIS and Partner Organisations total staff
(to the nearest thousand)
24,000

Workforce in BIS

Gender
England and Wales average

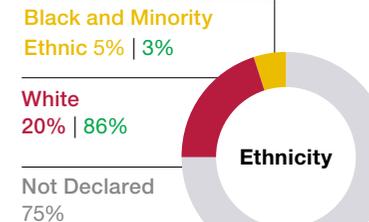


Disability status
England and Wales average



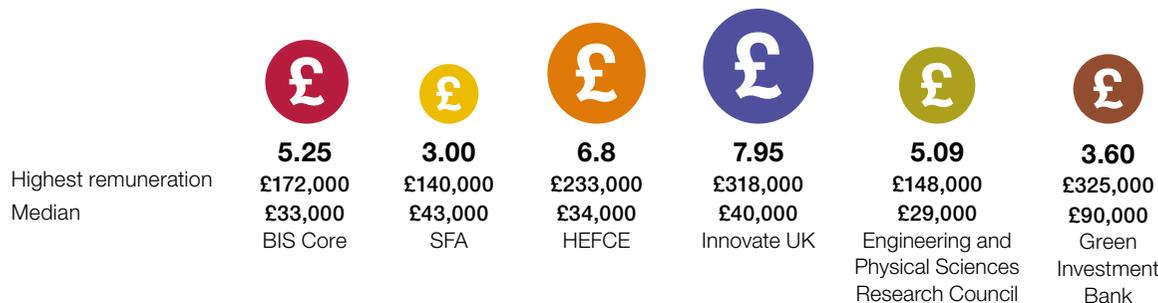
Declaration rate for BIS: 84% |
Declaration rate for civil service: 77%

Ethnicity
England and Wales average



Declaration rate for BIS: 25% |
Declaration rate for civil service: 85%

Pay median of directors



Sources: Annual Report and Accounts 2013-14; Diversity Report 2014, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

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The main measure from the Civil Service People Survey is the employee engagement index, which measures an employee's emotional response to working for their organisation.

In 2014, the Department achieved an engagement index of 56% which is three percentage points lower than the 2014 civil service average but two percentage points higher than its 2013 score (in 2013, the Department's engagement index was four points lower than the civil service average).

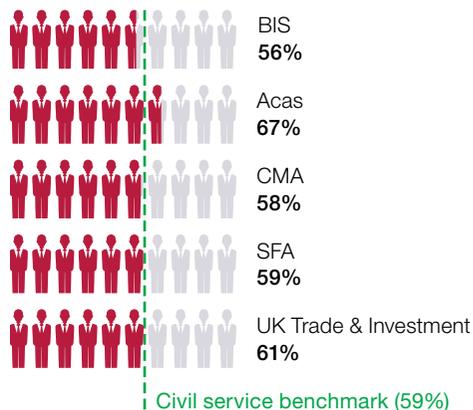
The government has conducted its Civil Service People Survey annually for the past five years. The most recent survey was carried out during October 2014. The survey covers nine key themes including leadership, pay and organisational objectives and purpose.

The Department's scores for seven of these themes are the same as, or higher than, the civil service average (2013: eight out of nine themes). The Department's year-on-year score has increased for five out of nine themes.

Attitudes of staff in 2014 compared with 2013



Engagement index 2014



Sources: Civil Service People Survey 2013 and 2014

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Reform of Higher Education: increase competition, shift some of the cost from government to graduates, and broaden access to Higher Education.

A reduction in grant funding and an increase in student loans.
Extra university places, and no cap on university places from 2015-16.

Reform of Further Education: boost apprenticeships, and provide a continually responsive education and skills system.

Traineeships to help young people become 'work ready'.
Achieved 2 million apprenticeship starts, and introduced 'Trailblazers' to improve apprenticeship standards.
Loans (similar to those in Higher Education) to help those aged 24+ access some Further Education courses.

Increasing investment in innovation and science programmes: support economic growth, drive innovation, and enable the UK to remain competitive in global markets.

Ring-fenced the £4.6 billion research budget until 2015-16.
Capital funding focused on large research institutes, including the Francis Crick Institute.
The Nurse Review (ongoing as at May 2015) examines the balance of funding between grants, equipment and infrastructure.
'Catapult centres' to link businesses and researchers in a more commercialised way.

Support business and effective markets: reform of the UK consumer and competition landscape.

Set out a strategic industrial approach through the Industrial Strategy.
Established the British Bank, to help business access finance.
Launched the Business Growth Service, as a single source of business support.
Addressed the impact of government regulation on business. The latest figures suggest that the annual cost to business of domestic regulation has been reduced by almost £2.2 billion.

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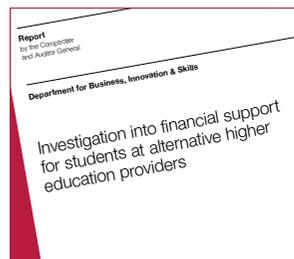
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The rapid expansion of Higher Education provision has led to problems in alternative providers (December 2014)



Our report on [financial support for students at alternative higher education providers](#) found that EU students at some alternative providers (private or charitable bodies that receive no direct public funding, but whose students had access to around £67.5 million worth of public monies in 2013/14 through loans or grants) had claimed or attempted to claim student support to which they were not entitled. It also revealed that dropout rates among students benefiting from public support at nine alternative providers were over 20%.

Funding and oversight arrangements in the Further Education and skills sector remain highly complex (December 2014)



Our report on [Implementing the Simplification Plan](#) found that the Department had not done enough to streamline funding and oversight arrangements for bodies providing Further Education and skills training. Much of the cost and complexity stems from having multiple funding routes. The Department does not know the overall cost to providers of dealing with funding and assurance requirements.

The current strategy for collection of student loan repayments is not maximising the value of the loan book for the taxpayer (November 2013)



Our report on [Student loan repayments](#) found that the Department was not well-placed to secure value for money on student loan repayments until a more robust strategy to improve collection performance and information on borrowers was implemented. It raised concerns over the accuracy of BIS's repayment forecasts, which are consistently around 8% above actual repayments.

Higher Education

What is it?

Higher Education (HE) refers to post-compulsory higher level learning for students aged 18 and above, at universities and other institutions that award undergraduate/postgraduate degrees or advanced vocational qualifications such as higher national diplomas.

BIS invests directly in English HE through grants via the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and loans payable by the Student Loans Company (SLC) on behalf of students direct to institutions. The Department also 'designates' certain non-degree courses for student support.

Over 300 institutions receive government grants for higher education, of which 103 have UK university status. HEFCE is legally obliged to ensure that provision is made for assessing the quality of education offered in the institutions that it funds.

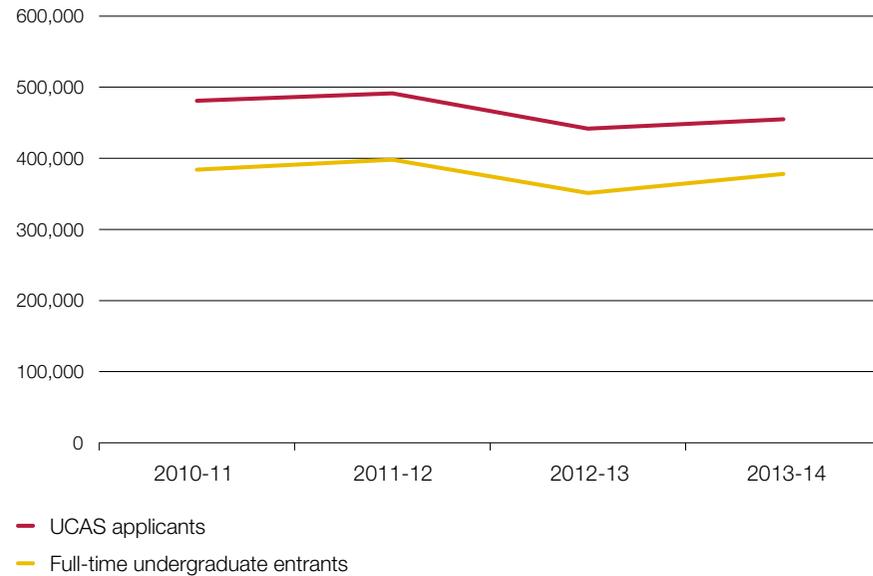
HEFCE has four areas of activity:

- Funding research, teaching and knowledge exchange;
- Collecting and analysing HE data;
- Regulating HE provision; and
- Informing, developing and implementing the government's HE policy.

The Student Loans Company is the body responsible for administering loans and grants for students in universities and colleges. HMRC is responsible for collecting most loan repayments.

Undergraduate applications and entrants

Number of applicants/entrants



Note

1 Tuition fees were increased to £9,000 in 2012-13.

Source: Higher Education Council for England, *Higher education in England, Impact of the 2012 reforms*, March 2013, and *Higher education in England, Key facts 2014*, April 2014

Higher Education

How much does it cost?

Student Loans Company

In 2013-14, the Student Loans Company issued £9 billion (2012-13 £7.1 billion) worth of loans, and £1.5 billion (2012-13 £1.6 billion) worth of loans was repaid.

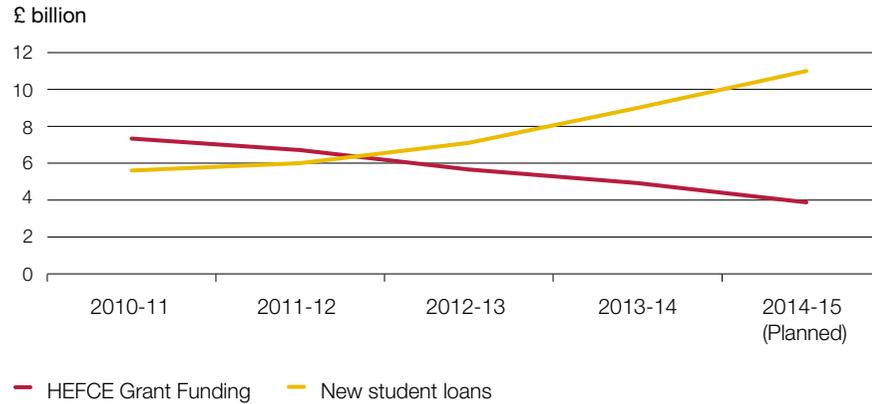
BIS modelling indicates that around 55% of the value of student loans will be repaid.

The face value of outstanding loans is forecast to reach over £100 billion (2014-15 prices) by 2018, and continue to increase.

HEFCE

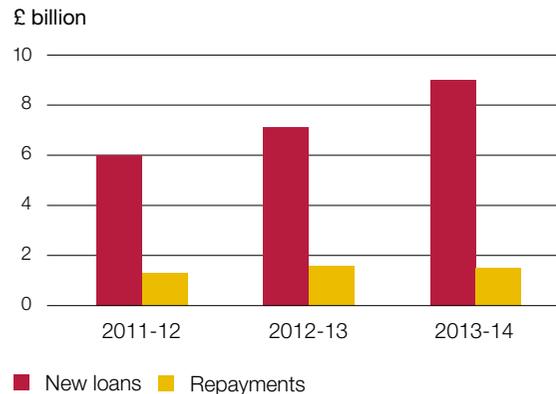
HEFCE provided £1.7 billion in teaching grant funding to Higher Education providers in 2014-15 (2014-15 £2.4 billion).

HEFCE funded grants and new student loans issued



Source: Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) and Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Annual report and accounts 2010-11 to 2013-14. The 2014-15 figures are from the recurrent grants and student number controls for 2014-15 and the BIS 2014-15 mid-year report.

Student loans issued and repaid



Note

1 Repayments for the new loans that were introduced in 2012 are not expected until 2016-17.

Source: Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) Annual report and accounts 2012-13 to 2013-14. The 2014-15 figures are from the BIS 2014-15 mid-year report



Higher Education

Recent and planned developments

BIS is reforming student loans and the HE landscape

A new type of 'income contingent' loan was introduced in September 2012 to cover increased tuition fees (up to £9,000). For students who started under the new system in 2012/13, these loans will become repayable from 2016-17. Repayment terms are different from those of the pre-2012 'income contingent' loans – repaying 9% of anything earned over the threshold of £21,000 rather than £17,335.

In November 2013, the English 'mortgage style' student loans (which are repayable over a fixed number of instalments) were sold for £128 million, reducing public sector debt and resulting in a profit of £12 million. In the future, the pre-2012 'income contingent' student loan book may also be sold off. This has the potential to raise an estimated £12 billion over a five-year period.

The cap on the number of students that HE institutions can recruit was raised by 30,000 (8%) in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14. From 2015/16, the cap will be removed altogether at publicly funded providers and Alternative Providers with degree-awarding powers.

The 2012–2014 *Changing the Learning Landscape* project helped providers develop strategic ways of using digital technologies.

Real-time system information to enable the Student Loans Company and HMRC to update learner records monthly is expected to reduce overpayments and provide more up-to-date information.



Higher Education

What are the things to look out for?

Will there be changes to the regulatory environment for Higher Education?

In December 2014, the [NAO published a report](#) on the funding of students at alternative HE providers (bodies that offer HE qualifications but do not receive direct funding from HEFCE). This found numerous instances of students claiming support from the Student Loans Company for which they were ineligible, and drop-out rates many times the HE average. The number of students claiming support has increased from 7,000 (£50 million) in 2010/11 to 53,000 (£675 million) in 2013/14.

How will the UK HE sector adapt to global challenges?

Online courses may be able to replicate the campus learning model, enabling greater access for students and the ability for universities to expand. There may also be increased competition for recruitment and greater expectations from students with regard to IT services.

Will there be more changes to BIS's forecasting of future student loan repayments?

In 2013-14, the [NAO published a report](#) examining BIS's handling of loan repayments, and identified that BIS and HMRC needed to do more to identify and collect the loan repayments due. In 2013-14, BIS implemented a new forecasting model (StEP), which we considered to be a substantial improvement over the previous model, and which was further improved in 2014-15.

Will forecasts of the proportion of loans likely to be repaid continue on a downward trend?

At the end of 2013-14, BIS forecast that it would not receive repayment for 45% of new loans issued and this was confirmed after the second phase of improvements in the model. One estimate by London Economics puts the figure closer to 48.6%, above which the government will cease to benefit economically from the raising of the tuition fee cap to £9,000.

What will be the impact of any future tuition fee changes?

A decision might be made to change the maximum tuition fee from its current level of £9,000. The impact of such a change on the level of university applications is uncertain.

Further Education

What is it?

Further Education (FE) refers to a wide range of learning activities for students aged 16 and above who are not at school or university. This includes **Apprenticeships, Traineeships, vocational** and **academic qualifications** (eg A-Levels).

The diagram on the right shows the complex nature of funding in the sector.

BIS invests in FE through the **Skills Funding Agency (SFA)**. The **UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)** provides research into employment skills, funds skills education and runs the Investors in People programme.

Together, there are over 1,000 organisations offering FE and training in England. Around 250 of these are FE colleges, and 700 are commercial or charitable bodies.

Complexity of funding arrangements applying to different types of student

16- to 17-year-olds	Funded by the Education Funding Agency (part of the Department for Education) on the basis of their study programme
18-year-olds	Funded by the Education Funding Agency on the basis of their study programme, but receiving less funding than 16- to 17- year olds.
19- to 23-year-olds	Funded by the Skills Funding Agency on the basis of the specific qualification they are studying.
Students aged 24 or over	Can be funded by the Skills Funding Agency, or by loans from the Student Loans Company .
Apprentices	Funded by the Skills Funding Agency for the classroom learning element of their apprenticeship and by an employer for the work-based learning element.
'Full fee' paying students	Funded by themselves or their employer, and receiving no public funding .



Further Education

How much does it cost?

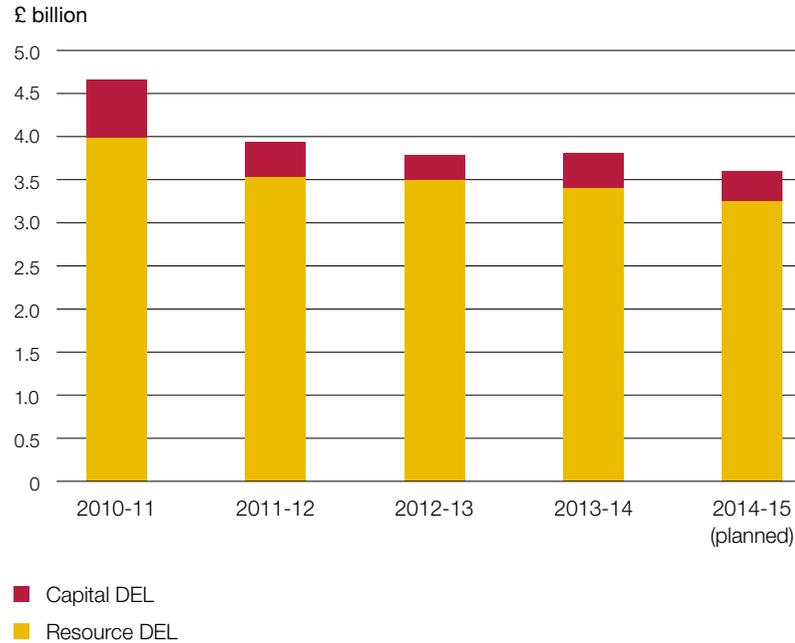
Over the past five years, spending on the FE sector has fallen by 22% (£1.01 billion).

The largest area of spend for the Skills Funding Agency is the Adult Skills Budget, with budgeted spend in 2014/15 of £2.3 billion. However, this has fallen year on year since 2012/13, and will fall by a further 11% in 2015/16.

Between 2012/13 and 2013/14, funding for apprenticeships remained consistent at around £750 million per annum.

Advanced Learning Loans for students aged 24+ were introduced in August 2013. There was an increase in expenditure from £72.7 million in 2013/14 to a forecast spend of up to £498 million in 2015/16.

Spending on FE has fallen over the last five years



Source: Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 2014-15 mid-year report, Annex B and Supplementary Estimates 2014-15



Further Education

Recent and planned developments



Traineeships



Introduced in 2013, they are flexible education and training programmes designed to support young people to become 'work ready'. There were 10,400 starts in the 2013/14 academic year and a further 9,200 starts in the first half of the 2014/15 academic year. Of these traineeships 1,200 have been offered by large companies.

Apprenticeship 'Trailblazers'



Launched in 2013, this scheme involves employers working together to produce new apprenticeship standards. The aim is to increase the quality of apprenticeships and make them more relevant to industry. The Skills Funding Agency wants all apprenticeship starts from the 2017/18 academic year to be based on the new standards.



Apprenticeship funding

From 2014-15, the Skills Funding Agency has contributed £2 for every £1 that an employer contributes to the external training and assessment costs of new apprenticeship standards, up to a funding cap (which varies depending upon the standard offered). There are also incentive payments for 16–18 year olds, small employers and completions, which offset the employer contribution in some cases.



24+ Advanced Learning Loans

Launched in 2013-14, this development enables providers to offer loan-funded training to learners aged 24+ starting certain courses. The loan facility with regard to apprenticeships was subsequently withdrawn due to take-up being below expectations. Outstanding debts of £458,394 were written off, and apprenticeships are now grant-funded only.

Further Education

What are the things to look out for?



How many FE colleges will the sector support in the future?

With funding reductions and an increasing level of competition for students, some colleges may be unable to sustain themselves financially. Mergers or closures are likely.

How will three million new apprenticeships be delivered?

Apprenticeship funding was prioritised and ring-fenced during the last Parliament. It delivered around half a million apprenticeship starts per year. Exceeding this number will require additional funding streams and extra effort to engage with employers.



What will be the effect of the simplification plan?

The Department is proceeding with a simplification plan to reduce the administrative burdens on the FE sector, which were estimated to cost £250–300 million in 2011.

Will UKCES' scope change?

UKCES's budget fell considerably in 2014-15 compared with 2013-14, with a number of expenditure streams being discontinued or moved to the Skills Funding Agency. A triennial review of UKCES is currently under way, which is likely to propose further reforms to its scope.



Science, Research and Innovation

What is it?

The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) uses science and research bodies to promote economic growth in the UK, and aims to stimulate a more competitive and productive research environment.

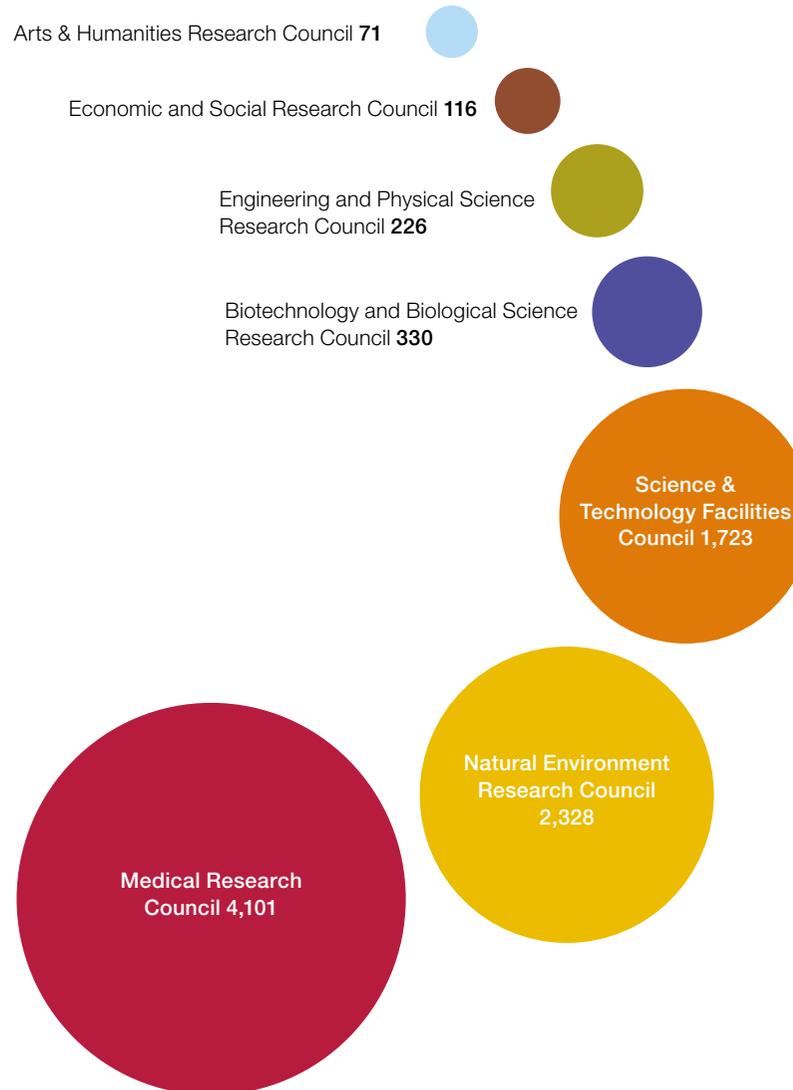
These bodies include **The UK Space Agency, Innovate UK** and the **seven Research Councils** (see diagram).

As a group, these bodies fund research and postgraduate training, supporting science in the UK and internationally. They do this predominantly by the awarding of grants to research organisations including higher education facilities, and by paying international subscriptions – for example, to the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

A number of the councils – most notably the Medical Research Council – also undertake their own research.

Innovate UK (formerly the Technology Strategy Board) aims to support innovative SMEs which have high growth potential, and to encourage development in key areas such as manufacturing, digital and transport.

Research Council staff numbers 2013-14



Source: Annual report and accounts 2013-14

Science, Research and Innovation

How much does it cost?

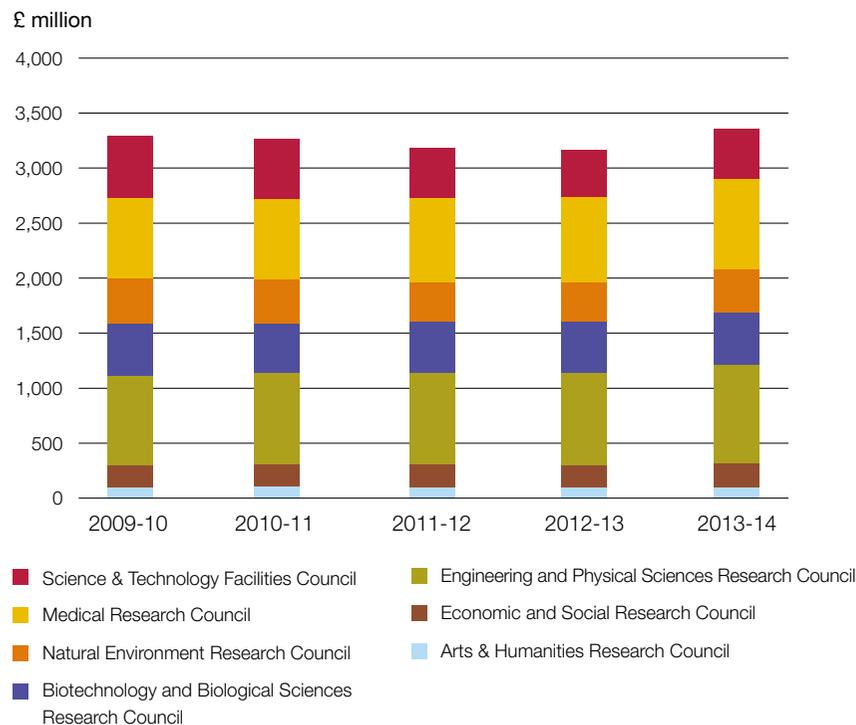
The programme research budget has been ring-fenced at £4.6 billion in cash terms over the past five years. There has also been additional capital funding, such as for The Francis Crick Institute.

The Research Councils are responsible for 24% of BIS's grant in aid expenditure, and Innovate UK is responsible for 4%.

There has been a large increase in capital funding for the Research Councils to invest in research institutes.

The UK Space Agency was established as an executive agency in 2011. Net expenditure rose from £256 million in 2011-12 to £329 million budgeted in 2014-15.

Total expenditure by the seven Research Councils



Notes

- 1 The £4.6 billion ring-fenced budget includes other research organisations such as UK Space Agency and HEFCE's Quality Related research.
- 2 STFC 2011-12– in April 2011, scientific research in outer space transferred to the UK Space Agency resulting in a reduction to research expenditure of just over £100 million.

Source: Annual report and accounts 2009-10 to 2013-14



Science, Research and Innovation

Recent and planned developments

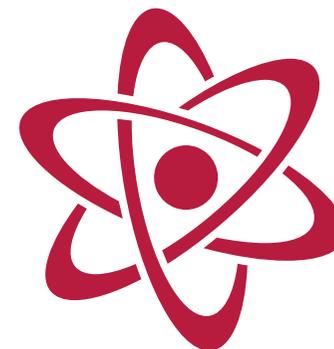
Capital funding is being focused on large research institutes – The Francis Crick Institute focuses on biomedical research, with government capital investment of over £330 million. The proposed Sir Henry Royce Institute focuses on advanced materials, with capital investment of £235 million. The Alan Turing Institute focuses on big data, costing £42 million over five years.

Seven catapult centres funded by Innovate UK each focus on a different specialty such as cell therapy, digital or high value manufacturing, linking businesses and researchers in a more commercialised way.

The Newton Fund launched in 2014, provides £75 million annually for five years. It aims to develop science, research and innovation partnerships, promoting economic and welfare growth in developing countries.

The Nurse Review, expected in summer 2015, will examine the balance of funding between grants, equipment and infrastructure. It will also consider whether interdisciplinary research is adequately supported and how the work of the councils should most effectively integrate with agencies such as Innovate UK.

Innovation funding – Innovate UK has invested £60 million to support the UK construction sector, which has shown recent decline, in designing and developing more energy efficient buildings. It also supports innovation in other fields such as driverless cars and cyber security.



3/4



Science, Research and Innovation

What are the things to look out for?

Will the research councils begin to cut back their activities?

As there is a move towards a coordinated services approach, the councils may seek to further divest any associated institutes and facilities to become more grant-giving bodies rather than research-producing bodies, pushing 'ownership' back to the universities.

Will there be an end to research budget ring-fencing?

If the research budget is no longer ring-fenced, the research councils may need to cut costs and reconsider their priorities – for example, the expense associated with international subscription fees.

Will there be further structural changes to the sector?

The Nurse Review could lead to changes in the way funding is delivered across the research councils and agencies, including Innovate UK, possibly resulting in merged functions. In March 2015, Research Councils UK (the umbrella body for all research councils) appointed its first ever Executive Director, whose role covers strategic change.

Will commercialisation continue?

Innovate UK and the catapult centres focus on development rather than research, providing funding for more commercial projects with the aim of boosting the economy. It is likely that this trend in commercial investment will continue.



Business Support and Markets

What is involved?

In this broad area of policy, BIS aims to: support the creation of open and fair markets; encourage employment and increased consumer choice within the trade, labour and wider business environment, benefiting UK companies; and provide funding and advice.

Key bodies:

- The **Competition and Markets Authority** (CMA, a non-ministerial department), became operational in April 2014, and took on many of the previously existing Competition Commission and Office of Fair Trading functions. The CMA's aim is to promote competition both within and outside the UK.
- The **British Business Bank** (BBB), which became an independent entity in November 2014, provides access to funding and advice for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) where markets do not work well.
- The **Green Investment Bank** (GIB) provides funding for environmental projects to mobilise private sector capital into the UK's 'green economy'.



- Crown Executive NDPB
- Tribunal NDPB
- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Public Limited Company
- Non-ministerial department
- Executive non-departmental public body (NDPB)
- Advisory NDPB

Business Support and Markets

What investment is involved?

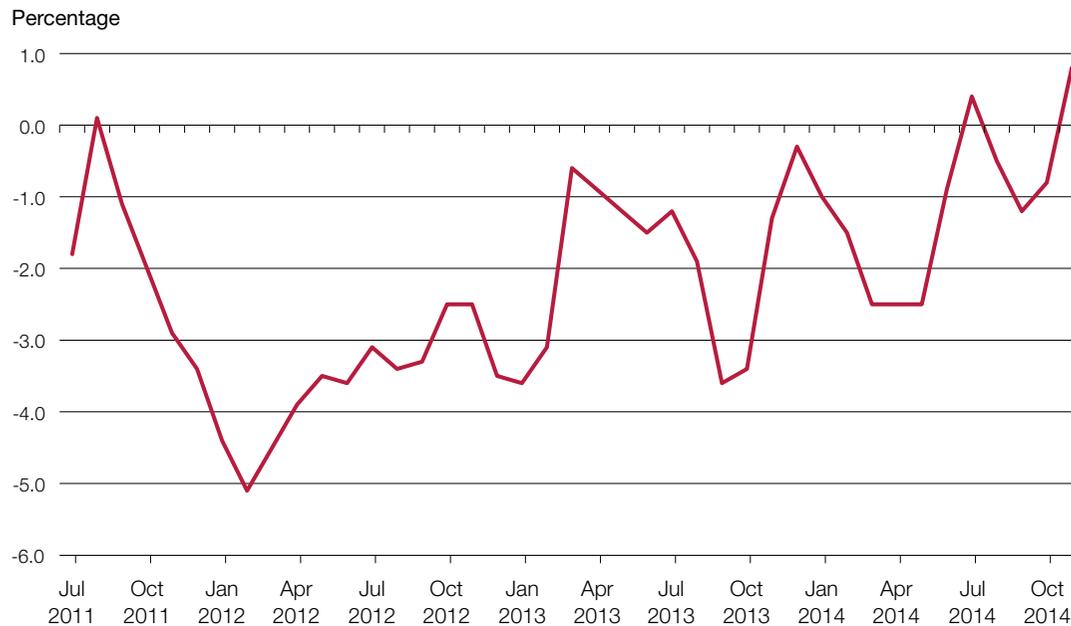
The Department's activities include funding for the following areas:

- Labour market policy;
- International trade policy and export control;
- Departmental economic evidence and advice; and
- Frameworks for corporate reporting, governance and responsibility.

BIS states that the British Business Bank has enabled £1.5 billion of new finance to reach over 20,000 small businesses.

The Green Investment Bank has disclosed total commitments of £1.8 billion to 45 projects, and claims to have encouraged over £6.9 billion of total new investment. A further £800 million is due to be allocated in 2015-16.

Change in net lending to SMEs



— Change in lending to SMEs (three months growth rate, annualised, not seasonally adjusted, excluding overdrafts)

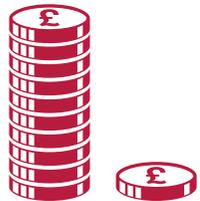
Note

1 Net lending to SMEs was negative up until October 2014 – repayments to lenders outweighed new lending.

Source: Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Growth dashboard January 2015

Business Support and Markets

Recent and planned developments



Competition – The Competition and Markets Authority has launched the first ever market investigation into energy, and has stated that its aim is to generate £10 of benefits to the consumer for every £1 that it spends over a rolling three-year period.



Labour market – TUPE regulations have been reformed, with the aim of making the process of changing business owner easier and fairer. The National Minimum Wage has increased to £6.50 per hour.



The **Consumer Rights Bill**, which aims to streamline and modernise UK consumer rights, gained Royal Assent on 26 March 2015, coming into force in October 2015.



The **Industrial Strategy**, launched in 2013, aims to support emerging technologies, improve access to finance for businesses and develop partnerships with industry.



The **Green Investment Bank** plans to raise a £1 billion fund to invest in offshore wind projects, with the first £463 million raised by the end of March 2015. Initial investors include UK pension funds and a sovereign wealth fund.



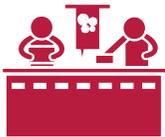
Business Support and Markets

What are the things to look out for?



Is the current target of doubling UK exports to £1 trillion by 2020 achievable?

Commentators have expressed concerns that the target could be missed if substantial funding is not provided, particularly for SMEs.



What impact can BIS have on decreasing the productivity gap?

The productivity gap (ie the shortfall in output-per-hour achieved by UK workers compared to that of workers in other industrialised nations) is often seen as a significant risk to economic recovery.



If there is further devolution, will it affect the Competition and Markets Authority?

The Authority has stated that, if there is full devolution of competition, consumer policy or delivery of consumer protection, it could have significant implications for consumers and place additional costs on compliance.



Will changes to the economic climate reduce access to funding?

There is a risk that the Green Investment Bank and British Business Bank will be unable to source sufficient private funding to be able to supply loans to businesses.



Will the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership reach an agreement?

BIS claims that the TTIP would increase trade between the EU and US, which could be worth between £4 billion and £10 billion per year to the UK. However, there have been delays in negotiations, and public concern about regulatory standards, transparency and accountability, leading to uncertainty over when a deal will be reached.

Appendix One

Partner Organisations

Executive Agencies

[The Insolvency Service](#)

[National Measurement & Regulation Office](#)

[UK Space Agency](#)

Crown Executive NDPBs

[The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service](#)

[Central Arbitration Committee](#)

[Skills Funding Agency](#)

NDPBs and other designated bodies

[Arts & Humanities Research Council](#)

[Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council](#)

[Competition Appeal Tribunal](#)

[Competition Service](#)

[Construction Industry Training Board](#)

[Economic and Social Research Council](#)

[Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council](#)

[Engineering Construction Industry Training Board](#)

[Financial Reporting Council Ltd](#)

[Higher Education Funding Council for England](#)

[Medical Research Council](#)

[Natural Environment Research Council](#)

[Office for Fair Access](#)

[Post Office Ltd](#)

[Science & Technology Facilities Council](#)

[Student Loans Company](#)

[Innovate UK](#)

[UK Green Investment Bank plc](#)

[UK Shared Business Service](#)

[UK Atomic Energy Authority](#)

[UK Commission for Employment and Skills](#)

[British Business Bank](#)

Bodies not consolidated in the departmental group accounts

[UK Trade & Investment](#)

[Competition & Markets Authority](#)

[Companies House](#)

[Intellectual Property Office](#)

[Land Registry](#)

[Ordnance Survey](#)

[Met Office](#)

[British Hallmarking Council](#)

[Copyright Tribunal \(Operated by UK IPO\)](#)

[Council for Science and Technology](#)

[Film Industry Board for England & Wales¹](#)

[Industrial Development Advisory Board](#)

[Insolvency Practitioner Tribunal¹](#)

[Low Pay Commission](#)

[Office of Manpower Economics](#)

[Regulatory Policy Committee](#)

[Wave Hub Ltd](#)

Note

¹ There is no website available for these bodies.