



Scotland votes 'No' to independence

Scotland has voted 'No' to independence in results confirmed on Friday morning. The results from all 32 council areas show that the "No" side won with 2,001,926 votes over the 1,617,989 votes for "Yes", or 55% compared to 45% respectively. The overall turnout for the vote reached 84.5%. Following the result, Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond accepted the defeat, and called for unity and for the unionist parties to deliver on more powers for Scotland. UK Prime Minister David Cameron has congratulated both campaigns, and has said he was delighted that the UK will remain together. He also said the commitments on extra powers would be honoured, and that the three main parties at Westminster would now follow through with their pledge of more powers for the Scottish Parliament. He also noted that the people of England, Wales and Northern Ireland needed to have a bigger say on their affairs, and promised a resolution to the West Lothian question – the fact that Scottish MPs can vote on English issues at Westminster.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-29270441>

Diversity initiatives for science and engineering announced

Government has announced a number of initiatives to increase diversity in science and engineering. At the British Science Festival, which celebrates science, engineering and technology, the Minister of State for Universities, Science and Cities, Greg Clark, said, "We are making headway in this area by funding the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering's STEM Diversity programmes and I am proud to lead the 'Your Life' campaign for BIS but we must focus attention on tackling the legacy of low uptake of science courses and outdated recruitment models for top positions." Programmes and campaigns dedicated to improving diversity within these fields include:

- The Your Life campaign, which is a call to action to encourage more women into technology and engineering.

- The Royal Academy of Engineering's programme, which is committed to diversity, equality and inclusion in the engineering profession.
- The Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE), which is the leading independent advocate for science and engineering in the UK.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/breaking-down-the-barriers-to-exciting-new-careers>



Government responds to the new Climate Economy report

The Rt Hon Ed Davey, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, has responded to the publication of the New Climate Economy Report: 'Better Growth, Better Climate'. Speaking about the report, the Secretary of State said, "The New Climate Economy Report... shows that across key sectors of the world economy there is opportunity for low-carbon growth to drive investment, providing jobs as well as better health, business productivity and quality of life". Last week the UK announced its vision for a global climate deal, which sets out clear goals for ambitious and fair commitments from all countries that will hopefully reduce emissions and spur new investment in innovation. The Secretary of State will be attending the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit in New York alongside the Prime Minister next week, in a bid to push for further momentum on securing a global deal.

(Source: DECC)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-climate-economy-report>

Manufacturing employment rises in 2Q 2014

The latest statistics from the Office for National Statistics shows that workforce jobs in manufacturing increased by 1.2% in the second quarter of the year, marking the sixth consecutive quarter of growth. Manufacturing vacancies have risen by 37% over the year, meaning employment in the sector is on track to meet a forecast of 0.8% growth in 2014. The figures have also revealed that average weekly earnings in the sector have increased by 1.7% year-on-year in the second quarter, compared with a 0.7% increase across the economy as a whole. Chief economist at EEF, the manufacturers' organisation, Lee Hopley, said, "These figures highlight that, despite a more uncertain economic outlook overall, manufacturing employers are continuing to recruit at a strong level." The number of people in employment across all sectors rose by 74,000 to 30.61 million over the quarter, the smallest quarterly increase since the April to June quarter in 2013.

(Source: IMECHE)

<http://www.imeche.org/news/engineering/manufacturing-employment-rises-in-2q-2014-170914>



Major funding announced to improve Bristol's public transport

The Department for Transport has announced £34 million of funding to be put towards the building of a new rapid bus network for Bristol. The city will receive better bus connections between key areas of employment, housing, retail and leisure, and the new network will tackle traffic congestion, help to create regeneration and support new jobs and homes. The Metrobus will encourage car drivers coming into Bristol to move onto public transport, and existing bus services in the west of the city will be able to use the new infrastructure with faster travel times. The

Department for Transport will fund up to £34.5 million towards the total £45 million cost, and the work will be completed in April 2016.

(Source: DfT)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/34-million-for-bristols-rapid-bus-network>

Week ahead

The Houses of Parliament will be in recess from Saturday 13 September and will next sit on Monday 13 October

The House of Lords is in recess and will next sit on Monday 13 October