

## Chancellor delivers Spending Round statement

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rt Hon George Osborne MP has delivered government's Spending Round for the period 2015-16. The top-line announcements included a £11.5 billion spending reduction in 2015-16, increased capital spending plans by £3bn in 2015-16 (£18 billion over the coming Parliament).

Departmental spending was protected in health, schools and overseas development. Government set out long-term plans for capital investment to 2020 (and allocations for 2015-16). The Chancellor focused his statement around the themes of reform, growth and fairness. Under key departmental settlements, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is allocated £2.5 billion for capital spending, £185 million of additional research funding for the Technology Strategy Board, as well as an extension to the Research Partnership Investment Fund to 2016-17. The Department for Transport will see a 5.5% real terms increase in capital provision for critical transport infrastructure. (Source: HM Treasury)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/spending-round-2013-speech>



## Chief Secretary outlines government's capital and infrastructure priorities

Following the Spending Round announcements by the Chancellor, Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury outlined in Parliament

government's priorities for capital spending and infrastructure. A document outlining the plans, 'Investing in Britain's future' was published alongside the statement. Four key elements of government's plans were highlighted including a pipeline of public investment in infrastructure worth over £100 billion to 2020; policy reforms to stimulate new private sector investment in energy generation; transforming the financing of major projects by the further roll-out and extension of the UK guarantees scheme; and strengthening public sector delivery of major projects and programmes, learning from successful approaches taken in the Olympics and elsewhere. Key announcements relevant to the automotive sector included a prize of up to £10 million dedicated to R&D funding to develop long-life battery technology for electric vehicles; £28 billion in enhancements and maintenance for roads; and confirmation that the Highways Agency would be turned into a publicly-owned corporation with long-term funding certainty and flexibility, enabling it to achieve capital efficiency worth £600 million by 2020-21. Further announcements included an extra allocation of £800 million for the Green Investment Bank in 2015-16 and confirmation of a Single Local Growth Fund of £2 billion per year to 2021. (Source: HM Treasury)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-prioritises-long-term-investment-in-infrastructure-spending>

## Government announces £1 million for motorsport

Universities and Science Minister Rt Hon David Willets MP has announced a new £1 million competition for SMEs in UK motorsport. The Technology Strategy Board's latest 'Launchpad' competition will give UK businesses working as part of England's Motorsport Valley, around Oxfordshire and the surrounding counties, the chance to compete for funding. The investment will allow businesses to develop new energy and emission efficient technologies that could be transferred into motorsport applications as well as transport, aerospace and defence industries. Chief Executive of the Technology Strategy Board Iain Gray said "Motorsports Valley is one of a whole host of Launchpads that we are

running this year. We aim to draw more investment and more people into the area and to encourage networking to strengthen this cluster of motorsport companies. Companies in this cluster supply cutting-edge technologies and components used in the majority of world motorsport series.” (Source: BIS) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-light-for-1-million-boost-to-uk-motorsport-industry>

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## Prime Minister announces 100,000 new engineering apprentices

Prime Minister David Cameron has announced a new scheme that aims to produce an additional 100,000 engineering technicians by 2018. Working through new and established apprentice schemes, the initiative has been created by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Institute of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Engineering and Technology and is backed by the Gatsby Foundation. The Prime Minister made the announcement as the Bloodhound Supersonic Car visited Downing Street, along with a number of existing engineering apprentices and school children. Prime Minister David Cameron said: “British engineering and innovation are a part of our history that we are rightly very proud of and our engineering excellence continues to change the world that we live in for the better. Bloodhound is a fantastic example of what our engineers can achieve. Apprenticeships are at the heart of our mission to rebuild the economy, giving young people the chance to learn a trade and to build their careers, creating a truly world-class, high-skilled workforce that can compete and thrive in the global race.” (Source: BIS) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-100000-new-engineering-apprentices>

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## Road casualties in London down during 2012

Transport for London (TfL) has announced new road safety figures for 2012 showing the number of road casualties fell by around 2% TfL’s figures also demonstrate that fatalities fell 16% 134, the second lowest since records began. Deaths fell in all vulnerable user groups, including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists. Deaths of car occupants fell by 41% to the lowest level ever recorded. The number of child fatalities dropped to five, also the lowest since records began. Despite these positive trends, 2012 saw a rise in the number of serious injuries. These increased overall by 9% between 2011

and 2012. TfL said that the Mayor of London would be writing to the Transport Secretary on road safety issues including calling for changes to the HGV and standard driving tests and the power to require additional safety modifications on heavy commercial vehicles. TfL also noted that it would be creating a Vehicle Innovation Task Force, bringing together vehicle manufacturers and safety technology developers to push for safety advances and launch a road safety technology innovation competition to bring the best ideas for safety to London. Leon Daniels, Managing Director of Surface Transport at TfL said: “Improving road safety is something to which TfL remains totally dedicated. The latest casualty figures show that the range of measures we have been putting in place continue to reduce the chance of someone tragically dying on the capital’s roads and that the long-term trend in fatalities and serious injuries remains downwards.” (Source: TfL) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-100000-new-engineering-apprentices>

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## Week ahead

### Commons Chamber

Thursday 4 July

Backbench business debate: Economic implications for the UK of an EU/US trade and investment agreement (Members in charge: John Healey, Lab, Wentworth and Dearne; Guto Bebb, Con, Aberconwy; Jonathan Edwards, Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)

### Lords Chamber

Monday 1 July

Oral questions: What steps they are taking to improve road safety in the United Kingdom (Lord Colwyn, Con)