

Plan for Growth: Implementation Update (December 2012)

To enable the UK to compete in a rapidly changing global economy, the Government is delivering an ambitious programme of structural reforms. The [Plan for Growth](#) published alongside Budget 2011, set out a broad programme of reforms designed to remove many of the barriers to growth for businesses, and to achieve the Government's four ambitions for growth:

- Encouraging investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy;
- Making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business;
- Creating a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe; and
- Creating the most competitive tax system in the G20.

This document sets out progress made to date across the commitments in the *Plan for Growth* and at Autumn Statement 2011. Previous updates were published alongside [Autumn Statement 2011](#) and [Budget 2012](#). Progress against the Government's [National Infrastructure Plan](#) has been published separately.

Delivery of these commitments remains a priority across Government, over half are now complete and the vast majority of those that remain are on track. Completed measures include: cutting the main rate of corporation tax from 28 per cent in 2010 to 24 per cent in 2012, increasing business investment – it was estimated that the additional 1 per cent reduction in the main rate announced at Budget 2012 would increase business investment by £3.4bn by 2016; reducing the burden of regulation on business by £850m per year since April 2011; and root and branch reform of the planning system, with the launch of the National Planning Policy Framework in March this year.

The Government has also set out further structural reforms to support growth. These include new announcements in Autumn Statement 2012, and those announced earlier this year in Budget 2012, over the summer on infrastructure, housing and planning, and in the Government's Growth and Infrastructure Bill.

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1. Access to finance

The Government recognises that access to finance is key to promoting private investment and delivering sustainable economic recovery. The *Plan for Growth* set out measures to help small businesses access finance. Further measures were introduced at Budget 2012 and, in September this year, the Government announced plans to create a £1bn business bank.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
1	Make significant reforms to Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCT), subject to State Aid Approval.	Complete	Reforms have been made to the EIS and VCT schemes, including doubling of investor limits and increasing company size limits from April 2012. Final legislation was published in the Finance Bill 2011.
2	Increase the lifetime limit on capital gains qualifying for entrepreneurs' relief to £10m.	Complete	Introduced April 2011.
3	Re-notify Community Investment Tax Relief to the EU Commission.	Complete	The Commission have agreed the scheme can continue under <i>de minimis</i> regulations, subject to amendments in Finance Bill 2013.
4	Launch the Big Society Capital.	Complete	Big Society Capital became fully operational in April 2012 and, over the next 4 years, will have up to £600m of capital from dormant accounts and from the 4 leading high street banks.
5	Reform the delivery of European Regional Development Funds (ERDF).	Complete	All programmes met their 2011 spending targets and all of the 2007-13 English allocation has been contracted or is awaiting contracting. We have reduced liabilities for the 2000-06 ERDF programmes from £236m in August 2010 to £17m.
6	Review the UK's regulatory framework of covered bonds.	Complete	Reforms will take effect in January 2013, increasing the visibility of regulation and making it easier to understand the strengths of the UK regime compared with other regimes.

2. Competition

Thriving, competitive markets promote growth by creating strong incentives for firms to increase their efficiency and to innovate. The UK has a well-respected and stable competition regime. The *Plan for Growth* announced measures to further improve competition.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
7	Establish Competition and Markets Authority and fold in Competition Commission and Office of Fair Trading.	Progress made	Will be fully established by April 2014. Proposals on competition reform are included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, expected to receive Royal Assent by spring 2013.
8	Promote greater transparency in Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) related liabilities.	Progress made	See no. 99.
9	Publish <i>Shaping Competitive Markets</i> in April 2011 to support procurement choices that encourage competition.	Complete	Reforms to public sector procurement announced at Autumn Statement 2011 supersede this measure. See section 8.
10	Strip back regulation and increase transparency to make it easier for small businesses and voluntary organisations to compete for Local Government contracts.	Complete	The Government published new statutory guidance on Best Value Duty and a Transparency Code of Council behaviour in September 2011, together with reforms such as Community Right to Challenge.
11	Publish in April 2011 a binding set of principles of economic regulation to provide greater certainty for long-term investors in UK infrastructure.	Complete	The Government is implementing the Principles for Economic Regulation (published in April 2011).
12	Set out in April 2011 Government's vision for consumer empowerment to explain how it will help support consumers in making better choices.	Complete	The Government's Consumer Empowerment Strategy was published in 2011.

3. Corporate governance

The corporate governance framework can support growth by aligning incentives for investors and managers to improve company productivity, providing information to investors to encourage investment in UK companies, and increasing stability and confidence in UK markets. The *Plan for Growth* announced measures to reduce the burdens and costs of financial reporting and audit requirements.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
13	Reduce number of UK SMEs and subsidiaries required to undertake an audit.	Complete	The Government published the Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships Regulations 2012, reducing the number of UK SMEs and subsidiaries required to undertake an audit for accounting years ending on or after 1 October, saving business at least £100m per year and possibly as much as £390m per year.
14	Change the law in 2012 to exempt many subsidiaries from producing audited accounts; and push the EU to exempt smallest companies from reporting requirements.	Complete	See above. For the smallest companies the Micros Directive (2012/6/EU) was adopted in March 2012.
15	Call on the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to investigate whether clauses in lending agreements made by the banks are unfairly restricting competition in the audit market.	Complete	The OFT announced it would refer the market for the supply of statutory audit services for large companies to the Competition Commission. Preliminary findings are expected in January 2013.
16	Simplify narrative reporting for quoted companies.	Progress made	Amendments will come into force in October 2013, changing the reporting format, removing several reporting requirements from all companies, and requiring quoted companies to make some additional disclosures.
17	Modernise legislative framework governing mutuals.	Complete	In January 2012, changes came into effect to improve the environment in which credit unions operate, including allowing credit unions to relax restrictions on membership.
18	Improve businesslink.gov.uk guidance to support business and social enterprise start-ups.	Complete	Guidance has been published to help those starting up businesses to decide on the most appropriate legal structure and ownership model.

4. Education and skills

Education and skills are vital to our future and essential to building sustainable growth and stronger communities. A skilled workforce is necessary to stimulate private-sector growth that will bring new jobs and new prosperity for people across the UK. Autumn Statement 2011 set out measures to make the education and skills system more responsive to employer needs. Autumn Statement 2012 announced additional investment in schools and Further Education.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
19	Improve the quality of the apprenticeship programme.	Progress made	Poor provision has been removed and contracts tightened. From August 2012, the minimum Apprenticeship duration is 12 months, with limited exceptions for older apprentices. Providers are required to support apprentices to attain English and maths up to A*-C GCSE standard. Higher Apprenticeships are being expanded, with investment in new frameworks to degree level and beyond, and planned changes to regulation to incorporate new Higher Apprenticeship frameworks at Level 6 and above. The Richard Review provides wide-reaching recommendations to raise standards over the longer term, which the Government is considering.
20	Ensure every employer is able to advertise a vacancy within 1 month of deciding to take on an apprentice, have them ready to start work within 3 months, provided employers play an active role, and remove unnecessary health and safety requirements for apprenticeships.	Progress made	In order to be referred employers by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), providers are now required to place adverts on Apprenticeships Vacancies (AV) within 1 month. Performance will be measured through regular NAS surveys and monthly provider reports. Employers are also able to place a provisional advert onto the system within 24 hours.
21	The Government welcomed a proposal from Ofqual to work with the Office of Fair Trading and other bodies to review how well qualifications markets are operating.	Progress made	Ofqual will establish new guidelines which will prevent any activities that could undermine confidence in the exam system. 3 projects will conclude in May 2013.
22	Route public investment in skills directly to employers to allow them to purchase the vocational training they need through a new	Complete	35 projects were successful in the first round, securing £70m of public funding, and £99m of private investment. 2 further successful city bids from Round 1 of the Employer Ownership

	pilot fund of up to £250m. In early 2012, employers will be invited to bid for a share of the fund.		Pilot in Liverpool and Manchester will take the total amount allocated to around £87m over 2 years, leveraging £115m from employers. A second round of the competition was launched in November 2012. The overall budget has been increased from £250m to £340m.
23	Publish destination information at ages 16 and 18 from spring 2013 to encourage schools' focus on young people's futures beyond school, as well as attainment.	Progress made	Education Destination Measures were published for the first time in July 2012. These show the percentage of students continuing their education in school, Further Education or 6 th form college or Higher Education institution, and the percentage training through an apprenticeship or work-based learning: Destinations of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 pupils – Data, research and statistics . The Government now aims to publish education and employment destinations in June 2013.
24	Invest £4.5m over the next 2 years to support work experience as part of post-16 learning; work with the Federation of Small Businesses and other employer groups to review regulation impacting on work experience by the end of December 2011; and publish a guide to address common misconceptions about work experience.	Progress made	The Government has removed requirements to carry out CRB checks on employees who manage or work with students on work experience in July 2012. The barred list check change is likely to come into effect in 2013. The work experience pilot is in its second phase and will be evaluated by the National Foundation for Educational Research. The final report will be published in autumn 2013.
25	A group of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-focused Sector Skills Councils will lead an industry group to kite-mark courses, helping students better understand which courses are valued by employers.	Progress made	Where professional accreditation exists, Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) will not now be expected to facilitate the kite-marking of individual courses, but to work with professional bodies on accreditation. Where there is no professional accreditation, SSCs are leading further work to establish the best way forward.
26	Create improved careers information portal as part of National Careers Service from April 2012. As part of Youth Contract, additional £4.2m over 3 years to be provided so service can provide careers interviews for 18–24 year olds within 3	Complete	The new National Career Service was launched in April 2012. Information and advice will be provided through a combination of face-to-face meetings, a new interactive website, and helpline. The number of 18-24 year olds unemployed for 6 months or less receiving careers interviews, increased by 11,800.

	months of being on Jobseeker's Allowance.		
27	Launch 'HE Global', an online portal providing information and advice to higher education institutions on expanding abroad.	Complete	HE Global is now offering its services through a website, telephone help-line and dedicated email address.
28	Invest £10m over 5 years from 2013-14 in Project Enthuse, matched by investment from the Wellcome Trust, to improve quality of science teaching in schools.	Progress made	Work on Project Enthuse is ongoing, with the Government and the Wellcome Trust on track to have the new funding structure in place from April 2013.
29	Offer undergraduates access to mentoring support drawn from the existing network of STEM Ambassadors.	Progress made	A pilot started in September 2012 to investigate how STEM ambassador mentoring can be most effective. Career networking sessions with STEM Ambassadors took place in October.
30	Reform adult basic literacy and numeracy provision by piloting a new funding method for the providers of courses.	Progress made	Pilots started in September 2012, involving several providers. The project will run during the academic year 2012-13. An external evaluator has been appointed.

5. Infrastructure

High quality infrastructure is essential if the UK is to remain competitive. To make the UK's infrastructure fit for the 21st century, Autumn Statement 2011 announced a significant package of measures to facilitate investment in the UK's infrastructure. An updated [National Infrastructure Plan](#) has been published alongside this Autumn Statement.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
31	Prioritise the 40 key infrastructure projects.	Progress made	An updated National Infrastructure Plan has been published alongside this Autumn Statement.
32	Publish a consultation on an aviation strategy in March 2012, which will explore all the options for maintaining the UK's aviation hub status with the exception of a third runway at Heathrow.	Progress made	The Aviation Policy Framework Consultation (APF) will set out the high-level policy against which any specific proposals for new airport capacity will need to be considered. It will be finalised in March 2013, following consultation this year. The Government has set up an independent Airports Commission, which will publish an interim report by end 2013, and a final report in 2015, recommending how the Government should maintain the UK's status as an international aviation hub.
33	Pilot reviews during the design and engineering phase to consider what opportunities for interdependencies may exist in major infrastructure projects.	Progress made	The Government is working with University of Bristol and UCL to develop an Interdependency, Planning & Management Framework which is currently being tested against High Speed 2, the A14 upgrade, Lower Thames Crossing and Northern Line Battersea extension. Final results are due to be delivered in spring 2013.
34	Clear planning cases in the infrastructure planning backlog within 3 months once they are ready for a decision.	Progress made	Since November 2010, over 40 per cent of all Transport cases have been cleared. Cases cleared since March 2012 include improvements to the Chiltern Railways (Bicester to Oxford). Over 75 per cent of Energy cases have been cleared.
35	Invest £25m to help bus companies and local authorities in England buy new low carbon buses.	Complete	£29m was paid to winning bus operators and local authorities. The funded buses are scheduled to come into public service by summer 2013.

36	£10m will be made available to fit pollution reduction technology to London buses. £5m will be provided by Government and £5m by Transport for London.	Progress made	Retrofitting will start this month. Some retrofitted buses from the pilot are already in service. 200 London buses operating on 48 routes will be retrofitted with pollution abatement equipment by March 2013.
37	Make enhancing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms an additional priority in pushing the EU for a digital single market, in order to overcome barriers to e-commerce and the electronic distribution of goods to Europe.	Progress made	EU legislative proposals on Alternative Dispute Resolution for consumer disputes are expected to be adopted in early 2013. The Government is working to ensure that the final package realises the potential digital single market benefits.
38	Write-down £150m of debt on the Humber Bridge, allowing tolls to fall from £3.00 to £1.50 for cars.	Complete	In the first 6 months of reduced tolls, 235,000 additional vehicles used the Humber Bridge, an increase of 7.4 per cent over the same period in 2011.
39	Invest £5m to set up a nationwide taskforce to target metal thieves and scrap metal dealers who illegally trade in stolen metal.	Complete	UK wide taskforce became operational in January 2012. The Association of Chief Police Officers report the taskforce contributed towards a 38 per cent reduction in metal theft offences this year – potentially reducing costs to the UK from metal theft by £83m per year. Cash payments for scrap metal are now prohibited.
40	Devolved Administrations receive Barnett consequential to invest in infrastructure priorities.	Complete	Additional budget allocations have been provided.
41	£50 m will be made available to replace the Caledonian Sleeper Service.	Complete	The Caledonian Sleeper franchise specification will be published in early 2013. Upgrades to the network infrastructure were included in the Scottish ministers' High Level Output Specification (HLOS) published in June 2012.

6. Low carbon

Globally, the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector, including renewable energy, carbon markets and environmental consultancy, was worth £3.3 trillion in 2010-11. The UK market ranks sixth, worth £122bn, with over 50,000 companies employing 940,000 people. As the global market expands, there is potential for UK firms to capture international markets and increase exports.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
42	Introduce a carbon price floor for electricity generation from 1 April 2013, to encourage investment in low-carbon power.	Complete	Enacted in the Finance Act 2011. Finance Act 2012 enabled Carbon Price Floor relief to be applied to carbon capture and storage technologies.
43	Scrap the unnecessary plans for a new Carbon Capture and Storage levy.	Complete	Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) levy was scrapped. The CCS Commercialisation Programme launched in April 2012. In October, 4 shortlisted bidders were announced. In November, £20m was announced for 13 projects to reduce the cost of CCS so it is competitive with other forms of low-carbon generation.
44	Cap the cost of policies funded through energy bills.	Complete	Levy Control Framework (LCF) ensures Government achieves energy and climate change goals in a way that minimises impacts on bills. A funding cap on low carbon generation to 2020 has been agreed. Up to £7.6bn will be provided in 2020-21.
45	Support the infrastructure development needed to enable the transition to a green economy through the Green Investment Bank.	Complete	Green Investment Bank became operational in October, funded with £3bn to commit before April 2015, £180m of which is already committed to waste and energy efficiency projects.
46	Promote development of new markets in green goods and services.	Progress made	The Smart Meters programme is progressing well. The next round of data and communications services bids is due in December 2012. The Government is consulting on a draft legal text for the first stage of the Smart Energy Code. Feed In Tariffs have been reviewed and the scheme has been reformed to support the small-scale distributed energy industry. Parts of the Green Deal market are already operational, including the £125m Green Deal Cashback scheme. The Renewable Heat Incentive scheme opened for non-domestic users in November 2011 and published proposals for extending the scheme to domestic users in September 2012.

7. Planning

The Plan for Growth and Autumn Statement 2011 announced radical changes to the planning system to support job creation and growth. By creating a planning system supported by powerful financial incentives that makes the right land available in the right place for development, it will deliver commercial development, vital infrastructure and housing that the country needs.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
47	The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will make a Written Ministerial Statement in March 2011, setting clear expectations that local planning authorities and other bodies involved in granting development consents should prioritise growth and jobs.	Complete	See 48 and 49 below.
48	Introduce a powerful new presumption in favour of sustainable development, so that the default answer to development is 'yes.'	Complete	National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012 and immediately came into force for plan-making and decisions. Support has been provided to local authorities to help get plans up to date quickly. 51 Local Plans have been adopted since May 2011, compared to only 100 over the previous 7 years.
49	Produce a shorter, more focused and inherently pro-growth National Planning Policy Framework.	Complete	The National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012, replacing over 1,300 pages of policy with a 49 page document. It includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development, sending a strong signal to councils to plan positively for new development. The rate of approval of planning applications is now at a 10 year high of 87 per cent, with higher approval rates of around 90 per cent for major commercial and business development. The number of decisions during the last quarter was also up by comparison with the previous 2 years.
50	Enable businesses to bring forward neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders.	Progress made	A number of areas have started business-led neighbourhood planning, including Trafford Park, Liverpool Innovation Park, Uppingham, Bankside and Milton Keynes.
51	Pilot a land auctions model, starting with public sector land.	Progress made	Homes and Community Agency are working with local authority partners in Hastings, West Lancashire and Richmondshire to get

			12 pilot sites to market to test if the land auction model can deliver value for communities and reduce risk for housebuilders.
52	Localise choice about the use of previously developed land, removing nationally imposed targets.	Complete	The National Planning Policy Framework removed the nationally imposed target for 60 per cent of housing development to be on previously developed land. Local planning authorities may continue to consider the case for setting a locally appropriate target for the use of brown field land.
53	Consult on proposals to make it easier to convert commercial premises to residential.	Complete	After consultation, Government brought forward a policy to support change of use of commercial buildings to residential use in the National Planning Policy Framework. We have also announced an intention to bring forward permitted development rights for change of use from office to residential use.
54	Introduce a number of measures to streamline the planning applications and related consents regimes removing bureaucracy from the system and speeding it up. This will include a 12 month guarantee for the processing of all planning applications, including any appeals.	Progress made	Proposals to streamline information requirements were published for consultation in July 2012. Any subsequent changes are likely to be brought forward by early 2013. An initial monitoring report on performance against the planning guarantee was published in September 2012. The Government will shortly consult on further proposals for implementing the guarantee.
55	Ensure a fast-track planning process for major infrastructure applications through the Major Infrastructure Planning system.	Complete	Localism Act abolishes the Infrastructure Planning Commission, returning decisions over major infrastructure projects to Ministers. The Nationally Significant Infrastructure planning regime is bringing benefits through streamlined processes.
56	Legislate to introduce a duty on local authorities and public bodies to require them to co-operate on planning issues.	Complete	Localism Act introduced a duty on local authorities and public bodies to co-operate on planning issues. Regulations came into force in April 2012. Support is available to local authorities from the Planning Inspectorate and Planning Advisory Service.
57	Ensure key consenting and advisory agencies have a remit to promote sustainable development as soon as the National Planning Policy Framework is finalised. The Government will also introduce a 13-week maximum	Progress made	English Heritage, the Environment Agency, the Health and Safety Executive, the Highways Agency and Natural England have published improvement plans setting out their remit for sustainable development. These also set out their commitment to meet the 13-week timescale. All agencies have demonstrated

	timescale for the majority of non-planning consents, to speed up the consenting process and give certainty to developers. This will take immediate effect for Government agencies.		they are meeting or exceeding this.
58	Ensure there is a more effective mechanism for applicants to obtain an award of costs, if there is an appeal against refusal of planning permission where a statutory consultee has acted unreasonably, through measures to be implemented in summer 2012. By spring 2012, improve the performance of key statutory consultees, including key statutory bodies, in responding swiftly to applications.	Progress made	Consultation on proposals to amend the award of costs policy took place in summer 2012. An amendment to the award of costs circular will be brought forward in December 2012. All 5 key statutory bodies produced draft improvement plans in 2012 and 3 finished plans have since been published.
59	Build more flexibility into the major infrastructure planning regime, particularly in working with developers in the pre-application phase. These improvements will be implemented by summer 2012.	Progress made	The Government consulted on a "light touch review" of guidance for the Nationally Significant Infrastructure regime, including on pre-application engagement, associated development and examination procedures.
60	Ensure that compliance with the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives does not lead to unnecessary costs and delays to development, while continuing to support the Directives' objectives.	Progress made	The Government published its review of implementation of the Directives in March 2012 and has now completed 13 of the 28 measures set out in the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives Implementation Review, including: establishing the Major Infrastructure and Environment Unit to resolve issues relating to the Directives for high priority projects; and consulting on guidance so businesses and regulators are clear on the requirements of the Directives.
61	Review planning appeals procedures, to make the process faster, more transparent, improve consistency and increase certainty of decision timescales.	Progress made	The Government published a consultation paper on proposals for an improved planning appeals process in November 2012 with responses required by December 2012. Any changes arising from the consultation are likely to be brought forward by July 2013.
62	Consult on a proposal to allow the	Complete	Consultation on planning obligations closed on 8 October 2012.

	reconsideration of those planning obligations agreed prior to April 2010 where development is stalled.		Subject to the outcome of consultation the Government intends to bring forward revised regulations early in 2013.
63	Consult on proposals to allow existing agricultural buildings to be used for other business purposes such as offices and retail space, to make it easier for rural businesses to find the premises they need to expand.	Complete	The Government consultation closed on 11 September 2012. The responses are being reviewed, with any changes agreed likely to be brought forward by April 2013.
64	Introduce new permitted development rights for non-domestic micro-generation of electricity. This will incentivise the take up of small scale renewable and low carbon energy technologies.	Complete	New regulations introducing these permitted development rights came into force in April 2012 with an agreement to review their operation after two years.

8. Public sector procurement

The Autumn Statement 2011 announced measures to improving visibility and certainty of public sector purchases, to allow businesses to plan their investments in plant, machinery and people, and to deliver better value for taxpayers' money. The Government aims to deliver 25 per cent of public sector procurement spending through SMEs by the end of this Parliament.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
65	Building on publication of forward procurement plans for construction, wider infrastructure, information and communications technology and facilities management, publish medium-term plans setting out its procurement needs for other sectors by April 2012. This will give suppliers the confidence to invest for the future and compete on a level playing field.	Complete	13 procurement pipelines were made public in April 2012 and updated in October 2012. 4 further pipelines, in the professional services, financial services, waste management and fire services sectors, were announced in November 2012. The 17 published pipelines provide forward visibility of Government business opportunities over the next 5 years worth approximately £84bn.
66	Make better use of pre-procurement dialogue with suppliers to ensure procurement processes are well designed and quickly carried out, identifying capability gaps in the supply chain that need to be addressed to meet future demand and taking action to remove barriers to growth.	Complete	The Government published three assessments in 2012 of how future capability requirements could be met through developing skills, increasing apprenticeships and training: Building Information Modelling, Renal Care and Tunnelling. To complement the LEAN sourcing approach (no. 68), new techniques have been trialled to encourage pre-procurement dialogue.
67	Introduce a presumption against the use of the competitive dialogue procurement process unless it can be demonstrated that it delivers value for money.	Complete	Presumption announced in November 2011 and applied to new Government procurement processes. The Open procedure is now the default route to market for all but the most complex procurements, increasing competition and participation from a diverse range of suppliers.
68	Complete all but the most complex procurement processes within 120 working days by introducing LEAN sourcing process from January 2012, training public sector procurers to use this.	Complete	The LEAN sourcing standard was published in January 2012 and a programme of training is being rolled out. Procurement turnaround times are reducing and buying behaviour changing.
69	Terry Hill (Chair of the Arup Board of Trustees)	Complete	The Industry Standards Group published their Specifying

	will lead an industry standards group in the infrastructure sector to examine the simplification of procurement specifications and the removal of unnecessary technical standards, to report back to the Government on initial progress by spring 2012.		Successful Standards report in July 2012. This contains a series of recommendations for transport and wider infrastructure sectors.
70	Ensure that the bundling of contract and subcontract packages in procurement offers enhanced opportunities for SMEs.	Complete	Cabinet Office controls exist for certain categories of spending, e.g. ICT, to encourage contract size/shape to suit SMEs. Government Departments are due to submit plans to Cabinet Office in December 2012 on their performance in increasing procurement opportunities for SMEs. Stephen Allot, the Crown Representative for SMEs, will assess departmental progress against Government's 25 per cent SME aspiration and report back in spring 2013.
71	Extend the use of Project Bank Accounts (currently being piloted on construction projects) as a means of ensuring both certainty and speed of payment to SMEs.	Complete	There has been a sustained increase in the use of Project Bank Accounts (PBAs) within construction. The Government is on track to use PBAs for contract awards totalling £2bn by April 2013. The Government is looking to extend the use of PBAs to facilities management.
72	To reduce burdens on business, negotiate in the EU for a radical simplification of the Public Procurement Directives.	Progress made	Substantial progress has been made in the negotiations to revise the EU Public Procurement Directives. The reforms are expected to be adopted in the first half of 2013. The simplification will lead to more efficient procurement and cost savings for both purchasers and suppliers.

9. Publication of Government data

Improving access to public data has the potential to boost growth by building data and analytics markets, expanding existing market opportunities, and attracting inward investment. Measures were announced in Autumn Statement 2011.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
73	Provide a service to link primary and secondary healthcare datasets from September 2012 to reinforce the UK's position as a global centre for research and analytics and boost UK life sciences.	Complete	The Clinical Practice Research Datalink was launched in April 2012. The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) launched its new Data Linkage Service in September.
74	Publish further prescribing data by September 2012 and health and social care datasets by September 2013 to support health and social care data-based product and analytics markets.	Complete	See no. 166.
75	Work with the transport industry to make timetable and real-time train and bus information available by April 2012, to support development of innovative applications to improve journeys and reduce congestion.	Complete	Traveline made its National Dataset of registered bus services in Great Britain and information on departures available at all 350,000 bus stops in April 2012. Network Rail opened up its real-time train running data in June 2012.
76	Consult on providing open access to rail fares data, giving passengers and business information to make the most cost-effective travel choices.	Progress made	The results of the Department for Transport Fares and Ticketing consultation are being collated and a Government response is due to be published in May 2013. The Association of Train Operating Companies have now agreed to publish bulk rail fares data from Q1 2013.
77	Legislate to give the Civil Aviation Authority the power to publish data on the performance of aviation service providers.	Progress made	On passage of the Civil Aviation Bill (Royal Assent expected end 2012), the CAA will consult airport operators and airlines with the aim of beginning to publish enhanced data by end 2014.
78	Release from March 2012 a range of highways and traffic data, including on road works, to help reduce congestion and enable business to make more predictable travel and logistics decisions.	Complete	Highways Agency released data about operation of the Strategic Road network, including roadworks, congestion, current performance and access to traffic cameras. Local Highways Authorities released roadworks data through the ELGIN service that publishes data from over 80 per cent of local authorities.

79	Consult on content of anonymised fit note data to be published from 2012 to drive innovation in the occupational health sector and improve management of sickness absence.	Progress made	The majority of GP practices in England, Scotland and Wales now have access to the electronic fit note. Roll-out to remaining practices is underway. Publication of aggregate fit note data will be available in 2013 once technical arrangements for transferring the data have been finalised. In March 2013 decisions will be made on which fit note data to publish.
80	Design the Universal Credit system so that aggregate benefits data can be published during the first year of live running of the system.	Progress made	Delivery of the system is on track to meet the welfare reform timetable with the first Universal Credit (UC) limited Pathfinder office due to go live at the end of April 2013.
81	Consider opportunities for linking welfare datasets to other government and commercial datasets to increase their value to industry.	Progress made	A new online tool to make data more accessible is being developed and pilot schemes to share data with the Office of National Statistics and Electoral Registration Officers are being explored. A Welfare Sector Transparency Board has been set up.
82	Provide up to £10 m over five years, with match-funding from industry and academia, to establish the world's first Open Data Institute (ODI) to help business exploit the opportunities created by release of public data.	Complete	The Open Data Institute was officially launched on 4 December 2012. Since October, the ODI has been working to identify how best to secure match funding and working with innovators to develop ideas around new data sets. The ODI will be co-directed by Professors Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Nigel Shadbolt.
83	Establish a Data Strategy Board and Public Data Group to maximise the value of data from the Met Office, Ordnance Survey, the Land Registry and Companies House. It will make a range of core reference datasets available free to support the development of high-value data businesses.	Complete	The Data Strategy Board (DSB) and Public Data Group (PDG) are now both operational. In June 2012, Stephan Shakespeare was appointed as DSB Chair, and Claudia Arney as PDG Chair. Heather Savory was also appointed as Chair of the Open Data User Group.
84	Ensure all NHS patients can access their personal GP records online by end of Parliament. Publish new procurement arrangement for school information and learning services to improve access to education data and increase competition in learning services provision.	Progress made	The power of information (published in May 2012) sets out the ambition not only to access personal GP records online but also to book appointments and request repeat prescriptions electronically. A Stakeholder Group has been set up by the Royal College of General Practitioners to support progress. The Framework Agreement for school Management Information System suppliers has been published.

10.Reducing regulatory burdens

The *Plan for Growth* and Autumn Statement 2011 announced measures to reduce the burden of regulation on businesses. Since the introduction of the Government's One-in, One-out approach to regulation in January 2011, there has been a cumulative net reduction of regulation worth around £850m a year to business. Over 70 measures reducing regulatory burdens will have taken effect by end of 2012. In November 2012, the Government announced a One-in, Two-out approach to regulation.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
85	Introduce a moratorium exempting micro and start-up businesses from new domestic regulation for three years from April 2011.	Complete	The moratorium was introduced in April 2011 to reduce the flow of new domestic regulations on micro and start-up businesses.
86	Scrap proposals for regulations that would have cost businesses over £350m a year to implement.	Complete	The right to request time to train was not extended to businesses with fewer than 250 employees, saving businesses an estimated £350m a year.
87	Launch an extensive public thematic review to reduce the existing stock of regulation.	Progress made	In September 2012, the Government announced that, of 6,500 substantive regulations examined through the Red Tape Challenge, at least 3,000 will be abolished or reduced. 254 reforms are expected to be implemented by end 2012.
88	Make further changes to employment legislation to reduce the costs to businesses of compliance.	Complete	The Government reviewed how workplace rights are enforced and decided not to pursue a single agency on enforcement.
89	Implement proposals from Lord Young's Review of health and safety.	Progress made	Of the 36 recommendations, 23 are being implemented. The remainder will be implemented subject to Parliamentary time.
90	Move registration of the main business taxes online.	Complete	Digital channels drive better services and lower business costs. "One Click" launched an online tax registration service in April 2012. This was extended in October, allowing new and growing businesses to register online for Corporation Tax, Self Assessment, VAT and PAYE for Employers. Business Tax Dashboard was launched in April, allowing businesses to keep abreast of their tax position on a single screen.
91	Launch a major focus on revising burdensome EU regulations and directives.	Progress made	The Government persuaded the European Commission to consult SMEs to identify burdensome EU legislation and address this. In March 2012, we secured agreement to exempt up to 1.4m UK

			small businesses from certain EU accounting rules.
92	Work with GSK, Balfour Beatty, Kingfisher and Tribeka to improve European growth opportunities for UK businesses.	Complete	A report was published in November 2011, and recommended 16 specific cases, highlighted by businesses, for EU regulatory reform to improve UK business growth.
93	Push the European Commission to deliver a culture change that bears down on the overall impact of EU legislation.	Progress made	The Government has set ambitious priorities for the Commission's next Smart Regulation strategy, and secured European Parliament and broad Member State support. The Commission has strengthened its SME impact assessment procedures to mitigate disproportionate effects on micro-businesses.
94	Improve online Business Link guidance on regulation.	Complete	This work has now been integrated into the new Government website, gov.uk .
95	Publish an Enforcement White Paper with plans to improve enforcement of regulations.	Complete	The result of this work fed into the review of regulators measure (no. 116).
96	Increase the qualifying period for unfair dismissal from 1 to 2 years from April 2012.	Complete	This was delivered in April 2012 and will provide a net business benefit of £4.7m per year.
97	Require all potential claimants to submit their employment tribunal claim to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service so that early conciliation can take place.	Progress made	The early conciliation measure is included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, which is expected to receive Royal Assent by spring 2013. The published impact assessment shows that this policy involves net business benefits of £33m per year.
98	Look at whether and how a "Rapid Resolution" scheme to provide quicker, cheaper determinations in low-value, straightforward claims could be introduced as an alternative to the current employment tribunal process.	Progress made	The Government is discussing possible options with stakeholders and will consult on any proposals in due course.
99	Launch a call for evidence on the effectiveness of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations.	Progress made	A consultation on TUPE will be published in December 2012.
100	Call for evidence on collective redundancy rules, including consequences of reducing 90-day consultation period for over 100 redundancies to	Progress made	The Government has consulted on proposed changes to the collective redundancy rules, and will respond to this consultation by January 2013.

	60, 45 or 30 days.		
101	Mr Justice Underhill will lead a fundamental review of employment tribunal Rules of Procedure. The Government will change the rules on witness statements and expenses, cost and deposit orders and judges sitting alone in unfair dismissal cases.	Progress made	The Government's consultation on these recommendations closed in November 2012. The Government plans to present a revised set of employment tribunal rules to Parliament by April 2013. The consultation impact assessment suggested up to £200k net business benefits per year. The impact assessment will be updated in light of the consultation.
102	Work with industry and key stakeholders to change attitudes to mediation and embed it as an accepted part of dispute resolution process.	Progress made	The Government launched a mediation pilot in Manchester and Cambridge, delivered by Consensio, the mediation provider.
103	Introduce provision for employment tribunals to levy a financial penalty on employers found to have breached employment rights, but allow judges the discretion about whether to exercise this power to ensure that employers are not penalised for inadvertent errors.	Progress made	This measure is included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, expected to receive Royal Assent by spring 2013.
104	Develop a model agreement for use by smaller businesses, consult on a legislative change to enable compromise agreements to cover all existing and future claims, and rename agreements as "settlement agreements".	Progress made	Settlement Agreements are being taken forward through the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, expected to receive Royal Assent by spring 2013. The consultation on tools and guidance to facilitate the use of Settlement Agreements in the "Ending the Employment Relationship" closed on 23 November 2012.
105	Subject to consultation, introduce a system of "protected conversations" which will allow employers to have a conversation about any employment issue with their employees.	Complete	The Government is not taking forward "protected conversations", but is seeking to facilitate the increased use of Settlement Agreements (see above), which will give legal cover for having honest conversations about dismissal.
106	Publish consultation on introduction of fees for anyone wishing to take a claim to an employment tribunal.	Complete	The Government responded to the consultation. Employment tribunal fees are due to be implemented summer 2013.
107	Begin a call for evidence on 2 proposals for radical reform of UK employment law.	Complete	Following the call for evidence, the Government announced we would not proceed with compensated no fault dismissal. We considered the Acas Code of Discipline and Grievance and

			committed to improve guidance on dismissal processes by summer 2013.
108	Consult in spring 2012 on streamlining the current regulation of the recruitment sector.	Progress made	A consultation will be launched in December 2012.
109	Work to remove common misconceptions about burdens of employing staff for sole traders considering taking on their first employee.	Progress made	Phase 1 of the "Taking on an Employee" online tool launched in April 2012. Phase 2 is due to be completed by April 2013.
110	Examine paperwork obligations of Agency Worker Regulations to ensure arrangements for employers are as simple as possible.	Progress made	On track to launch in June 2013.
111	Close loophole in Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, which enables employees to blow the whistle about breaches to their work contract.	Progress made	This measure is included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, expected to receive Royal Assent by spring 2013.
112	Merge current body of National Minimum Wage regulations into a single set of consolidated regulation to complement work of the Low Pay Commission to simplify the current regime.	Progress made	A draft set of consolidated regulations will be produced by March 2013.
113	Deliver universal portability of Criminal Records Bureau checks with an immediate checking service for employers available online from 2013.	Progress made	Online service on track for launch in early 2013.
114	Consider recommendations of Frost/Black Independent Review of Sickness Absence and respond in 2012.	Progress made	The Government response will be published in December 2012.
115	Publish a report which includes 16 specific cases, highlighted by businesses, for EU regulatory reform to improve UK business growth.	Complete	The report was published in November 2011 and presented to EU policy-makers.
116	Launch a review of regulators; extend the Primary Authority scheme; impose sunset clauses on new regulators; and move towards greater co-regulation and earned recognition.	Progress made	7 Focus on Enforcement reviews have been launched. Regulators are being invited to suggest different enforcement methods to free up businesses, and stimulate growth. Legislation to expand eligibility for the Primary Authority scheme is included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill.

117	Take forward the recommendations in Professor Löfstedt's review of health and safety regulation.	Progress made	7 unnecessary statutory instruments have been revoked with a further package of measures on track for removal by 2013.
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11. Trade and investment

The Prime Minister has set ambitious targets to double UK exports to £1 trillion a year by 2020. The *Plan for Growth* announced measures to support UK exporters, and attract and facilitate investment in the UK. Autumn Statement 2012 announced further measures to boost UK trade and inward investment.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
118	UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) will develop a more entrepreneurial culture which makes better use of private sector expertise and talent with a clear focus on winning business for UK firms.	Progress made	Inward investment and trade services across England are now delivered via private sector incentivised contracts. A new UKTI senior management team is in place, with 75 per cent recruited from the private sector.
119	Provide a bespoke service to key inward investors giving them direct access to UK Ministers and speedy resolution of bureaucratic obstacles to investment. This will support a major drive to encourage investment in economically significant projects.	Complete	UKTI aims to keep the UK as the number one FDI destination in Europe, and double the UK's stock of inward investment to £1.5 trillion by 2020. Inward investment in 2011-12 by 1,400 companies safeguarded or created more than 112,000 jobs. UKTI has a target of attracting £4.5bn of investment into infrastructure and regeneration projects by 2015, and is aligning its efforts with the UK's Industrial Strategy priority sectors.
120	UKTI will deliver a new package of support to help SMEs with an ambition to break into overseas markets.	Complete	UKTI introduced a range of services and tools to support SME exports and expansion into new markets. UKTI supports SMEs attending trade missions abroad and offers discounts on their paid for services. National Export Week in November 2012 delivered over 100 events across the UK aimed at SMEs.
121	Use the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and UKTI to provide UK businesses with local intelligence on high value projects overseas and intensive support to win these deals.	Complete	The High Value Opportunities (HVO) programme identifies, prioritises and supports businesses to access large scale overseas procurement contracts. Since the launch of HVO the UK has won over £1.5bn of contracts.
122	In EU negotiations, press for opening of market access overseas in areas of UK strengths, in particular the service sector.	Progress made	The UK supports the EU's programme of modern and deep Free Trade Agreements (FTA) to open up markets for British companies. An FTA with Korea came into force in 2011. EU exports to Korea rose 35 per cent overall after implementation,

			and 46 per cent in sectors where tariffs were fully eliminated.
123	Working closely with business, UKTI will identify opportunities and barriers faced by UK companies operating in high-growth markets and ensure that the UK's diplomatic resources and ministerial visits focus on eliminating these barriers to trade.	Progress made	FCO and UKTI are strengthening their focus and resources in higher growth markets (FCO staff up by 8 per cent, UKTI by 25per cent). The Prime Minister announced 8 new trade envoys to enhance trade support in 20 priority markets in November 2012. Visits to emerging powers increased 50 per cent in the second half of 2012.
124	To address demand for short-term trade credit insurance, the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has extended the eligibility of its existing short term credit insurance policy, the Export Insurance Policy.	Complete	Since March 2011, UK Export Finance (formerly ECGD) issued 33 insurance policies for 25 exporters (17 SMEs), worth £48m. Offers in support of a further £6m of UK exports have been made. Eligibility for the Export Insurance Policy has been extended.
125	Make permanent 2 facilities introduced in response to the financial crisis: the Letter of Credit Guarantee Scheme and allowing UKEF's guarantees to be used to raise long-term finance in capital markets for UK exports.	Complete	In July 2012, the Chancellor announced up to £5bn export refinancing would be available to support UK exporters by ensuring that overseas buyers have the long-term funding they need.
126	Provide further support to exporters, particularly SMEs, by working with banks to ensure a successful implementation of three new Export Credits Guarantee Department products: a bond support product, export working capital product and foreign exchange credit support scheme.	Complete	Since their launch in March 2011, guarantees have been offered to 16 exporters (12 SMEs) on 58 contract bonds worth £166m. Offers have been made for a further 36 bonds on exports worth £114m for 16 exporters. The Export Working Capital Scheme supported 2 exporters on contracts worth over £20m. Offers on a further £8m of export contracts have also been made.
127	Launch the Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee (ExEFG) and promoting its use to SMEs.	Complete	Following review, the scheme closed and was amalgamated with UK Export Finance (UKEF) products. UKEF removed the lower limits of support on finance guarantee products, making them available to exporters who qualified under ExEFG.
128	UK Border Agency (UKBA) will implement a single point of contact for all traders, with lead officials at ports and airports whom they can contact in the event of delays and issues related to Government Departments.	Complete	Border Force significantly streamlined and automated their approach in 2012. UKBA provides an automated International Trade Single Window import clearance process for plant health controlled goods, incorporating Automated Licence Verification (ALV) which has improved information and speed.

12. Advanced manufacturing

The UK's share of manufacturing is similar to France and the USA (around 11 per cent). The Government works closely with manufacturers and their supply chains, and is taking steps to strengthen and grow modern manufacturing in the UK by encouraging innovation, business investment, technology commercialisation, skills and exports.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
129	Extend the capital allowances short life asset regime for plant machinery from 4 years to 8 years, from April 2011.	Complete	Effective from April 2012, the measure improves cash flow and helps bring forward capital investment (including automation & advanced process technology).
130	Expand the University Technical Colleges (UTCs) programme, to establish at least 24 new colleges by 2014.	Complete	On course to exceed 24 new UTCs by September 2014. 5 UTCs are open. A further 28 are in the pre-opening phase and plan to open in September 2013 and September 2014. Applications for a further round of new UTCs have been received. Successful applicants will be announced by spring 2013.
131	Launch a High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Technology and Innovation Centre.	Complete	The HVM Catapult is part of a network of 7 world-leading Catapult Centres. All 7 centres have been announced.
132	Fund 9 new university-based centres for Innovative Manufacturing by 2012.	Complete	The £61.5m portfolio of Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Centres (EPSRC) is supported by 165 companies. It will link with relevant Catapult Centres to help business access state of the art research and technologies. 12 centres have been established. Applications for more Centres were invited in January 2012 and will be announced in 2013.
133	Fund a programme of new Manufacturing Fellowships.	Complete	EPSRC selected 4 Manufacturing Fellows to each lead a £1m high tech manufacturing research programme. Decisions on a second call are expected by April 2013.
134	Launch an enhanced Manufacturing Advisory Service.	Complete	Over 1,000 business improvement consultancy projects have completed since the launch. Businesses receiving the support forecast 3,500 jobs could be created, 9,800 safeguarded and £300m gross value added in the year following the intervention.

135	Launch a new £75m programme of targeted support to help smaller employers access Advanced Level and Higher Apprenticeships.	Complete	£25m funding has been allocated to 30 projects to provide over 20,000 new Apprenticeships over this Parliament. All frameworks should be developed by April 2013. A third of the projects will benefit manufacturing and engineering industries.
136	Support the development of a new degree-equivalent Higher Level Apprenticeship.	Complete	Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies (SEMTE) issued the framework for a Higher Apprenticeship in Advanced Manufacturing. The first candidates started in September 2012.
137	Strengthen its strategy for promoting science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills.	Complete	In June 2012 there were over 850 STEM Ambassadors. Since September 2012, schools are under a duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance.
138	Launch a high profile industry showcase alongside the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and roll out of a programme of "Made in Britain" exhibitions.	Complete	Over 40,000 visitors saw the Make it in Great Britain exhibition at the Science Museum celebrating the best of the UK's cutting edge manufacturing, which ran concurrently with the Olympics.
139	Seek to promote a new international prize in engineering, working with private sector partners to create an endowment to support such a prize	Complete	The Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering was launched in November 2011 to reward and celebrate up to three individuals responsible for a ground-breaking innovation in engineering that has been of global benefit to humanity. Winners of the £1m prize will be announced in March 2013.

13. Construction

The *Plan for Growth* announced measures to lead directly to a requirement for new construction e.g. as a result of increased inward investment and the opening up of more land for development.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
140	Publish UK's long term forward view of projects and programmes as part of National Infrastructure Plan 2011.	Complete	The National Infrastructure Plan was published in November 2011. An updated National Infrastructure Plan and construction pipeline has been published alongside this Autumn Statement.
141	From autumn 2011, publish quarterly, rolling 2 year forward programme of infrastructure and construction projects where public funding agreed.	Complete	Following consultation with industry the construction pipeline will in future be published 6 monthly, in line with pipelines for other sectors.
142	Reform public sector procurement process for construction and infrastructure to reduce costs by up to 20 per cent.	Progress made	The Government Construction Strategy "One Year On" Report was published in July 2012 to record both the progress made in implementing the Strategy and planned next steps. As Government reforms the way it procures construction and reduces costs, savings made will be available to Government Departments to allow other priority projects to proceed.
143	Support over 10,000 first time buyers to buy a home through a FirstBuy programme.	Progress made	Housebuilders have reported significant interest from first time buyers, including over 8,500 reservations as at end of October 2012. Official statistics released in November show that there have been 6,780 sales in the first 13 months of the scheme. The Government has announced further investment of £280m, which will be matched by housebuilders, to help up to 16,500 additional first time buyers into home ownership by spring 2014.
144	Accelerate release of public sector land to encourage new homes and jobs.	Progress made	In May 2012, the Housing Minister announced public land with capacity for 102,000 homes had been identified. In September 2012, further measures were announced to support release of public land. Further details included in the Autumn Statement.
145	Strengthen demand for residential property by	Complete	The reform of stamp duty land tax rules was introduced in the

	reforming the stamp duty land tax rules applied to bulk purchases.		Finance Act 2011.
146	Introduce measures to remove barriers to entry for new Real Estate Investment Trusts.	Complete	The measures were enacted in the Finance Bill 2012 and received Royal Assent this year. The major reforms included: abolition of the 2 per cent conversion charge, relaxation of the listing requirement, 3 year grace period for diverse ownership rules, and diverse ownership rule. There were also minor technical measures to reduce administrative burdens.
147	Review construction standards and codes, to take out redundancy and duplication where costs outweigh benefits.	Progress made	Industry Standards Group published their report Specifying Successful Standards on 9 July 2012, with a series of recommendations for transport and wider infrastructure sectors.
148	Announce regulatory requirements for zero carbon homes, to apply from 2016, and hold house builders accountable only for carbon dioxide emissions covered by Building Regulations.	Progress made	The consultation on potential regulatory changes in 2013, to act as an interim step towards achieving zero carbon standards, closed in April 2012. We are currently considering responses to this consultation.

14. Digital and creative industries

Measures were announced in the *Plan for Growth* to put in place infrastructure, skills, finance, copyright, and fit for purpose regulation to help digital and creative industries realise their growth potential and compete in a competitive global market.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
149	Deliver a package to support deployment of and access to the UK's broadband digital infrastructure.	Progress made	The Government announced measures to enable more efficient deployment of broadband infrastructure, to be delivered by summer 2013. These include streamlining planning requirements for roll-out on public and private land, guidance on street works and resolving power supply issues, supporting Government's £530m investment in delivery of UK-wide, superfast, rural broadband. Budget 2012 announced a £50m competitive fund to support access to ultrafast broadband connectivity and fixed wireless networks for a second wave of super-connected cities. Winning cities were announced in this Autumn Statement. The first wave of cities is expected to deliver ultra-fast broadband to 1.7m premises and 200,000 businesses, with access to wireless networks for an additional 3m residents by 2015.
150	In response to Hargreaves' recommendations, due in April 2011, consider simplifying payments for copyright materials and freeing up orphan works. The Government commits to no further broad reviews of the intellectual property rights regime during the lifetime of this Parliament.	Progress made	Provisions allowing for orphan works and for operation of extended collective licensing (ECL) schemes are included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill. These will simplify the licensing process for the legitimate use of works. Richard Hooper was appointed to lead a feasibility study into a Digital Copyright Exchange and published his final report in July 2012. This made recommendations to simplify copyright licensing, including the establishment of an industry-led Copyright Hub based in the UK but linked to the growing international network of digital copyright exchanges, rights registries and other copyright-related databases.
151	Through the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), improve range of products and services available	Progress made	On 7 November 2012, the IPO outlined plans to ensure SMEs can access advice and support to understand and maximise the value

	to support UK businesses, particularly SMEs, on issues relating to intellectual property. IPO will establish network of attachés covering key global markets.		of intellectual property to their business. Specialist IP attachés now operate in China, India and Brazil providing practical support to UK businesses and improving UK influence overseas; SE Asia follows shortly.
152	Publish a guide to public sector intellectual property procurement policy.	Progress made	This is being considered as part of a Cabinet Office led review into Government's commercial terms, which will conclude in March 2013.
153	Substantially reduce the burden placed on business by the communications and media regulatory framework.	Progress made	Responses to the review of the legislative and regulatory framework for the UK's communications sector has made clear that a legislative overhaul is not needed, but there are some areas that require further analysis. We will be setting out our vision and policies for the sector in a white paper in early 2013.
154	Reduce the requirements for live music to be licensed. The Government will also bring forward proposals to reduce licensing burdens on other forms of entertainment such as theatre, cinema and indoor sport.	Progress made	The Live Music Act 2012 (LMA) came into force in October 2012 and associated guidance under the Licensing Act 2003 was put before Parliament and is also in force. It was estimated that the LMA would produce a net benefit to society of £9.5m over a 10 year period.
155	Reduce the proposed extension of legal deposit requirements to online publications.	Progress made	Government response to consultation on non-print legal deposit issued in September 2012. The revised regulations no longer include an obligation to deposit online publications that cannot be obtained via a web harvesting process. This will reduce costs to publishers. Regulations due to come into force in April 2013.
156	Re-notify film tax relief to the European Commission.	Complete	This measure is demonstrating impact. 154 British films received final certification from January to September 2012, with UK spend on film production during this time £764.8m.
157	Welcome exploration by the BBC of how BBC Worldwide may act as a source of finance and distribution expertise for UK digital and creative industry firms with global ambitions.	Complete	BBC Worldwide continues to work with the BBC and the UK independent production sector, selling programmes and formats from more than 200 UK independent producers to overseas markets in 2011-12. BBC Worldwide has shared its expertise with creative industry talent via its Future Formats scheme and through its BBC Worldwide Labs initiative, which offers

			workspace and advice for some of the most dynamic emerging digital media and technology companies in the UK.
158	Support the establishment by industry of a Creative Industries Council, which can provide a voice for the sector with the financial community and coordinate action on barriers to growth.	Complete	The next Creative Industries Council will meet on 31 January 2013. The Creative industries Council has delivered key reports on Skills (see no. 160) and Access to Finance. The Council will continue to play a major role in supporting the creative industries. It is well placed to provide a link between industry and Government, and across various public bodies.
159	Through UKTI, develop a marketing plan to promote opportunities for investment in the UK's Digital and Creative industries.	Complete	An inward investment business plan was created that highlighted key Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) opportunities in the UK. As a result a series of sub sector inward investment propositions in cloud computing, digital games, mobile content, post production and e-commerce have been created.
160	Improve the stock of skills in the digital and creative industries.	Progress made	The Creative Industries Council's Skills group, led by Creative Skillset, produced a report which made recommendations to boost skills and talent in the creative industries. Key recommendations, welcomed by both industry and Government, included: reform of the ICT syllabus in schools; a promotional campaign to raise the profile of Apprenticeships; and a call to improve the quality of industry internships. Action is being taken to reform the ICT curriculum and improve teaching of Computer Science. Autumn Statement 2012 announced up to £6m over 2 years from April 2013, match-funding voluntary industry contributions to a digital and creative content skills fund. The fund will support skills provision in film, TV, video games and animation, maximising impacts of existing content tax reliefs. Tax reliefs for high-end TV production, animation and video games will be introduced, subject to State Aid approval, in April 2013.

15. Health and life sciences

The UK enjoys competitive advantage in health and life sciences, with a world-class research and science base, more top-ranking universities than any country other than the US, a high quality regulatory environment, and health care system which has enormous potential as a location for clinical research. The *Plan for Growth* announced measures to use these strengths and support growth. In December 2011, further measures were announced in the Strategy for UK Life Sciences and Innovation, Health and Wealth.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
161	Set up a new health research regulatory agency (HRA) to streamline regulation and improve the cost effectiveness of clinical trials. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) will make funding to providers of NHS services conditional on meeting benchmarks, including a 70 day benchmark to recruit first patients for trials.	Progress made	The draft Care and Support Bill contains clauses to establish the HRA as an executive non-Departmental public body. The existing HRA will run a feasibility study to streamline approvals by combining NHS study-wide review and elements of the Research Ethics Committee (REC) review into a single quality-assured assessment and has published plans for creating a unified approval process and promoting consistent, proportionate standards for compliance and inspection. In May 2012, NIHR published NHS Trusts' research Operational Capability Statements that summarise resources and capabilities available for undertaking research in each Trust. NIHR made the 70 day benchmark a condition of its new contracts in December 2011, and will publish performance data from 2013.
162	Reduce perceived gold-plating and increase the proportionality of EU Clinical Trials Directive and its application.	Progress made	The European Commission published its proposal for a Clinical Trials Regulation in July 2012 containing many of the elements the Government has been lobbying for including a risk based approach to clinical trials. The proposal is under negotiation.
163	Open up information about clinical trials to enable the public to get involved.	Complete	On 25 April 2012 the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) launched an update to the UK Clinical Trials Gateway that increases the amount of simple and easy to understand information describing what each trial is doing. The Gateway is now available for the iPhone, iPad and Android devices.
164	Build a consensus on using e-health record data to create a unique position for the UK in health	Complete	The Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) was launched on 28 March 2012, a £60m investment between the National

	research.		Institute for Health Research and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. The creation of CPRD will provide a unique opportunity for life sciences research, providing access to data at an unprecedented scale, enabling new methods of research, and making the UK a location of choice for research.
165	Open up information on clinical research to promote collaboration and innovation.	Complete	The NIHR website is the mechanism for opening up information on clinical research to researchers and research funders including industry, promoting collaboration and innovation. As of March 2012 the core site is hosted on new platform and content has been revised to improve the ease with which researchers, industry and the public can access information.
166	Consider opening up prescribing data.	Complete	The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) released presentation level prescribing data, by GP practice, for the first time in September 2012. This makes available around 10m rows of detailed data on dispensed drugs each month. In response to demand HSCIC will also be releasing data covering the previous 24 months to permit early time series analysis.
167	Form Translational Research Partnerships from £775 m investment in National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centres and Units.	Complete	2 NIHR Translational Research Partnerships were launched in October 2011. The Government has increased its investment to £800m in NIHR Biomedical Research Centres and Units.
168	Remove any barriers that limit the further development of geographical clusters, working with industry, local government, universities, NHS and funders.	Complete	Imanova Ltd was formed as a not for profit company in a collaboration between the Medical Research Council and 3 leading London universities. It is a centre of excellence in imaging sciences and became the first organisation eligible for Research Council funding following changes in eligibility rules. In early 2012, Research Councils UK published Principles for Funding Multi-Institutional Collaboration in Innovation and Research.
169	Launch a competition to form a Cell Therapy Technology and Innovation Centre (now changed to 'Catapult Centre').	Complete	The Cell Therapy Catapult has formed, appointed a Chair and CEO and moved into the Tower Wing of Guy's Hospital in London. The Catapult is preparing a 5 year business plan.

170	To ensure educators provide the skilled individuals the sector needs to grow, through Cogent, improve market signalling by bringing companies and educators together.	Complete	Cogent launched a Higher Apprenticeship for Life Science and Chemical Science Professionals in February 2012; the first full intake was recruited in September. The Society of Biology launched its Degree Accreditation Programme in March 2012. The Society has since secured funding to expand the programme.
171	Ensure that the Intellectual Property system supports life sciences businesses.	Progress made	A consultation was launched in October outlining proposals to create a more supportive environment for pharmaceutical research and development in the UK.
172	Take forward a range of measures to encourage innovation in NHS procurement.	Progress made	The first 3 competitions for the Small Businesses Research Initiative (SBRI) have been launched and phase 1 contracts awarded. Further competitions will be launched later in 2012-13.
173	NHS Chief Executive will provide a report by on how the adoption and diffusion of innovations can be accelerated across the NHS.	Complete	Implementation of cornerstones of the programme, such as designation process for Academic Health Science Networks, is well advanced.
174	Take forward a package of measures to improve the take up of assisted living technology.	Progress made	The first 100,000 patients to benefit from using telehealth under the 3m lives initiative will be delivered through joint working with 7 Pathfinder sites in the NHS and the telehealth/telecare industry. The Technology Strategy Board's competition has identified 4 communities for the "delivering assisted living lifestyles at scale" programme, which will involve 169,000 people and 200 organisations across the UK by summer 2015.
175	Strip out regulations that were never meant for the social care market and are preventing market entry and flexible services.	Complete	A roadmap on regulations was published by the National Association for Adult Placement Schemes and the Government in October 2011.
176	Establish a proactive, entrepreneurial brand for UK healthcare industry	Complete	Healthcare UK (HUK) was launched in August 2012, providing a single international brand for UK healthcare industry. A further international launch is planned for January 2013.

16. Logistics

The logistics sector accounts for almost 9 per cent of UK GVA and around 7 per cent of total employment. It is critical to the success of other businesses throughout the economy. Autumn Statement 2011 identified actions to benefit the logistics sector and its customers.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
177	The Government has published a Written Ministerial Statement to support the development of, and investment in, strategic rail freight interchanges. This statement is supported by a detailed guidance document.	Complete	Further action now rests with commercial interests to develop proposals and submit planning applications.
178	The Government asked Network Rail to support development of a network of strategic rail freight interchanges.	Complete	Network Rail continues to discuss and provide guidance to the wider logistics sector. Further action now rests with commercial interests to develop proposals and submit planning applications.
179	Support Network Rail to invest £55m in the strategic rail freight network to help remove bottlenecks, improve capability and longer-term connectivity to major ports.	Complete	Additional funding enabled Network Rail to bring forward critical infrastructure enhancements.
180	Deliver the recommendations from the Motorway Incidents Review to ensure it can reduce the frequency of long-duration incidents and delay to heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).	Complete	20 out of the 27 police forces that received funding to purchase laser scanners are already using them. We anticipate that the remaining 7 will be operating the scanners on the network by early 2013. Analysis indicates that the average time saving in the investigation of serious incidents on the Strategic Road Network is about 44 minutes. Progress on the "Ten Point Action Plan" published in the Review of investigation and closure procedures for motorway incidents – preliminary report to manage incidents on the road network, is on track
181	Carry out a trial of longer semi-trailers. The trial will commence in January 2012 and last up to 10 years, with the anticipated value of the trial being an estimated £33m to operators.	Progress made	By end-November 2012, Vehicle Special Orders had been issued for over 380 vehicles. Data collection is underway on the usage of the trailers for the first survey period, to 31 August 2012. Operators have until December 2013 to take up the full allocation of 1800 trailers.

182	Explore opportunities to support green technologies through changes to the operator licensing regime, to reflect the increased costs to industry from low emission technologies that increase the overall weight of the vehicles.	Progress made	The Government has discussed with industry stakeholders the merits of an exemption from operator licensing for gas-powered vehicles and the scope to better publicise existing exemptions from operator licensing. The Government intends to launch a public consultation on options early in 2013.
183	Launch an industry-led task force to promote use of fuel efficient, low emission road freight technologies.	Progress made	In November 2012, the Task Force considered a research report on low carbon HGV technologies, which identified as priorities gas for long haul and regional duty cycles, hybrid/electric for urban and municipal duty cycles and greater use of aerodynamic and low rolling resistance equipment.
184	Invest £8m to pump prime procurement of low emission HGV technologies and supporting infrastructure. The Government will work with the Technology Strategy Board to launch a competition for this funding in March 2012.	Complete	The Government has awarded £11.3m (increased from £8m) for low emission HGVs and refuelling infrastructure. The 13 successful bids will support over 300 low carbon trucks and 11 public access gas refuelling stations. The trials will take place over 2 years, monitored by a separate research contract. The first fleet of 40 trucks will be on the road in December 2012.
185	Consider the need for further guidance on quiet night time deliveries as part of a forthcoming wider review.	Progress made	Transport for London promoted use of quiet deliveries during the Olympic and Paralympic games. The Government will work with them, the Noise Abatement Society and Freight Transport Association to develop further guidance.
186	Trial the temporary use of snow ploughs attached to certain types of heavy duty vehicles, and consider relaxing certain weights and dimensions legislation where necessary to facilitate this.	Progress made	We have held discussions with operators and local authorities about their use of snow ploughs. We will work with them to consider the need for a best practice guide.
187	Provide £4m to Skills for Logistics to improve training approaches to increase the competitiveness and productivity of the logistics sector.	Progress made	Skills for Logistics launched 4 projects in April 2012: Intelligent Logistics, Professional Logistics, Local Logistics and Progressive Logistics. The Logistics Guild launched the Military Work Placement Scheme, in November. It matches 1000 Service leavers with 50 employers offering work experience and job interviews.

17. Mid-sized businesses

The UK's mid-sized businesses (defined as £25-£500m turnover) account for a fifth of private sector employment and turnover, and have significant potential to grow.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
188	UKTI will receive £10m additional funding to provide a tailored package of export support to an additional 500 mid-sized businesses (MSBs) per year. UKTI and UK Export Finance will also work with businesses to promote existing trade finance support for mid-sized businesses.	Progress made	UKTI has expanded its network of International Trade Advisers dedicated to MSBs, with over 20 in place across UKTI's English regional network. It is on track to engage 500 new MSB clients this financial year. Lord Green and John Cridland, CBI Director-General, jointly led trade missions to Turkey and Russia dedicated to MSBs.
189	Develop commitments to support and strengthen supply chains.	Progress made	In October 2012, the Prime Minister announced leading UK companies will help tens of thousands of businesses secure increased levels of affordable supply chain finance.
190	Increase numbers of mid-sized businesses benefiting from resource efficiency schemes by up to 200.	Progress made	The Government is engaging with MSBs to improve resource efficiency in food and drink, supply chains and water using industries. The target of 200 MSBs was a 3 year ambition.
191	Establish a task force of UK business schools to report by October 2012 on options for improving access to appropriate courses and promoting links between mid-size businesses, business schools and students.	Complete	The Business Schools Task Force published their report in November 2012, recommending increased collaboration between business schools and MSBs. Regional events are now planned to promote and build momentum behind the recommendations.
192	The Government asked 8 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to establish a dedicated local pathfinder project to raise the profile of mid-sized businesses, strengthen business networks and encourage peer-to-peer support.	Progress made	LEP core funding was announced in September 2012, helping to support MSB activity.
193	Working with business, launch a national campaign to showcase mid-sized business and publicise the full range of Government services available.	Complete	A number of national events have helped bring MSBs together to share their experience in 2012.

18. Professional and business services

The Professional and Business Services (PBS) sector accounted for around one third of UK growth in 2000-07, and it is internationally competitive. It has high growth potential due to the world-class reputation enjoyed by many professions in the UK.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
194	Publish guidance to help commercial organisations understand the Bribery Act 2010 better.	Complete	BIS expects to explore business perspectives on the impact of the Bribery Act and guidance in discussions with professional and business services firms as part of industrial strategy.
195	The Government wants to abolish over two dozen regulatory offences under Money Laundering Regulations and exempt businesses with very low turnovers, which will reduce compliance burdens.	Complete	The Government consulted on this measure in July 2012 and made legislative changes which came into effect from 1 October this year. The proposal to abolish over two dozen regulatory offences under Money Laundering Regulations was removed following the consultation exercise.
196	The UK Border Agency (UKBA) will launch services for trusted business visa service users, entrepreneurs and high net worth investors, move to online visa processing, and publish application guidance in more local languages.	Progress made	In April 2012 UKBA launched a premium customer service for sponsors. Trusted business visitors can now access a priority (5 day) visa service in key markets and in key locations we offer other services such as premium lounges and an out of hours appointment service. We are on track to deliver 90per cent of online applications by December. UKBA provide translated "how to apply" website information on the China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Japan, Russia, Turkey, South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam web pages.
197	The Ministry of Justice and UKTI will work with the sector to promote the UK's world leading business arbitration and commercial law services.	Progress made	The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published a Legal Services Action plan in May 2011. 10 of its 11 commitments have now been delivered. Key activities include distributing a promotional toolkit of UK legal strengths to international posts and the Lord Mayor running a promotional "Unlocking Disputes" campaign. MoJ are developing, in discussion with UKTI, an intended second action plan, which will build on the first one. It is expected that this further plan will be launched in 2013.
198	Pursue improved access to new markets outside	Progress	The Government is exploring, in current discussions with business

	the EU.	made	for the Industry Strategy for professional and business services, how best to focus its support for export of UK business services.
199	Press the European Commission and other EU member states to implement the Services Directive in full.	Complete	The Services Directive has been fully implemented, and the Government is working to improve best practice and consistency between Member States, to enable business to maximise opportunities
200	The Government wants to encourage talented students into the professions regardless of their background. A working group of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills will look at whether a new accountancy apprenticeship programme would be effective, and propose other measures to improve access to the professions.	Progress made	The Financial Skills Partnership issued the new Professional Services Higher Apprenticeship in July 2012 to meet the needs of professional services sector employers both large and small. The focus now is to encourage employers to adopt the framework aiming for 1,500 starts by 2015.
201	The Professional and Business Services Group (PBSG), chaired by Sir Michael Snyder, will launch a Log of Professional Readiness by June to promote increased employability skills among graduates.	Complete	The Log was completed in June 2011 and provides an official base for graduates and school pupils to record positions of responsibility and leadership. The Government is exploring in discussions with professional and business services firms, as part of industrial strategy, whether there is more that can be done to encourage business-schools engagement to improve the work-readiness of school leavers for careers in this area.
202	Initiatives being developed by a Government/business cyber security partnership will make the UK a more resilient place to do business.	Progress made	BIS has been working closely with PBS representative bodies and key PBS companies to develop deliverables targeted at PBS sector resilience and PBS customer awareness and risk mitigation. In September 2012 BIS in partnership with GCHQ and CPNI, developed and published HMG's Cyber Security Guidance Booklet for Business. The Guidance is designed to offer some practical steps which companies can take to improve the protection of their business assets from technical, commercial, and financial threats.
203	Cut down the administrative burdens of complying with business regulation.	Progress made	The Government launched a Red Tape Challenge targeted at business services in October 2012. This consultation period was

			extended and the results will be reviewed. The issue of regulation and how it weighs on the business services sector is being considered in Government's discussions with business in the context of Industrial Strategy.
204	The Financial Reporting Council will work closely with the professions, businesses and market participants to reinforce the principle that independent regulation and enforcement should focus on risk and outcomes rather than process.	Complete	New regulations came into force on 2 July 2012 and the Financial Reporting Council is now implementing new approaches.

19. Retail

The retail sector directly accounts for over 5 per cent of UK GDP, employs 1 in 9 of the workforce, and is the sixth largest retail market in the world by sales. The *Plan for Growth* announced measures to address a number of issues raised by businesses.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
205	Extend the current small business rate relief holiday for one year from 1 October 2011.	Complete	The Government extended the current Small Business Rate Relief holiday for a further 6 months from 1 October 2012 (to end 31 March 2013). A further 12 month extension of the Small Business Rate Relief holiday from 1 April 2013 has been announced in this Autumn Statement. The Government estimates that 530,000 businesses will benefit, with 350,000 getting 100 per cent relief on their bill.
206	Invite the independent Low Pay Commission (LPC) in its next report to consider and implement the best way to give business clarity on future levels of the National Minimum Wage, including consideration of two-year recommendations.	Complete	The Government agrees with the LPC's recommendation that two-year recommendations would constrain it to a position based on out-of-date information that would outweigh any benefit in increased clarity. In March 2012 the Government announced the rates which will apply from October 2012.
207	Introduce a package of measures to support thriving town centres and build on the Town Centre First policy.	Progress made	Government has accepted nearly all of the 28 recommendations in the Mary Portas Review. We have also doubled small business rate relief for 2½ years; increased the number of Portas Pilots to 27; introduced a support package for 326 Town Team Partners; launched a £10m High Street Innovation Fund; provided support for local markets; launched the £1m Future High Streets X-Fund; and announced a £500,000 BIDs loan fund.
208	Expand the Primary Authority model to apply consistent enforcement standards across a wider range of regulations and businesses.	Progress made	Legislation to expand the Primary Authority model is included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, which is expected to receive Royal Assent by spring 2013.
209	Amend regulations affecting retailers to make them more outcome-focused, and use a checklist approach to assist SMEs to comply.	Complete	Pilot findings are feeding into a Health and Safety Executive review of RIDDOR. From April, RIDDOR's injury reporting threshold extended to over 7 days' incapacitation, as business requested.

210	Implement a regulatory reform package to simplify complex and inconsistent age-restricted sales regulations and licences for businesses.	Progress made	In December 2011, the Local Better Regulation Office published an agreed set of shared responsibilities and reasonable expectations for young people, parents, businesses, employees and regulators. The Better Regulation Delivery Office will publish the Age Restricted Products and Services Code of Practice for Regulatory Delivery in December 2012.
211	Work with retailers to ensure the skills system is delivering what the sector needs, including by providing pre-employment retail skills training to the unemployed and encouraging greater take-up of retail apprenticeships.	Complete	Following a pilot with several major retailers, new approaches on apprenticeships have been introduced. In addition, retail work academies offering pre-employment training have been rolled out through several major retailers. A Retail Apprenticeship Training Agency has been launched by the National Apprenticeship Service and National Skills Academy for Retail to support and increase the use of apprenticeships by retail SMEs.
212	Work to remove regulatory barriers to increased cross-border online retail.	Progress made	In January 2012, the European Commission adopted a Communication on building trust in the Digital Single Market. The Government is working with the European Commission on a European Retail Action Plan, to address barriers to both traditional and online cross-border retail. The European Retail Action Plan is due to be published in December 2012.

20. Rural economy

Measures to support growth in the rural economy were announced in the Autumn Statement 2011.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
213	Support rural broadband by opening the £20m Rural Community Broadband Fund; working closely with North Yorkshire County Council, one of the pilot areas for superfast broadband rollout; and considering new approaches to make the roadside telecommunications network available.	Progress made	2 Expression of Interest rounds have completed with over 80 applications received. Over 50 applications have been endorsed with conditions (grant totalling around £16m) and invited to develop a full application. A third Expression of Interest round is expected in January 2013. First projects should start delivering from spring 2013.
214	Provide approximately £15m to fund up to 6 pilot Rural Growth Networks.	Progress made	Rural Growth Network Pilots covering Cumbria, Devon and Somerset, Durham and Northumberland, Warwickshire, and Swindon and Wiltshire received and accepted formal offers of funding in October 2012. Each have now accepted these offers and are moving into implementation phase, running until March 2015.
215	Consult on exempting organic farmers from regulations controlling the use of nitrate-based fertilisers; and recognise third-party certification schemes such as the Red Tractor in its inspection regime.	Progress made	The Government responded to the consultation on revising nitrates regulations in August 2012. The new regulations will come into effect by March 2013. Red tape for low intensity farmers is being reduced, as is inspection frequency for good nutrient management. Work is continuing with industry to develop opportunities to introduce an earned recognition approach into inspection regimes.
216	Invest £100m from the Rural Development Programme for England to help small businesses improve their skills, facilities and competitiveness.	Progress made	Rural Economy Grant scheme, providing grants of £25,000 and above to enable business growth, received over 1,100 outline applications requesting over £224m against a £60m budget. Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme (£25m), providing small grants of up to £25,000, has received over 2,800 applications to date with an expected commitment of over £16m of grant funding.

			Skill and knowledge transfer training programme (£20m) – 7 contracts have been agreed with delivery plans being developed and training due to commence in the autumn.
217	Commit £25m to promote rural tourism, including a new £10m fund within the Rural Development Programme for England to develop rural tourism destinations.	Progress made	High levels of interest in the £10m fund were expressed, with projects asked to progress to full business plans. Implementation will be phased up to February 2013. Work on assessing the impact of VisitEngland’s ongoing “Holidays at Home are GREAT” campaign and supporting partnership projects has begun. First projects under “Paths for Communities” are being progressed.
218	Launch a food and drink export action plan in January 2012. In addition a summit will be held in March 2012 to boost innovation in small agri-food businesses.	Complete	Success from the exports action plan is already evident with the opening of the Chinese pork market, estimated to be worth £50m each year. The Government held an Innovation Summit to raise awareness of innovation in the agri, food and drink sector. Two innovation competitions were launched with regional business engagement events. The winners for the SME competition were announced in July 2012. Outputs will be evaluated in spring 2013. At the March summit Technology Strategy Board, Defra and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council also launched a £15m R&D competition with industry on resource efficiency in food manufacture. Successful applicants have been notified.
219	Launch a £15m Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund to help communities meet the upfront cost of developing renewable projects.	Progress made	Design of the Fund is at an advanced stage, including processes to appoint an external Fund Manager. Defra has allocated £7.5m Exchequer funding to start the Fund, and is looking at alternative sources of funding. The Fund is on track to launch by March 2013.
220	The Forestry Commission England, working with private companies, will offer 45 training opportunities for new forestry apprentices.	Progress made	Forestry Commission England is supporting colleges which are currently recruiting apprentices onto the Forestry Work-Based Diploma, using funding under the Forestry Skills Initiative.

21. Space sector

The UK's space sector grew by 6.5 per cent in real terms between 2009-10 and 2010-11. The Government has played a part in creating the conditions for the sector to grow. This was demonstrated by the Chancellor's statement to the Royal Society on 9 November 2012 that the UK plans to increase its subscriptions to the European Space Agency to an average of £240m each year over the next 5 years to support high value scientific and industrial programmes. UK industry estimates that this will secure around £1bn of orders per year.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
221	Reform Outer Space Act 1986 by introducing an upper limit on liability for UK operators.	Progress made	UK Space Agency consulted on capping operator liability under the Outer Space Act 1986 and plans to respond in early 2013.
222	Work with the international regulatory authorities to define regulations for novel space vehicles that offer low cost access to space.	Progress made	UK Space Agency and Department for Transport are reviewing the potential for space planes to be certificated and operational in the UK within a European regulatory environment. The UK Space Agency will consult on developments in a third international workshop in December 2012. The Government plans to present a case for action and steps needed to enable space plane certification and operations in the UK.
223	Provide UK industry with clearer guidance on the regulation of security aspects in export deals.	Complete	Guidelines to clarify space industry exports have been published. UK companies are often at the forefront in offering high technology and competitive space products and services in overseas market that are attractive to commercial and Government customers.
224	Work with Ofcom to ensure that British industry has full and fair access to satellite orbit slots.	Complete	The World Radio Conference 2012 introduced measures to improve radio spectrum use and clarified rules.
225	Announce £10m of funding to accelerate development of the International Space Innovation Centre.	Complete	4 flagship and 28 fast track R&D projects have been funded by the UK Space Agency and Technology Strategy Board to research and demonstrate novel space technology and services in the UK. UK Space Agency has awarded pathfinder early stage research projects and Space Collaborative Innovation Team Initiative research projects through the International Space Innovation Centre at Harwell. It is also funding UK projects through the European Space Agency's General Technology Programme.

22. Tourism

The entire Tourism sector is the UK's sixth biggest industry and in-bound tourism is our third-largest export earner. The tourism industry is a particularly important source of employment in rural communities.

	"The Government will..."	Progress	Notes
226	Co-fund with the private sector a £100m campaign aiming to attract visitors to the UK in the years following 2012.	Progress made	VisitBritain's international tactical and image marketing campaigns continue, with the GREAT campaign to be extended into 2013-14. Autumn Statement announced Government will increase funding for the GREAT campaign to £30m for 2013-14. Highlights include VisitBritain's first global TV campaign in 10 years and a rolling programme of consumer offers. VisitBritain activity delivered £503m in incremental spend (Financial Year 2011-12) against a target of £373m, plus bookings worth £89m for their commercial partners. Initial evaluation results from the spring 2012 phase of the GREAT image campaign are positive. Britain saw the greatest increase in unprompted recall of advertising and "strong likelihood to visit within a year" compared to major competitors. If stated intentions translated into actual visits they could potentially generate £33m-£72m spend. A post-Olympic Games phase of advertising has begun.
227	Create a task force of senior industry figures from across the UK, to identify opportunities to cut red tape in the tourism industry.	Progress made	Following the Tourism Regulation Task Force Report and recommendations, and hospitality Red Tape Challenge exercise, progress continues to be made with a further 5 measures due to be amended or culled by end 2012 and a further 4 in early 2013.
228	The UK Border Agency (UKBA) will increase the number of visa biometric ID centres around the world, move to online visa processing, and publish application guidance in more languages.	Progress made	We are on track to deliver 90 per cent of online applications by December. UKBA provide translated "how to apply" website information on the China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Japan, Russia, Turkey, South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam web pages.
229	Work with People 1st, the National Skills Academy for Hospitality, and the industry, to	Progress made	VisitEngland Launched the Skills Action Plan in June 2012. People 1st has launched Apprentice 1st, an online portal allowing

	increase the number of apprenticeships and other courses teaching hospitality skills so that consistently higher standards are delivered.		employers, learners and training providers to access all aspects of an apprenticeship from a single screen online. Also launched a Level 4 Hospitality Management Apprenticeship and established first apprenticeship training agency (ATA) to encourage smaller businesses to employ apprentices.
230	Modify Tourist Boards to become smaller, highly focused, industry-led partnerships between tourism firms and government.	Progress made	Tourist Boards have almost universally adopted the term "Destination Management Organisation" (DMO) which describes their operational model. They increasingly deliver an integrated approach to development of the visitor economy at the local level. Visit England has produced a best practice model for DMOs which champions a close working relationship with LEPs.
231	Help the industry prepare for changes in technology, so tourism information can be provided through smartphone apps, as well as through traditional leaflets and websites.	Progress made	VisitEngland launched a new Android version of its official Enjoy England app in March 2012 after the successful launch of its iPhone app. This is free to download and provides over 1,000 up-to-the-minute ideas for destinations and attractions across the country. The Enjoy England app also includes free access to travel content and readers' tips from the Guardian newspaper and great ideas from enjoyEngland.com. VisitEngland are now embarking on a digital strategy review that covers all aspects of visitor information delivery across current and emerging channels.
232	Give the industry and consumers responsibility for hotel "star rating" quality schemes.	Progress made	VisitEngland now has a panel of industry experts in place, advising on the development of quality standards. A review of the visitor attractions scheme is also underway.
233	Help create tourist destinations that match London and maximise the potential of other parts of Britain.	Progress made	VisitBritain's GREAT campaign, alongside their £100m marketing campaign, continues to promote tourism in all parts of Britain, and is being extended for another year with a focus on China. VisitEngland, are delivering a follow-up campaign, to build on the success of their 2012 'Holiday at Home' campaign.
234	Consult on removal of first bank holiday in May.	Complete	After consultation, it was decided not to move the bank holiday.
235	Deliver its pledge to maintain and reform Furnished Holiday Lettings reliefs.	Complete	Introduced in Finance Act 2011.