

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring April 2019

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key activity, debates, questions, reports, PMQs, speeches and bills relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

Key dates

2 May: UK Council elections
 22 May: Brexit date for is PMs deal is accepted
 23-26 May: European Parliament Elections
 31 October: Date UK due to leave the EU
 No further recess dates announced

Planning – Housing

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
05/04/19	Press Release	West Midlands Combined Authority	West Midlands bucks national trend to show strong growth in house building. Read here.
09/04/19	Oral Answer	MHCLG	<p>Chelmsford: Housing Infrastructure Vicky Ford (Chelmsford) (Con)</p> <p>T4. New homes need new infrastructure. The housing infrastructure fund bid for Chelmsford's second railway station and bypass will unlock over 10,000 new homes, so may I urge my right hon. Friend to back the bid? Otherwise I will keep on nagging him until he does. [910288]</p> <p>We have already invested £10 million in the Chelmer Waterside development in my hon. Friend's constituency, but she is still insatiable for more Government funding for her fast-growing constituency. As she knows, HIF bids are a competitive process, but I will look carefully at the proposals put in by Chelmsford; and, given her support, let us be hopeful of success.</p>

Industrial Strategy & Local Industrial Strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/04/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	Energy: Yorkshire and the Humber: Written question - 236527

			<p>Asked by Alex Sobel To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the article entitled From power stations to solar panels, the future is local, by the Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth on 8 January 2019, what steps he is taking to assist communities in Yorkshire transition to smarter energy systems.</p> <p>Answered by: Claire Perry The Government is facilitating the transition to a smarter energy system in Great Britain. Smart meters are a critical building block for an accessible smart energy system and there are now 12.8m smart and advanced meters operating across homes and businesses in Great Britain. The Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan outlined 29 actions that Government, Ofgem and industry will take to enable the transition to a smarter and more flexible system. These actions include removing barriers to smart technologies such as electricity storage, enabling smart homes and businesses so that consumers have greater control over their energy use, and improving the access of new technologies and business models to energy markets. Government has committed to invest up to £70m in funding for smart energy innovation. In October 2018, Government and Ofgem published an update to the Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan which set out that over half of these actions had been implemented. LEP energy strategies, funded by BEIS, have started to develop an understanding of local opportunity for local and community ownership and involvement in future energy systems. BEIS have also funded a Local Energy hub for the North East, Yorkshire and Humber which will bring capacity to</p>
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			<p>help develop some local projects at scale.</p> <p>Over £5.9bn has been spent through the Feed-in tariff scheme to date, supporting the growth of small-scale low-carbon electricity generation. This has helped support over 830,000 installations, of which, according to Ofgem statistics, 9.85% (over 82,000 installations) are in Yorkshire and the Humber. The Government has recently concluded a consultation on a Smart Export Guarantee, to ensure that small-scale low-carbon generators do not export their electricity to the grid for free.</p>
10/04/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p>Iron and Steel: Manufacturing Industries:Written question - 239886</p> <p>Asked by Frank Field</p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will that steps to (a) remove the electricity price disparity for the steel industry, (b) establish a Future Steel Challenge Fund, (c) strengthen the steel procurement guidelines and their reporting mechanisms, and (d) remove plant and machinery from business rates valuations.</p> <p>Answered by: Claire Perry</p> <p>The Government is committed to minimising energy costs for businesses to ensure that the UK economy remains strong and competitive. We recognise that the UK's industrial electricity costs are currently higher than those of our competitors, and so we have taken steps to reduce the cumulative impact of energy and climate change policies on the price of industrial electricity for key industries, such as steel. This includes providing the steel sector with over £285m of compensation since 2013 for the indirect costs due to the EU Emission Trading System, carbon price support mechanism, Renewable</p>

			<p>Obligation, and small-scale Feed-in Tariff.</p> <p>The steel sector is actively engaged with UK Research and Innovation in shaping the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund: we are providing up to £66m for the 'Transforming Foundation Industries Challenge', subject to industry co-funding. In addition, up to a further £170 million has been provided to develop a 'net-zero carbon' industrial cluster, that will help heavy industries – including steel – to share expertise and innovate low-carbon solutions as we move to a greener, cleaner economy. We have also created an important new fund – the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund – which is worth up to £315 million, and supports businesses with high energy use to transition to a low carbon future, and cut their bills in the process through increased energy efficiency. Recently, we have launched an informal consultation, and are seeking views and evidence on how we can design the fund to maximise its benefits whilst ensuring value for money.</p> <p>The Government published information from departments, and their arm's length bodies, on the amount of steel procured over the last financial year, and the application of the steel procurement guidance. Departments have confirmed that, where applicable, the guidance for steel procurement has been fully complied with on major projects, and we will continue to work closely with these departments and arm's length bodies to improve procurement guidance awareness, and the quality of the information provided. We have also published an update of the Steel Pipeline, signalling upcoming steel requirements for national infrastructure projects to UK producers and suppliers.</p> <p>The Government has carefully considered the case for removing</p>
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			<p>plant and machinery (P&M) from business rates valuations, but has decided against doing so. Most process P&M is not rateable, and removing service P&M from rating would mean exempting equipment which is integrated into buildings such as heating, lighting, and plumbing.</p>
09/04/19	Oral Answer	HM Treasury	<p>Renewable Energy: Public Funding</p> <p>What recent assessment the Government have made of trends in the level of public funding for renewable energy since 2010. [910297]</p> <p>Read here.</p>
25/04/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p>Hydrogen: Storage: Written question - 245766</p> <p>Asked by Paul Blomfield To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of using hydrogen storage to store surplus renewable energy for the electricity grid.</p> <p>Answered by: Claire Perry The Government is undertaking a range of work to assess the potential use of hydrogen as a store of renewable energy. The Offshore Wind Sector Deal, which was published in March 2019, sets out that the offshore wind sector will establish a Systems Management and Optimisation Task Group. This Group will publish a roadmap to identify opportunities for the offshore wind sector to collaborate on pioneering technologies for system integration, such as co-located storage and wind to hydrogen. Alongside this, BEIS supports hydrogen storage innovation through the government's £505 million Energy Innovation Programme. Within this Programme, BEIS is running a Storage</p>

			<p>at Scale competition which will provide up to £20 million to support demonstration projects using innovative energy storage technologies, including storing hydrogen produced by electricity. The scope of the Storage at Scale competition was informed by desk-based Energy Storage Feasibility Studies and the Energy Storage Cost Reduction projects, also funded by the Energy Innovation Programme. BEIS is also supporting hydrogen storage through the £20m Hydrogen Supply Competition, this programme supports the development of large-scale production and storage of hydrogen which could take advantage of surplus renewable electricity.</p>
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NPPF – Land value capture

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/04/19	Oral answer	HLCG	<p>Retailers: Business Rates</p> <p>Asked by Baroness Neville-Rolfe To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce business rates on retailers with physical premises so that they are charged less than those which trade online.</p> <p>The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Lord Bates) (Con) My Lords, business rates are an annual tax on non-domestic property. Bills are based on rateable value, which represents the annual rent the property would achieve if let on the open market, at a set valuation date, as assessed by the Valuation Office Read here.</p>

Energy – Local authority projects

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
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03/04/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p>Green Alliance:Written question - 237045</p> <p>Asked by Mrs Madeleine Moon To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether he has taken steps to support the Green Alliance's Community Energy Manifesto; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Answered by: Claire Perry I am really impressed by the work community groups up and down the United Kingdom are already doing to help their wider communities decarbonise and get involved in this transition. In the Clean Growth Strategy, I announced the creation of a Local Energy Contact Group and a Local Energy Programme. The Contact group made up of communities, local authorities and local enterprise partnerships and provides local insight for policy teams across BEIS. The Local Energy Programme has funded Local Energy Strategies in every Local Enterprise Partnership. These strategies will feed into the newly developed Local Energy Hubs, also funded by BEIS to create capacity and capability to help Local Authorities deliver low carbon energy projects at scale. I have brought the Rural Community Energy Fund into my department to allow it to integrate better with the other work we are doing on heat and local ownership. Together with the Local Energy Programme, that will be almost £20m committed by this Government to support local energy in the last three years. Alongside this we have launched Prospering from the Energy Revolution, a £100m innovation fund designed to support local areas demonstrate future integrated energy systems. This funding will unlock commercial investment in our local energy system and following a successful national Local Green finance event in Leeds in January, we will be supporting five regional events this summer to bring investors and local projects together. The Government has a clear vision for an energy system which fairly rewards flexibility for the value it provides to the system. We have set out in our The Smart Systems & Flexibility Plan, and in the Progress Update in October 2018, a number of actions to open up markets to distribution-connected flexibility,</p>
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			including community energy groups. We are also consulting on a range of changes to the energy market which offer communities a chance to have their say, and ensuring consumers are at the heart of the future energy system.
08/04/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p>Energy: Government Assistance:Written question - 239853</p> <p>Asked by Steve McCabe To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government is taking to support community energy projects.</p> <p>Answered by: Claire Perry In the Clean Growth Strategy, I announced the creation of a Local Energy Contact Group and a Local Energy Programme. The Contact Group is made up of representatives of communities, Local Authorities and local enterprise partnerships and provides local insight for policy teams across BEIS.</p> <p>The Local Energy Programme has funded Local Energy Strategies in every Local Enterprise Partnership. These strategies will feed into the newly developed Local Energy Hubs, also funded by BEIS to create capacity and capability to help Local Authorities deliver low carbon energy projects at scale.</p> <p>I have brought the Rural Community Energy Fund into my Department to allow it to integrate better with the other work we are doing on heat and local ownership. Together with the Local Energy Programme, that will be almost £20m committed by this Government to support local and community energy in the last three years.</p> <p>Alongside this we have launched Prospering from the Energy Revolution, a £100m innovation fund designed to support local areas in demonstrating integrated approaches to local energy systems.</p> <p>In our consultation on a Smart Export Guarantee, Government sought views on our future approach and what measures might be taken to support the efforts of community organisations and education providers who want to invest in low-carbon energy installations. The consultation closed on 5 March 2019, the responses and evidence submitted are being carefully</p>

			<p>considered. Government will respond in due course.</p> <p>The consultation is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-small-scale-low-carbon-generation</p>
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Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Economy – Fair funding review

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
08/04/19	Press Release	DfT	Aviation Minister welcomes new investment to improve passenger experience at Leeds Bradford Airport. Read here.
29/04/19	Oral Evidence	Transport Select Committee	Local roads funding and governance, HC 1486. Read here.

Transport – Major road network

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/04/19	Press Release	DfT	£201 million road repair fund to resurface extra 1,000 miles. Read here.

Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) – (TfN, TfSE)

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
15/04/19	Written Q&A	DfT	<p>East Coast Railway Line:Written question - 243444</p> <p>Asked by Catherine McKinnell To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans his Department has to allocate funding to the East Coast Main Line in the Network Rail Control Periods CP6 and CP7; and if he will make a statement.</p>

			<p>Answered by: Andrew Jones</p> <p>The Prime Minister has announced Control Period 6 investment of up to £780m in the East Coast Main Line. This will fund power supply upgrades between Doncaster and Edinburgh, a new rail junction near Peterborough, a new platform at Stevenage Station and improvements to the track layout at King's Cross Station. The Department is working with stakeholders, including Transport for the North, to identify and assess further potential enhancements for the East Coast Main Line. We will take staged decisions to progress further enhancements through the Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline process.</p>
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Transport – Automated electric vehicle bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Transport – rail

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/04/19	Press Release	Virgin Trains	Virtual carriage could be the future for new recruits at Virgin Trains. Read here.
02/04/19	Press Release	DfT	Triple bill of better compensation, new trains and faster services on Greater Anglia. Read here.
03/04/19	Written Q&A	DfT	<p>High Speed 2 Railway Line:Written question - 238579</p> <p>Asked by Dame Cheryl Gillan To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when his Department last revised the modal shift data for High Speed Two; and if he will publish those findings.</p> <p>Answered by: Ms Nusrat Ghani HS2 Ltd regularly review assumptions for the purpose of economic modelling. The proportion of passengers predicted to switch from car and air to HS2, was last published by HS2 Ltd in 2013. This information is</p>

			<p>provided from page 82 of the document linked here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/365065/S_A_1_Economic_case_0.pdf The analysis will be updated to support future revisions to the Economic Case as part of planned updates to the HS2 Business Case. The proportion of HS2 demand predicted to have switched from air and car has not materially changed since the 2013 publication.</p>
03/04/19	Press Release	Select committee	Government must explain who is responsible for Crossrail failures. Read here.
03/04/19	Press Release	DfT	Half of department's rail operators now delivering improved delay repay compensation. Read here.
04/04/19	Press Release	DfT	Rail stations in line for £300 million funding boost to improve disabled access. Read here.
04/04/19	Statistics	ORR	<p>Passenger rail service complaints, appeals, NRE: July to September 2018</p> <p>Details: Passenger rail service statistics in Great Britain with the latest data, covering 1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018.</p> <p>Available here: https://bit.ly/2HX8W7H</p>
04/04/19	Press Release	Virgin Trains	Virgin Trains on course for 50m passengers ahead of HS2 after breaking new records. Read here.
09/04/19	Written Q&A	DfT	<p>Rolling Stock: Procurement:Written question – 239914</p> <p>Q Asked by Mr Kevan Jones(North Durham)</p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether his Department has received a supply chain development plan from Siemens or Talgo as part of their commitment to build new train factories.</p> <p>Answered by: Andrew Jones Answered on: The Department has not received a supply chain development plan from either manufacturer. However, Talgo has made a commitment that it will create five jobs in the supply chain for every job it creates in its UK facility should it be successful in winning manufacturing contracts. Siemens expects to indirectly create 1,700 jobs in the supply chain through its UK facility.</p>

10/04/19	Press Release	Hs2 Ltd	<p>HS2 Residents' Commissioner report 11</p> <p>The eleventh in a series of regular progress reports from the HS2 Residents' Commissioner. The full report can be found here: https://bit.ly/2WTb9V8</p>
11/04/19	Debate	HoC	<p>East Midlands Rail Franchise</p> <p>Mr Clive Betts (Sheffield South East) (Lab) Share (Urgent Question): To ask the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on why Stagecoach has been disqualified from bidding for the east midlands rail franchise.</p> <p>Read here.</p>
12/04/19	Press Release	DfT	<p>New appointments made to strengthen HS2 Ltd board</p> <p>Read here.</p>
18/04/19	Press Release	ORR	<p>Consultation outcome :ORR's holding Network Rail to account policy</p> <p>Office of Rail and Road has published Consultation outcome on ORR 's holding Network Rail to account policy</p> <p>Full consultation outcome can be accessed here: https://bit.ly/2VcyOTI</p>
18/04/19	Press Release	ORR	<p>Consultation outcome: ORR's approach to assessing the quality of Network Rail's stakeholder engagement in CP6</p> <p>Office of Rail and Road has published Consultation outcome on ORR 's approach to assessing the quality of Network Rail 's stakeholder engagement in CP6 Full consultation outcome can be accessed here: https://bit.ly/2GsFp3U</p>
23/04/19	Written Q&A	DfT	<p>Network Rail: Research:Written question - 243465</p> <p>Asked by Andy McDonald</p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how Network Rail's £100 million research and development budget for Control Period 5 was spent in each year between 2014 and 2018; and if he will publish that spending alongside the promised delivery outcomes in each of those years.</p>

			<p>Answered by: Andrew Jones</p> <p>In CP5 Network Rail had a strategic research & development fund of £100m. This was split between the Network Rail Research & Development programme (£50m) and the Rail Safety and Standards Board Innovation Programme (£50m). Network Rail's funding for Research & Development was reduced to £32m as part of the Hendy funding review</p> <p>Spend broken down by each year of CP5:</p> <p>Year 1: £3.2m Year 2: £5.3m Year 3: £5.5m Year 4: £7.1m Year 5: £10.5m</p>
23/04/19	Debate	HoC	<p>South-Eastern Rail Franchise</p> <p>Read here.</p>
24/04/19	Press Release	Virgin trains	<p>Virgin Trains unveils radical proposals to reform rail by importing airline model. Read here.</p>
25/04/19	Oral Answer	HoL	<p>Railways: Midland Main Line</p> <p>Lord Scriven</p> <p>To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Midland Mainline will be electrified all the way to Sheffield. Read here.</p>
26/04/19	Press Release	Network Rail	<p>Network Rail sets out £1million plan to improve station facilities. Read here.</p>
30/04/19	Press Release	Hs@	<p>Routes into Construction for Women. Read here.</p>

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/04/19	Oral Answers	PM's office	<p>Yorkshire Devolution</p> <p>John Grogan (Keighley) (Lab)</p> <p>Q15. The Prime Minister and I are both fans of Geoffrey Boycott, who was perhaps not best known for compromise in his prime but, like many of us, has mellowed with the years. In the spirit of the times, will the Prime Minister find time in her busy diary to look at the compromise proposals advanced by the Mayor of South Yorkshire on the important subject of Yorkshire devolution ? [910209]</p> <p>The Prime Minister</p> <p>We are looking seriously at issues around</p>

			<p>Yorkshire devolution . I know that it has caused some concern and there are different opinions about how it should be taken forward. The hon. Gentleman references Geoffrey Boycott, and one thing that I have always admired about Geoffrey Boycott is that he stayed at the crease, kept going and got his century in the end.</p> <p>Kevin Hollinrake (Thirsk and Malton) (Con) Further to the last question, once the Prime Minister has dealt with the rather tricky issue that is Brexit, as I am sure she will, will she move on to the much more difficult problem of devolution in Yorkshire? Now that the Secretary of State has ruled out devolution to the whole of Yorkshire, will the Prime Minister consider a devolution deal to the York city region, to include the city of York and the glorious county of North Yorkshire?</p> <p>The Prime Minister We recognise that there is in Yorkshire, as I have just said, enthusiasm for and dedication to the concept of devolution, and its potential to release and harness local people's sense of identity with Yorkshire and be of ongoing benefit to the people of Yorkshire. We need to find the right proposals that will suit the area, and I believe that my right hon. Friend the Communities Secretary has met the Yorkshire leaders. Discussions are continuing with them about a localist approach to devolution in Yorkshire different from the One Yorkshire proposal, which did not meet our criteria.</p>
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Environment – 25 year environment plan

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
09/04/19	Debate summary	HoC	World Health: 25-Year Environment Plan Read here.

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
09/04/19	Debate	HoC	Waste Incineration: Regulation

			Read here.
17/04/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p>Waste: Energy:Written question - 242707</p> <p>Asked by Mr Barry Sheerman To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what investment his Department has made in university and other institutions researching into energy from waste with heat recovery.</p> <p>Answered by: Chris Skidmore UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funds high quality research and innovation as part of the Government's wider ambition to increase the UK's total R&D investment to 2.4% of GDP by 2027. UKRI works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.</p> <p>Current examples that relate to generating energy from waste include £1.7m from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council through the Global Challenges Research Fund for a project led by the University of Leeds to facilitate the production of biogas, clean water, and the recovery of nutrients, from nutrient rich waste.</p>

Environment – Air Quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
11/04/19	Debate	HoL	Air Quality (Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Database) (England and Wales) Regulations 2019. Read here.
29/04/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p>Biofuels:Written question - HL15237</p> <p>Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of bioenergy's contribution to cutting harmful emissions.</p> <p>Answered by: Lord Henley Sustainable bioenergy has played a valuable, transitional role in helping us meet our 2020 renewable energy targets and move to a low-carbon energy mix. In 2018, electricity generation from bioenergy was a record 35.6</p>

			<p>TWh which constituted 32% of electricity generated from renewable sources.¹</p> <p>As set out in the Clean Air Strategy, we are also reviewing the air quality impacts of biomass to ensure that our energy policies can jointly tackle climate change and improve air quality. A consultation on ending support for new coal to biomass conversions will be conducted in due course.²</p> <p>1. Energy Trends December 2018 (attached)</p> <p>2. Clean Air Strategy 2019 (available on Gov.UK)</p>
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Brexit – BEIS, Defra, HCLG, DExEU & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
29/04/19	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p>Food: Rural Areas: Written question - HL15251</p> <p>Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the importance of the food and drink industry to the rural economy; and what steps they intend to take to ensure that food safety standards are maintained.</p> <p>Answered by: Lord Gardiner of Kimble The food and drink industry, and the wider agri-food sector, forms an integral part of the rural economy whether in primary production, manufacturing, retail, or hospitality. The Government recognises its importance and provides a range of support for the industry and the rural economy as a whole. The UK has world leading standards of food safety and quality, backed by a rigorous legislative framework. We will maintain these high standards once the UK leaves the EU.</p> <p><i>Rural Economy and Food and Drink</i> Various figures demonstrate the importance of the food and drink industry to the rural economy. The industry employed 3 million people in 2017 in England, over 475,000 (16%) of whom lived in rural areas. 31% of all business units that produce food products or beverages are in rural areas. Food and drink manufacturing in rural areas in England (excluding animal feed and pet food) had a</p>

			<p>turnover of £11 billion in 2017. In 2016 an estimated 2% of the gross value added of predominantly rural areas came from farming, forestry and fishing.</p> <p>The Government provides a range of support for the rural economy. We are investing over £500 million in rural businesses and communities through the socioeconomic schemes within the Rural Development Programme for England. This includes over £250 million for rural business growth and broadband infrastructure through the Growth Programme; £150 million for locally identified business and community priorities through LEADER; and £140 million for improving farm performance through Countryside Productivity. Rural communities can also receive support through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).</p> <p>The Government also provides support for the agri-food sector. Defra's work on the Industrial Strategy includes the Food and Drink Sector Council, the Food and Drink Sector Deal (currently in negotiations) and the Food and Drink LEP Network. The Government promotes increasing agricultural productivity through a range of programmes including the Transforming Food Production Fund and the Agri-Tech Strategy. The Government will publish a National Food Strategy once we leave the EU.</p> <p><i>Food Standards</i></p> <p>When we leave the EU, we will maintain our current high standards. We will keep our existing UK legislation, and the EU Withdrawal Act will convert EU law into UK law as it applies at the moment of departure.</p> <p>As noted above, the UK has world leading standards of food safety and quality, backed by a rigorous legislative framework. We will maintain these high standards once the UK leaves the EU.</p> <p>We are working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care, the Food Standards Agency, the Department for Exiting the European Union and the devolved administrations to ensure that the UK's world leading reputation for food safety and standards continues after we leave the EU. Maintaining safety and public confidence in the food we all eat is a high priority for the</p>
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			<p>Government. We are committed to upholding and strengthening our high standards. Future trade agreements must support the UK's food safety, animal welfare, and environmental standards.</p> <p>The Secretary of State has been clear on numerous occasions that we intend to maintain our standards when pursuing any trade deals.</p>
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