ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring

February 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

12 March Meaningful vote

13 March 2019 Spring Statement

4 April – 23 April 2019 Recess: Easter

No further recess dates announced

Planning – Housing

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No Updates |

Industrial Strategy & Local Industrial Strategies

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 31/01/19 | Press Release | No.10 | **Council of Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs meeting: 31 January 2019.** [**Read here.**](#https://www.gov.uk/government/news/council-of-local-enterprise-partnership-chairs-meeting-31-january-2019) |
| 04/02/19 | Press Release | Renewable UK | **Independent Offshore Wind Supply Chain Review highlights opportunities for UK companies.** [**Read here**](https://www.renewableuk.com/news/436345/Independent-Offshore-Wind-Supply-Chain-Review-highlights-opportunities-for-UK-companies.htm)**.**  |
| 06/02/19 | Press Release | BEAMA | **6 UK Trade Associations highlight concern over Ofgem’s Targeted Charging Review**BEAMA co-signed a letter from industry to Secretary of State Greg Clark on the 4th of February calling for urgent action to better align Government ambition to decarbonise the energy system with Ofgem 's network charging reviews. [Read here.](#http://www.beama.org.uk/news/6-uk-trade-associations-highlight-concern-over-ofgem-s-targeted-charging-review.html)  |
| 22/02/19 | Press release | West Midlands Combined Authority | **West Midlands sees highest productivity increase in the UK**Figures from the Office of National Statistics show that the value of work produced in the region grew by 18 per cent between 2010 and 2017, with overall productivity rising by five per cent – the highest increase in the UK. [Read here](#https://www.wmca.org.uk/news/west-midlands-sees-highest-productivity-increase-in-the-uk/).  |
| 12/02/19 |  Q&A | BEIS | **Renewable Energy - Carbon Emissions**[217150](#https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/217150)Asked by: Thelma  Walker : To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to increase the production of energy from low-carbon renewable sources.**Answered by Claire  Perry :**In 2017, 10.2 per cent of total energy consumption came from renewable sources; up from 9.2 per cent in 2016 (and 3.8% in 2010 In our most recent Contracts for Difference auction we secured over 3GW of renewable electricity from as little as £57.50/MWh. The Government has made available up to £557m for future Contracts for Difference, with the next auction planned for May this year. The Government is also supporting the decarbonisation of heat and is supporting renewable and low-carbon heating technologies through the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (RHI), which encourages the uptake of renewable heat technologies amongst householders, communities and businesses through financial incentives, with £4.5bn allocated for renewable and low carbon heating between 2016 and 2021. |
| 20/02/19 | Q&A | BEIS | **Renewable Energy**[20881](#https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220881)**Asked by:** [Dr Matthew Offord](#https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/dr-matthew-offord/4006) To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what support his Department has provided for low carbon and renewable technologies in the energy mix.Answered by: [Claire Perry](#https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/claire-perry/3974)Renewable electricity technologies are currently supported by the Contracts for Difference scheme, for which we have made up to £557 million available as announced in our Clean Growth Strategy. We are also investing £177 million in innovation funding to further reduce the costs of renewable technologies. In June 2018, we launched our landmark Nuclear Sector Deal, worth over £200 million, which will reduce costs, drive innovation and increase diversity across the sector. We are also investing a further £2.5 billion to support low carbon innovation up to 2021. The Government has been supporting low carbon and renewable heating through the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) since 2011. The non-domestic RHI offers support to businesses, charities and public bodies for a range of technologies and fuel uses. The domestic RHI, introduced in 2014, supports householders in installing biomass boilers, air-and ground-source heat pumps and solar thermal installations.As of December 2018, the RHI has supported over 85,000 participants in transitioning to low-carbon heating: over 19100, through the non-domestic scheme and nearly 66,000 through the domestic scheme. Deployment data can be found on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) site. |
| 21/02/19 | Press release | BEIS | Joint statement following the first meeting of the Swindon Taskforce. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-following-the-first-meeting-of-the-swindon-taskforce)  |
| 22/02/19 | Press release | LEP Network | **Heart of South West LEP accelerates Local Industrial Strategy**The Heart of the South West (HotSW) LEP is accelerating progress on its Local Industrial Strategy with publication of its Progress Statement and Command Paper – which will be fully formed in the summer and will set out in detail how the area intends to raise productivity and therefore economic prosperity for the residents and businesses in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay. [Read here](#https://www.lepnetwork.net/news-and-events/2019/february/heart-of-south-west-lep-accelerates-local-industrial-strategy/).  |
| 22/02/19 | Press Release | West of England CA | Shaping the future of the West of England. [Read here](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/shaping-future-west-england/). |
| 26/02/19 | Press Release | LEP Network | Heart of South West LEP accelerates Local Industrial Strategy. [Read here.](https://heartofswlep.co.uk/about-the-lep/strategies-and-priorities/local-industrial-strategy/) |

NPPF – Land value capture

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
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Energy – Local authority projects

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 07/02/19 | Statistics | BEIS | BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker: Wave 28[Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/beis-public-attitudes-tracker-wave-28) |
| 12/02/19 | Oral answers | BEIS | Solar Power. <http://bit.ly/2E6Wuz3>  |
| 05/02/19 | Press release | Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government | **James Brokenshire confirms funding package for local authorities in 2019 to 2020.** [Read here](#https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-confirms-funding-package-for-local-authorities-in-2019-to-2020). |

Digital – Broadband & mobile

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 25/02/19 | Press release | uSwitch  | **Signal failure: nine in 10 rail commuters cut off by connectivity issues**New research by uSwitch .com reveals that a staggering nine in ten (86%) rail users struggle to connect to the internet on their mobile phones on their commute to work. [Read here](#https://www.uswitch.com/media-centre/2019/02/signal-failure-nine-10-rail-commuters-cut-off-connectivity-issues/).  |

Economy – Fair funding review

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 06/02/19 | Debate | HoC | Local Government Finance - Debate Summary. [Read here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-05/debates/05D59847-91DD-467E-A523-0939B77AD4D2/LocalGovernmentFinance) |

Transport – Investment strategy

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 06/02/19 | Speech | DfT | **DfT: Speech by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department Nusrat Ghani at the Transport Times event regarding the bus network**Minister Nusrat Ghani describes the steps being taken to ensure the bus network serves people’s transport needs and helps them meet 21st Century challenges. [Read here](#https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/buses-that-build-a-better-society).  |
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| 22/02/19 | Written Q&A | DfT | A38:Written question - [220969](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220969)Asked by [**Johnny Mercer**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/johnny-mercer/4485)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the October 2018 consultation outcome report on the second road investment strategy entitled Shaping the future of England’s strategic roads, what progress his Department has made on analysing the potential costs and benefits of upgrading the A38. Answered by: [**Jesse Norman**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jesse-norman/3991)The Department recognises the support that exists locally for improvements to the A38 in the South West, and is considering them alongside other potential network enhancements for inclusion in the second Road Investment Strategy (RIS2). The Department will make decisions on RIS2 later this year, after which it will be possible to develop robust estimates of the costs and benefits of specific options for schemes included in the investment plan. |
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Transport – Major road network

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 31/01/19 | Statistics | DfT | **Road conditions in England to March 2018**Minister Nusrat Ghani describes the steps being taken to ensure the bus network serves people’s transport needs and helps them meet 21st Century challenges. [Read here.](#https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/775091/road-conditions-in-england-to-march-2018.pdf) |
| 14/02/19 | Q&A | HoC | **Repair of Local Roads:**[909218](#https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-02-14/debates/8E340BD4-4016-4C5B-983F-3214BD264192/RepairOfLocalRoads)Asked by: [James Cleverly](#https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=4366)(Braintree) (Con) What funds he has made available for the repair of local roads. [Answered by: [Jesse Norman](#https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html%23/person/51624) (The Minister of State, Department for Transport)My hon. Friend is a great campaigner on this issue. He will be aware that the Department is spending more than £6.6 billion to improve local roads through local highway authority work, including £420 million most recently, much of which is available to be spent in his constituency.  |

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

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 20/02/19 | Press Release | Railway Industry Association  | North’s rail businesses come together to support TfN’s investment programme. [Read here](http://www.northernrailleaders.com/building-the-norths-new-railways-published.html). |
| 11/02/19 | Press Release | Transport for the North | **Northern leaders unite to back plans to revolutionise the North’s railway**Up to £39billion business case for Northern Powerhouse Rail network set to be submitted to Government. [Read here](#https://transportforthenorth.com/northern-leaders-unite-back-plan-revolutionise-norths-railway/).  |

Transport – Automated electric vehicle bill

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
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Transport – rail

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 01/2/19 | Press Release | Centre for Economics and Business Research | **Post Brexit Britain -** if we fully connected up the 7 largest urban conglomerations in the UK, the gains could be as much as 10% of total GDP. [Read here.](#https://cebr.com/reports/post-brexit-britain-if-we-fully-connected-up-the-7-largest-urban-conglomerations-in-the-uk-the-gains-could-be-as-much-as-10-of-total-gdp/)  |
| 05/02/19 | Debates | HoC | **GWR and Network Performance**Carmel, who commented on one of the forums, summed up the situation:"Terrible customer experience with travel and website use. Cannot rely on the train service to get me to work on time despite my rail faregoing up year on year. Cancelled trains, delayed trains, high cost...Hopeless and frustrating journeys day after day. Poor Wifi, ridiculous paper filling out to get a refund on tickets. Makes life very stressful for commuters." [Read here](#https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-02-05/debates/8267314A-3AC8-4303-A2E0-4C381A989A33/GWRAndNetworkPerformance).  |
| 06/02/19 | Q&A | DfT | **Hs2 Construction Partner for Southern Stations**The Department for Transport has published a Written Ministerial Statement on  HS2 Construction Partner for Southern Stations. [Read here](#https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-02-06/HCWS1300/).  |
| 06/02/19 | Press Release | DfT | **Resilient technologies to improve UK railways: apply for funding.** [**Read here**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/resilient-technologies-to-improve-uk-railways-apply-for-funding)**.** |
| 07/02/19 | Press Release  | DfT | **Passenger views sought on bid to extend pay-as-you-go on rail network**Smart ticketing offers simpler fares, fairer deals and less confusion for passengers. [Read here](#https://www.gov.uk/government/news/passenger-views-sought-on-bid-to-extend-pay-as-you-go-on-rail-network).  |
| 07/02/19 | Written statement | Dft | **DfT: Smart ticketing on the rail network**The Department for Transport has published a Written Ministerial Statement on Smart ticketing on the rail network: [Read here.](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-02-07/HCWS1307/) |
| 07/02/19 | Press release | Stop HS2 | **HS2 Property Cost Forecast at Five Times the Original Estimate, FOI Shows**[Read here.](#http://stophs2.org/news/17974-hs2-property-cost-forecast-times-original-estimate-foi-shows) |
| 12/02/19 | Written statement | DfT | **DfT: Rail update**The Department for Transport has published a Written Ministerial Statement on Rail Update: [read here](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-02-12/HCWS1322/).  |
| 13/02/19 | Written Q&A | DfT | Rolling Stock:Written question - [217072](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/217072)**A**sked by [**Andy McDonald**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has plans to issue a (a) derogation and (b) short-term dispensation for passenger rolling stock which is not compliant with the (i) Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations and (ii) Persons with Reduced Mobility Technical Specification for Interoperability after 31 December 2019. Answered by: [**Andrew Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)The Department’s ‘targeted compliance’ approach to the upgrade of vehicles built before modern accessibility standards were established considers applications for dispensation on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. It has already issued 34 dispensations from standards in the Persons of Reduced Mobility Technical Specification for Interoperability and 33 exemptions from standards in the Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) Regulations 2010 for fleets which will continue in operation after 31 December 2019. Derogations against interoperability standards are issued by the European Commission in respect of newly designed vehicles and not by the Secretary of State. |
| 14/02/19 | Written Q&A | DfT | **Northern: Rolling Stock: Written question -** [**218318**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218318)Asked by [Andy McDonald](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much is Arriva Rail North contributing towards the cost of the new fleet of rolling stock as set out in the terms of its franchise agreement with the Department. Answered by: [Andrew Jones](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)Northern are not funding the new rolling stock. The new rolling stock fleet is being financed by Eversholt Rail Group**.** |
| 14/02/19 | Oral Answers | HoC | **Rolling Stock. Fiona Bruce (Congleton) (Con)**1. What progress he has made on the (a) removal of old and (b) delivery and deployment of new rolling stock. [Read here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-02-14/debates/FF431844-3977-4491-BF62-AC3D05440023/RollingStock)  |
| 14/02/19 | Written Q&A | DfT | **Railways: Energy:Written question -** [**218351**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218351)Asked by [Laura Smith](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/laura-smith/4648)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the rising cost of energy on the rail industry. Answered by: [Andrew Jones](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)We have not made an assessment of the effect of the rising cost of energy in the rail industry.For information, fuel costs made up 3% of franchised train operator expenditure in 2017/18, the same proportion as in 2016/17. For additional information on income and expenditure in the rail industry please view the UK Rail Industry Financials, published by the Office of Rail and Road at the link below: [http://orr.gov.uk/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0013/40351/uk-rail-industry-financial-information-2017-18.pdf](http://orr.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/40351/uk-rail-industry-financial-information-2017-18.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) |
| 15/02/19 | Press Release | DfT | Grayling announces new Dawlish sea wall as part of £2 billion investment in south-west. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grayling-announces-new-dawlish-sea-wall-as-part-of-2-billion-investment-in-south-west)  |
| 18/02/19 | Press release  | Rail Delivery Group | **Rail industry publishes radical proposals for once-in-a-generation reform of fares system**Proposals represent industry's first contribution to the Williams Review with a call for preparatory work to begin now including government, industry and passenger groups reviewing regulation as well as a series of real-world trials to support a rolling programme of reform across Britain over the next three to five years. [Read here](#https://www.raildeliverygroup.com/media-centre/press-releases/2019/469762745-2019-02-18.html). |
| 18/02/19 | Press release | Network Rail | **Network Rail gives ‘green-light’ to next five-year railway spending plan**Network Rail has given the 'green-light' to the funding package and spending plan for Britain's railway infrastructure for the five years to 2024 (known as Control Period 6, or CP6 – 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024). [Read here.](#https://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/news/network-rail-gives-green-light-to-next-five-year-railway-spending-plan)  |
| 18/02/19 | Reports | Transport select Committee | **Rail timetable changes: Government and Office of Rail and Road Responses to the Committee’s Seventh Report.** [Read here](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtrans/1939/1939.pdf). |
| 19/02/19 | Press Release | Economic Affairs Select Committee | Is there an economic case for High Speed2? Rail experts give evidence [Read here.](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/economic-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/hs2-19-february/) |
| 19/02/19 | Written Q&A | DfT | **Railways: Electrification:Written question - 219526****Asked by**[**John Lamont**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/john-lamont/4608)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many (a) geographic and (b) track miles of train tracks have been electrified in each year since 1997.[Read here.](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219526) |
| 27/02/19 | Press Release | Public Accounts Select Committee | **Difficult year expected for passengers on UK's railways**[**. Read here**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/news-parliament-2017/rail-management-and-timetabling-report-published-17-19/)**.**  |
| 26/02/19 | Press Release | DfT | Rail Review Chair says franchising cannot continue in its current form[. Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rail-review-chair-says-franchising-cannot-continue-in-its-current-form)  |
| 26/02/19 | Speech | DfT | Independent Chair of the Williams Rail Review delivers the annual Bradshaw Address (26 February 2019) [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-bradshaw-address-by-keith-williams)  |
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Devolution deals

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 12/02/19 | Oral Answer | HoL | Yorkshire: Devolution. [Read here](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2019-02-12/debates/B5689744-CC7E-4678-A76C-19EBC8B8C030/YorkshireDevolution).  |
| 19/02/19 | Written Q&A | MHCLG | Devolution: Yorkshire and the Humber:Written question - [221735](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221735)Asked by [**Dan Jarvis**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/dan-jarvis/4243)To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to his letter to the Mayor of the Sheffield City Region of 12 February 2019, for what reasons the One Yorkshire deal did not meet the Government’s devolution criteria. Answered by: [**Jake Berry**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jake-berry/4060)The criteria for devolution which we have consistently applied are that devolution is to a functional economic area and that there must be strong and accountable governance proportionate to the powers and budgets being devolved. One Yorkshire differs significantly in terms of geography and governance from those deals. |

Environment – 25 year environment plan

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 11/02/19 | Debate | Commons Chamber | Rivers Authorities and Land Drainage Bill. [Read here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-08/debates/36C7F380-295F-4FC5-8395-D43607238F76/RiversAuthoritiesAndLandDrainageBill)  |
| 13/02/19 | Oral Answer | HGoL | **Recycling**. Baroness Neville-Rolfe To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they intend to introduce a simple and uniform system for both (1) labelling plastic and (2) bin collections in England, with the aim of reducing the use of plastic and encouraging recycling; and if so, by what date. [Read here.](http://bit.ly/2SyOTSZ) |
| 21/02/19 | Oral Answers | DEFRA | Food Waste. [Read here](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-21/debates/4F74FE5A-625F-4395-9B00-A4CDF2183D2E/FoodWaste).  |
| 22/02/19 | Press Release  | Energy and Utilities Alliance | **Industry leader slams climate body as “Living on another planet”**Former Government Minister Mike Foster, who now works for the not-for-profit body the Energy and Utilities Alliance EUA), today slammed the Committee on Climate Change for "living on another planet not trying to save the one we have" in his response to their latest report on low carbon heating. [Read here](#https://www.eua.org.uk/industry-leader-slams-climate-body-as-living-on-another-planet/).  |
| 28/02/19 | Press release | Environment Agency | **Environment Agency publishes new evidence to plan for flood and coastal risk up to 2065**The Environment Agency has published a new economic assessment to aid planning for flooding and coastal risk management over the next 50 years. [Read here](#https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environment-agency-publishes-new-evidence-to-plan-for-flood-and-coastal-risk-up-to-2065).  |

Environment – Waste

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 21/02/19 | Q&A | DEFRA | **Food Waste**[909361](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-21/debates/4F74FE5A-625F-4395-9B00-A4CDF2183D2E/FoodWaste#https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-21/debates/4F74FE5A-625F-4395-9B00-A4CDF2183D2E/FoodWaste)Asked by: [**Simon Hart**](#https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=3944)What recent steps he has taken to reduce the volume of food waste.Answered by: [**Michael Gove**](#https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=1571)The Government recently launched their resources and waste strategy, which outlines a new approach to addressing food waste. Actions include consulting on introducing regulations to make transparent reporting mandatory for businesses of an appropriate size, and the appointment of Mr Ben Elliot as the food surplus and waste champion to support our strategy. Simon Hart My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be aware that some confusion is caused by disingenuous labelling with "use by" and "best before", including in one example, on a packet of salt. What progress are the Government making in sorting out this nonsense? Michael Gove My hon. Friend is right to point out that there can be confusion as a result of labelling. There has been leadership from the very top of the Government in pointing out that, when it comes to salt or jam, it is perfectly possible to consume healthy and nutritious food uninhibited by some of the nannying regulations and pointless bureaucracy of the past, and to eliminate waste.  |

Environment – Air Quality

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Brexit – BEIS, Defra, HCLG, DExEU & committees

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 07/02/19 | Committee summary | BEIS | **The committee heard from the secretary of state and the permanent secretary on Britain's pending departure from the European Union**. [Read here.](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/business-energy-industrial-strategy/)  |
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