



HM TREASURY



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Plan for Growth implementation update

March 2013



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1

Implementing the *Plan for Growth*

1.1 The Government is delivering ambitious structural reforms to enable the UK to compete in a rapidly changing global economy. These reforms are a key part of the Government's economic strategy, alongside fiscal consolidation, monetary activism, and reform of the financial system.

1.2 The *Plan for Growth*¹, published in March 2011 and with further reforms announced at *Autumn Statement 2011*², set out a programme of structural reforms to remove barriers to growth for businesses and equip the UK to compete in the global race. These reforms span a range of policies, including improving the UK's infrastructure, cutting red tape, root and branch reform of the planning system and boosting trade and inward investment, to achieve the Government's four ambitions for growth:

- creating the most competitive tax system in the G20;
- 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; and
- creating a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe.

1.3 The Government has since set out further reforms including those announced today in *Budget 2013*, and in the Government's response to the Heseltine review³.

1.4 These reforms are already having an impact on the UK's global competitiveness. Since 2010, the UK has moved into the top ten of the most competitive places in the world for business.⁴ Corporation tax is now the lowest of any major western economy; market interest rates are at near record lows; red tape has been cut by nearly £840 million in each of the last two years; and UK goods exports to China, India and Brazil are up almost two thirds since 2009.

1.5 This document provides an update on progress against the commitments set out in the *Plan for Growth*. Progress against individual measures is set out in Annex A, building on previous updates published alongside *Autumn Statement 2012*, *Budget 2012*, and *Autumn Statement 2011*.⁵ An update on delivery of the Top 40 priority infrastructure investments has been published separately.⁶

¹ *The Plan for Growth*, HM Treasury and BIS, March 2011

² *Autumn Statement*, HM Treasury, November 2011

³ *Government's response to the Heseltine review*, HM Treasury and BIS, March 2013

⁴ *The Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013*, World Economic Forum, 2012

⁵ *Plan for Growth implementation update (as of 5 December 2012)*, HM Treasury and BIS, December 2012; *Plan for Growth implementation update (as of 21 March 2012)*, HM Treasury and BIS, March 2012; and *Plan for Growth implementation update (as of 29 November 2011)*, HM Treasury and BIS, November 2011

⁶ *Infrastructure Delivery Update*, HM Treasury, March 2013

Table 1.A: Implementation of growth commitments

COMMITMENTS		PROGRESS TO DATE	FORTHCOMING IMPLEMENTATION 
COMPETITIVE TAX SYSTEM	<i>Make the UK the best location for corporate headquarters in Europe</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main rate of corporation tax cut to 24 per cent, the lowest in the G7 Corporation tax for smaller companies cut to 20 per cent Reform of Controlled Foreign Company rules Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) research and development (R&D) tax credit increased to 225 per cent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2015, main rate will fall to 20 per cent By 2015, a single, unified rate at 20 per cent From April 2013, new tax reliefs for the animation, high-end television and video games industries¹ From April 2013, a Patent Box worth £700m a year From April 2013, an 'above the line' R&D credit at a headline rate of 10 per cent
	<i>Reduce tax on employment and work</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal allowance to rise to £9,440 from April taking 1.1m people out of income tax Threshold for employer NICs raised, with 650,000 employees taken out of employer NICs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal allowance to £10,000 by April 2014 From April 2014, £2,000 Employment Allowance for businesses and charities From April 2013, top rate of income tax of 45 per cent
INVESTMENT AND EXPORTS	<i>Develop UK infrastructure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The largest rail investment since the Victorian era with support for £9.4bn of enhancements Seven national and eighteen local major roads complete UK Guarantees to support £1bn for the Northern Line Extension and £75m for Drax conversion A tripling of support for low carbon generation, providing up to £7.6bn by 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion in 2013 of major projects worth over £2bn, including major upgrades to roads Consulting on the route for the second phase of High Speed Two in 2013 From April 2013, a new carbon price floor Legislation to provide certainty in energy infrastructure and bring forward investment
	<i>Promote exports and inward investment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for 32,000 SMEs to export in 2012-13 Support for UK exporters to win contracts worth over £3.2bn since 2011-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From April 2013, £140m over two years to support more SME exporters and attract overseas investment Financial Services Trade and Investment Board to open up trade opportunities and investment
	<i>Encourage investment across sectors and regions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Investment Allowance increased to £250,000 for two years from January 2013 24 Enterprise Zones established, creating 1,700 jobs and almost £156m of investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From April 2013, £5.4bn on housing including Help to Buy and Build to Rent From 2015, a Single Local Growth Fund to give local areas control over growth-related spending
BEST PLACE FOR BUSINESS	<i>Improve access to finance and support to new and growing businesses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39 banks and building societies signed up to the Funding for Lending Scheme £1.7bn of funding raised so far through the Business Finance Partnership New Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme and expanded Venture Capital Trusts and Enterprise Investment Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Bank will start investing in 2013, and will be fully operational from 2014 By summer 2013, further investments by the Business Finance Partnership From April 2013, a limited extension of the CGT relief for the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme
	<i>Reduce burdens on businesses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New emphasis on sustainable growth in planning policy, and approvals at a 10-year high Deregulation to save businesses £840m a year Qualifying period for unfair dismissal increased from one year to two 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms to employment law saving employers an estimated £40m a year by 2015 By 2015, at least 3,000 regulations abolished or reduced through the Red Tape Challenge
EDUCATED, FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE	<i>Radical reform to every stage of education and skills provision</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,724 Academies and 80 free schools open Almost 1m apprenticeship starts this Parliament 5 University Technical Colleges (UTCs) open Pupil Premium benefitting 1.3m deprived pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, 100 free schools expected to open 30 UTCs expected to be open by September 2014 In 2013-14, up to £240m of skills funding will be directed to employers
	<i>UK as a world leader on science and technology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Catapult Centres opened including high-value manufacturing and cell therapy 14 science and innovation capital projects from the Research Partnership Investment Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three more Catapult Centres to open by June 2013 A new Aerospace Technology Institute, providing £2.1bn of R&D support to the aerospace sector

¹ Subject to state aid approval.

Delivering the Plan for Growth

1.6 Implementing these reforms is a priority across Government. The commitments in the *Plan for Growth* are on-track, with over 60 per cent already complete. Key commitments to support growth are set out below and summarised in Table 1.A.

Creating the most competitive tax system in the G20

1.7 A **competitive tax system** is crucial for private sector investment and growth. The UK's corporate tax system is now seen as one of the most pro-business in the world,⁷ following action by Government to:

- cut the main rate of corporation tax from 28 per cent in 2010 to 24 per cent today – the lowest of any major western economy. This will fall further to 20 per cent in April 2015. The UK will then have the lowest tax rate in the G7 and the joint lowest rate in the G20. The Government will also unify the Small Profits Rate and the main rate in 2015, so that there is a single rate of corporation tax;
- introduce a modernised Controlled Foreign Company (CFC) regime since January this year, striking the right balance between making the corporate tax system more competitive and providing adequate protection of the UK tax base;
- introduce from April a reduced 10 per cent rate of corporation tax on profits from patents through a new Patent Box, and an 'above the line' (ATL) R&D tax credit at a headline rate of 10 per cent, driving growth and investment in UK innovation. In April 2012, the Government also increased the rate of the SME R&D tax credit to 225 per cent; and
- simplify the tax system, establishing the Office for Tax Simplification and removing 41 obsolete tax reliefs.

1.8 This is in addition to further reforms set out in *Budget 2013* today, including a £2,000 Employment Allowance for businesses and charities. The allowance will reduce businesses' National Insurance contributions (NICs) bills from April 2014, taking around 450,000 employers out of employer NICs altogether.

Encouraging investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy

1.9 The Government is investing more in transport infrastructure this Parliament than in the last, with spending on capital projects higher on average as a share of national income. Already, crucial projects are underway, such as Crossrail, where over three miles of tunnelling has been completed, and the UK-wide roll out of the 4G mobile spectrum. This will allow the UK to remain at the forefront of digital technology following the completion of the 4G spectrum auction this month.

1.10 To support **infrastructure financing**, the Government has put in place the largest programme of investment in the railways since the Victorian era by supporting £9.4 billion of enhancements to the rail network. In addition, the Government has used the strength of its balance sheet to guarantee financing for major projects. These include supporting the borrowing of £1 billion to finance the Northern Line Extension to Battersea and offering a

⁷ KPMG Annual Survey of Tax Competitiveness 2012, KPMG, December 2012

guarantee of up to £75 million to support Drax Power. Further progress is set out in the separate *Infrastructure Delivery Update*.⁸

1.11 The Government is also providing greater certainty in **energy** markets, through the Electricity Market Reform (EMR) programme, and by setting out the expected role for gas in power generation over the next two decades through the Gas Generation Strategy, published in autumn 2012. These will provide certainty to investors and bring forward significant investment in energy infrastructure to secure the diverse energy mix needed in the UK.

1.12 In addition, to support investment through the **tax system**, the Government has introduced a ten-fold increase in the Annual Investment Allowance (AIA) to £250,000 since January 2013. This will be available for two years, supporting growth by reducing the costs of investment, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs).

1.13 To support **exports and inward investment**, and to achieve the Government's ambitions to maintain the UK's position as the primary location for inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Europe; become the number one destination in Europe for new FDI from emerging markets; and increase total annual UK exports to £1 trillion by 2020, the Government has:

- supported 32,000 UK exporters this financial year, up from 25,000 last year, and increasing to 50,000 by 2014-15;⁹
- helped UK exporters win billions of pounds of high value export contracts, such as £150 million of contracts in 2012-13 for an oil industry project in Brazil, and over £78 million of new business for UK rail companies in Singapore; and
- increased its financial support to exporters through UK Export Finance (UKEF) to the highest level in over twelve years.

1.14 To support **local growth** and rebalance growth so that is more evenly shared across the country, the Government has:

- established 24 Enterprise Zones, creating over 1,700 jobs to date and leveraging almost £156 million in private sector investment;¹⁰
- supported the creation of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), to join up businesses and local government to determine local economic priorities and drive local growth;
- leveraged over £500 million of new private sector investment and created over 25,000 jobs through the Regional Growth Fund;¹¹ and
- concluded the first eight City Deals in July 2012 with Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield. It is estimated that the first wave of deals will create 175,000 jobs over the next 20 years and 37,000 new apprenticeships.

⁸ *Infrastructure Delivery Update*, HM Treasury, March 2013

⁹ *Management Information*, UK Trade and Investment, March 2013

¹⁰ *Management Information*, Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2013

¹¹ *Management Information*, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, March 2013

Making the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business

1.15 Since 2010, the UK has moved into the top ten of the most competitive places in the world to do business, rising from thirteenth in 2009-10 in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness rankings to eighth in 2012-13.¹²

1.16 To increase **access to finance** for new and growing businesses, the Government has:

- helped reduce average wholesale bank funding costs by over 100 bps since June 2012 through the Funding for Lending Scheme (FLS), easing credit availability for businesses and allowing a number of banks to launch FLS branded discounted loans for SMEs through cash back on loans, waiving fees and reducing interest rates;
- through the Business Finance Partnership, attracted new private capital of over £1 billion alongside £700 million from the Government for non-bank lending to mid-sized businesses. Proposals to invest a further £400 million later this year are being assessed;
- launched a Business Angel Co-Fund, providing £50 million of Government investment, alongside business angel syndicates, to SMEs. £24 million has been invested in 18 SMEs since the launch of the scheme in 2012; and
- since the launch of Enterprise Capital Funds, £322 million has been raised through 12 Funds, consisting of two thirds Government funding, which has provided investment into over 140 SMEs.

1.17 To **support start-ups and SMEs**, the Government has:

- introduced a Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme since April 2012, offering investors a 50 per cent income tax relief to encourage investment into new and early stage companies;
- expanded Venture Capital Trusts (VCT) and the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) by doubling individual investment limits, increasing company investment limits from £2 million to £5 million and allowing companies with up to 250 employees to benefit;
- doubled the lifetime limit on gains eligible for Entrepreneurs' Relief to £10 million Since April 2011, and will extend the relief to Enterprise Management Incentive (EMI) shares from April this year;
- provided up to 100 per cent business rates relief through the Small Business Rates Relief scheme, supporting more than half a million small businesses, with 350,000 paying no business rates until April 2014;
- the £200 million GrowthAccelerator scheme, designed to provide business coaching for high growth potential firms, has signed up over 4,000 SMEs since its launch in 2012; and
- Start-Up Loans have provided over 2,000 loans to start-ups, alongside business support and mentoring since the launch of the pilot in 2012. A full £100 million rollout of the scheme was announced at *Autumn Statement 2012* with the additional expansion of the upper age limit to 30 years, up from 24.

¹² *The Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013*, World Economic Forum, 2012

1.18 To significantly **reduce the burdens facing businesses**, the Government has:

- introduced root and branch reform of the planning system, creating a new emphasis on sustainable growth in the planning system, and cutting over 1,000 pages of planning policy to just 50. The rate of approval of planning applications is now at a 10-year high at 87 per cent,¹³ and 61 Local Plans have been adopted since May 2011 compared to only 100 over the previous seven years.
- delivered £840 million in annual savings to business as a result of deregulation, through a 'One-In, One-Out' rule and Red Tape Challenge,¹⁴ validated by an independent committee of business figures, academics and civil society representatives. Since January 2013, the Government has upped its ambition by introducing a 'One-In, Two-Out' rule, requiring Whitehall departments to offset the cost of new regulation to business with at least twice the savings from new deregulation. Deregulation in 2012 included:
 - in April, a doubling of the qualifying period for unfair dismissal to two years, saving business £4.7 million per year;
 - in April, new guidance on dealing with contaminated land which saves business around £140 million per year;
 - in October, the removal of licensing for many live music events, strongly welcomed by pubs and grassroots musicians;
 - in October, greater flexibility for over 100,000 more businesses to decide whether their accounts should be audited which, combined with other exemptions, is estimated to save business at least £100 million per year; and
 - in September, simplifying the registration regime for early education and childcare and improving the Early Years statutory framework, saving around £10 million per year.

Create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe

1.19 **Education and skills** are the foundation of economic success. The Government has radically reformed every stage of education and skills provision. It has:

- reformed the schools system to raise standards and improve choice for parents, with 2,724 academies now open and over 180 free schools either open or approved;
- introduced the Pupil Premium, to provide additional funding for deprived pupils – worth £2.5 billion by 2014-15;
- moved over one million people into an apprenticeship since 2010,¹⁵ and extended the minimum length of an apprenticeship to at least 12 months, with support for English and maths up to A*-C equivalent at GCSE;

¹³ Table P120: District planning authorities1 - Planning applications received and decided by speed of decision, England, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/70033/TableP120.xls

¹⁴ *The Government's Fourth Statement of New Regulation*, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, July 2012, <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/o/12-p96b-one-in-one-out-fourth-statement-new-regulation.pdf>. These estimates are validated by the independent Regulatory Policy Committee.

¹⁵ Table 4.1, *Quarterly Statistical First Release*, the Data Service, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, January 2013, http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/ronlyres/068EC90D-2CBF-4DB7-A0BC-D6866FA88D4B/0/SFR_commentary_January_2013_March_Revision.pdf

- put the UK's world-class higher education system on a sustainable financial footing, with students starting their courses since October 2012 benefiting from a reformed student support package that gives more support for living costs, and tuition fee loans for part time and distance learning students for the first time;
- opened five new University Technical Colleges, with over 30 due to be delivered by September 2014, and 12 new university-based Centres for Innovative Manufacturing; and
- routed around £90 million of skills funding through employers in the Employer Ownership Pilot, leveraging £115 million of private investment.

1.20 The table at *Annex A* provides an update on each of the measures announced in the *Plan for Growth*, alongside *Budget 2011*, and as part of *Autumn Statement 2011*.



Update on measures

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Access to finance

No.	"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 include doubling of investor limits and increasing company size limits from April 2012. Final legislation was published in Finance Bill 2011.
2	Increase the lifetime limit on capital gains qualifying for entrepreneurs' relief to £10 million.	Complete	Increased to £10 million in April 2011.
3	Re-notify Community Investment Tax Relief to the EU Commission.	Complete	The Commission agreed the scheme can continue under <i>de minimis</i> regulations, subject to amendments in Finance Bill 2013.
4	Launch Big Society Capital (BSC).	Complete	Since becoming fully operational in April 2012, BSC has committed £56 million in 20 investments, exceeding its £50 million target for 2012-13.
5	Reform the delivery of European Regional Development Funds (ERDF).	Complete	The current 2007-13 programme met its spending targets in 2012. So far, it has delivered 42,437 new jobs and created 11,873 new businesses. Local Enterprise Partnerships will be given responsibility for deciding how best to use the 2014-20 programme to promote local growth.
6	Review UK regulatory framework of covered bonds.	Complete	Reforms took effect in January 2013.

Competition

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
7	Establish the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and fold in the Competition Commission and Office of Fair Trading.	Progress made	The CMA will be fully established by April 2014. The Chair-Designate and CEO-designate have been appointed and further recruitment will commence shortly. A transition team has been created, drawing on expertise from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Competition Commission and the Office of Fair Trading.
8	Promote greater transparency in Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) related liabilities.	Complete	See measure 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 public sector procurement section.
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 Transparency Code of Council behaviour in September 2011, together with reforms such as Community Right to Challenge, which was introduced in June 2012.

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), including putting in place Strategy and Policy Statements for the regulated sectors to clarify the relationship between Government and the regulator.
12	Set out in April 2011 the 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. A review of the strategy was published in December 2012. In support of the strategy, the Government tabled an amendment to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill to give it the power to introduce regulations that will give rights to consumers to request their transaction and usage data in electronic format.

Corporate governance

No.	"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 2012, saving business at least £100 million and possibly as much as £390 million 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 Government is currently consulting on proposals to implement the accounting exemptions that have now been made available for micro businesses by the new EU Micros Directive.
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	Following the OFT's referral of the market for the supply of statutory audit services to the largest companies to the Competition Commission, the Commission published its provisional findings and a notice of possible remedies in February 2013.
16	Simplify narrative reporting for quoted companies.	Progress made	Draft regulations to simplify reporting requirements have been published and will take effect from October 2013.
17	Modernise legislative framework governing mutuals.	Complete	In January 2012, the Government brought a Legislative Reform Order into effect, to improve the environment in which credit unions operate. This included allowing credit unions to admit corporate bodies, such as local charities and firms, as members, and relaxing restrictions on membership.
18	Improve online guidance to support business and social enterprise start-ups.	Complete	The Government has published guidance to help those starting up businesses to decide on the most appropriate legal structure and ownership model.

Education and skills

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
19	Improve the quality of the apprenticeship programme.	Progress made	The minimum apprenticeship duration has increased to 12 months. Higher apprenticeships continue to expand. The Government published a formal response to the Richard Review on 14 March and is consulting on how to implement the recommendations.
20	Ensure every employer is able to advertise a vacancy within one month of deciding to take on an apprentice, have them ready to start work within three months, provided employers play an active role, and remove unnecessary health and safety requirements for apprenticeships.	Complete	All unnecessary health and safety requirements for apprenticeship training providers have been removed. Employers can now place adverts onto the National Apprenticeships Service's (NAS) vacancy system prior to approval. Service standards require providers to ensure approved adverts are placed on the system within one month where the SME's engagement with the provider results from a NAS Small Business Team recommendation.
21	Work with the Office of Fair Trading and other bodies to review how well qualifications markets are operating.	Progress made	Ofqual are undertaking studies of the qualifications market in green technologies, college expenditure on qualifications and potential conflicts of interest in the sector. These will complete in autumn 2013.
22	Route public investment in skills directly to employers to allow them to purchase the vocational training they need through a new pilot fund of up to £250 million. In early 2012, employers will be invited to bid for a share of the fund.	Complete	The budget for the Employer Ownership pilot has been increased by £90 million to £340 million. The first round committed in-principle £90 million to 37 projects, supported by £115 million of private investment. The second round is now open for bids.
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. The Government now aims to publish both education and employment destinations in June 2013.
24	Invest £4.5 million across 2012 and 2013 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	Pilots have been established and funded in 2012 and 2013. A final report on the pilots will be published in the autumn. The funding, accountability and regulatory frameworks for the longer-term expansion of work experience provision will be introduced in September. The Government has worked with business groups to review regulation of work experience. Revised health and safety guidance and clarification of the employer liability insurance will be issued by April.
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 gaps in professional accreditation for STEM degrees are identified, priority areas for action will be agreed, including where additional Sector Skills Councils should be involved and professional bodies can share best practice.

26	Create an improved careers information portal as part of National Careers Service from April 2012. As part of Youth Contract, careers interviews for 18–24 year olds within 3 months of being on Jobseeker's Allowance will be provided.	Complete	Labour market information has improved. 800 job profiles have been overhauled. A mobile website promoting job profiles will launch shortly. From April to December 2012, over 122,000 unemployed 18-24 year olds were given careers interviews, an increase of 18 per cent on the same period in 2011. Around 30 per cent of these were seen within three 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 continues to offer an effective resource to the sector through a website, telephone help-line and dedicated email address.
28	Invest £10 million over five years from 2013-14 in Project Enthuse, matched by investment from the Wellcome Trust, to improve quality of science teaching in schools.	Progress made	Funding will begin from August 2013. The project will continue to support the National Science Learning Centre at York, which provides continuing professional development to UK science teachers and technicians, and a network of regional science learning centres.
29	Offer undergraduates access to mentoring support drawn from the existing network of STEM Ambassadors.	Progress made	A pilot extending the STEM ambassador programme to undergraduates started in September 2012. The pilot will be evaluated in September 2013.
30	Reform adult basic literacy and numeracy provision by piloting a new funding method for the providers of courses.	Progress made	Pilots are underway involving several providers and will run until summer 2013. They are examining a range of approaches for capturing skills gain and assessing their suitability for funding purposes.

Infrastructure

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
31	Prioritise the 40 key infrastructure projects.	Progress made	The Government has published a delivery update which details progress against the Top 40 priority infrastructure investments. Strong progress has been made on several projects, including the King's Cross station improvements, which are due to complete later this year, and Crossrail, where over three miles of tunnelling has been completed.
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 Government consulted on its objectives for aviation in the draft Aviation Policy Framework and will publish a final version in March 2013. In July 2012, the Government established the independent Airports Commission to recommend how to maintain the UK's status as Europe's most important aviation hub. The Commission will publish an interim report in late 2013 on immediate actions to improve the use of existing runway capacity.
33	Pilot reviews during the design and engineering phase to consider what opportunities for interdependencies may exist in major infrastructure projects.	Progress made	Pilot studies are underway with the intention of finalising the Interdependencies Planning and Management Framework developed with the University of Bristol and University College London on High Speed 2 (phase two), the Lower Thames Crossing and Northern Line Extension. Early results include the inclusion of a fixed communications network in High Speed 2 phase one.

34	Clear planning cases in the infrastructure planning backlog within three months once they are ready for a decision.	Progress made	<p>14 of the 22 outstanding applications made under the old S36 of the Electricity Act 1989 regime have been determined. Of the remaining cases, five are due to go to public inquiry in June this year, and three await further information from the applicants</p> <p>10 of the 15 outstanding applications with the Department for Transport have been cleared. Of the remaining cases, three are yet to complete public inquiry, one awaits a decision and one has been decided and is subject to legal challenge.</p>
35	Invest £25 million to help bus companies and local authorities in England buy new low carbon buses.	Complete	The £29 million funding is expected to deliver 453 low carbon buses in 2013. By February 2013, 134 of the funded buses were in service.
36	£10 million will be made available to fit pollution reduction technology to London buses. £5 million will be provided by Government and £5 million by Transport for London.	Progress made	Over 100 London buses that are operating on 48 routes will be retrofitted with pollution abatement equipment by March 2013. By end of March 2014, a total of 900 buses will be retrofitted.
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 by May 2013. When implemented, the proposals will enhance consumer confidence and increase the use of the digital single market.
38	Write-down £150 million of debt on the Humber Bridge, allowing tolls to fall from £3 to £1.50 for cars.	Complete	In the first nine months of reduced tolls (April-December 2012), 429,000 additional vehicles used the Humber Bridge, an increase of over 9 per cent over the same nine-month period in 2011.
39	Invest £5 million to set up a nationwide taskforce to target metal thieves and scrap metal dealers who illegally trade in stolen metal.	Complete	Since its launch, the taskforce has funded over 170 metal theft related projects across the UK. It complements other measures being taken to tackle metal theft and has contributed to an estimated 38 per cent reduction of reported metal theft offences in 2012. An evaluation of the taskforce will be completed in the summer.
40	Devolved Administrations receive Barnett consequentials to invest in infrastructure priorities.	Complete	The UK Government has provided approximately £2.5 billion in additional capital funding to the Devolved Administrations since the 2010 Spending Review.
41	£50 million will be made available to replace the Caledonian Sleeper Service.	Complete	Scottish Government will provide match funding on top of the UK Government's £50 million. The franchising process is underway, with the Invitation to Tender expected to go out in summer 2013.

Low carbon

No.	"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	The Carbon Price Floor starts at around £16 per tonne CO ₂ in 2013 and rises in a straight line trajectory to £30 per tonne CO ₂ in 2020 (real 2009 prices). It reduces investor uncertainty.
43	Scrap the unnecessary plans for a new Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) levy.	Complete	The Carbon Capture and Storage levy has been scrapped. CCS will now be supported through £1 billion capital funding (available for the CCS Commercialisation Competition).
44	Cap the cost of policies funded through energy bills.	Complete	The Government has set the level of funding available for low-carbon infrastructure through the Levy Control Framework.
45	Support the infrastructure development needed to enable the transition to a green economy through the Green Investment Bank.	Complete	The Green Investment Bank has been operating independently since October 2012 and has already completed nine investments in the waste processing, energy efficiency, offshore wind, and biomass sectors.
46	Promote development of new markets in green goods and services.	Progress made	The Smart Meters programme is on track to roll out 53 million meters to 30 million homes and businesses by 2019, allowing consumers to take better control of their energy usage. The reformed Feed In Tariffs scheme went live on 1 December 2012, improving the cost effectiveness of the scheme whilst still providing a healthy return of around 5 to 8 per cent for investors. The Green Deal was successfully launched on 28 January 2013. Parts of the Green Deal were already operational, including the £125 million Green Deal Cashback scheme. Since the launch, 1,803 Green Deal Assessments had been lodged by the end of February, and numbers within the supply chain have increased, with 619 advisors accredited by assessor organisations. The Government is working to deliver everything in the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme, and will make further announcements shortly.

Planning

No.	"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	Published on 23 March 2011, this sent a clear signal that the need to support economic growth and recovery should be taken fully into account in the planning system; a theme that was then taken forward in the National Planning Policy Framework, published in March 2012. See measures 48 and 49.
48	Introduce a powerful new presumption in favour of sustainable development, so that the default answer to development is "yes".	Complete	Introduced with the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012, the presumption in favour of sustainable development establishes a substantially more positive approach to plan-making and decisions on individual applications. It is already having an impact on the plans and decisions that are coming forward.

49	Produce a shorter, more focused and inherently pro-growth National Planning Policy Framework.	Complete	The National Planning Policy Framework was published in March 2012, introducing the new presumption in favour of sustainable development.
50	Enable businesses to bring forward neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders.	Progress made	Neighbourhood plans with significant business involvement are being prepared across the country in rural and urban areas (e.g. Central Milton Keynes, Uppingham in Rutland and Bankside in London). Draft referendum regulations for designated business neighbourhood areas were laid before Parliament on 25 February 2013 and, subject to Parliament, will come into force shortly.
51	Pilot a land auctions model, starting with public sector land.	Progress made	In line with the Budget 2012 commitment, two sites, Hastings and St Leonard's were put on the market in December. The model is also being used in Richmondshire and West Lancashire on Government-owned land. The Government is considering options for wider use of the model alongside learning from the pilots.
52	Localise choice about the use of previously developed land, removing nationally imposed targets.	Complete	Recognising that some brownfield land is valuable for nature conservation, or as community spaces, and that people are concerned about the loss of back gardens, on 5 June 2010 the Government removed the previous administration's targets on brownfield development and residential density, and redefined residential gardens as greenfield land.
53	Consult on proposals to make it easier to convert commercial premises to residential.	Complete	In September 2012, the Government committed to grant permitted development for change from offices to residential with an opportunity for local authorities to seek an exemption on specified grounds. Exemption requests were due late February with change coming into force in June 2013.
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	Measures to streamline information requirements for applications were introduced in January 2013. Draft proposals on planning performance and the planning guarantee were published in November 2012 and the consultation responses are currently being analysed.
55	Ensure a fast-track planning process for major infrastructure applications through the Major Infrastructure Planning system.	Complete	The nationally significant infrastructure regime has been open for business since March 2010. There are currently over 80 applications in the pre-application or application phase.
56	Legislate to introduce a duty on local authorities and public bodies to require them to co-operate on planning issues.	Complete	The Duty to Cooperate was introduced in the Localism Act. The Planning Advisory Service is providing a package of support to local planning authorities to which the Planning Inspectorate is contributing. Guidance on the Duty to Cooperate is being prepared and it is anticipated that this will be published over the summer.
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 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.	Complete	English Heritage, the Environment Agency, the Health and Safety Executive, the Highways Agency and Natural England 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 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.	Complete	The consultation on award of costs is complete and changes came into force in December 2012. Further changes allowing Planning Inspectors to determine and award costs are being brought forward in the Growth and Infrastructure Bill.
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.	Complete	The Government made legislative changes in January 2012 to allow major infrastructure applications greater flexibility in their form and structure. In addition, guidance published in January 2013 established best practice for dealing with flexibility within an application and working relationships between developers and the Planning Inspectorate in the pre-application phase.
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 has completed 21 of the 28 measures set out in March 2012 in the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives implementation review. The Major Infrastructure and Environment Unit in Defra continues to work with high priority projects to resolve issues relating to the Directives and the Government has consulted on overarching guidance that will make it easier for businesses to understand the requirements of the Directives. The final guidance will be published shortly alongside plans to radically simplify more than 2,500 pages of existing guidance.
61	Review planning appeals procedures, to make the process faster, more transparent, improve consistency and increase certainty of decision timescales.	Progress made	We have carried out a consultation on proposed reforms to planning appeals procedures, to make the process faster and more transparent. We are now working with the Planning Inspectorate to implement a streamlined system.
62	Consult on a proposal to allow the reconsideration of those planning obligations agreed prior to April 2010 where development is stalled.	Complete	Regulations came into force to allow formal reconsideration of pre-April 2010 obligations on 28 February 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 announced in January 2013 changes to allow easier change of use of buildings used for agricultural purposes, a new temporary use to support new businesses and increase thresholds for change between industrial building uses. Secondary legislation will be put in place once the Growth Bill has secured Royal Assent. The Government will consult on further flexibilities within the use class system.
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 relaxations came into force on 6 April 2012, introducing permitted development rights for installations of solar panels, ground and water source heat pumps, and flues for biomass and combined heat and power systems on non-domestic premises.

Public sector procurement

No.	"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	18 pipelines providing forward visibility of Government business opportunities over the next five years, worth approximately £84 billion, are available for scrutiny through the Contracts Finder portal. The intention is to continue to publish further iterations of pipelines every six months, with the next version scheduled for publication in May 2013. Contracts Finder also provides a link to the Defence Equipment Plan, published in January 2013.
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	Departments have been actively undertaking pre-market engagement opportunities in procurements, such as those identified as having particular SME potential. Solutions Exchange was piloted successfully in summer 2012 and a full service will be deployed later in 2013. As part of the developing Industrial Strategy, sector strategies will consider the role that public procurement may have in those sectors.
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	Pre-procurement market engagement has become a key feature of the majority of Government procurements. This has enabled contracting authorities to take opportunities through market soundings to simplify requirements that can be sourced via the faster and more efficient Open procedure. As a result, the volume of competitive dialogue procurements has decreased significantly but, where this procedure has been used, it is being used more efficiently.
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	87 per cent of all those procurements (including complex) that have been initiated and completed since the launch of LEAN sourcing in January 2012, have been carried out within 120 working days. The LEAN sourcing standard has been embedded within procurement operations across central Government through application and formal practitioner training. More than 1000 procurers have been trained. The faster and more efficient Open procedure has become the default procedure for non complex procurements and has brought about a significant reduction in average turnaround times in line with the target.
69	Terry Hill (Chair of the Arup Board of Trustees) 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.	Complete	The Industry Standards Group published their Specifying Successful Standards report in July 2012. This contains a series of recommendations for transport and wider infrastructure sectors. Actions from the report are now being implemented by a working group.
70	Ensure that the bundling of contract and subcontract packages in procurement offers enhanced opportunities for SMEs.	Complete	Departmental SME plans are being assessed. These outline actions to increase the percentage of spend that flows to SMEs and include optimal contract size and procurement design to encourage SME bidders. A report will be published 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 extending 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 continues to be made in negotiations to revise and simplify EU Public Procurement Directives. The aim is to reach final agreement by summer 2013. The simplification will lead to more efficient procurement and cost savings for both purchasers and suppliers.

Publication of Government data

No.	"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	Launched in September 2012, the HSCIC's Data Linkage Service will expand the range of linked data available significantly during financial year 2013-14 as a result of its new statutory powers from 1 April 2013.
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 measure 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	Train and bus information was made available in 2012. There is now a cadre of developers numbering over 100 accessing and using the data and this has resulted in a number of innovative applications covering both bus and rail real-time information.
76	Consult on providing open access to rail fares data, giving passengers and business information to make the most cost-effective travel choices.	Complete	The results of the Department for Transport's 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 published bulk rail fares data at the end of January 2013.
77	Legislate to give the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) the power to publish data on the performance of aviation service providers.	Complete	The Civil Aviation Bill received Royal Assent at the end of 2012; the CAA is now consulting with airport operators and airlines with the aim of beginning to publish enhanced data by end 2013.
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	The Highways Agency has released data about operation of the Strategic Road network. Local Highways Authorities released roadworks data. It is now possible to discover where to access information for every local authority in England, the vast majority being available in electronic format.
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 Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has consulted with stakeholders about the content of any anonymised fit note data to be published (for example, at meetings of the DWP Data Transfer Board and through other channels), and will continue to do so as they move closer to publishing the data.
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	Universal Credit remains on target to deliver the Pathfinder (phase 1) on 28 April 2013.

81	Consider opportunities for linking welfare datasets to other government and commercial datasets to increase their value to industry.	Progress made	Phase 1 of the new online tool Stat-Xplore providing more housing benefit data has been launched. DWP is continuing to progress work on the pilot schemes for sharing data. The Office of National Statistics is conducting a feasibility study on the use of administrative data to produce future population statistics. The first pilots for Electoral Registration have been completed and the interim findings are positive.
82	Provide up to £10 million 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	Since its launch the ODI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank to train the world's political leaders in open data. It has secured £850,000 funding for an open data Immersion Programme, which will run until March 2015. Work is ongoing on securing match funding and the ODI will publish its membership model, with online sign up process, in March 2013.
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 are both operational. In December 2012, the Government announced four new open data investments: the DSB Breakthrough Fund; the Open Data Immersion Programme; Open Data Innovation Vouchers; and new Open Geographical Data Upgrades. The investments have a total value of over £9 million.
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 Royal College of GPs published 'Patient Online: The Road Map, on 6 March 2013. This provides guidance on work needed to deliver patients' electronic access to their general practice for booking and cancelling of appointments, ordering of repeat prescriptions, secure communication and viewing their own health records, and outlines next steps to be taken.

Reducing regulatory burdens

No.	"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	Departments have deferred or delayed implementing some measures until after April 2014.
86	Scrap proposals for regulations that would have cost businesses over £350 million 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 £350 million a year.
87	Launch an extensive public thematic review to reduce the existing stock of regulation.	Progress made	Decisions on over 2,700 regulations have so far been announced as part of the Red Tape Challenge, of which over half will be abolished or reduced. 246 measures have been implemented to date – saving businesses over £155 million per year. The Coalition's Mid Term Review committed to complete the work of the Red Tape Challenge by the end of the Parliament.
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 have been delivered. 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. Autumn Statement 2012 announced improvements to HMRC's digital services to be delivered over the next three years.
91	Launch a major focus on revising burdensome EU regulations and directives.	Complete	In December 2012, the European Commission launched its Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT), aimed at 'eliminating regulatory burden and ensuring that the body of EU legislation remains fit for purpose'. In November 2012, the UK and 12 other Member States had agreed a '10 point plan' demanding such action.
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 Commission's December 2012 REFIT Communication confirms it will increase efforts to promote a better regulation culture. Its March 2013 SME Communication outlines progress in delivering regulation tailored to SMEs' needs. Forthcoming changes to guidance on Impact Assessment and consultation, and moves to Common Commencement Dates, should contribute further improvements.
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 (see measure 116).
96	Increase the qualifying period for unfair dismissal from one to two years from April 2012.	Complete	This was delivered in April 2012 and will provide a net business benefit of £4.7 million 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 in spring 2013. The published impact assessment shows that this policy involves net business benefits of £33 million per year. This measure is expected to come into force in spring 2014.
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 will consult on proposals.

99	Launch a call for evidence on the effectiveness of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations.	Complete	Consultation on proposed reforms to remove gold-plating of TUPE Regulations launched in January 2013. Subject to the result of the consultation the Government will seek to bring any changes into force from October 2013.
100	Call for evidence on collective redundancy rules, including consequences of reducing 90-day consultation period for over 100 redundancies to 60, 45 or 30 days.	Complete	In December 2012, the Government announced intended changes to reduce the minimum period for collective consultation when making over 100 staff redundant from 90 days to 45; and for new Acas guidance for employers. All are due to take effect from April 2013.
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 issued its response accepting the recommendations of the Underhill review of employment tribunal rules in March 2013. The new rules will be laid before Parliament in due course, and will come into force later in the summer. The rule changes on judges sitting alone in unfair dismissal claims, witness statements and expenses and costs and deposit orders were implemented in April 2012.
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 mediation pilot in Manchester and Cambridge, delivered by Consensio, will run until December 2013, at which point it will be evaluated.
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	The Government anticipates that the financial penalty regime will come into force in April 2014.
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 in spring 2013. The Government response to the 'Ending the Employment Relationship' consultation on tools and guidance to facilitate the use of Settlement Agreements was published in January 2013. Acas are consulting on a draft Statutory Code of Practice.
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' as this would not address the problem of facilitating an agreed separation effectively. Protected conversations would not provide businesses the certainty they are looking for and might lead to unintended administrative burdens on business where they keep records of all communications as a means of demonstrating which were protected or not. The Government is seeking to facilitate the increased use of Settlement Agreements (see above).
106	Publish consultation on introduction of fees for anyone wishing to take a claim to an employment tribunal.	Complete	The Government will introduce Tribunal Fees into the Employment Tribunals and the Employment Appeal Tribunals in summer 2013.
107	Begin a call for evidence on two proposals for radical reform of UK employment law.	Complete	Following the call for evidence, the Government announced that it would not proceed with compensated no fault dismissal. The Government considered the Acas Code of Discipline and Grievance and committed to improve guidance on dismissal processes by spring 2013.

108	Consult in spring 2012 on streamlining the current regulation of the recruitment sector.	Complete	The Government is now consulting on wholesale reform of how the recruitment sector is regulated. The consultation closes in April 2013.
109	Work to remove common misconceptions about burdens of employing staff for sole traders considering taking on their first employee.	Progress made	<p>The Government continues to promote myth-busting messages about employment law as a significant strand of the 'Business in You' campaign which is aimed at start up and growing SMEs.</p> <p>The Government has developed an online tool for first time employers called 'Employing Staff for the First Time'. It was launched in April 2012 and is now on GOV.UK, getting approximately 10,000 hits a month. Further improvements will be made in April in response to feedback. Another milestone will be the fuller integration of the tool with PAYE and taxation content when the HMRC website migrates to GOV.UK later this year.</p>
110	Examine paperwork obligations of Agency Worker Regulations to ensure arrangements for employers are as simple as possible.	Progress made	The review is due to launch in April 2013 and to complete in summer 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 in spring 2013. The Government expects the changes in the legislation to come into force in summer 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 in spring 2013 for public consultation.
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 summer 2013.
114	Consider recommendations of Frost/Black Independent Review of Sickness Absence and respond in 2012.	Complete	The Government response, published in January 2013, launches a new approach to sickness absence management through the introduction of a health and work assessment and advisory service, offering free occupational health expertise to employees, employers and healthcare professionals. Other measures include the abolition of the Percentage Threshold Scheme and Statutory Sick Pay record keeping obligations.
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	Nine reviews have been launched. Food, Chemicals, and Coastal Investments have published their findings and associated response/action plans from regulators. A package of actions to address systemic enforcement issues affecting regulators was also announced at Autumn Statement 2012. Since the Autumn Statement, the Government has launched a consultation on the Regulators' Code. This requires regulators to recognise businesses efforts to comply, enabling earned recognition. Around 700 businesses and 100 local authorities participate in Primary Authority which – subject to Parliamentary process – will extend to cover thousands more businesses. Proposals exist to expand the number of regulations covered. Alcohol and fire pilots are underway. The Government has already announced plans to impose statutory review clauses on new non-economic regulators. The Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill currently before Parliament is the first such example.
117	Take forward the recommendations in Professor Löfstedt's review of health and safety regulation.	Progress made	Professor Löfstedt, in his one year on review, found that good progress is being made in delivering his recommendations and that there is already some evidence that the perception of health and safety is changing.

Trade and investment

No.	"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.	Complete	<p>UKTI has introduced an £8 million pilot scheme in twenty high growth and emerging markets to harness British business groups and Chambers of Commerce overseas by helping them to develop their networks and capabilities.</p> <p>UKTI are also working with Trade Associations to provide more effective and efficient practical support to UK companies.</p>
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	<p>Increased funding from the Autumn Statement 2012 (£27 million in 2013-14) to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new inward investment operations in growth markets, such as the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Russia; • enhanced support in emerging markets, including India and China; • first class sector leadership programmes; and • attract the world's brightest and best entrepreneurs to the UK. <p>76 of the largest inward investors and exporters are now being supported across Government, this meets the commitment made in the Autumn Statement to double the number of companies supported.</p>

120	UKTI will deliver a new package of support to help SMEs with an ambition to break into overseas markets.	Complete	UKTI has introduced a range of new trade initiatives to support SME exporters, including: Open to Export, an online resource where UK companies can get bespoke answers to their business needs by asking the export community; the Headstart scheme, practical help for UK SMEs accessing SE Asian markets including access to those with experience of the local issues; and the creation of a Venture Capital Unit, helping UK fast-growth, innovative technology and life sciences companies to access venture capital funding.
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	Since the High Value Opportunities Programme was launched, the UK has won over £3 billion of contracts. Additional funding in Autumn Statement 2012 will see a doubling to 100 of the number of projects supported under the programme.
122	In EU negotiations, press for opening of market access overseas in areas of UK strengths, in particular the service sector.	Progress made	The Government strongly supports the EU's programme of trade negotiations. In February 2013, EU and US leaders agreed to commence trade negotiations. This could bring annual gains of a 0.5 per cent increase in EU GDP. Negotiations on EU-Japan and EU-Morocco deals will also commence shortly. Political agreement was reached on an EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in late 2012.
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.	Complete	In February 2013, the Prime Minister led the largest ever trade delegation to India. Government-Government dialogues (with India, Russia, UAE, and Vietnam in 2012) continue to help tackle barriers to trade. A £70 million increase to UKTI's annual budget announced in Autumn Statement 2012 is delivering services to more exporters, and renewing the focus on high value opportunities. A coordinated week of events across the UK in mid-May this year will see promotion of opportunities in high growth markets. An £8 million pilot campaign is now enhancing business support for UK SMEs in twenty high growth markets. Commercial teams are now in more than 100 markets.
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 43 insurance policies for 29 exporters (22 SMEs), worth £77 million. Offers in support of a further £30 million of UK exports have been made.
125	Make permanent two 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	The Letter of Credit Guarantee Scheme and the facility to allow UKEF guarantees to be used to raise long-term finance in capital markets for UK exports were made permanent in March 2011.
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 28 exporters (22 SMEs) on 58 contract bonds worth £402 million. Offers have been made for a further 63 bonds on exports worth £106 million for 15 exporters. The Export Working Capital Scheme supported five exporters on contracts worth £24 million.

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 continues to act as a single point of contact for traders, with lead officials at ports and airports, and provides an automated international trade single window as an import clearance process.

Advanced manufacturing

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
129	Extend the capital allowances short life asset regime for plant machinery from four years to eight years, from April 2011.	Complete	Effective for expenditure incurred from April 2011, 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. Five UTCs are open, with a further 26 in the pre-opening phase. Twelve are in the pipeline to open in September 2013 with a further 14 to open in September 2014. Twenty-one applications for UTCs, expected to open in either September 2014 or September 2015, are being assessed. The outcome will be announced by end of March 2013.
131	Launch a High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Technology and Innovation Centre.	Complete	The HVM Catapult is part of a network of seven world-leading Catapult Centres. All seven centres have been announced. HVM Catapult has been invested in to provide the cutting-edge equipment and the skilled resources our businesses need to commercialise their world-class technologies. HVM Catapult has had successes working with large and small businesses across a range of manufacturing sectors, including aerospace, automotive, metals, materials and additive printing.
132	Fund nine new university-based centres for Innovative Manufacturing by 2012.	Complete	Twelve centres have been established. A further £21 million of funding was announced in February 2013 for four new centres, to bring the total to 16 centres covering a wide range of fields, from additive manufacturing to industrial sustainability.
133	Fund a programme of new Manufacturing Fellowships.	Complete	The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Centres (EPSRC) selected four Manufacturing Fellows in May 2012 to each lead a £1 million high tech manufacturing research programme. A further four fellowship awards from the second call will be announced by April 2013. A third call has also been issued.
134	Launch an enhanced Manufacturing Advisory Service.	Complete	Over 1,900 business improvement consultancy projects have completed since the launch. Businesses receiving the support forecast 6,400 jobs could be created, 17,400 safeguarded and £550 million gross value added in the year following the intervention.

135	Launch a new £75 million programme of targeted support to help smaller employers access Advanced Level and Higher Apprenticeships.	Complete	Sixteen Frameworks have been newly issued as a result of the Higher Apprenticeship Fund investment at Level 4 and Level 5. Six Frameworks are still in development including several at Level 6 and Level 7 which cannot be issued until the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England is modified to include learning (the Government expects this to come into force from 6 April 2013). There were 120 starts on Engineering and Manufacturing Apprenticeships in the academic year 2011-12.
136	Support the development of a new degree-equivalent Higher Level Apprenticeship.	Complete	The 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	STEMNET is continuing to explore ways to engage more volunteers from non-university and vocational routes and has a target to have 27,000 STEM Ambassadors by 2015, with almost 25,000 now recruited.
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	BIS Ministers are taking every opportunity to promote the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering, working with the Royal Academy of Engineering, and believe it has real potential to inspire future generations of engineers.

Construction

No.	"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 (NIP) was published in November 2011 and an update issued alongside Autumn Statement 2012. A delivery update on the Top 40 priority investments was published alongside Budget 2013.
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 it was agreed that the construction pipeline would be published on a six-monthly basis, in line with pipelines for other sectors. Further enhancements are now planned to enable SMEs to identify potential opportunities that are likely to emerge as subcontracted packages of work. The next publication will be in April 2013.
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. As at October 2012, £141 million savings achieved by departments have been available for investment in this way.

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 11,000 reservations as at the end of February 2013. Official statistics released in November 2012 show that there have been 6,780 sales in the first 13 months of the scheme.
144	Accelerate release of public sector land to encourage new homes and jobs.	Progress made	The Government has identified surplus land with capacity for over 100,000 homes, and has sold land with capacity for around 33,000 homes. In September 2012, further measures were announced to support release of public land and more details were included in the Autumn Statement, including £290 million recoverable funding to support a targeted programme to help bring sites forward for development and get them to market.
145	Strengthen demand for residential property by reforming the stamp duty land tax rules applied to bulk purchases.	Complete	The reform of stamp duty land tax rules was introduced in the 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, three 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	The Housing Standards Review is making good progress and Government will be consulting on the outcome of the Review in May 2013.
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. The Government will announce the outcome of the consultation in spring 2013 and DCLG will consult on delivery mechanisms for achieving zero carbon homes.

Digital and creative industries

No.	"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 is implementing measures to remove barriers to broadband deployment. The primary legislation enabling changes to planning regulations is before Parliament, and good progress has been made on street works guidance and power supply to new broadband cabinets. In addition, the winners of the Ofcom 4G spectrum auction were announced in February, and will begin offering 4G services using this spectrum by the summer. These measures are supporting both the commercial rollout of superfast broadband and the Broadband Delivery UK programmes. The BDUK rural and urban programmes represent a £680 million investment by Government in superfast broadband.

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	The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill contains provisions allowing for orphan works and for operation of extended collective licensing schemes. These will simplify the licensing process for the legitimate use of works. Following Richard Hooper's feasibility study of July 2012, industry is setting up the Copyright Hub.
151	Through the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), improve the range of products and services available to support UK businesses, particularly SMEs, on issues relating to intellectual property. IPO will establish network of attachés covering key global markets.	Progress made	Intellectual Property (IP) attachés are providing practical support to UK businesses and furthering UK influence overseas. The China and India attaches have already assisted around 300 businesses. Further to its November Ideas to Growth paper, the IPO is developing initiatives to help SMEs. In March 2013 a revised mediation service to assist SMEs resolve IP disputes will be launched.
152	Publish a guide to public sector intellectual property procurement policy.	Progress made	The Cabinet Office-led review aims to conclude in spring 2013.
153	Substantially reduce the burden placed on business by the communications and media regulatory framework.	Progress made	The Government is continuing to work towards the publication of a Communications Review paper which will set out our vision and policies for the sector: the key themes of which are connectivity (infrastructure), content, consumers and competition.
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 Government's new policy for Regulated Entertainment was set out in January 2013 by Written Ministerial Statement. Implementation will follow in three waves. In the first, legislation will be laid before Parliament during spring 2013 to deregulate most performances of plays, exhibitions of dance and indoor sport. In the second wave, the Government will bring forward legislation to remove, by spring 2014, unnecessary regulation for music events and many local entertainment activities run by civil society organisations. In the third wave, the Government will consult during 2013 on options to reduce licensing burdens on community film exhibition, and will take forward any resulting measures as soon as possible thereafter.
155	Reduce the proposed extension of legal deposit requirements to online publications.	Progress made	The non-print legal deposit regulations are due to come into force in April 2013. The regulations were revised at consultation stage to no longer include an obligation to deposit online publications that cannot be obtained via a web harvesting process. This will reduce costs to publishers.
156	Re-notify film tax relief to the European Commission.	Complete	200 British films received final certification in 2012. The expected UK spend on film production was £938 million.
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	In 2012-13 BBC Worldwide took delivery of over 700 hours of programming from indies. In 2011-12, BBC Worldwide invested £98.6 million in distribution rights and returned £76.2 million to UK independents through upfront rights investment, profit share and royalties and attracted £230 million in sales revenues from overseas broadcasters.

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 in June 2013. The Council and its working groups continue to make progress across its agendas including access to finance, skills, data measurement and marketing with a new web resource funded collectively by members in development.
159	Through UKTI, develop a marketing plan to promote opportunities for investment in the UK's Digital and Creative industries.	Complete	Joanna Shields has been recruited as the new Chief Executive for the Tech City Investment Organisation (TCIO).
160	Improve the stock of skills in the digital and creative industries.	Progress made	In response to gaps identified in both infrastructure and delivery, co-investment bids were submitted in 2012 to nationwide Government competitive schemes. To date, co-investment has been secured to match the industries', to the current total of over £63 million of new investment over the next three years. The new curriculum for computing focuses on computer science and programming at all key stages. GCSE computer science is included in the English Baccalaureate school performance measure. Initial teacher training and continuing professional development will increase the number of computer science specialist teachers.

Health and life sciences

No.	"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 HRA has begun its feasibility study to streamline research approvals. The NIHR is working with the NHS to implement the new research contract terms relating to the 70 days benchmark for clinical trials initiation. During 2012-13 performance data collection is being piloted with the NHS Trusts. Trusts will be required to begin publishing the data during 2013.
162	Reduce perceived gold-plating and increase the proportionality of EU Clinical Trials Directive and its application.	Progress made	Negotiation of a new Clinical Trials Regulation is expected to be finalised in 2014. The Government will continue to work with the Commission, other Member States and the European Parliament to ensure that the new Regulation reduces the burden on researchers, harmonises requirements across the EU, introduces risk proportionality and makes the EU an attractive place for the conduct of clinical trials.
163	Open up information about clinical trials to enable the public to get involved.	Complete	The UK Clinical Trials Gateway (UKCTG) has been operating since April 2012. By the end of February 2013, over 8,400 copies of the UKCTG app had been downloaded and there had been 120,000 unique users visiting the UKCTG site.
164	Build a consensus on using e-health record data to create a unique position for the UK in health research.	Complete	The Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) was launched in March 2012. CPRD is enabling researchers to gain access to large population, multi-linked datasets and has also made available its clinical trial feasibility and protocol optimisation tool that will enable swifter and easier patient recruitment.

165	Open up information on clinical research to promote collaboration and innovation.	Complete	The NIHR website is the principal mechanism for making information on clinical research available to researchers and research funders, promoting collaboration and innovation. In the twelve months from March 2012 there have been approximately 265,000 visitors to the site, with the majority looking for information about research conducted by the NIHR.
166	Consider opening up prescribing data.	Complete	The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) released presentation level prescribing data for the first time in September 2012. HSCIC also released historic data in October to December 2012 covering the previous 24 months to permit early time series analysis.
167	Form Translational Research Partnerships from £775 million investment in National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centres and Units.	Complete	The two NIHR Translational Research Partnerships, focused on Joint and Related Inflammatory Diseases and Inflammatory Lung Disease, are co-ordinated by the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure. In 2012, three research agreements were signed with companies and over 30 additional research projects with global industry partners are currently under discussion.
168	Remove any barriers that limit the further development of geographical clusters, working with industry, local government, universities, NHS and funders.	Complete	An update on the work the Government is carrying out to support clusters and regional growth is provided in the Life Science Strategy 'One Year On' report.
169	Launch a competition to form a Cell Therapy Technology and Innovation Centre (now changed to "Catapult Centre").	Complete	The initial Catapult is up and running and its leadership team are now in place.
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	The Cogent Higher Apprenticeship for Life Sciences and Chemical Science Professionals and the Society of Biology's Degree Accreditation programme have both been well received and are ahead of their target for 2013.
171	Ensure that the Intellectual Property system supports life sciences businesses.	Progress made	Results of the consultation and the Government response published on 25 February 2013 confirmed that legislation would be taken forward to allow clinical trials for innovative medicines to be carried out without infringing patents held by others.
172	Take forward a range of measures to encourage innovation in NHS procurement.	Progress made	The Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) has awarded phase 1 contracts for the first three competitions. These are nearing the end of the proof of concept stage, and subsequent applications for phase 2 funding, prototyping, are due end March 2013. In January 2013 the Department of Health launched two new SBRI competitions relating to mental health illnesses and end of life care. Budget 2013 has announced a substantial expansion of the SBRI programme.
173	NHS Chief Executive will provide a report on how the adoption and diffusion of innovations can be accelerated across the NHS.	Complete	The NHS Commissioning Board is considering the components of the licensing agreements, and Academic Health Science Networks are expected to be announced in the new financial year.

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 3 million lives initiative will be delivered through joint working with seven Pathfinder sites in the NHS and the telehealth and telecare industry. A 'delivering assisted living lifestyles at scale' programme 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 was successfully launched in January 2013, and will be focussed initially on country campaigns in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, China, India and Brazil. Howard Lyons was appointed as Managing Director in January 2013.

Logistics

No.	"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	An application to expand the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal and create up to 731,000 square meters of rail served storage and distribution floorspace has been received by the Planning Inspectorate.
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 wider logistics sector. Further action now rests with commercial interests to develop proposals and submit planning applications.
179	Support Network Rail to invest £55 million in the strategic rail freight network to help remove bottlenecks, improve capability and longer-term connectivity to major ports.	Complete	Ely-Soham doubling work has begun with completion expected in 2017, once planning procedures are complete.
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	A report on the investigation and closure procedures for motorway incidents was published on 25 February 2013.
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 £33 million to operators.	Progress made	By end-February 2013, Vehicle Special Orders had been issued for approximately 430 vehicles. Data collection and analysis is underway on the usage of the trailers for the second monitoring period, to 31 December 2012. Operators have until December 2013 to take up their 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 Department for Transport consulted on this as part of a package of measures. The Government is currently considering the responses received and will publish a summary in due course.

183	Launch an industry-led task force to promote use of fuel efficient, low emission road freight technologies.	Complete	A working group is taking forward the key recommendations identified in December, with the Task Force due to reconvene to consider progress and next steps in April 2013, including developing a strategy for switching heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) from diesel to biomethane in the medium term.
184	Invest £8 million 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	An external contractor has been appointed to gather and analyse data from the trials. Manufacture of trial vehicles is underway - the first batch was delivered to the operator in December 2012 for pre-trial testing, with others due to follow shortly. Live trials will commence later this year.
185	Consider the need for further guidance on quiet night time deliveries as part of a forthcoming wider review.	Progress made	The Government is participating in discussions held by Transport for London to consider how to take forward the benefits of Quiet Deliveries in London during the Games, and will shortly be letting a contract for the rewriting of existing 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	Temporary snow ploughs were not used in Leicestershire this winter due to the lack of snow, but a workable technical solution has been identified. The existing arrangement between Renfrewshire Council and the Malcolm Group has addressed issues of legislation and liability and this experience may be helpful to others, including Leicestershire.
187	Provide £4 million to Skills for Logistics to improve training approaches to increase the competitiveness and productivity of the logistics sector.	Progress made	The four projects run by Skills for Logistics continue to develop local employer communities and tools that will enable greater engagement between employers and the local talent pools. The projects are nearly halfway through their two-year life span. The Military Work Placement Scheme has already arranged 310 placements and the project has been extended for a further five months.

Mid-sized businesses

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
188	UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) will receive £10 million 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. UK Export Finance advisers are in place in each of the regions and are able to work alongside UKTI's trade advisers to support MSB clients.
189	Develop commitments to support and strengthen supply chains.	Progress made	The first Government supply chain finance scheme, for community pharmacists, is on target and due to go live in April 2013. The Government expects this scheme to create £800 million in new, low-cost credit for these 4,500 SMEs, and is in advanced stages of reviewing further opportunities to support suppliers through similar schemes.

190	Increase numbers of mid-sized businesses benefiting from resource efficiency schemes by up to 200.	Progress made	The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has supported 180 MSBs, primarily on supply chain improvements and water efficiency. The objective to support 200 MSBs should be met by summer 2013, well ahead of the end 2014 target.
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 Task Force published their report in 2012 making recommendations to business schools and MSBs.
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	Pathfinder activity is now completing. New Anglia and Birmingham have run successful programmes supporting MSBs through targeted events focussing on their specific needs.
193	Working with business, launch a national campaign to showcase mid-sized business and publicise the full range of Government services available.	Complete	MSBs continue to attract significant interest, and Government is working with third parties to encourage greater opportunities for this very important group.

Professional and business services

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
194	Publish guidance to help commercial organisations understand the Bribery Act 2010 better.	Complete	BIS is considering further business representations about the Bribery Act guidance, which was published in March 2011.
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 2012. Following a consultation exercise, the proposal to abolish over two dozen regulatory offences under Money Laundering Regulations was removed.
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.	Complete	In April 2012, UKBA launched a premium customer service for sponsors. Trusted business visitors can now access a priority (5 day) visa service in over 30 key markets and in key locations we offer other services such as premium lounges and an out of hours appointment service. The Government delivered the commitment of 90 per cent of online applications by December 2012 (achieved 95 per cent). UKBA are improving their website to make it simpler for customers to apply online for popular visa products.
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.	Complete	The Legal Services Action plan 2011 was delivered by the end of 2012 to promote the UK as a centre of excellence for dispute resolution. A further plan was launched this month with an emphasis on legal expertise and education.
198	Pursue improved access to new markets outside the EU.	Progress made	The Government is working with the business community to develop a new trade and investment approach for professional and business services to promote UK capabilities to overseas markets and to link this with market-opening international trade policy.

199	Press the European Commission and other EU member states to implement the Services Directive in full.	Complete	Under a new zero-tolerance approach, 26 out of 27 Member States have been served notice of a pilot case regarding implementation and the peer review process has a building consensus on the need for a proportionality test.
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 Government is engaging with the new Professional and Business Services Council to explore new ways of broadening and expanding higher apprenticeship opportunities in the sector.
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 Government is exploring new approaches to encouraging business-school 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	The Government is working with the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure, the Law Society and the Chartered Institute of Accountants in England and Wales to disseminate information.
203	Cut down the administrative burdens of complying with business regulation.	Progress made	The Government is reviewing responses to the Red Tape Challenge for professional and business services and is considering next steps. These issues are also being considered as part of the Government's Industrial Strategy for this area.
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. The Financial Reporting Council announced proposals to re-align its scope with its investment focus, streamline its governance and structure, and enhance its independence from those that it regulates.

Retail

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
205	Extend the current small business rate relief holiday for one year from 1 October 2011.	Complete	The Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) holiday successfully reduced cost for over half a million small business. It was extended again for a further six months at Autumn Statement 2011 and a further 12 months at Autumn Statement 2012.
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 agreed 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 applied from October 2012.

207	Introduce a package of measures to support thriving town centres and build on the Town Centre First policy.	Complete	The Government has accepted nearly all of the 28 recommendations in the Mary Portas Review and continues to work closely with business to progress implementation. The Government has recently announced a Future High Streets Forum that will meet four times a year and will shortly announce the winners of a £1 million Future High Streets X-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 scheme is included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, and is expected to be implemented October 2013. A consultation on extending the regulations covered by the scheme has now closed and a Government response will be published in due course.
209	Amend regulations affecting retailers to make them more outcome-focused, and use a checklist approach to assist SMEs to comply.	Complete	The findings of their recent consultation on amendments to RIDDOR are being considered by the Health and Safety Executive Board. Full implementation of their proposals is planned for October 2013.
210	Implement a regulatory reform package to simplify complex and inconsistent age-restricted sales regulations and licences for businesses.	Complete	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.
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. Final data for the 2011-12 academic year show that there were 108,300 apprenticeship starts in the 'Retail and Commercial Enterprise' Sector Subject Area, and 31,240 apprenticeship starts in the retail framework.
212	Work to remove regulatory barriers to increased cross-border online retail.	Progress made	The EU Commission published a communication on implementing a European Retail Action Plan. We have set up a UK Retail Group (Europe) to ensure effective representation of UK retailers' interests in the EU. A key aim is to address barriers to a European single market in retail – particularly barriers to retail and e-commerce, and making it easier for businesses to establish and compete across Europe.

Rural economy

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
213	Support rural broadband by opening the £20 million 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	52 applications (grant totalling around £16 million) have been invited to develop a full application. The first projects will start delivering shortly, and a third round will launch soon. Work with North Yorkshire on their pilot has been completed.
214	Provide approximately £15 million to fund up to six pilot Rural Growth Networks.	Complete	Funding has been provided for all pilots. Work has begun on the first hubs and employment sites and contracts for the provision of business support have been awarded or are well advanced.

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 consulted, and concluded in August 2012, that nitrate rules should apply to organic farmers. However, under new regulations coming in by May, farmers using little nitrate could be exempted from some record-keeping, including organic farmers where appropriate. Third-party certification schemes, such as the Red Tractor, have already earned recognition in some inspection regimes. The Government will publish a full assessment of further opportunities for an earned recognition approach into on-farm inspections in summer 2013.
216	Invest £100 million from the Rural Development Programme for England to help small businesses improve their skills, facilities and competitiveness.	Progress made	Defra are on target to meet the £100 million Rural Development Programme commitment to enable significant rural business growth. To date, £18 million has been committed to businesses through the Farm and Forestry Improvement Scheme. An additional £60 million is being provided as grant funding to rural businesses and over 450 applicants submitted detailed business plans for this at the end of February. An extensive training programme is also now underway across England.
217	Commit £25 million to promote rural tourism, including a new £10 million fund within the Rural Development Programme for England to develop rural tourism destinations.	Progress made	120 projects have been shortlisted under the £10 million fund with final projects to be selected by April 2013. The remainder of the £25 million package of support includes VisitEngland's ongoing 'Holidays at Home are Great' campaign (which in 2012 delivered an extra £63 million in visitor spend in rural areas) and continuing activity under their 'growing tourism locally' project.
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	The Export Action Plan has led to the opening up of important food markets in China and Russia (estimated to be worth up to £230 million over next three years). The Government is boosting innovation in small agri-food businesses through the two competitions launched at the summit including through 21 projects due to complete by the end of March.
219	Launch a £15m Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund to help communities meet the upfront cost of developing renewable projects.	Complete	The fund is now open to expressions of interest and the delivery body (WRAP) has been appointed.
220	The Forestry Commission England, working with private companies, will offer 45 training opportunities for new forestry apprentices.	Progress made	45 apprenticeships are being made available over three years. Fourteen apprentices have so far been signed up under the Forestry Skills Initiative.

Space sector

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
221	Reform Outer Space Act 1986 by introducing an upper limit on liability for UK operators.	Progress made	The UK Space Agency consulted on capping operator liability under the Outer Space Act 1986 in 2012. Allowing time to give due consideration to the diverse responses received, the Government plans to publish a response to the consultation during the first half of 2013, setting out next steps.

222	Work with the international regulatory authorities to define regulations for novel space vehicles that offer low cost access to space.	Progress made	The Government will undertake a substantive review of potential space plane operations and certification in the UK. The Review will be undertaken by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) working closely with the UK Space Agency and should provide the framework, in consultation with industry, for commercial operations and suitable locations for a spaceport 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. These came into force in January 2013.
225	Announce £10 million of funding to accelerate development of the International Space Innovation Centre.	Complete	Four flagship and 28 fast track R&D projects have been funded. A further £25 million funding for the National Space Technology Programme was announced in January 2013.

Tourism

No.	"the Government will..."	Progress	Notes
226	Co-fund with the private sector a £100 million campaign aiming to attract visitors to the UK in the years following 2012.	Progress made	VisitBritain reports that the volume of international tourism will grow by 3 per cent this year, with spend of £9 billion. They estimate a potential return generated from the start-up phase of the GREAT campaign of between £33 million and £71.2 million. In 2012, over £7 million cash and in-kind contributions were made to the campaign by British companies. GREAT is being used in over 60 countries. Indicative findings show a 12 per cent increase in the number of visits, compared with the same time last year.
227	Create a task force of senior industry figures from across the UK, to identify opportunities to cut red tape in the tourism industry.	Complete	Tourism Taskforce recommendations were incorporated into the Red Tape Challenge Planning Admin theme, which went live on the Red Tape Challenge website December 2012.
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	UKBA has now launched priority services (providing a three to five day visa service) in over 30 countries, expanded and improved the network of visa application centres (now up to 172 around the world), provided translated 'how to' guides and rolled out on line application forms and on line appointment system.
229	Work with People 1st, the National Skills Academy for Hospitality, and the industry, to increase the number of apprenticeships and other courses teaching hospitality skills so that consistently higher standards are delivered.	Progress made	Launched online delivery tool with 120 candidates working towards their qualification. Higher apprenticeship in Hospitality Management launched. 74 learners commenced apprenticeships. Apprenticeship starts increased by 17 per cent and completions by 20 per cent, since April 2012.

230	Modify Tourist Boards to become smaller, highly focused, industry-led partnerships between tourism firms and government.	Progress made	150 Destination Management Organisations have been created so far, with key role of co-ordinating tourism issues, with a clear focus on the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. VisitEngland is also promoting best practice and has secured £19.8 million from the Regional Growth Fund to further build capacity.
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.	Complete	Total downloads for VisitEngland's iPhone and Android app are approximately 45,000 to date.
232	Give the industry and consumers responsibility for hotel "star rating" quality schemes.	Complete	An independently chaired industry panel is in place, meeting three times a year to advise on accommodation quality and standards. The Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme review is complete. Efforts are underway to broaden its reach, working with bodies including Arts Council England and the Historic Houses Association.
233	Help create tourist destinations that match London and maximise the potential of other parts of Britain.	Progress made	From early March to the end of October 2012, VisitEngland's 'Holidays at Home are GREAT' campaign and other related activity generated an estimated incremental spend of almost £300 million. Based on average spending of £66 per night on English holidays, the campaign and other VisitEngland activity over the period generated 4.5 million additional domestic holiday nights.
234	Consult on removal of first bank holiday in May.	Complete	May day change removed.
235	Deliver pledge to maintain and reform Furnished Holiday Lettings reliefs.	Complete	Introduced in Finance Act 2011.

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