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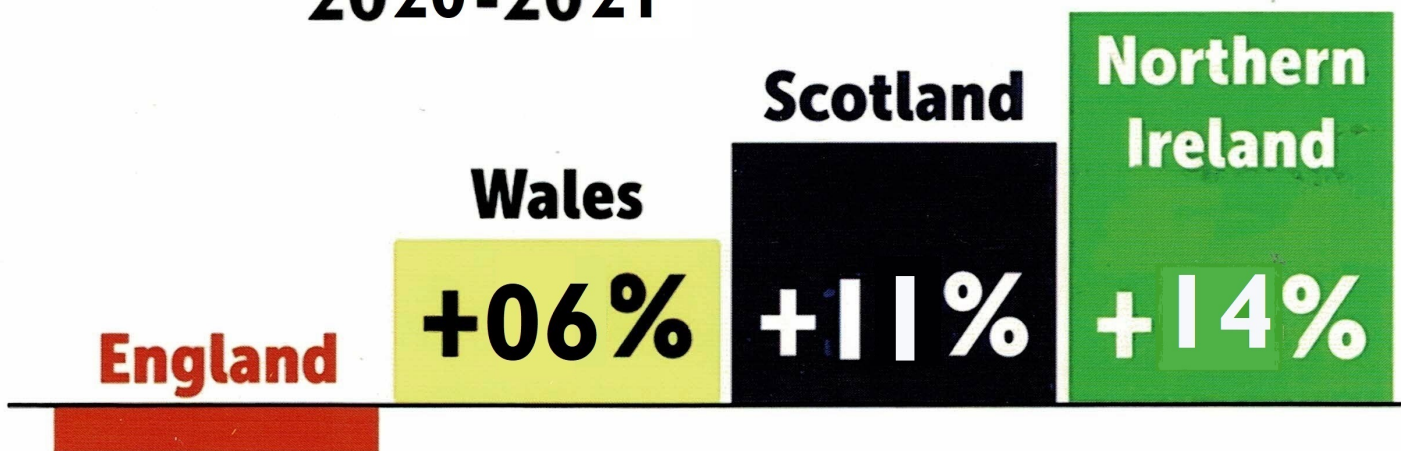
**C**ampaign for an **E**nglish **P**arliament

# Think of England

## Number 124: August 2022

### UK government spending on services

**2020-2021**



**-2%**

**UK Average: £13,414 per head government spending**

**England: £13,166**

**Wales: £14,222**

**Scotland: £14,842**

**N. Ireland: £15,537**

Source: HM Treasury 2022

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Number 124 August 2022

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**Editorial:** As usual In August we examine the Office for National Statistics, Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis which is published in late July. As you will see from the graphs England as always lags behind in funding for services



by the supra-national UK government compared with the funding by the national governments of the rest of the UK. This is enabled by the generous funding of these governments by the UK Government via the block vote and the Barnett formula.

The statistics show that the lowest spent on health, housing, recreation, culture, religion, education, social protection and, by a very large margin, agriculture, fisheries and forestry was in England. That is half the categories. The UK government spent more in England on transport but that also benefits the rest of the UK as does defence and England does slightly better in science and technology funding, otherwise the amounts spent by the relevant governments are more or less equal.

However those categories most important to us as individuals are seriously underfunded compared with the rest of the UK. Moreover those figures presuppose that anyone knows what the population of England currently is, it is likely to be much more which reduces even this level of funding for each of us.

Last month all the reports relevant to us in England concentrated on the breakdown of the English NHS and our social care. The UK government provides the least funding per head for these services compared with the rest of the UK.

## RECOMMENDED READING: ENGLAND

1000 things you need to know by Nicholas Hobbes, Atlantic books



## Campaign for an English Parliament Aims, Principles and Policies.

We campaign for an English Parliament, meaning a parliament for the people of England, for whom England is their chosen or inherited home and who are legally entitled to vote.

We campaign for an English Parliament with powers at least as great as those of Scotland's, i.e. a Parliament and Executive (Government) that can make Acts (primary legislation) on the same domestic issues (e.g. health, welfare & education) that are devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

The CEP works with academics, business groups, trades unions, think tanks and the media to create the conditions whereby UK MPs see that there is no alternative to the re-establishment of the English Parliament.

The CEP is a pressure group. It is not a political party. It does not contest elections.

The CEP is not and will not be affiliated to or formally linked with any political party

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## England and the rest of the UK:

Office for National Statistics, Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2022:

Table 9.15 UK identifiable expenditure on services by function, per head 2020-21

Data in this table are National Statistics

	General public services	Defence	Public order and safety	enterprise and economic development	science and technology	employment policies	agriculture, fisheries and forestry	transport	Environment protection	Housing and community amenities	Health	Recreation, culture and religion	Education	Social protection	total £ per head
<b>2020-21</b>															
England	135	3	512	2,146	112	39	76	746	172	167	3,266	126	1,379	4,287	13,166
Scotland	328	1	569	2,105	146	35	158	849	271	413	3,293	222	1,734	4,718	14,842
Wales	202	1	534	2,047	97	36	165	530	213	264	3,204	209	1,573	5,146	14,222
Northern Ireland	426	-	703	1,864	51	40	331	497	156	562	3,461	270	1,759	5,235	15,357
UK identifiable expenditure	162	2	523	2,130	113	39	94	737	182	203	3,271	142	1,428	4,389	13,414

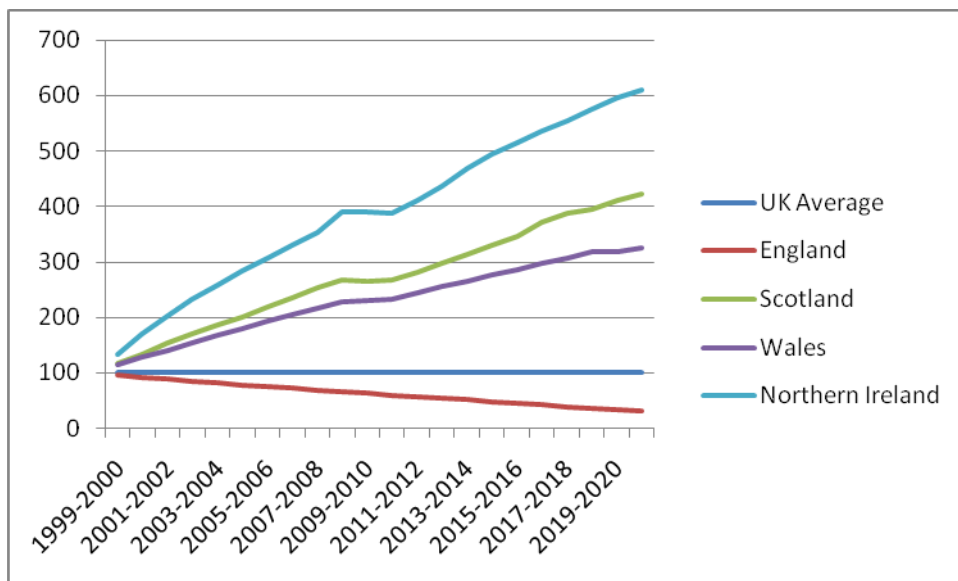
Per head figures calculated using the latest mid-year population estimates from the ONS.

Table 9.16 UK identifiable expenditure on services by function, per head indexed to 2020-21

Data in this table are National Statistics

	UK	England	Scotland	Wales	N Ireland
Percentage total expenditure on services:	100	98	111	106	114

Cumulative effect for England of proportionate underfunding since 1999



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### Matters for an English Parliament:

#### Care home bosses' salaries double as workers quit to stack shelves

Lucy Bannerman 2022, The Times

The social care sector is buckling under staff shortages. Soaring energy and food bills, staff shortages and inflation, combined with rising insurance costs and a drop in occupancy since the pandemic, have led to price rises in care homes across the country, with some elderly residents now facing “unsustainable” fees of £8,000 per month.

Some smaller care home providers say they are struggling to keep afloat, leaving their vulnerable residents at risk of either the disruption of moving to another home, or joining the estimated 1.6 million people who are already living without the care they need.

In contrast, the salaries for leaders of the UK's biggest care home providers have doubled in recent years, according to a report by the University of Surrey while workers leave the sector in droves for higher paid supermarket jobs.

It found that executive pay in the care home sector is soaring, particularly among providers owned by investment firms, while poor pay and tough working conditions are forcing many frontline care workers to seek better job opportunities elsewhere.

NHS leaders warned this week that record hospital waiting times would only improve if social care workers were given a pay rise to encourage them not to leave the sector. Most care home staff earn £9.50 an hour in England, less than the average pay in the retail sector.

The study, which looked at the financial accounts of the largest care home chains in the UK, also showed that at least 12 per cent of beds are now in the hands of investment firms, including private equity, hedge funds and property investment trusts. The average annual salary of bosses at these homes is £296,600, approximately 13 times higher than their average employee salary.



#### NHS misses cancer diagnosis target as patients wait too long

Kat Lay, Health Editor, The Times

Last autumn health chiefs said 75 per cent of patients would be diagnosed or have cancer ruled out in one month. In February it stood at 74 per cent.

Cancer Research UK said a new target for people to receive a diagnosis or the all-clear within 28 days was frequently missed. The fast-track period begins at urgent referral by a GP or a worrying result from a screening programme. The charity said that even if the target were met, 55,000 people per month would not know whether they had cancer.

When proposed in 2015 the standard would have been set at 95 per cent but “chronic shortages of specialists critical to diagnosing cancer” had meant that the target was set too low.

#### Affluent patients face longer NHS wait in ‘equality drive’

Middle-class patients could face a longer wait for care than other groups under a project designed to tackle health inequalities.

Dozens of hospital trusts are reported to be looking to adopt new software that allocates priority for patients on the waiting list for planned care according to social as well as clinical factors. It was developed by University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire Trust and its algorithm could mean a patient from a deprived area being seen before one from a more affluent area, if their medical needs were equal.

Kiran Patel, the trust's medical director, told the *Health Service Journal*: “You can put a different weighting on different factors. So, for example, we have slightly weighted postcodes. Likewise, if you have patients who smoke, have hypertension or are overweight, you can use those factors to weight the position on the waiting list [potentially pushing these patients forward on the list].

People from more deprived areas tend to spend longer on waiting lists. Last month Healthwatch England warned of inequalities among the 6.5 million people waiting for care. Louise Ansari, its national director, said people working long hours or with caring responsibilities might find it harder to make or keep appointments than those from well-off and highly educated backgrounds.

Local health bosses were told in February that they should analyse waiting list data by “age, deprivation and ethnicity, and by specialty”. The new software also weights how long someone has been waiting and how often they have been to A&E with the same problem.

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### Health service axes more than 6,000 office jobs to save £1bn

Amanda Pritchard, chief executive of NHS England, wrote to staff yesterday to lay out plans for the cuts. She said the changes would address frustrations about “the complexity and bureaucracy that characterise some parts and activities of our organisation” and save as much as £1 billion.



NHS logo in England

On April 1 next year NHS England will formally merge with Health Education England, responsible for the training of healthcare professionals, and NHS Digital, whose responsibilities include publishing health service statistics and updating the NHS website. Pritchard said: “Based on our initial work we expect that, by the end of 2023-24, the new single organisation will be at least 30 per cent, and up to 40 per cent, smaller than the current combined size of NHS England, Health Education England and NHS Digital.”

The plans were presented at NHS England’s board meeting, which was told that the health service was facing “unprecedented” levels of efficiency savings. While a 3 per cent pay rise for nurses and other staff on equivalent contracts has been budgeted for, each percentage point above that would cost between £900 million and £1 billion.

Julian Kelly, the NHS’s chief financial officer, said that inflation meant the NHS had already had to find £1.5 billion extra and had been forced to reduce investment in certain programmes. He added: “We would then be looking at having to cut back on investment in our major areas: primary care, cancer care, or big capital investments [such as] diagnostic centres.”

The meeting was told that staff absence was running at 5.9 per cent, 1.7 per cent of which was directly linked to Covid, David Sloman, chief operating officer of NHS England, said. “That is having an impact on operational performance and recovery,” he added.

### Painful wait for callers to GP surgeries

Kat Lay: Health Correspondent | Ali Mitib: Saturday July 09 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Campaigners said they were worried that vulnerable people were being excluded entirely from NHS GP services, with complaints about access one of the most common reasons for patients to contact watchdog organizations.

In a snapshot survey, calls made by *The Times* to 75 practices in towns, cities and villages across England revealed where patients seeking appointments faced lengthy waits before anyone picked up. In the worst case, one London surgery did not answer the phone for 48 minutes and 44 seconds. All calls were made after the 8am rush for appointments. The average time it took reception staff to answer was five minutes and six seconds.

Some surgeries kept patients on hold for half an hour or more. Caroline Abrahams, of Age UK, said: “Primary care is a crucial public service, the gateway to most of what the NHS offers, and it is completely unacceptable that so many members of the public, including some of the most vulnerable . . . can’t easily access it.”

The government has admitted that a manifesto pledge to hire 6,000 more GPs by 2024 is unlikely to be met. The number of full-time, fully qualified GPs fell by 1,737 between September 2015 and May this year. Healthwatch England, a committee of the Care Quality Commission, said most calls it took about GP services were “negative” in sentiment. The watchdog said the main complaints were regarding difficulties getting appointments and long waits to get through on the phone “resulting in people waiting weeks for a non-urgent appointment”. Some surgeries offered appointments that were only bookable by phone at 8am, and had turned off facilities where people could book slots online, it added, which “causes particular difficulty for people who work full-time”.

Only 64 per cent of GP appointments in May in England were face to face compared with 80 per cent on average pre-pandemic.

While digital and remote services were a boon for many patients, others found it hard “particularly when the surgery doesn’t give a specific time for the appointment”, Healthwatch added.

### NHS ‘must show patients more respect’

Kat Lay: Health Editor, Thursday July 14 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Dr. Henrietta Hughes, the new patient safety commissioner for England, who takes up the role this week, said it was vital that patients had time to ask questions, despite pressures on the health service. Clinicians

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and managers need to put themselves in the shoes of their patients, she said, highlighting “highly inappropriate” interactions between doctors and patients that showed “a total lack of care and respect”. Hughes said it was not a surprise that all the groups affected were women.

“Part of the problem we have in the NHS is the feeling that people don’t want to bother their doctor. And we know the consequences of that when it comes to things like cancer diagnosis.”

“What I would say is when you have an interaction where you feel listened to and you feel valued, whether you’re a member of staff or you’re a patient, it totally transforms the rest of that conversation.



### **Baby who died 23 minutes after birth leaves hospital facing prosecution by CQC**

Kat Lay: Health Editor, Friday July 15 2022, 12.01am, The Times

An inquest concluded that Wynter Andrews might have survived had it not been for “gross failings” by staff at Queen’s Medical Centre in Nottingham. The court was told that staff had failed to recognise the mother was in established labour, act on high blood pressure readings or accurately hand over her case between shifts.

Wynter’s death is one of a number to be examined as part of a review into failings in maternity services at the trust, which are rated “inadequate” by the CQC. The review will be led by Donna Ockenden, who carried out a similar investigation into maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust.

Midwives working at the centre said they were “overworked and understaffed”.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) said yesterday that it intended to prosecute Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust over its “failure to provide safe care and treatment”.

## **Committees: UK Parliament: Business Committees**

### **Education Committee**

**11 July 2022:** Education Committee’s fourth session of the inquiry into the future of post-16 qualifications will be a roundtable with educational leaders.

Discussion is expected to revolve around the delivery and effectiveness of changes to Level 3 qualifications, especially the introduction of T Levels. How T Levels compare to A Levels in terms of skills gained and routes to professional progression is also likely to be discussed, as may any challenges SEND students might face taking T Levels.

Alternative qualifications, such as a 15-18 baccalaureate system, may also be considered. MPs are expected to ask how we can improve the take-up of apprenticeships, especially degree apprenticeships.

**7 July 2022:** Educational poverty: how children in residential care have been let down and what to do about it.

System-wide failings are resulting in looked-after children receiving inadequate and 'unacceptable' education. Just 7.2% of looked-after children achieved the grade 5 ‘good pass’ threshold in English and mathematics GCSEs, compared with 40.1% of non-looked-after children; across the board, children in residential care at age 16 scored over six grades less at GCSE than those in kinship or foster care.

The story is the same with employment outcomes. 41% of 19–21-year-old care leavers are not in education, employment or training and just 22% of care leavers aged 27 are in employment. This is compared with 57% of others, and even when they are in employment, there is on average a £6,000 pay gap.

MPs have called for local authorities to ensure all looked-after children are receiving full-time education in a school registered with the Department for Education. This is currently not happening. 9% of children in children’s homes are in unregulated education provision, which is not inspected by Ofsted and has no quality-assurance. A further 6% of children in children’s homes are not in any education, employment, or training at all. These problems are compounded by a “black hole” of data at the centre of the care system, leaving the Department blind to the full extent of children in unacceptable or non-existent education.

MPs have called for more robust measures to ensure that schools and local authorities don’t flaunt their legal duty to ensure looked-after children are in full-time education in the best possible schools. The report found that there is a “culture of impunity” enabling schools to turn away children in care. The Com-

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mittee has recommended that Ofsted must cap ratings for schools that block admissions for looked-after children.

The report builds on the MacAlister Review into children's social care which called for a "dramatic whole system reset" of children's social care. The Committee's report identified that private children's homes providers were extracting huge profits from the public purse while demonstrating poor value for money. MPs called on the Government to consider handing children's homes to not-for-profit organisations.

Other findings include- Unregulated accommodation posing "a barrier to [young people's] educational progress", with children struggling to focus on homework or feel comfortable due to the unsuitable living environment. - There are over 6,000 young people in care living in unregulated accommodation, an 80% increase since 2010.

Anne Longfield, former Children's Commissioner for England, said: "Children in care can face huge educational disadvantage and adversity which can hold back their life chances.



**4 July 2022:** Education Committee questions Children's Commissioner on children's mental health and cost of living impact on families

Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, will face questions from the Education Committee as part of its scrutiny of her role. MPs are expected to examine, after reports that 20% of children are unhappy with their mental health, what steps she has taken to support children's mental health. Questions may also be asked on her opinion of the Government's Green Paper on children and young people's mental health.

Purpose of the session: The session is also likely to cover the recent SEND review and whether the Government is doing enough to support children with SEND right now. After reports that 23% of children not receiving free school meals are food insecure, the Commissioner may face questions on what should be done to support families with children through the cost-of-living crisis.

### Transport Committee

**27 July 2022:** Transport Committee: Government must revisit decisions on Integrated Rail Plan

A thorough reassessment of the Government's Integrated Rail Plan is essential to ensure this once-in-a-generation investment in rail is not a missed opportunity to address regional imbalances, urges the Transport Committee.

The Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) for the North and Midlands report says that alternative options, which could transform stations and city centres in key Northern cities, have not been properly tested. Leaving out key elements of analysis of the wider economic impacts of the different options set out for Northern Powerhouse Rail means that value for money and economic return cannot be compared and validated. The revised Eastern leg of HS2 Phase 2b will see the Birmingham to Leeds route terminate at East Midlands Parkway. HS2 Limited was unable to tell the Committee how much the revised leg would cost. As a result, the Committee calls on the Department for Transport to publish an updated benefit-cost ratio for the entire HS2 project, including a direct comparison between the original and revised Eastern leg of HS2 Phase 2b, by March 2023.

The original purpose of Northern Powerhouse Rail - to connect the 'great cities of the north to build a northern powerhouse' - is at risk. Some towns and cities have already been disappointed by decisions, says the report, which looks at the implications for Leeds and Bradford in particular. Work is urgently needed to demonstrate the Government's commitment to high-speed connections to Leeds.

The Committee is concerned that the case for the IRP is based on a best-case scenario which 'may not come to pass.' The promised journey times may not be feasible and the issue of how to increase track capacity, including for local services and freight, has been overlooked.

**27 June 2022:** Minister questioned on Government's National Bus Strategy

The Government's National Bus Strategy for improved bus services in England outside London puts a premium on greater cooperation between bus operators and local councils to use new and existing funding to improve services for passengers.

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As the Transport Committee moves to complete its evidence-taking on the Department's progress on the Strategy, MPs will put questions to the Transport minister with responsibility for buses, Baroness Vere, and the Department for Transport's co-Director for Local Transport, Stephen Fidler.

The National Bus Strategy, published in March 2021, included plans for simpler, cheaper fares; more turn-up-and-go services; improvements such as better information, more bus priority lanes and greener and more accessible services, and new forms of provision.

The Department for Transport has also acknowledged that a substantial shift from cars to public forms of transport is needed to help achieve the Government's climate change and air quality targets, especially in congested places.



### Health and Social Care Committee

Integrated Care Systems: autonomy and accountability

**Inquiry:** The Health and Social Care Committee has launched a new inquiry to consider how Integrated Care Systems (ICS) will deliver joined up health and care services to meet the needs of local populations. Forty-two new ICSs were established with a statutory footing across England on 1 July.

Integrated Care Boards, one element of an ICS, will hold budgetary responsibility with duties around service improvements, reducing inequalities, promoting innovation and patient choice and will take on many roles of clinical commissioning groups. Integrated Care Partnerships will work with local authorities and will be responsible for producing an integrated care strategy.

**27 July 2022:** Government response to report on the treatment of autistic people and people with learning disabilities published

The Committee's report made a number of recommendations against the background of Government plans to reform mental health legislation. The Government said it had taken the Committee's recommendations into account in developing its Building the Right Support action plan to strengthen community support for autistic people and people with a learning disability, and reduce reliance on mental health inpatient care.

### Justice Committee

**26 July 2022:** Slow progress in improving support for women in prison

The Justice Committee has warned that limited progress has been made in developing alternatives to custodial sentences for women amid concerns that the female prison population may rise by a third in the next three years. In a report published today, the Committee finds that more needs to be done to address the addiction, mental health and trauma issues facing women who enter the prison system.

The report calls on the Government to ensure that strategies developed to combat problems in the system are adequately funded, rolled out efficiently and monitored to create meaningful change.

The report also calls for a renewed focus on the specific challenges facing women who enter the prison system. This includes the impact it has on women who are primary carers and what more can be done to ensure that vital family relationships are maintained.

**8 July 2022:** Current and former Magistrates Association leaders questioned on adult custodial remand

The Justice Committee will question the Chief Executive and former Chair of the Magistrates Association about the role of adult custodial remand, where defendants are held in custody before their court hearings have concluded.

MPs will examine magistrates' powers in relation to remanding defendants in custody and the information they consider before making their decisions. The witnesses may be asked whether magistrates take into account how many weeks or months an individual can expect to wait before their case is heard, or the effect that placing them in custody could have on their family.

There will also be questions about the alternatives to custodial remand that are available, the impact of video links in hearings, and the communication of magistrates' court decisions.

The cross-party Committee may also ask whether the Government's proposal to increase magistrates'

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sentencing powers could lead to an increase in the number of defendants held on remand.

In March 2021, a third of remand prisoners were held beyond the legal limit ahead of trial. Placing prisoners on remand contributes to overcrowding and declining conditions in prisons.

**7 July 2022:** The Justice Committee publishes the Government's response to its report into Court Capacity.

In its report, published in April, the cross-party Committee called for a renewed focus on tackling backlogs of cases in criminal, civil and family courts.

The Committee found that while the build-up of cases could be partly attributed to disruption from the pandemic, long-term staffing issues in the judiciary and HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) played a significant factor. Another issue has been a failure to address maintenance issues in the physical court estate.

tate.

The Committee's report made a number of recommendations, including for ministers to re-establish a Courts Inspectorate, tasked with undertaking inspections of all courts, examining data and making recommendations to improve policy.

The Government's response to the report's conclusions and recommendations states that ministers are "committed to further considering" a Coroner Service Inspectorate, and will "continue to seek further funding" to improve the condition of the court and tribunal estate. It also argues that staffing capacity in the judiciary has been addressed through pension reforms, increasing the retirement age to 75, and loosening certain working restrictions.

### Parliamentary Bills: Legislation

#### Next Stage: Third Reading

Schools Bill [HL]: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2022-23: Last updated: 19 July 2022 at 16:34

**Long title:** A Bill To Make provision for the regulation of Academies; about school and local education funding; about the attendance of children at school; about the regulation of independent educational institutions; about teacher misconduct; and for connected purpose

#### Next Stage: Committee Stage

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2022-23: Last updated: 21 July 2022 at 18:32

**Long title:** A Bill to make provision for the setting of levelling-up missions and reporting on progress in delivering them; about local democracy; about town and country planning; about Community Infrastructure Levy; about the imposition of Infrastructure Levy; about environmental outcome reports for certain consents and plans; about regeneration; about the compulsory purchase of land; about information and records relating to land, the environment or heritage; for the provision for pavement licences to be permanent; about governance of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; about vagrancy and begging; and for connected purposes.

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Commons, Sessions 2021-22, 2022-23: Last updated: 7 July 2022 at 17:28

**Long title:** A Bill to make provision in relation to freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education institutions and in students' unions; and for connected purposes.

### UK Statutory Instruments: Regulations to UK laws that only affect England

The Building Safety (Leaseholder Protections) (Information etc.) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 859  
The Beavers (England) Order 2022 No. 858

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**The Construction Contracts (England) Exclusion Order 2022 No. 839**  
**The Plant Health etc. (Miscellaneous Fees) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 836**  
**The Street and Road Works (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 831**  
**The Street Works (Inspection Fees) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 830**  
**The Care Standards Act 2000 (Extension of the Application of Part 2 to Supported Accommodation) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 808**  
**The Home Loss Payments (Prescribed Amounts) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 793**  
**The School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 No. 788**  
**The School Teachers' Incentive Payments (England) (Amendment) Order 2022 No. 786**  
**The Local Authority and Combined Authority Elections (Nomination of Candidates) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 769**  
**The Rural Development (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 765**  
**The Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Order 2022 No. 753**

**England's hero: Professor William Penny, CBE, English engineer and entrepreneur, was born in Wiltshire on August 8 1925. He died on June 14, 2021, aged 95**

From The Times: When the Icelandic volcano erupted in April 2010 and flights were grounded across Europe, William Penny came up with a solution. He built a sensor to detect airborne particles and alert pilots when they were approaching an ash cloud. The invention, was remarkable because he was almost 85 years old at the time.



Penny, a consummate engineer, had been inventing throughout a career that started in the war as an apprentice at the Boscombe Down aircraft test establishment and included pioneering work on “black box” flight recorders. Penny contributed substantially to the early development of the devices, which became vital for air accident investigators from the early 1950s and proved invaluable in the disasters that dogged the Comet, the British-made first jet airliner.

He had developed a passion for flight safety in the 1940s at Boscombe Down, where he worked on instruments for measuring aircraft performance and flight conditions such as turbulence and icing.

In the mid-1950s Penny and his business partner Jim Giles, an instrument maker, devised a range of sensors and improved ways of recording the parameters on the magnetic wire that was being used in dictation machines at the time. The pilots' voices and cockpit sounds were also recorded and Penny wrapped up the data storage in tough casing to survive the brutal forces and temperatures of a crash.

After a prototype of the BAC One-Eleven airliner crashed in Wiltshire in 1963, Penny and his engineers laboured for more than a year to extract data from recording wire that had been shredded by the impact.

Penny built a rig with pulleys and weights to allow each piece of wire to be dropped past a replay head.

That enabled them to determine the original order of the pieces and reconstruct the data. It was found that the jet had suffered an unrecoverable “deep stall” caused by the then new configuration of a high T-tail that rendered the elevators ineffective. In the following decades Penny & Giles expanded their operations, designing and manufacturing electronic joysticks and motor controllers for powered wheelchairs.

The chair used by Stephen Hawking, the theoretical physicist, was powered by their technology.

Nick Kidd, an engineer recalled how when he joined in the Eighties the boss had only recently converted from slide rule to calculator and used paper to tackle problems, writing out the mathematical formulae.

### **England's history: Medieval village lost to sea remains a presence**

Paul Simons: The Times

Shipden was once a medieval village on the coast of north Norfolk, but it now lies at the bottom of the sea off Cromer.

Much of the coast of Norfolk is notorious for being eaten up by the sea, and for Shipden the signs of things starting to go downhill were clear in the early 14th century. The church rector and the parishioners petitioned Edward III for a new church to replace their existing one which “could not be defended” from ruin by “the flux and reflux of the sea”.

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By 1336 part of the churchyard had fallen into the sea and in about the late 1300s the last of Shipden finally sank under the waves, although by then the villagers had retreated inland.

The most obvious relic from the lost village was Church Rock, on which the church tower was said to rest; people also said that the church bells could sometimes be heard. In place of the lost village grew the new town of Cromer, and the remains of Shipden now lie about 500m from the end of Cromer pier.

On August 8, 1888 the remains of the village almost led to a disaster. The pleasure paddle steamer *Victoria* was making a routine trip with holidaymakers from Great Yarmouth to Cromer, but when it turned round to make its return journey it ran aground on what was said to be the top of the old church tower. The hull of the steamer was damaged and took on water.

All the 100 or so passengers were safely ferried ashore on a flotilla of small boats from Cromer and then returned to Yarmouth by train. The boat was wedged so fast that attempts to winch it free failed. Trinity House in London decided the wreck was a hazard to shipping and ordered it to be blown up.

In recent years divers have salvaged some of the remaining parts of the *Victoria* and also explored the remains of the village. As Percy Trett, from Yarmouth's Sub-Aqua Club, told the *Eastern Daily Press*, they were fascinated "by swimming along a street in Shipden 40ft below the surface where people had once walked".

### English culture: Origins of bank holidays

Photo by Diliff

<https://www.learnenglish.de/culture/bankholidays.html>

Prior to 1834, the Bank of England observed about 33 saints' days and religious festivals as holidays, but in 1834, this was reduced to just four: 1 May, 1 November, Good Friday, and Christmas Day.

In 1871, Sir John Lubbock introduced the Bank Holidays Act, it introduced the concept of holidays with pay and designated four holidays in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and five in Scotland.

In England these were Easter Monday, the first Monday in August, the 26th December, and Whit Monday. Good Friday and Christmas Day were considered traditional days of rest (as were Sundays) and therefore it was felt unnecessary to include them in the Act. The move was such a popular one and there were even suggestions that August Bank Holiday should be called St Lubbock's day!

In Ireland, in 1903, the Bank Holiday (Ireland) Act added 17 March, Saint Patrick's Day, as a bank holiday, and in 2006, the Scottish Parliament designated St Andrew's Day, November 30, as an official bank holiday in Scotland. But there is no public holiday for St David's Day in Wales, or St George's Day in England.

From 1965 the date of the August bank holiday was changed to the end of the month in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The Whitsun bank holiday (Whit Monday) was replaced by the late spring bank holiday - fixed as the last Monday in May.

Originally everything shut on a bank holiday; offices, banks, shops, but nowadays many offices and shops remain open, only banks are not allowed to operate on bank holidays. Nowadays, the only day that most things close in the UK is Christmas Day.



**English produce:** Flowers for cutting are grown throughout England.

Flower & Farmer, Northamptonshire, Flower & Farmer is proud to be supplying florists with seasonal flowers. Since establishing, they have been delighted to find florists to be so pleased with English grown produce

Flower by Clowance, Cornwall, a 3 generation flower farmer based in Cornwall,

Flower tree (the), Somerset, a family run flower farm established in 2016. They grow in 1/4 acre glass-house and 1 acre outdoor space. Their season starts at the end of February with anemones and ranunculus and ends in November with dahlias and snapdragons.

Bee haven flowers, Surrey, all the flowers grown on their flower farm in Surrey are carefully selected to help sustain bees and wild pollinators through the seasons.

Blacker & Moore, Kent, are peony specialists and have been growing for 15 years. They sell cut flowers and potted plants to florists, wholesalers and the general public.

Black Shed Flowers, Dorset, a dynamic and ever expanding family flower farm, specialising in a wide range

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of cut flowers and foliage.

Bumble & Iris Flowers, Devon, a small scale grower for two years on the edge of Dartmoor. Traditional cottage style flowers - tulips, dahlias, scabiosa, snapdragon, cosmos, zinnia and more

Carol's Garden, Cheshire, well over 500 varieties, mainly garden and wild flowers

Clophopper Blooms, Cumbria, small scale flower grower/florist

Cotswold Country flowers, Gloucestershire, supplying, freshly cut flowers

English Eco Flower Farm. Discover their collection of English farm to vase flowers grown on their South Downs farm, in Hampshire.

English Grown Flowers: Hope that you like their scented seasonal flower collection of luxury flower bouquets and arrangements for the summer; a glorious combination of English grown scented garden roses, garden flowers, sweet peas, wild flowers and herbs



### Recipe: Grape and Nasturtium Jelly

<https://eat smarter.com/recipes/grape-and-nasturtium-jelly>

Edible flowers are flowers that you can eat and can add taste, colour and a little excitement to sweet and savoury dishes and fruity summer drinks. This practice has been around for more than 5,000 years, with Chinese cooks experimenting with edible flowers in their food and sauces.

Now, with people spending more time in their gardens and really caring about the origins of the food on their plates, more are taking an interest in edible flowers than ever before.

Edible flowers can be sprinkled on a salad, candied for a cake or cooked into a curry. They can even be used to add a welcome twist to summer cocktails.

Whatever you choose to use them for, they're sure to add some colour, spice and taste to your plate.

Edible flowers are great for adding colour and peppery flavour to dishes. The nasturtium is an annual flowering plant whose edible leaves and orange, red and yellow petals have a flavour that is similar to watercress. The flower buds and seeds, picked when soft and pickled in vinegar, can be substituted for capers.



### Ingredients

28 ozs green grapes

1 handful nasturtium flowers

1 2/3 cups white wine

2 1/4 cups gelling sugar (3:1)

**Preparation:** Mix the grapes with the wine, put into a pan and bring to the boil. Then push through a sieve and measure out about 1100 ml. Add the nasturtium petals and puree finely. Put into a large pan and mix with the gelling sugar. Then bring to a rolling boil and boil for 5-6 minutes. Pour immediately into jars rinsed in hot water and seal.

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(Sucking England dry)

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