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Campaign for an English Parliament

Think of England Number 125: September 2022



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Number 125 September 2022

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Frontispiece: Queen Elizabeth II

Original: Joel Rouse/ Ministry of De-

fence Derivative: nagualdesign - defenceimagery.mod.uk

RECOMMENDED READING: The Oxford Illustrated history of Medieval England by Nigel Saul OUP



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

Editorial: On behalf of the CEP I would like to express our deep sadness at the passing of our beloved Queen. She was a monarch whose commitment and steadfastness have no match. She will be profoundly missed.



I make no apologies for reminding members that our Annual General Meeting is in November. This will probably be our most important meeting ever. It will decide how our campaign is to progress and who will take us forward. Please let me know if you wish to join the meeting by Skype and I will make sure that you will be invited.

Anglophobia is not only the only racism allowed but positively approved. Tory MSPs wax lyrical about how Liz Truss as PM will benefit Scotland. How will Scottish self centredness and exceptionalism be bolstered with Liz Truss as PM? Have any "English" MPs told us about how she will benefit England? When the Tory MSPs talk about our country do they mean Scotland or the UK? Apparently she plans to break with Treasury orthodoxy by investing directly in projects in Scotland. That would be with the UK tax receipt most of which comes from England then.

Once again Times' articles about the English NHS and England's roads continually refer to Britain/UK. England is not Britain. Articles about Scotland is clearly labelled as such in a separate Times' section. why does the MSM treat England with less respect?

Long live the King.

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England and the rest of the UK:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/03/snp-anglophobia-isnt-just-petty-sinister/>

SNP Anglophobia isn't just petty, it's sinister

Madeline Grant: parliamentary sketchwriter, 3 August 2022 • 5:00am

You could imagine few things more innocuous than a children's commemorative book about the Platinum Jubilee. Yet a recent FOI request revealed that Scottish Government officials lodged numerous complaints about the book, which SNP ministers ordered to be withdrawn from circulation in Scottish schools. Officials pushed for passages about Brexit and the 2014 independence referendum to be removed, and dismissed mentions of England's 1966 World Cup victory as Anglocentric. Instead, they demanded new stories be inserted on everything from the Jacobite rebellions and the deportation of Commonwealth immigrants to the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.



It would be a mistake to ignore the sinister repercussions of all this. Nationalists have long tried to poison debates about Scottish identity by hijacking the very concept of Scottishness to mean unconditional support for independence. And complaints about the Jubilee book are surely hypocritical given the proliferation of often blatant propaganda in Scottish schools.

The Scottish educator Neil McLennan recently complained that nationalism had "infected" education, rendering aspects of it "parochial". In one example, he said that the curriculum guidance offered only examples of English slave ports such as Liverpool and Bristol. He'd even petitioned the Scottish Government to add Glasgow to the list, given its own prominent role in the slave trade, to no avail.

Of course, nationalist movements always seek to revise the past for their own veneration and Scotland's is no different. Theirs, among other things, seeks to separate Scots from any culpability in the British imperial project and recast them as another victim of colonialism (now invariably blamed on "England"). A complex past is too often distilled into a series of grievances – Culloden, the Highland Clearances – and long ago "glories" such as Bannockburn, which have taken on a mystical significance in some sections of the Nationalist community. Yet *Braveheart* was a Hollywood blockbuster, not a documentary.

According to this partial reading of history, the Act of Union merely served to smother Scotland's culture and economy. Ian Blackford, one of the propagandists-in-chief, claimed in a Commons debate that the Act of Union unfairly cut off Scotland from its continental links. Yet far from clipping Scotland's wings, the Union gave it access to prized trading routes and prosperity.

Scots were keen participants and enthusiastic beneficiaries of the Empire, and ended up running large swathes of it, after Scots engineers had built much of its infrastructure; roads, bridges and railways, from Canada to the Indian sub-continent. Nor was imperialism the sole preserve of Anglo-Britain; in fact, it was the loss of money and morale from a failed Scottish imperial venture – the ill-fated Darien scheme – that paved the way for the impoverished Scots to seek the merger with England in the first place.

'Scotland would be at the heart of the Union under Truss'

Nine Tory MSPs explain why they back Liz Truss for party leader and the next prime minister

Monday August 01 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Liz grew up in Paisley where she attended a state primary school before her family moved to Leeds. She is driven to ensure that everyone in our country has the opportunity to succeed in life and get as far as their talents will take them, regardless of their background. She knows from personal experience that we are stronger when we work together across the United Kingdom.

But don't just take our word for it. Look at her record in UK government where Liz has not just talked the talk in delivering for Scotland, she's walked the walk. It was Liz as secretary of state for international trade who secured the removal of damaging US tariffs on iconic Scottish industries such as single-malt Scotch whisky, cashmere and machinery, enabling such key employers in Scotland to once again compete. As chief secretary to the Treasury Liz ensured that the broad shoulders of the UK helped Scottish entrepreneurs and businesses to thrive. Thanks to Liz the UK Treasury committed over a billion pounds of investment in Scotland's city region and growth deals to create the high-skill jobs of the future.

Not only has Liz demonstrated that she can be trusted to deliver for Scotland, she is the candidate who has a bold and ambitious plan for the country and economy, based on Conservative values.

She will get Scotland's economy moving by cutting taxes, scrapping the planned rise in corporation tax,

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reviewing the windfall tax on energy companies and reversing the new national insurance hike.

Liz also plans to break with Treasury orthodoxy by investing directly in projects in Scotland that will benefit the families, communities and businesses we represent.

Shaped by her early upbringing in Scotland, Liz has a vision to create an aspiration nation. Liz as prime minister will focus on delivering for the people of Scotland on the issues they care about most.

We need a prime minister who is ready from day one to confront the challenges we face; who will champion a strong and vibrant Scotland's place at the heart of the Union; who will turbo charge our economy so that Scotland emerges from the pandemic and global economic headwinds with all its citizens benefiting
Finlay Carson, Sharon Dowey, Murdo Fraser Rachael Hamilton, Liam Kerr, Stephen Kerr, Douglas Lumsden, Oliver Mundell, Graham Simpson

Schools will have to make painful cuts to cover pay rises

Harry Hudson, a teacher and writer: August 09 2022, The Times

When the government announced that it would be introducing "landmark rises to teachers' salaries" from September, it did so with a quiet proviso: the pay rises will not come with new funding. That means that the

increases of 5 per cent for the most experienced teachers and of up to 8 per cent for those at the start of their careers will have to be found from within schools' existing budgets. The stark reality for heads come September is that the pay rise as constituted at present is going to necessitate significant cuts elsewhere. The required savings for many schools will amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds, when staffing costs typically account for at least 80% of a school's budget, head teachers will be left with few options. They could, for example, look to cut the premises budget, so that only the most essential maintenance gets done. Or they could turn to individual subjects' budgets, so that the maths, languages and history departments all take a hit and the same old tatty textbooks are wheeled out for another year. Or the investment in staff training has to be significantly reduced. Yet the unfortunate answer for many heads will probably include a mix of all of the above.

This all boils down to a simple question: how much do we really value education? In a society which desperately needs to improve its productivity, which wants to improve life chances for the poorest and which supposedly recognises the role of education in achieving both of these, something is clearly going wrong that head teachers should be in this position at all.



Students 'will have to rely on parents' as cost of digs exceeds loans

Daily Telegraph: Rachel Mortimer 23 August 2022 • 7:00am

University students will be forced to rely on parents and part-time work while living away from home this year, with support loans expected to fall woefully short of rental costs.

Experts have warned young adults face an "incredibly difficult time" as they scramble to afford rising accommodation, energy and food bills.

A third of student accommodation in England will cost more than the average annual maintenance loan, according to analysis by StuRents, a rental website. However, this will be significantly worse for new students who favour purpose-built student blocks. More than two thirds of student halls charge more than the average maintenance loan of £7,144 per academic year, or £140 per week.

The average student would be unable to afford 14pc of houses in multiple accommodation – typically used by older undergraduates in their second and third year of study.

Inflation has eroded the real value of maintenance loans, which vary from around £3,500 a year to upwards of £12,600 depending on parental income and whether students live at home.

The NUS estimates one in three students will have less than £50 a month to live on after paying rent and bills. A spokesman added: "Without intervention, we fear that no amount of budgeting and saving is going to stop students from falling into poverty this autumn."

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Police failing victims of burglary, says watchdog

Fiona Hamilton: Crime & Security Editor

Thursday August 11 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Andy Cooke, the chief inspector of constabulary, accused police officers of not doing the basics when investigating crimes such as gathering CCTV evidence, conducting house-to-house inquiries, giving crime prevention advice and keeping victims informed. He said that too many investigations ended without a suspect identified and that the response to intrusive, acquisitive crime was “not what the public expect and deserve”.

He pointed to “dire charge rates” for the nearly one million annual reports of serious acquisitive crime. Police forces in England and Wales are charging a suspect in only 4 per cent of thefts, 3.7 per cent of house burglaries, 3 per cent of vehicle thefts, and 1 per cent of thefts from a motor vehicle.

He said that solving neighbourhood crime was crucial to maintaining public confidence: “This is really intrusive crime, it can have a long-lasting and profound effect on victims, particularly domestic burglary. People can live in fear of going out; they can no longer feel safe in their homes. Sadly offenders are rarely caught and prosecuted.”

Cooke’s intervention will add to concerns about the ability of police to address crimes that pose significant concern to the public. The number of crimes being solved overall has hit a record low, with only one in 17, or 6 per cent, resulting in a charge, according to Home Office statistics. In his first interview with *The Times* he previously warned that forces were “not the thought police” and needed to focus on driving down crime.

He emphasised yesterday that chief constables needed to go back to basics. “This isn’t rocket science. The issues we found were that forces, from receipt of the [999] call to the conclusion [of the case] are missing opportunities to reassure victims, to actually catch offenders, to manage forensic opportunities, and to get other evidence that would ensure that charge rates substantially improve.”

A shortage of detectives and the effect of austerity, in which 20,000 officer posts were cut, has led to inexperienced detectives with high caseloads who have never been to court. Cooke said they were inadequately supervised. Many officers did not have the capability to download evidence from phones, and some forces were failing to recognise repeat victims and conduct risk assessments of the vulnerable. Call handlers were giving the “bare minimum” in crime scene advice, so that detectives arrived to find that victims had cleaned up, stopping them collecting evidence such as DNA.



Many NHS patients are waiting so long for treatment that they are developing secondary complications

Tom Calver: , Data Projects Editor | Shaun Lintern: , Health Editor, August 14 2022, The Sunday Times

Patients on NHS waiting lists are meant to be in the care of their GP but with primary care overburdened, many are having to turn to alternatives to get immediate help. And in Stockport few can pay at least £50 for a private consultation. 29-year-old Ollie Coburn’s Freehab, which was set up after Covid impacted the local healthcare system in Stockport, offers help for a voluntary contribution. It is serving the capital of backlog Britain, where some 17 per cent of the population — more than one in six residents — is waiting for NHS treatment, the worst rates in the country.

Last week NHS England proudly announced it had “virtually eliminated” two-year waits — “the first milestone in the most ambitious catch-up plan in health service history”. In truth, the picture is far less rosy.

The overall waiting list has increased again to 6.7 million people, while the number waiting more than a year is up 7 per cent in a month. The government wants to eliminate all year-long waits by 2025, yet this number stands at a whopping 355,774 — at least 15 times larger than the hurdle it has just crossed.

Some of Coburn’s clients at Freehab are elderly, waiting for operations that will let them resume a social life. Others are not. “We’re getting an increasing number of young people,” he said. “I’ve got an 18-year-old with terrible back pain who’s been waiting more than four months for an MRI scan.”

Many are waiting so long that secondary complications arise. A poll of 1,600 adults on the waiting list in October by Healthwatch England found that 48 per cent did not receive any support to manage their condition while they waited.

Today, emergency departments are a pinch point. “If you have an influx of patients into A&E well into the

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night, you don't have the capacity to deal with the following morning's elective list," says David Maguire, senior analyst at the King's Fund think tank. For this reason, Maguire believes a difficult winter will make it even harder to get through operating lists. "Those 18-month waits might creep back up to two years". People do not simply stop getting sick: rather, existing conditions are left undetected. Analysis of NHS data suggests 6 million fewer people than usual have been referred since the start of the pandemic. If those people eventually seek treatment and hospitals do not step up their surgery rates, England's waiting list could soar to 13 million.

Yet the elective recovery plan is not without its critics. One senior NHS manager said the obsessive focus on eliminating two-year waits meant that patients with long waits were being prioritised at the expense of patients with shorter waits but greater needs, like cancer. Cutting cancer diagnosis waiting times is also an NHS priority, yet 327,395 people are on England's cancer waiting list. The number waiting more than 104 days for treatment has doubled since June 2021, to more than 10,000.

Many want to see regions co-operating more closely, with neighbouring trusts sharing resources — "mutual aid" — if they have drastically different-sized waiting lists.

HGVs diverted hundreds of miles to avoid UK'(England's) crumbling road network

Nicholas Hellen, Transport Editor: Sunday August 14 2022, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

Marcus Gough, head of operations at Strata Logistics, can pinpoint the moment he feared the UK's roads were crumbling. His firm had been tasked with transporting heavy machinery from Edinburgh to Stockton-on-Tees, 156 miles along the A1, which skirts the North Sea. Although the load was 80 tonnes, this should have been a routine assignment, costing about £500 in wages for the driver and taking 10 hours.

But because a weight restriction had been imposed near Berwick-upon-Tweed, the lorry had to avoid the east coast, heading for Glasgow before turning south to Manchester, crossing the Pennines and completing the final northbound leg to Stockton — a diversion that added 200 miles. It pushed up the cost of diesel for the journey by £400 and, because the truck moves at only 35mph, extended the journey to two days, doubling the cost of the driver.

This is just one example of the obstacles facing HGVs as damage to the road network forces an increasing number of them to take extraordinary diversions to avoid weak bridges and culverts

Gough, who chairs the Heavy Transport Association, has compiled a dossier showing 25 of the most egregious weight restrictions identified by hauliers and presented it to National Highways. (formerly known as Highways England Ed.) Among its findings was that trucks of more than 84 tonnes are not permitted to pass from Kent to Essex on the northbound carriageway of the Dartford Crossing, but must instead traverse the circle of the M25 in a clockwise direction, adding 117 miles to the journey and effectively acting as a slow-moving roadblock on Britain's busiest motorway.

The journey from the west of England into Wales is equally fraught. A recent fire on the M4 Prince of Wales bridge across the Severn Estuary damaged one of its cables, and National Highways imposed a restriction on vehicles of more than 70 tonnes.

Since April there has been an 80-tonne weight limit on the bridge between junctions 18 and 19 of the M6 in Cheshire, forcing abnormal loads to divert through villages such as Rudheath. Members of the public do not understand why lorries are squeezing down minor roads and in built-up areas, rather than sticking to the motorways.

National Highways admitted in 2020 that 4,000 bridges — nearly half the number of bridges on England's busiest roads — showed evidence of defects or damage that may significantly affect capacity.



Our filthy beaches are an ecological scandal

Sunday August 21 2022, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

This has been an exceptionally dry summer and it is all the more galling, therefore, that at the first sign of serious rain in some parts for weeks, water companies responded by discharging effluent, including sew-

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age, on to beaches. More than 40 beaches were spoilt by these storm overflows, and this was far from rare. Already this summer there have been nearly 2,300 such discharges, ruining the enjoyment of beaches for families and creating health risks for swimmers.

Although water companies are entitled to do this, because the alternative would be to increase the risk of flooding homes, turning our beaches into health hazards cannot be permitted. Chris Haslam, who compiles our best beaches guide, says they are not only getting dirtier but more strewn with litter, because of cuts in local authority budgets.

This year the government declared: “There are around 15,000 storm overflows in England, and in 2020 there were over 400,000 sewage discharges. It is the government’s strong view that this is unacceptable.” It promised to announce a discharge reduction plan, as required by the 2021 Environment Act.

The truth, though, is that for decades the government and the water companies have looked the other way so that once again Britain’s beaches are among the dirtiest in Europe. There are no quick fixes to solving this ecological scandal.



Cap on medicine degrees may deny even A* candidates

Nicola Woolcock: , Education Editor, August 18 2022, The Times

Teenagers with straight-A* grades will be among those rejected as trainee doctors this year, the head of a top medical school has said.

Some 15.6 per cent of applicants for medicine received offers this year, down from 20.4 per cent last year. The number of places in England is strictly regulated by the government at 7,500, but the cap was lifted last year as so many pupils achieved high grades.

However, ministers have told universities this will not be repeated.

Medicine is always heavily oversubscribed but school-leavers with top grades in A-levels or the biomedical admissions test (BMAT) — used by universities around the world to select applicants for medical degrees — will be turned away this year.

Universities are told they will be penalised if they recruit above their given numbers for medicine as the government partly funds places. Placements in hospitals or surgeries must be offered to all students, meaning there are issues about capacity.

Medicine is one of the most “inherited” professions, meaning youngsters are likely to follow a parent into it. Applicants need the right A-levels and have usually completed extensive, relevant work experience.

However, this means that there can be a lack of diversity within the intake, which universities and schools are trying to address to produce a healthcare workforce that is representative of its patients. Unsuccessful candidates could take an alternative degree and follow a graduate route into medicine,

A spokesman for the Russell Group of leading universities said “In the longer term, to support its ambition to increase the number of doctors in the NHS, we would encourage the government to fund the expansion of training places and placements available to students.”

Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, chief executive of the Medical Schools Council, said: “The demand to study medicine is high at a time when the health service desperately needs more doctors.” The government said:

“Competition for medicine and dentistry courses is fierce every year. We cap [course numbers] to maintain standards in teaching and assessment and deliver a sustainable pipeline of doctors and dentists for our health service. The cap is regularly reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of our NHS.”

Food security warning as councils rewild farms

Will Humphries, Countryside Correspondent: Saturday August 27 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Councils are buying and rewilding farms to offset the pollution caused to protected rivers by housing developers. The farms are taken out of intensive food production and seeded to grass or turned into nature reserves to create “nitrogen credits” that can be sold to developers. But tenant farmers say the schemes are untested and the loss of productive farmland could block new entrants from gaining a foothold in the industry while also harming the food security of the nation.

Increasing levels of nitrogen and phosphorus from agriculture, industry and domestic sewage are damaging

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the fragile ecosystems in rivers and estuaries, including the Solent, the Test, the Avon in Hampshire, the Lambourn in Berkshire and the Somerset Levels. Decades of nutrient pollution, which promotes the growth of algae, have pushed the Solent to crisis point. Dense mats of green algae are smothering rare seagrass beds, mudflats and salt marshes, stopping oxygen from reaching animals in the sediment and forming a barrier to wading birds that pick tiny invertebrates from the mud.

A European court ruling in 2018 led Natural England to advise 12 local authority areas in southern England that no new residential development should be permitted by them unless the impact of nitrates in wastewater could be mitigated. The advice brought housing development to a standstill across large parts of Hampshire, Wiltshire and West Sussex.

Now councils are trying to unlock building works through nutrient offsetting schemes, designed by Natural England, lasting from 80 to 125 years. Wiltshire council plans to rewild Roundbarrow Farm, near Salisbury, to create “nitrogen credits” it can sell to developers for between £3,000 and £7,000 per house. The council invested £500,000 in the farm over 15 years to set up its dairy equipment but when the tenant farmer left, the council chose not to replace him but to rewild the land. Council farms are regulated by the 1970 Agriculture Act to “provide opportunities for persons to be farmers on their own account” and “maintain the rural fabric through the ownership and letting of farms”.

George Dunn, the chief executive of the Tenant Farmers Association, claimed Wiltshire council had gone against the act. “Given the need to balance food security with environmental management of the farmed landscape, loss of this land is of serious concern,” he said. “The more land we take out of production . . . the more we end up sucking in imported produce from bits of the world whose carbon and nutrient mitigation we have no power over.

Severely ill miss out on care funding due to Zoom calls

Daily Telegraph: Charlotte Gifford 28 August 2022 • 6:00am
People with serious health needs are being wrongly turned down for free care due to a rise in video call assessments by the NHS, charities have warned.

If someone is severely and chronically ill, they may be able to get their care paid for by the NHS through its Continuing Healthcare (CHC) package. This spares families from having to pay exorbitant costs of nursing care for complex conditions –

which is on average £50,000 a year, according to healthcare data provider LaingBuisson. But to qualify for the funding, families must battle through a “complex” and “flawed” assessment process.

Since the pandemic, many CHC assessments have been taking place via video call, leading to unfair rejections, charities have warned. It has caused families “huge distress” and cost them tens of thousands in care fees that should be paid for by the NHS.

The Spinal Injuries Association said it had noticed a “large reduction in eligibility decisions” since assessments and appeals moved onto video systems such as Zoom. Because people on a video call are only visible from the shoulders up, anyone assessing those with spinal injuries have “no visual understanding” of the daily impact the injury has on patients’ lives, the charity said, and as a result those “who would have been found eligible previously, are now being rejected”. The charity added it was concerned about how some virtual assessments had been conducted. “Our workers have witnessed cases where individuals with a spinal injury have fallen asleep due to their medication – but the assessors have continued with the meeting regardless, or even left the meeting temporarily without explanation,” a spokesman said.

Dementia charities said they too were concerned that video calls were not a well-suited way to assess the needs of people living with the disease. Paul Edwards, of Dementia UK, said: “Virtual assessments add another layer of difficulty as they may not allow the assessor to identify the more nuanced challenges that highlight the severity of the person’s health needs.”

Funding is not centrally controlled, but determined by integrated care boards (ICBs) – previously clinical commissioning groups – whose interpretation of the eligibility criteria can vary hugely. According to NHS data for the first three months of 2022, 22.8pc of referrals were accepted in England, compared with 26.6pc in 2018-19.

If a family is unfairly turned down for funding, the consequences can be devastating. Ian Cronin, 59, from Leicestershire, still remembers the “appalling” moment his mother, who had a very aggressive form of vascular dementia, was rejected for funding – a decision that was later ruled to be incorrect.



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“She couldn’t walk, couldn’t eat without help,” he said. “She was hallucinating, falling over. How they thought she wasn’t eligible was beyond me.” In Mrs Cronin’s case, the decision was overruled on the basis that specialist staff were required to manage her severe behavioural disorders and administer antipsychotic drugs – a factor the assessors initially overlooked.

Some experts have raised concerns that eligibility rates for care could continue to decline as councils search for ways to cut costs in the current climate.

NHS England did not respond to requests for comment.



NHS logo in England

NHS waiting lists hiding 10m patients in need of follow-up care

Kat Lay, Health Editor | Ademola Bello, Data Journalist | George Willoughby, Data Journalist

Tuesday August 30 2022, 12.01am, The Times

There are 6.7 million patients on the official NHS waiting list.

The Times asked NHS trusts to provide a figure for patients who needed a follow-up appointment but were not captured in the regular monthly waiting list figures, known as the referral to treatment pathway. Ninety-six responded, with 6.35 million patients on their secondary waiting lists. When the figures are scaled up to cover all 184 trusts in England, weighted by the proportion of GP referrals they receive, they suggest that 10.3 million patients are in that category.

Louise Ansari, national director at the patient group Healthwatch England, said people on waiting lists needed to be kept informed and have more support for those waiting for treatment and urged the NHS to improve its communication. She said: “Waiting a long time for treatment can put a huge strain on patients and their loved ones. But this can be so much worse when there is ‘radio silence’ from the NHS, leaving people uncertain if their referral has been accepted, unclear about how long they may have to wait and often feeling forgotten.”

She said support should include “better communications, pain relief if needed, mental health support and help with travel if people can access care faster but further from home”. These measures had been implemented for people waiting more than two years for treatment, she said, to meet an NHS deadline to eliminate two-year waits by July. “Great strides have been made in bringing down very long waiting times,” she said. “It is time to extend this level of interim support to others on the list.”

The figures could reflect a move to a system called “patient-initiated follow-up”, where patients are no longer automatically booked in for follow-up appointments after a certain length of time but asked to get in touch if they need help, for example because symptoms worsen.

Rory Deighton, acute lead at the NHS Confederation, said: “Sadly it will come as no surprise to health leaders that the reported waiting list does not reflect everyone who needs to come forward for care.

He added that the next prime minister would need to act to tackle the challenges facing the NHS “and prioritise providing capital investment, a funded workforce plan and a proper support package for social care and its workforce”.

Councils slow to pay out pandemic relief funds

James Hurley: Tuesday August 30 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Thousands of businesses that were promised help via a £1.5 billion Covid additional relief fund, launched by the Treasury in March last year for distribution via councils, are still waiting to receive any money 17 months after its launch. Last year Rishi Sunak, as chancellor, said the scheme, set up to support companies in England with business rates bills during the pandemic, would provide cash “quickly and fairly” via councils. However, official figures show that by the end of June only £419.3 million, or 28 per cent, of the £1.5 billion had been allocated to businesses.

The relief must be awarded by September 30, with unspent funds due to be returned to the Treasury. Some councils have yet to launch their schemes and fewer than one in three had issued more than half of their allocation by the end of June. The government said it had asked councils to speed up payments.

John Webber, of Colliers, a property services firm, said the system was mired in bureaucracy and delay because the government had allowed local authorities discretion to allocate “funds as they saw fit rather than provide a standard guidance for allocation and distribution”. He said that businesses with multiple sites had to negotiate several versions of the fund, each with its own criteria. “The picture is a disgrace,” Webber said, “There is still an awful lot of work for many local authorities to do if businesses are not to miss out.”

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The funds were meant for companies outside the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, which were given separate assistance.

UK Governing England:

UK Government Bills affecting England

Committee stage

Social Housing (Regulation) Bill [HL]: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2022-23: Last updated: 30 August 2022 at 20:01

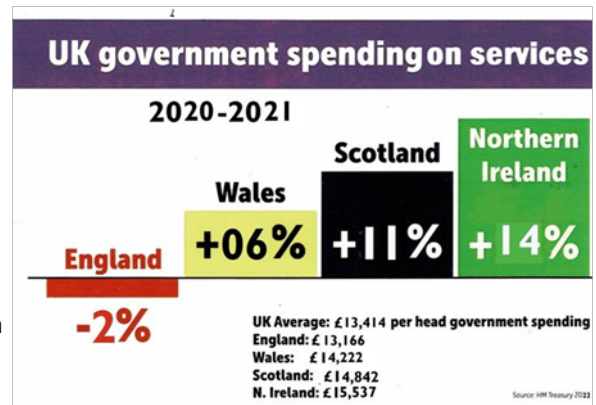
Long title: A Bill to make provision about the regulation of social housing; about the terms of approved schemes for the investigation of housing complaints; and for connected purposes.

Sponsoring department: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Next stage: 3rd reading

Schools Bill [HL]: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2022-23: Last updated: 22 August 2022 at 14:50

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 purposes



Secondary legislation to UK government laws affecting England only

The Independent School Standards and Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 No. 905

The Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022 No. 889

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022 and come into force on 1st September 2022.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales.



England's hero: John Charnley aeronautical engineer

Sir John Charnley CB MEng DEng(Hon) FRIN HonFRAeS FEng: 4 September 1922 - 28 September 2021

<https://rin.org.uk/news/582524/Sir-John-Charnley-CB-MEng-DEngHon-FRIN-HonFRAeS-FEng.htm>

John Charnley was an English aeronautical engineer was born in Liverpool. He graduated in civil engineering from the University of Liverpool in 1942 to join the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE), Farnborough, where he was assigned to work on testing Britain's first jet aircraft, the Gloster-Whittle E28/39 and was

later engaged in flight research on aircraft at transonic and supersonic speeds. By 1955 he had become Superintendent of the Blind Landing Experimental Unit, ultimately at RAE Bedford, developing all-weather operation of civil and military aircraft and leading to the automatic landing systems now in use world-wide.

England's history: When Canterbury almost drowned

Paul Simons, The Times:

750 years ago, in 1271, Canterbury was struck by an immense thunderstorm and rain that flooded much of the city and surrounding countryside.

“At Canterbury on 11 September about nightfall an entire cloud burst over the city and the surrounding countryside, so that most of the city was swept away by the sudden downpour of rain; the cloud-burst

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lasted until the first hour of the next day,” recorded *The Chronicle of Bury St Edmunds*. “Great torrents of rain flowed down for many days, flocks and herds were driven by it out of fields, and trees were overthrown and torn up by the roots; in this inundation of rain, the city of Canterbury was almost drowned.”

Thomas Short, an historian and doctor, wrote: “During the whole day and night, thunder never ceased, but roared continually. A very great flood followed, which overthrew trees, vines etc. Men could neither go nor ride. Many were in eminent danger from the force of the water in the streets and houses of the city; tis also said that many Bourns [streams] burst suddenly out of the Earth, which overflowed the city, and carried down much people and Buildings.”

The year of 1271 suffered other bouts of extreme weather. On July 5, a terrible storm of wind and rain uprooted trees and demolished houses, and was reported to have led to a great famine in England. And shortly before Christmas the weather turned intensely cold in England and across western Europe.

The 13th century was particularly stormy. The town of Winchelsea on the Sussex coast was struck by many storms and after a severe tempest hit in 1287 it was wiped off the map. It was rebuilt at a new location on a hill well above sea level.



English culture: Canterbury's Hop Hoodening, Kent

Hops were once vital to Kent's economy, and are still a familiar part of the landscape along with the Oast Houses to dry them. The annual hop hoodening event links two Kentish traditions: the hooden horse; and hop growing.

Hooden horses are actually specific to East Kent; how far back the tradition goes is not clear, but it was seemingly on its last legs at the end of the Victorian era, before a revival between the wars that was taken up with vigour again in the 1950s. Hooden Horses are not a million miles away from hobby horses: a man (or woman) bears a wooden facsimile of a horse's head, complete with hinged jaw, on a pole that can rest on the ground while the carrier is bent in representation of the beast. Pole and carrier are covered by a cloth to help the equine illusion.

Originally the custom was for these creatures, accompanied by a man dressed as a woman and a carter to drive the creature on, to tour the big houses in the lead up to Christmas, providing knockabout entertainment in exchange for a drink and a small fee. On the first Saturday in September a ceremony and procession in Canterbury bring the two elements together, generally at the ancient Cathedral. There is a hop queen whose progress is accompanied by a hop bower held over her head; and local Morris sides dance before the altar during a special service to celebrate the hops and the beer they enhance, some of which has on occasion been donated by Shepherd Neame to lubricate and refresh those involved.



English produce: Blackberries, which are grown throughout England.

The blackberry is an edible fruit produced by many species in the genus *Rubus* in the family Rosaceae. The term *bramble*, a word referring to any impenetrable thicket, has in some circles traditionally been applied specifically to the blackberry or its products. *Briar* is also sometimes used to refer to the plant, though this name is also used for other thorny thickets. Prickle-free cultivars have been developed.

Blackberries are a widespread and well-known group of over 375 species, many of which are closely related native throughout Europe growing wild throughout most of the continent. They are an important element in the ecology of many countries, and harvesting the berries is a popular pastime. However, their rigorous growth and tendency to grow unchecked if not managed correctly means that the plants are also considered a weed, sending down roots from branches that touch the ground, and sending up suckers from the roots.



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They are perennial plants which typically bear biennial stems ("canes") from the perennial root system. Unmanaged mature plants form a tangle of dense arching stems, the branches rooting from the node tip on many species when they reach the ground. Vigorous and growing rapidly in woods, scrub, hillsides, and hedgerows, blackberry shrubs tolerate poor soils, readily colonizing wasteland, ditches, and vacant ground. The flowers are produced in late spring and early summer on short racemes on the tips of the flowering laterals. Each flower is about 2–3 cm (0.8–1.2 in) in diameter, with five white or pale pink petals.

One of the earliest known instances of blackberry consumption comes from the remains of the Haraldskær Woman, the naturally preserved bog body of a Danish woman dating from approximately 2,500 years ago. Forensic evidence found blackberries in her stomach contents, among other foods. The use of blackberries to make wines and cordials was documented in the London Pharmacopoeia in 1696. Blackberries have a long history of use alongside other fruits to make pies, jellies and jams. They were used for traditional medicine by Greeks and other European peoples. A 1771 document described brewing blackberry leaves, stem, and bark for stomach ulcers.

Blackberry fruit, leaves, and stems have been used to dye fabrics and hair. The shrubs have also been used for barriers around buildings, crops and livestock. The wild plants have sharp, thick prickles, which offered some protection against enemies and large animals.

Recipe: Blackberry and apple cake

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/blackberry-apple-cake>

By Gerard Baker

Preparation 15 mins cooking time 50 mins

Ingredients

125g butter , softened, plus extra for the tin	125g caster sugar
50g ground almond	3 large eggs , beaten
2 Discovery, Russet or Worcester apples , peeled and cored, each cut into 12 segments	100g self-raising flour
	100g blackberry

For the topping

2 tbspc demerara sugar	1 large pinch cinnamon
25g peeled and toasted hazelnut , roughly chopped	25g butter , cut into small flakes
	icing sugar , for dusting



Method: Heat oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3. Butter a 22cm round loose-bottomed cake tin and line the base with baking parchment. Beat the butter and caster sugar together in a large bowl until it is light and fluffy. Gradually pour in and beat the eggs, a little at a time, until you have used two-thirds, adding flour if it curdles. Fold in the remaining egg, the ground almonds and the flour, and combine everything gently. Add two-thirds of the apples to the cake mixture and all the blackberries. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin and smooth it out evenly. Scatter the remaining apples over the surface of the cake. For the topping, sprinkle over the cinnamon, demerara sugar and butter. Bake for 50-55 mins or until a skewer comes out clean. Remove the cake from the oven and scatter on the toasted hazelnuts. When the cake is cool, dust lightly with icing sugar. Serve in slices.

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