



## Spring Statement 2019 - Summary

The UK economy continues to grow, with wages increasing and unemployment at historic lows, providing a solid foundation on which to build Britain's economic future, the Chancellor said today (13 March 2019) in his Spring Statement.

With borrowing and debt both forecast to be lower in every year than at last year's Budget, the Chancellor set out further investments in infrastructure, technology, housing, skills, and clean growth.

Areas of interest to the heritage science sector:

**Public Spending:** The government published a revised version of the Public Value Framework along with accompanying guidance on how to use it most effectively. A Spending Review later in the year will focus on public value outcomes.

**Scientists and Researchers:** Research institutes and innovating businesses will benefit from an exemption for PhD-level occupations from the cap on high-skilled visas from this autumn. Overseas research activity will also count as residence in the UK for the purpose of applying for settlement, meaning researchers will no longer be unfairly penalised for time spent overseas conducting vital fieldwork

**Apprenticeship Levy:** From April 1st employers will see the co-investment rate they pay cut by a half from 10% to 5%, at the same time as levy-paying employers are able to share more levy funds across their supply chains, with the maximum amount rising from 10% to 25%

**Science and Technology:** Allocation of over £200 million in cutting-edge infrastructure to support our world-leading scientists, innovators and industry. These investments include:

Photonics – £81million to a national Extreme Photonics Application Centre in Oxfordshire. This centre will help researchers and industry better understand the composition of new materials and how they behave in different conditions.

Supercomputers (Archer Funding) - £79 million to a new UK supercomputer (ARCHER 2), which will replace the current national high-performance computing platform (ARCHER), providing researchers with a fivefold increase in computing capacity.

**Open for Business:** In the coming months, the government will publish:

International Education Strategy – A strategy, to be launched by the Departments for Education and for International Trade, which will help to strengthen our position at the forefront of global education.

International Research and Innovation Strategy – A strategy setting out the government's ambition to ensure the UK retains its place as a global partner of choice for science and

innovation collaboration. As a first step in implementing this, the government has launched an independent review to assess and make recommendations on our future frameworks for international collaboration.

Further detail:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spring-statement-2019-written-ministerial-statement>

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