



## Statement on Budget 2016

18 March 2016

There is relatively little that is new in the Chancellor's Budget of 16 March that will impact the heritage science sector. The Chancellor made announcements concerning investments in science and innovation, particularly in the North and Midlands. These may present opportunities for the development of the heritage science infrastructure that has been advocated by NHSF in its engagement with previous Government consultations and in its letter to the Minister of State for Universities and Science. NHSF will support its members and the heritage science community to provide evidence of the role of heritage science as an asset to these developments.

The main points of relevance have been extracted below. The full budget is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2016-documents/budget-2016>

- Commitment to the Northern Powerhouse, backing strengths in science and innovation; investing in culture housing and quality of life.
- Birmingham STEAMhouse – The government will invest £14 million in STEAMhouse subject to approved business case, a creative innovation centre in Digbeth, Birmingham, bringing together arts and culture with science, technology, engineering and maths to drive innovation.
- Science and Innovation Audits – Greater Manchester and East Cheshire, Edinburgh and the Lothians, South West England and South East Wales, Sheffield City Region and Lancashire LEP and the Midlands will benefit from the first wave of science and innovation audits. Audits will help map the regions research and innovation strengths and identify areas of potential global competitive advantage.
- National Institute for Smart Data Innovation – The government will invest £15 million in the National Institute for Smart Data Innovation in Newcastle, subject to approved business case. This new facility will bring together industry, the public sector and universities to create the skills, ideas and resources needed to exploit the opportunities offered by Smart Data.
- Gradual reductions in the resource budgets of BIS and, to a lesser extent, DCMS.