# Building our [BEIS] Industrial Strategy

* Online consultation closes 17 April 2017 ([link to page](https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/strategy/industrial-strategy/))
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## Overview

We want to build an industrial strategy that addresses long-term challenges to the UK economy. Our aim is to improve living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country.

This [green paper](https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/strategy/industrial-strategy/supporting_documents/buildingourindustrialstrategygreenpaper.pdf) sets out our vision for a modern industrial strategy and some early actions we have committed to take. It aims to start a genuinely open and collaborative conversation about the skills, research, infrastructure and the other things we need to get right to drive long term growth in productivity.

## Why We Are Consulting

The green paper sets out how we propose to build our industrial strategy. It is not intended to be the last word, but to start a consultation.  
  
We hope anyone with an interest will respond. We welcome your comments as part of a broad discussion on the approach and ideas we have set out, in order to make the industrial strategy effective in delivering an economy that works for everyone.

## Responding to this consultation

The questions in this consultation are structured around the 10 pillars outlined in the green paper:

1. Investing in science, research and innovation
2. Developing skills
3. Upgrading infrastructure
4. Supporting businesses to start and grow
5. Improving procurement
6. Encouraging trade and inward investment
7. Delivering affordable energy and clean growth
8. Cultivating world-leading sectors
9. Driving growth across the whole country
10. Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places

You can respond to all sections of the consultation, or skip those sectors which don't interest you. You don’t have to answer all the questions in any section - just leave blank any questions you don’t have a view on. If you want to provide supporting evidence, there is a file upload field at the end of each page. You don’t need to complete the survey all at once. Save your answers at any point and return to the consultation at a later date.

## Introduction

**The challenge**: Our economy has great strengths, but while many people, places and businesses are thriving, opportunities and growth are still unevenly spread across the country.

**Our approach**: We are developing a modern industrial strategy. We want to build on our strengths to enable all parts of the country to succeed: helping to deliver a high-skilled competitive economy that benefits people in all parts of the UK.

The questions in this section cover our general approach.

### 1. Does this document identify the right areas of focus: extending our strengths; closing the gaps; and making the UK one of the most competitive places to start or grow a business?

### 2. Are the 10 pillars (below) suggested the right ones to tackle low productivity and unbalanced growth? If not, which areas are missing?

1. Investing in science, research and innovation
2. Developing skills
3. Upgrading infrastructure
4. Supporting businesses to start and grow
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### 3. Are the right central government and local institutions in place to deliver an effective industrial strategy? If not, how should they be reformed? Are the types of measures to strengthen local institutions set out here the right ones?

### 4. Are there important lessons we can learn from the industrial policies of other countries which are not reflected in these 10 pillars?

## Investing in science, research and innovation

We must become a more innovative economy and do more to commercialise our world leading science base to drive growth across the UK.

**5. What should be the priority areas for science, research and innovation investment?**

**6. Which challenge areas should the Industrial Challenge Strategy Fund focus on to drive maximum economic impact?**

**7. What else can the UK do to create an environment that supports the commercialisation of ideas?**

**8. How can we best support the next generation of research leaders and entrepreneurs?**

**9. How can we best support research and innovation strengths in local areas?**

### If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

## Developing skills

We must help people and businesses to thrive by: ensuring everyone has the basic skills needed in a modern economy; building a new system of technical education to benefit the half of young people who do not go to university; boosting STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) skills, digital skills and numeracy; and by raising skill levels in lagging areas.

### 10. What more can we do to improve basic skills? How can we make a success of the new transition year? Should we change the way that those resitting basic qualifications study, to focus more on basic skills excellence?

### 11. Do you agree with the different elements of the vision for the new technical education system set out here? Are there further lessons we can learn from other countries systems?

### 12. How can we make the application process for further education colleges and apprenticeships clearer and simpler, drawing lessons from the higher education sector?

### 13. What skills shortages do we have or expect to have, in particular sectors or local areas, and how can we link the skills needs of industry to skills provision by educational institutions in local areas?

### 14. How can we enable and encourage people to retrain and upskill throughout their working lives, particularly in places where industries are changing or declining? Are there particular sectors where this could be appropriate?

### If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

## Upgrading infrastructure

We must upgrade our standards of performance on digital, energy, transport, water and flood defence infrastructure, and better align central government infrastructure investment with local growth priorities.

Call for evidence on UK infrastructure policy

As part of producing its National Infrastructure Assessment, the National Infrastructure Commission has issued a detailed call for evidence, seeking views from stakeholders on a range of questions about UK infrastructure policy.

The National Infrastructure Commission’s [Call for evidence](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-assessment-call-for-evidence) is open until 10 February 2017. The questions below seek to complement this work.

### 15. Are there further actions we could take to support private investment in infrastructure?

### 16. How can local infrastructure needs be incorporated within national UK infrastructure policy most effectively?

### 17. What further actions can we take to improve the performance of infrastructure towards international benchmarks? How can government work with industry to ensure we have the skills and supply chain needed to deliver strategic infrastructure in the UK?

### If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

## Supporting businesses to start and grow

We must ensure that businesses across the UK can access the finance and management skills they need to grow; and we must create the right conditions for companies to invest for the long term.

**18. What are the most important causes of lower rates of fixed capital investment in the UK compared to other countries, and how can this be addressed?**

**19. What are the most important factors which constrain quoted companies and fund managers from making longer term investment decisions, and how can we best address these factors?**

**20. Given public sector investment already accounts for a large share of equity deals in some regions, how can we best catalyse uptake of equity capital outside the South East?**

**21. How can we drive the adoption of new funding opportunities like crowdfunding across the country?**

**22. What are the barriers faced by those businesses that have the potential to scale-up and achieve greater growth, and how can we address these barriers? Where are there outstanding examples of business networks for fast growing firms which we could learn from or spread?**

If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

### Improving procurement

We must use strategic government procurement to drive innovation and enable the development of UK supply chains.

### 23. Are there further steps that the government can take to support innovation through public procurement?

### 24. What further steps can be taken to use public procurement to drive the industrial strategy in areas where government is the main client, such as healthcare and defence? Do we have the right institutions and policies in place in these sectors to exploit government’s purchasing power to drive economic growth?

### If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

## Encouraging trade and inward investment

Government policy can help boost productivity and growth across our economy, including by increasing competition and helping to bring new ways of doing things to the UK.

**25. What can the government do improve our support for firms wanting to start exporting? What can the government do to improve support for firms in increasing their exports?**

**26. What can we learn from other countries to improve our support for inward investment and how we measure its success? Should we put more emphasis on measuring the impact of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on growth?**

### If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

## Delivering affordable energy and clean growth

We need to keep costs down for businesses, and secure the economic benefits of the transition to a low-carbon economy.

**27. What are the most important steps the government should take to limit energy costs over the long-term?**

**28. How can we move towards a position in which energy is supplied by competitive markets without the requirement for on-going subsidy?**

**29. How can government, business and researchers work together to develop the competitive opportunities from innovation in energy and our existing industrial strengths?**

### 30. How can government support businesses in realising cost savings through greater resource and energy efficiency?

### If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

## Cultivating world-leading sectors

We must build on our areas of competitive advantage, and help new sectors to flourish, in many cases challenging existing institutions and incumbents.

**31. How can the government and industry help sectors come together to identify the opportunities for a ‘sector deal’ to address - especially where industries are fragmented or not well defined?**

**32. How can the government ensure that ‘sector deals’ promote competition and incorporate the interests of new entrants?**

**33. How can the government and industry collaborate to enable growth in new sectors of the future that emerge around new technologies and new business models?**

If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

## Driving growth across the whole country

We will create a framework to build on the particular strengths of different places and address factors that hold places back – whether it is investing in key infrastructure projects to encourage growth, increasing skill levels, or backing local innovation strengths.

### 34. Do you agree the principles set out in this section are the right ones? If not what is missing?

### 35. What are the most important new approaches to raising skill levels in areas where they are lower? Where could investments in connectivity or innovation do most to help drive growth across the country?

### If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.

## Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places

We will consider the best structures to support people, industries and places. In some places and sectors there may be missing institutions which we could create, or existing ones we could strengthen, be they local civic or educational institutions, trade associations or financial networks.

**36. Recognising the need for local initiative and leadership, how should we best work with local areas to create and strengthen key local institutions?**

### 37. What are the most important institutions which we need to upgrade or support to back growth in particular areas?

### 38. Are there institutions missing in certain areas which we could help create or strengthen to support local growth?

### If you would like to add any other supporting evidence relating to this section please upload document here.