



HM Government

Public Sector Efficiency Challenge

The government's priority is to provide economic security for working families, and that means finishing the job of repairing Britain's finances. We will need your help to achieve this and that is why we are writing to you today.

In the Summer Budget we introduced a new National Living Wage which is estimated to benefit hundreds of thousands of people in the public sector alone, and we raised the Personal Allowance to £11,000 so that people can keep more of the money they earn. We also identified significant welfare savings and found £5 billion from addressing evasion, avoidance and imbalances in the tax system. What we're offering the country is a new contract which moves Britain from low wages, high welfare and high taxes to a country with higher wages, lower welfare and lower taxes.

Now we need to identify savings in government departments in order to eliminate the deficit and start to run the strongest budget surplus for more than 40 years so that we can pay off our debts. This is how we will secure Britain's economy and ensure we can keep on cutting taxes. And that's why, on 21 July we launched the Spending Review 2015 – the vehicle through which departments will work to identify the further savings we need to find. That is why we are writing to you today.

You do an incredible job day in, day out. Your hard work over the last Parliament ensured that while we made big savings across departments, our public services far from declining improved. Satisfaction with the NHS is up, while crime is down and there are now more good or outstanding schools than ever before. It is testament to your dedication, ingenuity and innovation that we have achieved this.

You know better than most where we can take the next steps. You know first-hand where things are working well on the frontline of public services, but also where the waste is and where we can provide better services for less money. You know where we can go further to reform our public services and where we can devolve more power so that local people have more control and local leaders are more accountable.

When we asked for your help in a similar way in the last Parliament, many of you put forward ideas, which saved millions of pounds. It was thanks to the suggestions of dedicated public sector professionals that we stopped distributing National Insurance numbers with a plastic card, reduced the need for multiple Criminal Records Bureau checks by giving employers greater electronic access to records, and built closer links across health and social care.

So today we are inviting you to share with us your ideas for how to get more for less. If you think there is a better way to do things, we want to know. Please submit your ideas through [the online survey](#) by Friday 4 September. These will be looked at and considered by the Treasury and Cabinet Office, in partnership with government departments.

Thank you in advance for your contribution. Together we will deliver a stronger economy for a country that lives within its means.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Osborne". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

George Osborne
Chancellor of the Exchequer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Hands". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Greg Hands
Chief Secretary to the Treasury