Why UK?

A history of unlocking success, unrivalled global access and leadership in tomorrow's technologies – the UK is your ultimate investment destination

May 2026

The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy[1]

An ambitious 10-year plan, the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy builds on the UK's open, stable and globally connected economy, to overcome barriers to growth, and be the best place in the world to invest and grow.

The plan will:

» enable investment to be quicker and easier

» back eight sectors with the highest potential, targeting places and clusters to support

» strengthen economic security and resilience, support environmental goals and the net-zero transition

The new relationship between business and government will enable a more dynamic market, with innovation translating into commercial success, and ensuring the UK is the first choice for firms to scale up.

In a new global era, where standing still is not an option, the UK is seizing the opportunities this brings.

8 highly productive and innovative sectors prioritised to deliver change

» Advanced Manufacturing
» Clean Energy Industries
» Creative Industries
» Defence
» Digital and Technology
» Financial Services
» Life Sciences
» Professional and Business Services

Key changes unlocking barriers to investment

Championing a forward-thinking, regulatory approach (including environmental and planning regulation) to drive innovation and enabling agile rules to help emerging industries grow and compete globally.

1. Regulatory Reform Action Plan – supporting economic growth and innovation
2. Expanding Access to Finance – increasing scale-up capital for SMEs through e.g. the British Business Bank
3. Boosting R&D investment to £86 billion until 2029-30 – enhancing innovative firms' ability to launch and scale in growth driving sectors

5 reasons to choose the UK

1st Globally for broadest geographic reach of international flows of trade, capital, information and people (2026)[1]

1st Most attractive location for investment in Europe (alongside Germany) as ranked by global CEOs (2026)[2]

1st For number of unicorns in Europe and 3rd globally[3] (2025), with $23.6 billion in venture capital raised (2025)[4]

4 Out of top 10 universities worldwide for 2026[5]

70+ Countries and territories outside EU with signed UK trade agreements (2024)[6], with additional landmark deals agreed in 2025 with USA, India and EU[7]

A committed national priority: long history of UK inward investment

FDI Inward Stock (2025)[1]

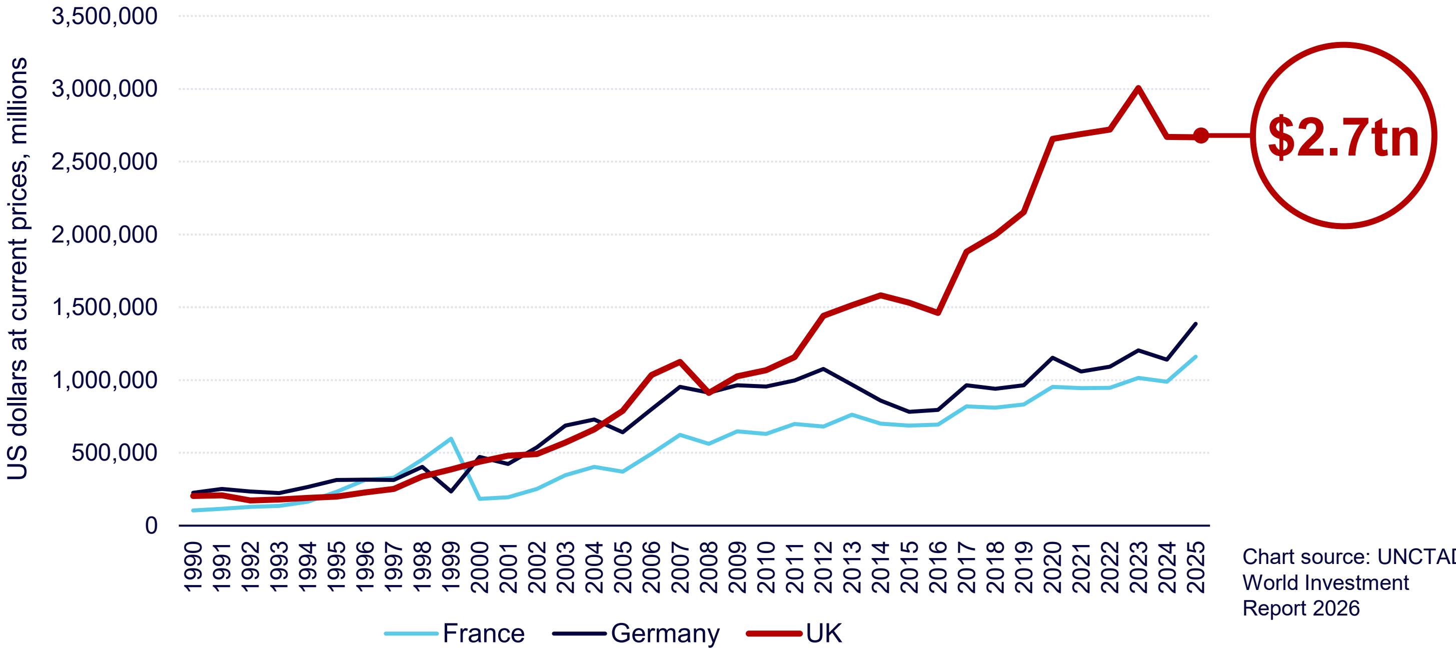


Chart source: UNCTAD, World Investment Report 2026

The UK Government supports 830+ international investment projects in the UK each year[2]

Core strengths making the UK a destination of choice for investors

- Pro-business government, with regulatory reform cutting 25% of annual administrative costs by 2029[3]
- Streamlined planning regulations to accelerate development[4]
- Rule of law: continuity through political and economic cycles
- Global market access and bilateral investment treaties
- Track record: second highest ratio of FDI to GDP in G20 (2024)[5]

Stable and resilient economy

- Top-quintile performance across all three pillars (regulation, public services and operational efficiency) for business readiness[1]
- Clear government missions and Industrial Strategy offering certainty, simplicity and stability, and confidence to invest and expand
- Economic growth through stability central to 2025 Autumn Statement, with measures to increase investment[2]

1st

Highest growth forecast

Of European G7 economies in 2027, ahead of France, Germany and Italy[3]

5th

Largest economy

In the world and 2nd in Europe by GDP (2025)[4]

£113bn+

Increase

In public investment, 2024-29, to boost growth and attract private investment[5]

£150bn

Record-breaking investment commitments

Announced during USA state visit[6], including £31 billion US-UK Tech Prosperity Deal, fuelling advances in AI, Quantum and Nuclear[7]

Confidence in UK investment

Jamie Dimon, JPMorgan Chase CEO (November 2025)[8]
Announcing building of new UK HQ in London

This building will represent our lasting commitment to the city, the UK, our clients and our people. The UK Government's priority of economic growth has been a critical factor in helping us make this decision."

Globally competitive destination to invest, research, manufacture and grow

£86bn R&D investment, targeted to Industrial Strategy priority sectors, 2026-30[1]

1st
London is the best place globally to live for 11th year running (2025)[2]

1st
London is leading European region for FDI projects (2024)[4]

1st
In G20 as a globally connected economy by breadth (2024)[3]

1st
Most popular European market to CEOs for international investment (with Germany) (2026)[5]

Major 2026 investments

£300m AstraZenaca[6]

£150m Boehringer Inglheim[7]

0% Dividend withholding tax – for dividends repatriated to organisations' headquarters[8]

10% Reduced Corporation Tax rate – for profits earned from patented inventions/other IP via Patent Box[9]
Example: £10 million profit earned via patents saves £1.5 million[10]

Competitive research and innovation-based incentives

- Uncapped R&D Tax Credits
- Innovate UK business-led Innovation funding and incentives
- Generous R&D allowances with 100% tax deduction for R&D capital expenditure[11]
- Protected by certainty of Corporate Tax Roadmap until 2029[12]

A powerhouse talent environment and world-class education system for employer needs

- Strong and diverse workforce, with increase from 52% to 60% (2019-24) of 25–34-year-olds with tertiary education[1]
- Industrial Strategy enhancing skills development and accelerating talent access to build modern workforce[2]
- UK graduate labour market remains competitive across foundational capabilities and cognitive ability, relative to European and USA counterparts[3]
- Government backed training and employment schemes
- Skills England, a public body, identifies and addresses skills gaps by collaborating with businesses to access the right training, and connect people to jobs[4]
- Proposed UK-EU Youth Experience Scheme for young people to work and study across continent[5]

£1.2bn

Additional yearly investment for skills until 2028-29[6]

4

UK universities in top 10 globally (2026)[9]

2nd

Out of 134 countries for university ranking and 4th for lifelong learning (2025)[7]

1.04m+

Higher education qualifications 2024-25[10]

2.99m+

Students enrolled in higher and further education in 2024-25[8]

440,535

Science graduates in 2024-25[11]

Government initiatives and immigration system supporting firms to attract talent

- **Global Talent Taskforce** – concierge relocation support to attract exceptional individuals[1] with skills that power key sectors[2]
- **£54 million Global Talent Fund** – covers long-term relocation and research costs for leading researchers and families over 5 years[3]
- **2025 Immigration White Paper** – landmark reform expanding visa route eligibility, fast-tracking global top talent to the UK[4]
- **Global Talent Programmes** – supporting innovation, such as AI for Science Fellowship, embedding researchers in labs and accelerating industry pathways[5]
- **Competitive costs** – £1,035 yearly Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) fee[6], significantly cheaper than $8,951 yearly average USA private health insurance for individuals[7]

2nd

Most popular global destination (after USA) for international students, evidenced by rising student visa applications (2023)[9]

£3.5bn

UKRI Funding on talent until April 2029[11], including Global Talent Fund, AI Fellowships and Future Leaders Fellowship[12]

90%

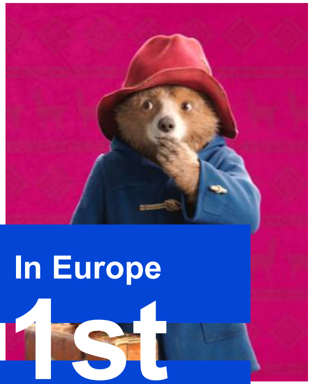
Satisfaction rate among UK Global Talent visa holders (2024)[10]

85,500

UK Skilled Worker Visa applications in 2025[13], reflecting high-skill talent demand despite stricter criteria

Work and business visas[8]

- Skilled Worker and Highly Skilled Worker Visa
- Innovation Founder Visa
- High Potential Individual (HPI) Visa
- Global Talent Visa
- Graduate Visa



1st

London ranked as world's best city for prosperity for 11th consecutive year (2026)[3]

18%

UK minority ethnic population (2025)[4], versus 10% in EU population[5]

A world class place to live – history, innovation, opportunity

In Europe

1st

And 4th globally for soft power, with strong and resilient global reputation (2026)[1]

In Europe

1st

And 2nd globally as attractive location for entrepreneurs, with robust investment opportunities[2]

1.7 million

Healthcare

Patient interactions daily (2025)[6]; free universal healthcare delivered through world-leading National Health Service (NHS)

1st

Language

English spoken by 1.5 billion people (2025)[7]; global standard across business, diplomacy and science[8]

58%

Education

Highest entry rate of population starting higher education by age 24 in G7 (latest comparable year)[9]; 97.4% overall pass rate for pre-higher education (A-Levels) in 2025[10]

1st

Technology

Europe's largest tech ecosystem and 3rd globally (after USA and China), valued at $1.3 trillion, growing 7x in last decade (2025)[11]

2nd

International air connectivity

Best connected global market after USA in outbound travel (2024)[12]; Heathrow ranked 1st of 50 airports as world's most connected hub (2025)[13]

£52.3bn

Legal services

Revenue, largest market in Europe (2025)[14]; strong labour laws and protected employee rights give security for firms and workers[15]

The UK maintains its position as a leading trading nation

Trade Agreements and Partnerships

- UK-US Trade Agreement: first country to agree deal since tariffs declared in April 2025[1]; US-UK Tech Prosperity Deal injecting £31+ billion into UK[2]
- UK-EU Trade Deal (2025): estimated to add nearly £9 billion to UK economy by 2040[3], slashing red tape and opening UK access to EU market, supporting businesses
- Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP): 99% of UK goods exported to CPTPP eligible for zero tariffs making the UK a gateway to Indo-Pacific region[4]

Windsor Framework[5]

- Northern Ireland can sell goods to both GB and EU markets
- Only place where sale of goods to both are free from customs declarations, rules of origin certificates and non-tariff barriers

UK Export Finance (UKEF)[6]

- Expanded capacity from £60 billion to £80 billion, offering competitive and flexible finance and insurance across sectors to win contracts, fulfil orders and get paid supporting exports and international trade[7]

70+ Countries and territories outside EU with trade agreements signed with the UK (2024)[8], including additional landmark deals agreed with USA, India and EU[9]

UK Trade Strategy[10]

- Released June 2025, sets forward look to boost UK trade in a changing global landscape with key interventions in improved export support services, reduced red tape with digitalisation and strategic partnerships
- Ensures increased certainty and stability with streamlined investment, enhanced financing options and new opportunities in growth sectors

Freeports

- National trade and investment hubs[11] with 10 Freeports in England and Wales, and 2 Green Freeports in Scotland[12]
- Wide range of customs, tax, planning, infrastructure and innovation incentives[13]

At the forefront of global exploration, invention and innovation

Creative excellence, world-class innovation and leadership in pivotal technologies enable us to remain renowned as a leading trading nation.

1930
World's first turbojet engine patented

1967
CT Scanner invented

2004
Graphene developed

2014
Philae soft landing on a comet

2015
World's first portable DNA sequencing device developed

2017
OPTi-OX cell coding technology developed

2022
DeepMind AlphaFold protein breakthrough

2023
Nuclear fusion energy output record achieved by JET

The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy 2025

Central to economic plan with certainty and stability for businesses to invest confidently in the UK

Transforming our frontier industries and driving future growth

Advanced manufacturing

Leading manufacturing hub, backing industry via £4.3 billion funding, including £2.8 billion R&D investment supporting innovation and commercialisation[1]

Clean energy industries

Distinguished clean energy reputation; committed to becoming clean energy superpower by doubling investment levels to £30+ billion yearly by 2035[2]

Creative industries

Renowned creative and cultural content; 3rd largest creative services exporter globally (2024)[3], with record £500 million for research, development and innovation[4]

Defence

2nd highest defence budget in NATO (2025)[5], pushing forward £15 billion investment in sovereign warhead programme, creating 9,000 jobs[6]

Digital and tech

Largest European leader and 3rd globally (after USA and China) with $1.3 trillion ecosystem (2025)[7]; infusing up to £2 billion in compute ecosystem by 2030[8]

Financial services

Most attractive European destination for financial services investment (2024)[9], dedicated to cutting red tape and driving initiatives to investment

Life sciences

Leading global innovation hub, investing in industry research access with £600 million Health Data Research Service[10]

Professional and business services

Global service provider; £185 billion exports in 2025[11], advancing ambition to double business investment from £30 billion to £65 billion by 2035[12]

Current ecosystem complemented by Investment Zones and Freeports[13], £100 billion AI Growth Zones[14] and £600 million Strategic Sites Accelerator[15]

Join a thriving ecosystem to collaborate and turn ideas into commercial success

Academic powerhouse

84% of UK university research is 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' (2021)[1]

Collaboration abundance

130+ science parks[2], more than 700 start-up accelerators and incubators (2026)[3]

Industry-academia excellence

£1.96 billion equity investment into spin-outs in 2025[4]

Catapult Network[5]

9 Technology and innovation centres

65+ UK locations

New Regulatory Innovation Office

Enabling emerging technology deployment by developing new regulatory frameworks

Regulatory Action Plan – government commitment to regulatory cost reduction by 25% for businesses[14]

1st

Leading European country for best intellectual property environment (2026)[6]

2 of top 5

Most intensive science and technological clusters globally (by population density) – Cambridge and Oxford (2025)[7]

1,695

Active, academic spinout companies (2025)[8]

90

Top ranked universities in QS Global Rankings, more than Germany and France combined (2026)[9]

£80bn+

Access to Horizon Europe research and innovation programme[10]

£40m

Over five years in Proof of Concept Fund (2024-29), to turn university research into successful companies[11]

£20.4bn

Government R&D investment to boost UK science and technology in 2025-26[12]

£500m

R&D Missions Accelerator Programme funding for research to real-world challenges[13]

Invest capital, start-up and expand in the UK – Europe's most active funding market and vibrant tech ecosystem

Innovation ecosystems depend on research institutions, accelerators, talent, finance and access to companies and their decision makers. The UK is rich in all of these.

1st

Largest VC market in Europe – $23.6 billion+ raised (2025)[1]

1st

In Europe for value of start-up ecosystem at $1.3 trillion (2025)[2]

3.7 times

Return on investment generated by UK scale-ups (2014-23)[3]

38%

Increase in investments in UK spin-out companies, 2023-24, reaching £2.6 billion[4]

60%

Of acquisitions of top UK spin-out companies were by foreign firms (2012-2021)[5]

UK Government

Backed venture capital schemes attracting risk capital into UK high-growth businesses

1st

In Europe and 3rd globally for number of unicorns* at 180+, behind only USA and China (2026)[6]

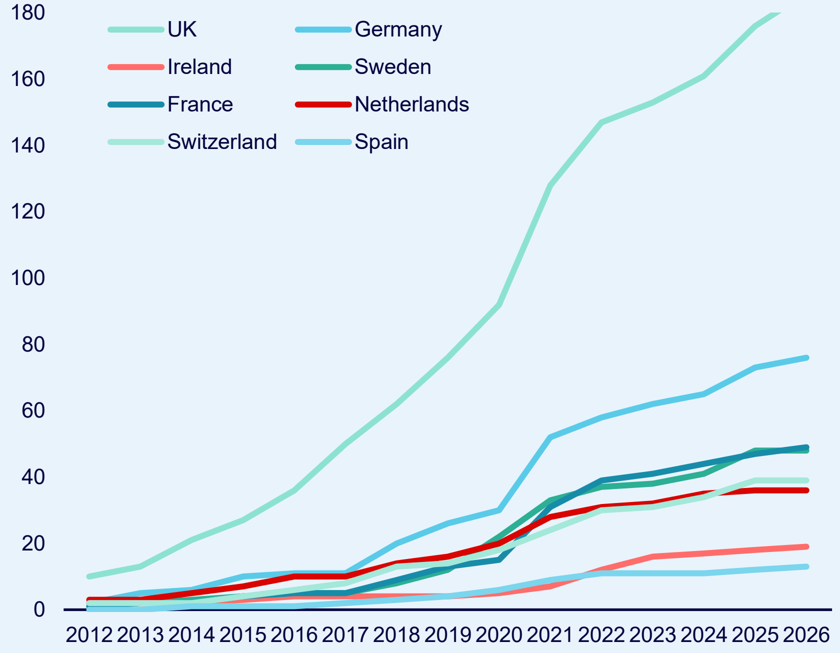


Chart source: Dealroom, Unicorns and $1B+ Exits
*Figure comprises businesses that were founded and are still headquartered in the UK

- » Global leader in innovative technology creation and use, underpinned by world leading universities[7]
- » 51% of UK venture-backed businesses are outside London (2024)[8]

Expanding clean energy opportunities: ambitious reforms and government support driving investment growth

1st Major economy to embrace legal obligation to net zero emissions by 2050, creating stable regulatory framework[1]

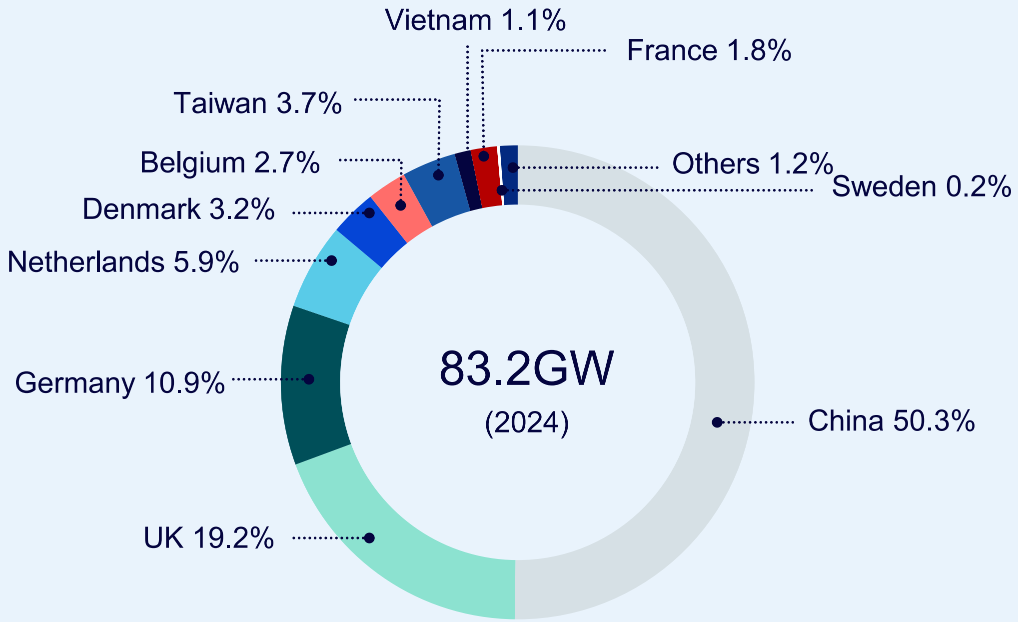
3rd In Europe, 6th globally, for renewable energy attractiveness (2024)[2]

£40bn Annual private investment required to deliver clean power 2030 ambitions[3]

£43bn Private investment commitment in clean energy industries since July 2024, highlighting confidence in our mission[4]

£8.3bn GB Energy budget – publicly-owned energy company, partnering with private sector to co-invest in clean energy projects[5]

Spotlight on offshore wind: UK is Europe's largest offshore wind market by total installations[6]



Source: GWEC, Global Offshore Wind Report 2025

£1.5bn+ Record-breaking Contracts for Difference (CfD) AR6 budget[7]

£300m GB Energy funding for offshore supply chains, part of £1 billion Clean Energy Supply Chain Fund[8]

A global financial centre with deep and liquid capital markets

An exceptional place to raise capital

- UK capital markets attracted close to 59% overseas investors in 2024[1], compared to 18% in USA[2]
- London Stock Exchange (LSE) is a powerhouse, raising debt in 47+ currencies over 90 countries[3]
- London remains Europe's most active equity market; with LSE the only European exchange in global top 10 in 2025, with 1.2 times more capital than next European exchange[4]
- LSE listing provides access to global investor network, deep pools of capital and liquidity, and long-term partnership opportunities[5]
- Industrial Strategy's streamlined regulations cut red tape and drive forward initiatives to open more capital[6]

International hub for sustainable investment opportunities

1st London is world's leading financial centre for green finance products and services (2026)[7]

Join leading companies

BlackRock, Vanguard, Fidelity, PIF, QIA, ADIA, AustralianSuper, Australian Retirement Trust, BCI, and others.

Crucial hub for managing assets and preferred international base for many of the largest sovereign wealth funds

£10tn

Investment management industry (2024)[8]

- £870 billion private client[8]
- £530 billion Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)[8]
- £690 billion UK commercial property managers[8]
- £580 billion private equity[8]
- £400 billion hedge funds[8]

£14.3tn

Assets under management in the UK (2024)[9] – second only to USA[10]

13.47%

UK asset management growth CAGR (2026-31)[11]

Transparent, timely and responsive regulation

Regulation Action Plan

Strengthening regulatory framework, proactively addressing barriers to innovation, and simplifying investor journeys[1]

25%

Reduction of administrative costs of regulation by 2029[2]

Improving transparency and accountability, streamlining processes with regulators[3]

Making regulations more consistent and easier to navigate[4]

Ensuring regulations support innovation[5]

Unlocking full potential of competition to increase market dynamism and growth[6]

Simplifying corporate reporting requirements[7]

Targeted regulatory changes support Industrial Strategy priority sectors[8]

» Reducing Zero Emissions Vehicle Mandate
» Clarifying anti-money laundering and know your customer requirements
» Streamlining route to market for medical products

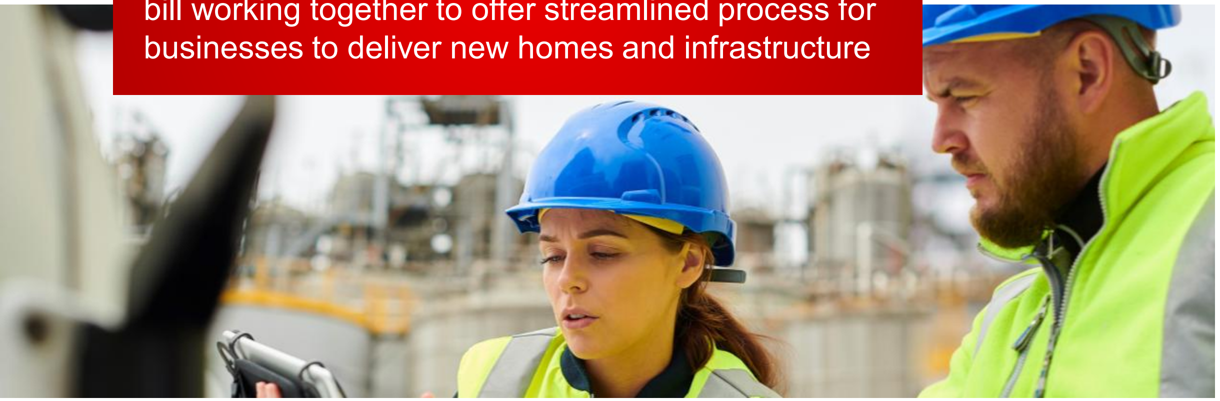
Ease of doing business from pro-innovation regulation

» AI regulatory sandboxes enabling product testing, reducing risk and accelerating time-to-market[9]
» AI Growth Lab enabling innovation through targeted regulatory tweaks with strong safeguards, driving progress in healthcare, housing, and professional services[10]

Milestone reforms in planning to deliver clarity and enable investment

Infrastructure Strategy[1] and New Planning and Infrastructure Bill[2]

10-year strategy released June 2025 and pro-growth bill working together to offer streamlined process for businesses to deliver new homes and infrastructure



Backing transformative infrastructure

» Approval of Heathrow Airport's £21 billion expansion[3]

» Accelerated construction of £9 billion Lower Thames Crossing[4]

» Approval of 700 MW Tillbridge Solar Farm, powering 300,000 homes[5]

Faster consenting process for critical infrastructure, ensuring flexibility to reduce delays and uncertainity[6]

Expedited approval process for clean energy projects, halving average statutory consultation period[7]

Enhanced clarity and streamlined process – National Policy Statement (NPS) updates every 5 years[8]

Flexibility and support for growth sectors and clean energy – updated National Planning Policy Framework[9]

£725 billion public investment into UK infrastructure over the next decade[10]

Fast-tracking 150 planning decisions on major projects by 2029[11]

Infrastructure Pipeline giving long-term certainty across 780 projects worth £530 billion over 10 years[12]

Ongoing project supply, driving demand for private capital and exploring public-private partnerships (PPPs)[13]

Public investment bodies creating attainable opportunities

Robust backing, de-risking capital and catalysing growth, working in partnership with industry – the right financing solutions, strategic partners and support to accelerate investment[1]

» **National Wealth Fund**

£27.8 billion Policy Bank[2]: equity, debt and guarantee investment, supporting growth and clean energy missions[3]

» **Innovate UK**

Innovation agency: grants, loans, pre-procurement, and tailored support across sectors and sizes[4]

» **British Business Bank**

£25.6 billion Economic Development Bank[5]: direct and indirect support for SMEs through debt, equity, guarantees and loans[6]

» **UK Export Finance (UKEF)**

£80 billion Export Credit Agency[7]: competitive and flexible finance, loans, export insurance, credit guarantees, and risk reduction across all sectors and sizes[8]

» **Homes England**

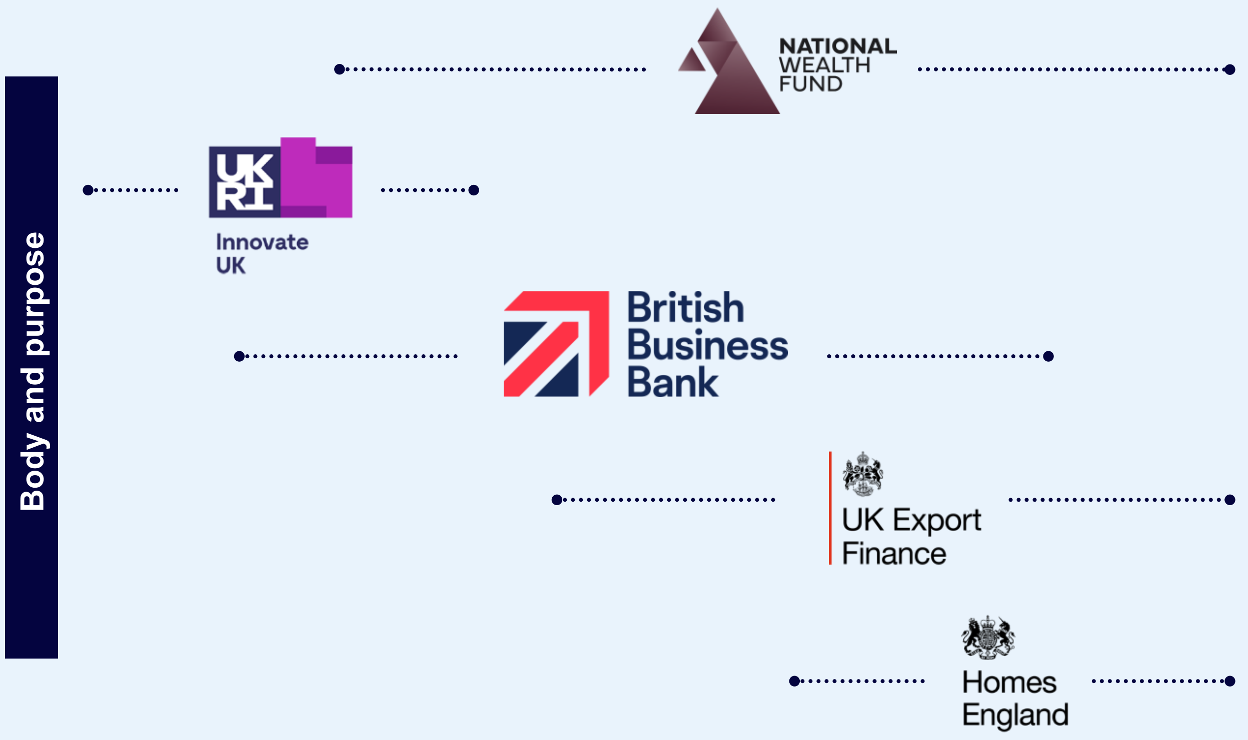
Housing agency: funding partners, expert technical advice, loans and guidance to unlock land and houses[9]

Regional support available across the UK

- **Invest Northern Ireland** – loans and equity to investment[10]
- **Scottish National Investment Bank** – debt and equity for projects and firms[11]
- **Development Bank of Wales** – equity financing, and business & property loans[12]

Support from UK Public Investment Bodies by market and technology maturity[13]

Emerging innovations	Growth	Maturity
Supporting frontier innovations to market	Supporting credible businesses to scale	Fixing market failures for established businesses



World-leading public finance support through UK Export Finance (UKEF)

A top-tier and innovative export credit agency, acting as a key enabler in investment projects conducive to exports, offering comprehensive flexible solutions[1].

» Accessible, tailored support across all sectors and destination markets[2]

» Network of 23 country managers[3]

» Global presence in key markets connecting UK-based firms to international opportunities[4]

£14.5bn

New financial support for export contracts (2024-25)[5]

200+

Countries importing UK goods via UKEF, with 60+ local currencies eligible for guarantees[6]

100

Private credit insurers and lenders in partnership to access export finance[7]

660+

Exporters supported to break into international markets (2024-25)[8], including 490+ SMEs[9]

Supporting exports by guaranteeing loans and financial products to UK exporters and their suppliers

» **Capital solutions:** working capital loans to increase cash flow, help to fulfil contracts and increase turnover through Export Development Guarantee or General Export Facility[10]

» **Insurance for UK exporters:** managing risks in challenging markets, protection against non-payment through Export Insurance Policy or Bond Insurance Policy[11]

» **Project financing:** attractive financing terms for overseas buyers purchasing UK goods and services, allowing them to benefit from the UK's credit rating, through Buyer Credit and Supplier Credit facilities[12]

The UK’s commitment to support global investment is unparalleled

Investment is at the heart of the Government’s growth mission – supporting businesses to invest, grow and export.

» **Shaping the UK business environment**, ensuring the UK remains a great place to do business.

» **Working with businesses directly to help land investment into the UK**, through tailored and bespoke investment services based on investor needs.

» **Building, targeting and marketing** investment propositions and opportunities across the UK.

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Market insight
We know the landscape

Finding partners
We are well-connected

Financial viability
Help you find co–financing

Advocacy
We take your issues on as ours

Aftercare
Continue to support your portfolio

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