# Public Services Level 2 – The Cost of Public Services

# 1 of 9 - Welcome

Welcome to this session on the cost of Public Services.

In this session we will be covering:

* How much Public Services cost the government
* The top three spending categories
* How charities contribute to Public Services

# 2 of 9 - The cost of Public Services

As the population of the UK expands, so does the need for Public Services.

Select [here](https://www.livepopulation.com/country/united-kingdom.html) to visit a website to find out information about the population of the UK.

Select [here](https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/) to visit a website to find out information about the current world population.

Unfortunately, the taxation of individuals and businesses does not cover the money needed for offering all of the services that are necessary. This means the government needs to pay in, so that these important costs can be covered.

In the financial year 2014/2015 (this usually runs from April to April), the government spent around £747 billion, which was at least £1 billion more than the year before.

There was a sharp increase in spending for Public Services from 1994/1995 to 2014/2015, from just under £500 billion to over £700 billion.

# 3 of 9 – Spending categories

The top three spending categories include:

* Social protection
* Health
* Education

The following categories explain where the Government spends money:

* **Social protection costs £222 billion**

The most money is currently spent on social protection (or welfare) which helps those who are disadvantaged, including:

* + Pensions
	+ Disability benefits, such as cars, parking and prescriptions
	+ Housing, such as accommodation and upkeep
	+ Unemployment benefits
	+ Family benefits, for instance tax credits
* **Health costs £140 billion**

Health comes in second. This amount of spending is less than the social protection category. However, the health category has increased its expense the most out of the spending categories since 1994/1995, requiring over 7% more. The funding is broken down as follows:

* + The most money is usually spent in the acute category which covers hospital treatment, such as Accident and Emergency, surgery, and other treatment from professionals
	+ Providing prescription medication, such as antibiotics, where prescription payment only covers some of the expense of drugs
* **Education costs £98 billion**

Education is the third largest expense and is made up of the following four categories:

* + Education for under-fives, covering 2-3 year funding placements
	+ Primary Education
	+ Secondary Education
	+ Tertiary Education for further and higher education

Secondary Education requires the most money, getting just over 44% of the education category which was around £36.8 million in 2011-2015.

* Public order and safety costs £32 billion
* The interest from government debt is £53 billion
* Defence, such as the army costs £38 billion
* The cost of personal social services is £31 billion
* Housing and environment costs £25 billion
* Transport such as trains, buses and airports costs £23 billion

# 4 of 9 – Question 1

Considering what you have learned about the different spending categories, please fill in the blank areas of the text with the following words: **Public, protection, hospital, prescription, Services, social, health, disadvantaged, treatment, increases.**

As the population of the UK grows, so does the need for **Blank Blank**. The government spent around £747 billion in the year 2014/2015, a figure that **Blank** every year.

The most expensive spending category, **Blank Blank,** is needed by our most **Blank** people. **Blank** is the second most costly spending category, which provides the necessary and largest funding for **Blank Blank** and access to **Blank** medication.

The paragraphs should read as follows:

As the population of the UK grows, so does the need for **Public Services**. The Government spent around £747 billion in the year 2014/2015, a figure that **increases** every year.

The most expensive spending category, **social protection,** is needed by our most **disadvantaged** people. **Health** is the second most costly spending category, which provides the necessary and largest funding for **hospital treatment** and access to **prescription** medication.

# 5 of 9 – Charity contribution

Due to the rapidly growing number of people in the UK, their need for Public Services and the huge cost to keep them going, it is understandable that there is not enough money to provide all of the services that are needed. It then falls to the voluntary sector and charities to fill these gaps, such as:

* **Air Ambulance Services** that respond to health emergencies by helicopter

This service has always been funded and run by charities or non-profit organisations. However, you may also have been sent to hospital by the St John’s Ambulance charity instead of an NHS Ambulance.

Select [here](https://www.midlandsairambulance.com/about-us/) to find out more information on the Midlands Air Ambulance.

The most money is currently spent on social protection (or welfare) which helps those who are disadvantaged, including:

* + Pensions
	+ Disability benefits, such as cars, parking and prescriptions
	+ Housing such as accommodation and upkeep
	+ Unemployment benefits
	+ Family benefits, for instance tax credits

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) also provides legal support on a charitable basis.

After the cut in legal aid in 2012, as the government could no longer afford this Public Service provision, Citizens Advice provided support or advice to resolve 6.2 million problems for 2.5 million people.

Select [here](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/) to find out more information about the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Smaller units such as the Personal Support Unit offer emotional support and guidance voluntarily for those without a legal representation, such as a lawyer or solicitor.

Support Through Court is one organisation that works in this area. Select [here](https://www.supportthroughcourt.org/) to access their website.

For Health and Social care, there are charities such as The British Red Cross who help those in a crisis by responding to conflicts, natural disasters and vulnerable people.

Select [here](https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-support-at-home) to find out more about the British Red Cross.

In Wales, the British Red Cross supports patients through providing emotional and practical support for up to six weeks after they are discharged from hospital, through their ‘home from hospital discharge scheme’.

Meanwhile, Age UK provides a service which integrates health and social care services for those with complicated and long-term illnesses. Select [here](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/programmes/integrated-care/) to find out more about Age UK.

Probationary services are also assisted through charitable organisations. For example, **Nacro** helps vulnerable people change their lives to reach their potential. Select [here](https://www.nacro.org.uk/justice/) to find out more about their work.

Some of the Probation Service work is contracted to private companies and charities such as Nacro to help run the service by providing education, housing and treatment, for instance for drugs or alcohol abusers, to young and adult offenders, in order to prevent them from reoffending. In addition to that, the charity Circles UK provides support services to reduce sex offending.

Select [here](https://www.circles-uk.org.uk/about-circles/about-circles-uk) to find out more about Circles and their work.

Additional support for Search and Rescue matters come from organisations like **The Royal National Lifeboat Institution** (RNLI), whichprovides 24/7 lifeboat search and rescue services.There is no alternative service to this, but we heavily rely on the lifeguards that the RNLI provides on our beaches, whilst searching for those that get lost at sea.

The RNLI were responsible for saving the lives of those caught in the floods in Cumbria in 2015.

# 6 of 9 – Task 1

Research and explore a charity led Public Service that you or a family member may have encountered. Make notes on who they are, what service they provide and how they fund these activities.

Please download the associated PDF and complete Task 1.

# 7 of 9 – Question 2

Can you sort these Public Services expenses into the correct order, starting with the Public Service that is the most expensive?

* Defence
* Social Protection
* Education
* Health
* Housing and environment

The correct answer is:

* Social Protection
* Health
* Education
* Defence
* Housing and environment

# 8 of 9 – Question 3

Who pays for these Public Services? Is it charity or the government for each option?

* Air Ambulance
* Secondary Schools
* Defence
* RNLI

The correct answer is:

* Air Ambulance and RNLI are paid for by charity.
* Secondary Schools and Defence are paid for by the government.

# 9 of 9 – End

Well done. You have completed this session on the cost of Public Services.

In this session we have covered:

* How much Public Services cost the government
* The top three spending categories
* How charities contribute to Public Services

If you are unsure or have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and speak to your tutor for more help.