







HM TREASURY

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# Stability, security and opportunity for all:

## Investing for Britain's long-term future

2004 Spending Review  
New Public Spending Plans 2005-2008

Presented to Parliament by  
the Chancellor of the Exchequer  
by Command of Her Majesty

July 2004

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## FOREWORD BY THE PRIME MINISTER

The 2004 Spending Review takes forward the Government's objective of a strong economy and a fair society with stability, security and opportunity for all. Building on the increased investment in key public services delivered since 1997, it sets out the Government's spending plans for the next three years and the further improvements in public services that are planned.

This Government has made significant progress in addressing the legacy of decades of under-investment in public services that we inherited. In health, education, criminal justice and other key areas, additional resources and reforms since 1997 are delivering better services for the public – more doctors, shorter waiting times, more teachers, better schools, more police officers and reduced crime. This Spending Review builds on these achievements by providing additional resources and setting stretching targets for further improvements across the public service.

Investment must be accompanied by reform, and throughout this Spending Review the Government's requirement is clear: for more provided in resources, more is expected in results. With the reforms agreed in this Spending Review the Government is extending devolution, increasing choice, supporting flexibility and ensuring greater personalisation in public services.

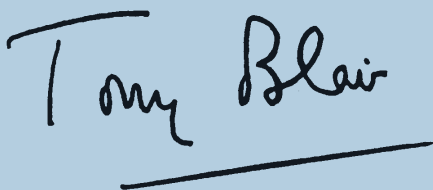
The 2004 Spending Review announces investment and reforms in support of the Government's key objectives:

- a stronger, more productive economy
- a fairer society with stronger communities
- global security and prosperity
- better public services

The Government is investing in future growth with more money for skills, for science, for affordable housing and for transport. We are investing in security, with the longest planned period of growth in defence spending for twenty years and historic increases for counter-terrorism and resilience. We are enhancing global security and tackling poverty in the developing world by significantly increasing our overseas aid. We are investing in opportunity and fairness, with increased resources for health, for schools and for children. We are investing in safer communities with extra funding for the police and for Community Support officers.

The Government is determined that increased resources must be focused on the front-line and deliver improvements in the services that matter to the public. The 2004 Spending Review sets stretching efficiency targets for all departments that will release additional resources for front-line services like hospitals and schools.

Together, these measures will deliver a stronger, fairer, more secure Britain.



Tony Blair



# CONTENTS

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	Page
Foreword by the Prime Minister	
1. Overview: Stability, Security and Opportunity for All	1
2. Efficiency	13
3. Better Public Services	27
4. A Stronger, More Productive Economy	41
5. A Fairer Society, with Stronger Communities	57
6. Global Security and Prosperity	73
7. Department for Education and Skills	85
8. Department of Health	93
9. Department for Transport	101
10. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	107
11. Local Government	113
12. The Home Office, Constitutional Affairs and Law Officers' Departments	119
13. Ministry of Defence	127
14. Foreign and Commonwealth Office	131
15. Department for International Development	135
16. Department of Trade and Industry	141
17. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	147
18. Department for Culture, Media and Sport	153
19. Department for Work and Pensions	157
20. Northern Ireland Office	161
21. The Chancellor's Departments	165
22. Cabinet Office	169
23. Regions and Devolved Administrations	173
Annex A: Statistical Annex	181
Annex B: Resource Accounting and Budgeting	193
Annex C: Departmental Groupings	197
Annex D: List of Abbreviations	199

