

### UK makes cyber space resilient to cyber attacks

The UK realizes that its internet-related market, which is now worth billions, is constantly vulnerable. Cyber attacks have been categorized as tier one threat in the UK alongside international terrorism. A large number of cyber breaches and threats have been reported in 2013 nationwide and the threat has been estimated to increase. The Strategic Defense and Security Review which sets out how the government will go about securing Britain in an age of uncertainty has allocated £650 million over 4 years to establish a new National Cyber Security Programme to strengthen UK's cyber capacity. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an extra £210 million investment after the 2013 spending review. To combat cyber threats, the Government Communications Headquarters will work towards identifying and analyzing cyber attacks.

To prevent cyber crime and make the UK a safer place for business, a National Cyber Crime Unit within the National Crime Agency in 2013 was set up. The Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance seek to provide cyber security advice to businesses and built a cyber security information sharing partnership with them. The office has also reached an agreement with industry on a series of guiding principles in this respect. A new organization called CERT-UK has been established in March 2014 to improve co-ordination of national cyber incidents and share technical information between countries as well. Further, the office is developing other organizational standards for cyber security.

People can also participate in contributing towards building a safer internet environment in the UK. A single reporting system for people to report financially motivated cyber crime through Action Fraud enables information gathering and enforcement of law.

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### Enhancing the transparency of government

It has been acknowledged that the data that describes the services of the government and how well the services are performing is very useful for the public in general. There are many reasons as to why the data is useful. One of the most significant reasons is that it has the potential of introducing transparency-which is essential in a democracy. It is also a good way of analyzing how effectively are education, justice and healthcare being provided to the public at large. It will not be incorrect to state that by releasing public data, the government allows people to see how the

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government is doing.

To achieve a more open, transparent government, steps have been taken to make sure that every government department includes specific open data commitments in their business plans. The government will also attempt to introduce the right to public data in legislation to make sure that all the government data is published in an accessible format. Data sets on [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk) will also be made available. The data sets will contain information that shows how public money has been spent and on what; who undertakes what work in government and how much they are paid, and how government is doing against its objectives and goals.

Another step in this regard would be to establish the Public Sector Transparency Board to challenge data standards across government and provide guidance through a set of shared public data principles. These are principles that show departments how to maintain records of data and the manner in which it is to be released based on public demand.

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## **Implementation of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to undergo a change.**

The CAP is an agricultural policy of the European Union. It was conceptualized to implement a system of agricultural subsidies and other programmes. CAP covers farming, environmental measures and rural development, and controls EU agricultural markets. The new CAP regulations were approved in December 2013 and the new schemes will be implemented in 2015. The European Commission published its CAP regulatory proposals on 12 October 2011 for the first time using the ordinary legislative procedure.

The new CAP regulations were approved by EU agriculture ministers at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in December 2013. Once finalised, majority of the new CAP regulations will come into force in 2015. Transitional arrangements may be put in place, if necessary, in 2014. The Single Common Market Organisation arrangements (a component of these regulations) came into force in January 2014.

Out of the total amount of money available under CAP in England some will be invested in schemes to grow the rural economy and some to improve the environment. One major change will be that the current Single Payment Scheme (the main system through which we pay farmers under CAP) with the Basic Payment Scheme. A payment for greening and a further payment for young farmers will also be introduced.

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