

**Case Study:**  
**The Spending Challenge**  
**UK Government uses Dialogue App to save over £500m per year**

In his first month in power, the UK's new Chancellor of The Exchequer, George Osborne, set a challenge to the public to give ideas of how the government can save money in order to address the government's deficit.

To this end, HM Treasury chose to use Dialogue App to run an effective consultation called the Spending Challenge. The Government wanted citizens to submit ideas on how it could spend money more effectively and reduce waste in order to save money.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron produced a video inviting the UK's over 6m public sector workers to submit their ideas over the first two weeks of the Challenge. As this group work intimately with government spending, it was felt they were best placed to provide feedback on how the government could get more for less money.



David Cameron launches the public phase of the Spending Challenge

The debate was then opened up to allow participation from members of the public over a two-month period. The Treasury embedded a video of Chancellor George Osborne into Dialogue App inviting the public to participate.

**How much did the Spending Challenge cost the UK Government?**  
**£19,300**

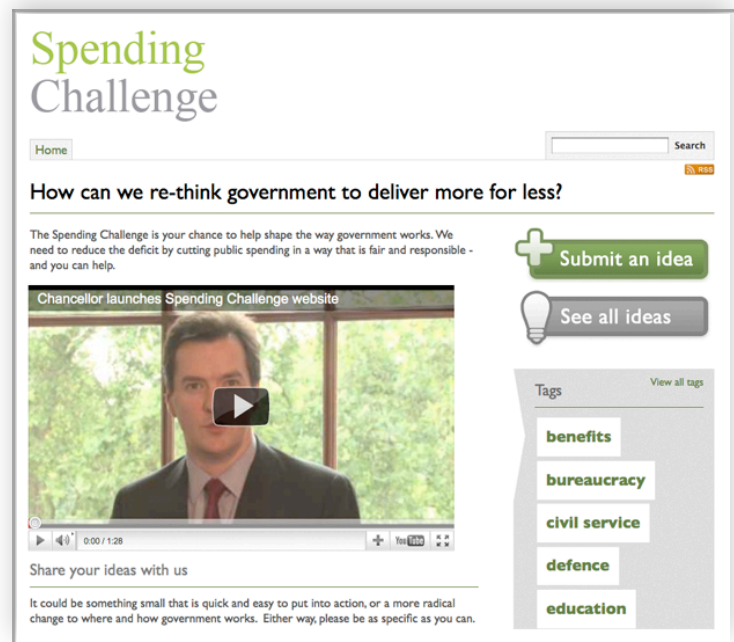
**The successful ideas will help deliver more than**  
**£500 million of savings by the UK Government.**

**Over 100,000 ideas were submitted through the site**, with over 63,000 of these coming from the public sector. Ideas submitted were a mix of overarching ideas, such as 'pull out of Afghanistan', and smaller, more actionable ideas which were easier for the government to put in place quite quickly.

Every suggestion was reviewed and categorised. A group of Spending Challenge Champions, jointly employed by HMT and the Cabinet Office, summarised all of the public sector ideas into 1,800 policy proposals. These proposals were then reviewed to determine what ideas could most improve efficiency and savings.

The ideas that were submitted during the public phase of the Spending Challenge were put through a moderation process. The 48,000 ideas that passed this screening process were then put onto the Challenge site so that the public could review and rate them according to their potential to save money. Over 250,000 votes were logged by the public taking part in this process. The 2,000 top-rated ideas were then further reviewed by Government departments.

Of these, 25 were taken forward to form part of the Budget. These included reducing the costs of in-house Government publications, reforming the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and minimising tax fraud, avoidance and evasion to raise an estimated £7 billion of extra tax revenue by 2014.



Chancellor George Osborne launches the public phase of the Challenge

## Spending Challenge Timeline

Date	What happened
June 18, 2010	Delib begins work on the Spending Challenge
June 24, 2010	David Cameron launches public sector worker phase of the Challenge
July 9, 2010	George Osborne launches public phase of the Challenge
August 19 - September 3, 2010	The public votes on best ideas
September 10, 2010	Public phase of the Challenge closes
October 20, 2010	George Osborne presents the Budget, which includes Spending Challenge savings

**Some examples of Spending Challenge ideas being taken forward:**

<b>Spending Challenge Idea</b>	<b>Potential savings</b>
The Government will reduce the number of Criminal Records Bureau security checks required for junior doctors	£1m per year
Eliminate the use of plastic National Insurance cards	up to £1m per year
Centralise procurement of commonly used goods and services	over £400m per year
Stop sending weekly letters to say that Back to Work benefits or training provisions have been paid	£3m per year
Update the way Jobcentre Plus measures performance	£1.2m per year
Reduce the use of artificial lighting on the Ministry of Defence estate	£2k per year, per building
No longer require Primary Care Trusts to deliver a services guide to every household	up to £2.5m per year
Reduce the cost of government publications	£.5m in the first year; £.25m each year thereafter
Bring Government travel policies into line with industry best practice	£100m per year
Introduce an e-auction scheme for the Department for Work and Pensions' car hire scheme	£1.5m per year
Charge oil companies for decommissioning-related work undertaken by the Department of Energy and Climate Change	£.7m per year
Further reform the Environment Agency car lease scheme	up to £3m per year

Other ideas received through the Spending Challenge played an important role in delivering more for less over the Spending Review period. After the Spending Challenge closed, departments continued to review ideas to identify and implement those that could help deliver further efficiencies.

**Related articles:**

[Spending Challenge - overview](#)

[Spending Challenge - FAQs](#)

[Spending Challenge - general ideas](#)

[Spending Challenge - public sector workers' ideas \(Excel file\)](#)

[Spending Challenge - ideas taken forward](#)