

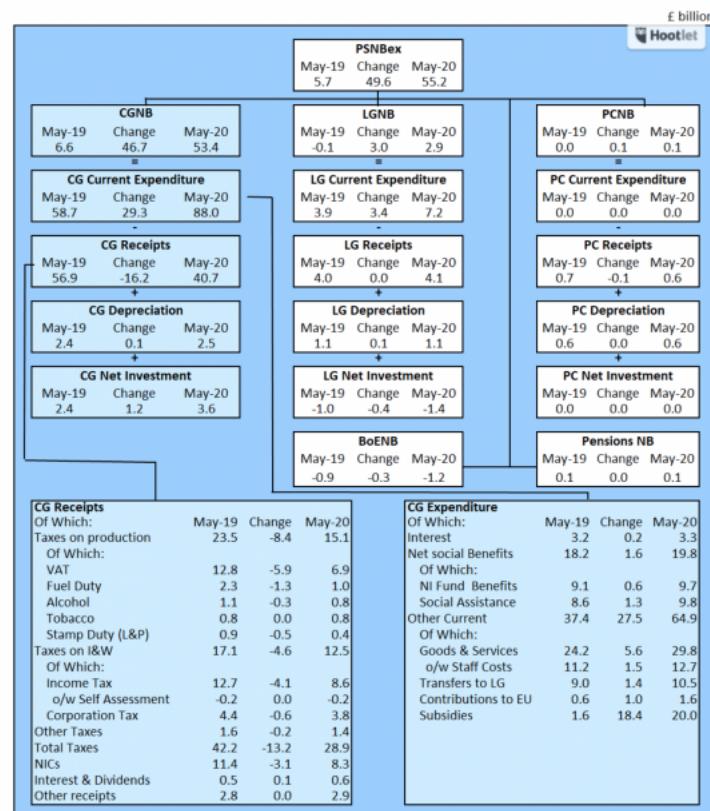
Funding the Future

We can afford the increase in government spending

Published: January 13, 2026, 8:11 am

I suspect this one is for the geeks, and is a chart of how public spending has changed in the last year, issued by the Office for National Statistics this morning:

Public sector net borrowing by sub-sector, UK, May 2020, compared with May 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Public Sector Finances

Notes:

1. PSNBex – Public sector net borrowing excluding public sector banks.
2. CGNB – Central government net borrowing.
3. LGNB – Local government net borrowing.
4. PCNB – Non-financial public corporations: net borrowing.
5. BoENB – Bank of England net borrowing.
6. L&P – Land and property.
7. I & W – Income and wealth.

So, what's happening?

First, total taxes are down 31%.

Second, government spend is up almost exactly 50%.

The difference is £45.5 billion. Which as [I have already noted this morning](#), was entirely funded by the Bank of England.

And what cost most of the £29.3bn of spend? Subsidies to keep business going of £18.4 billion were the biggest cost. Followed by buying additional goods and services - I guess mainly for the NHS - which cost £5.6 billion. That was most of it.

This, of course will change. There is mass unemployment to come. Subsidies will fall then and the cost of benefits will increase.

And taxes will also rise at the time - it is hoped - because much of the decline in revenue results from deferral arrangements.

But I am going to repeat what [I have already said this morning: the entire cost of this is being covered by the Bank of England](#). That's it. When the question is asked 'who is going to pay for this?' just say 'The Bank of England is, using new money created for the purpose'. Because that's the reality of the situation.