

based on an article by Akhtar Makoii is a foreign correspondent for The Telegraph based in London from here: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2026/02/26/what-iran-wants-trump-nuclear-talks-geneva-oil-save-face/>

Will the lure of Iranian Oil cancel the USA strike?

What Iran Wants from Trump’s Nuclear Talks
Iran is entering a third round of nuclear talks with the US in Geneva in what may be a last attempt to avoid conflict. With American warships positioned in the region and Donald Trump wavering between striking a deal or resorting to force, Tehran sees the negotiations as a matter of regime survival.

Unlike the 2015 agreement, Washington now wants any deal to be permanent. At the same time, Iranian military leaders have warned they would inflict heavy losses if attacked, signalling that their previous strategy of restraint is over. Iranian officials believe they are negotiating not with traditional diplomats, but with dealmakers, and hope to craft an agreement that gives Mr Trump a political win while preserving Iran’s strategic position.

Iran’s Red Lines — and Its Flexibility Enrichment on Iranian soil

Tehran insists it must retain the right to enrich uranium domestically under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. While it may cap enrichment at low levels unsuitable for weapons, it wants to preserve the infrastructure and expertise that keep the option alive in the long term.

Full sanctions relief

Iran is demanding comprehensive lifting of UN, US Treasury, State Department and congressional sanctions. Having seen the 2015 deal collapse after limited economic benefit, it now wants immediate access to frozen assets, restored banking links and the ability to sell oil freely. Tehran argues symbolic relief is unacceptable, though political pressure in Washington may prevent



Mr Trump from fully delivering.

Security guarantees

Deeply shaken by last June’s 12-day war, in which Israeli and US strikes damaged facilities and killed commanders, Iran wants a written US commitment never to attack — even beyond the life of a deal. Officials say the conflict exposed the weakness of relying solely on nuclear capability as deterrence.

IAEA oversight — with limits

Iran says it will accept intrusive inspections, but only if the UN nuclear watchdog guarantees that monitoring will not become intelligence-gathering for future strikes. Tehran wants safeguards protecting its technological and security interests.

Economic cooperation with the US

In a striking shift, Iran has floated giving American oil and gas companies access to its energy sector. By creating US corporate stakeholders, it hopes to build domestic American pressure against any future withdrawal from a deal.

What Iran Won’t Discuss

Tehran maintains that its ballistic missile programme and regional proxy groups are not part of nuclear negotiations. Conceding on these issues would undermine its regional influence and domestic legitimacy.

What Iran May Concede

Weakened by last year’s war and under economic strain, Iran is negotiating from a weaker position than in 2015. It may accept enrichment caps below 3.5 per cent, expanded inspections, and even a temporary suspension framed as a confidence-building step — provided the arrangement is reversible.

Iran has already signalled it would stop accumulating highly enriched uranium and instead dilute or convert stockpiles under monitoring.

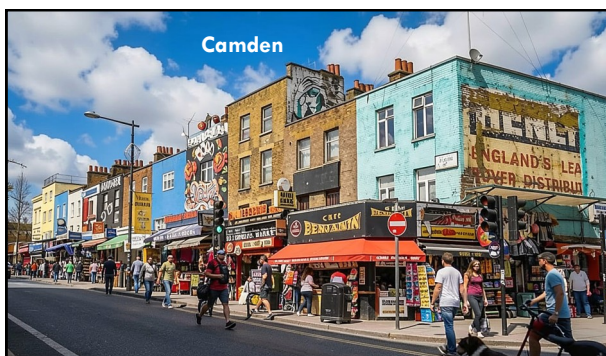
Ultimately, Tehran appears willing to scale back its nuclear posture and even soften long-standing economic taboos — but only if sanctions are genuinely lifted and the United States credibly takes military force off the table.

based on <https://www.mylondon.news/news/property/unexpected-london-borough-named-the-33451814>

The most dangerous places to live in London

Estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales indicate there were around 9.3 million headline crime incidents in the year ending September 2025. These figures cover offences such as theft, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse and violent crime.

That total was slightly down from approximately 9.5 million the previous year. When fraud and computer misuse are excluded, the number of offences falls to an



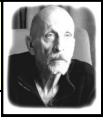
estimated 4.4 million — about 20,000 fewer than a year earlier and dramatically lower

than the 1995 peak of 19.8 million crimes.

The survey, conducted through face-to-face interviews, is designed to capture both the scale and impact of crime, including incidents that may never have been reported to police.

Crime rates — calculated as the number of offences per 1,000 residents — indicate the relative likelihood of becoming a victim in a given area.

In London, Westminster consistently records by far the highest crime rate. Although



offences there fell by 7% in the year to September, the borough still registered 410 crimes per 1,000 residents — nearly three times the rate of Blackpool, which has the highest rate outside the capital. Camden ranked second with 189 crimes per 1,000 residents. Kensington and Chelsea, despite previously having a lower rate than Middlesbrough, moved into third place overall as crime declined more quickly in the North East town. The London borough recorded 152 offences per 1,000 people.

Why is Westminster's rate so high? Yes — the large volume of visitors and tourists is a major factor. Westminster has a relatively small residential population but attracts millions of commuters, shoppers and tourists each year. Crime rates are calculated using the number of permanent residents as the denominator. That means offences committed against visitors are still counted, but the victims are not included in the population figure used to calculate the rate.

This can make central areas with heavy footfall appear disproportionately high.

Tourists can also be attractive targets for thieves, particularly for pick-pocketing and phone snatching, as they may be unfamiliar with their surroundings and carrying valuables. So while visitor numbers distort the rate statistically, they can also genuinely increase opportunities for certain types of crime.

based on <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13201485/Peers-Lords-TAX-FREE-allowances-day-House-MPs-Commons.html>

By JAMES TAPSFIELD, UK POLITICAL EDITOR and Wikipedia

Are they raking it in. Do we need them all? How Much Do MPs and Peers Receive?

Previously between 50% and 100% of annual salary, with the first £30,000 tax-free.

Winding-up Allowance – To cover office closure costs, staff redundancy, and lease obligations.

Expenses

MPs may claim legitimate expenses through the Independent Parliamentary Standards

allowance:

£360 per day (from April 2024/25 rate increase)

Or a reduced rate of £180 per day

They may also claim travel expenses.

The House typically sits for around 150 days per year.

If a peer attended every sitting day and claimed the full rate, this would amount to approximately £54,000 per year.

The allowance is not formally classed as a salary; it is intended to cover costs of participation. Peers are free to claim for days they attend, including partial attendance. Sittings in the chamber average around six and a half hours, although peers may also undertake committee and preparation work outside that time.

Political Context

The role and future of the House of Lords has become politically contentious in recent years. Disagreements between the elected Commons and the unelected Lords — including legislative “ping pong” over controversial bills — have renewed debate over reform.

There have been proposals, including from senior political figures, to replace or substantially reform the House of Lords, although no comprehensive reform has yet been implemented.

Summary

MPs receive a fixed salary (£93,904) plus pension rights and reimbursable expenses.

Peers do not receive salaries but can claim £360 per sitting day.

A peer attending every sitting day could receive about £54,000 annually.

MPs who leave office may receive structured severance payments.

All salaries and expense claims are overseen by independent regulatory bodies.

So much is it costing us?

House of Commons (MPs)

Number of MPs: 650

Basic salary per MP: £93,904

Total basic salary cost:

£93,904 × 650 ≈ £61 million per year

That figure covers salaries only. It does not include:

Employer pension contributions

Staff salaries (which are separate and paid via IPSA)

Office costs and other reimbursed expenses

So the direct wage bill for MPs themselves is about £61 million annually.

House of Lords (Peers)

Number of peers: ~800 (attendance varies)



House of Commons

There are 650 Members of Parliament (MPs) in the House of Commons. All receive a basic annual salary of £93,904 (from April 2025). That equates to a total basic salary bill of approximately £61 million per year for the Commons, excluding pensions and expenses.

Pensions

MPs are members of a defined benefit pension scheme. Depending on their contribution rate (typically 13.75% of salary), they accrue pension benefits at either:

1/40th of final pensionable salary per year of service, or

1/50th per year of service.

Severance Payments

When MPs leave Parliament, they may receive:

Loss of Office Payment – Based on length of service and age, similar to enhanced redundancy.

Resettlement Grant (historic system) –

Authority (IPSA), including:

Office and staffing costs

Travel between Westminster and their constituency

Accommodation support (for MPs whose constituencies are outside London)

IT and communications

Postage and stationery

These are reimbursements for parliamentary duties, not additional salary.

Parliament also typically recesses for around 45 days in summer. During recess, MPs usually work in their constituencies rather than at Westminster.

Oversight of salaries and expenses is conducted independently by IPSA, and audited by the National Audit Office, following reforms after the 2009 expenses scandal.

House of Lords

The House of Lords has approximately 800 members (peers). Unlike MPs, peers do not receive a salary.

Instead, they may claim a daily attendance



Daily allowance: £360 per day
Typical sitting days: ~150 per

year
If a peer attended every sitting day and claimed the full allowance:
£360 × 150 = £54,000 per year (maximum individual amount)

However:

Not all peers attend every day

Many claim fewer days

Some claim the reduced £180 rate

Estimated total annual cost

Recent totals for Lords' allowances tend to be in the region of £20–25 million per year, depending on attendance levels.

Combined Total (Approximate)

Commons salaries: ~£61 million

Lords allowances: ~£20–25 million

Rough combined total:

£80–86 million per year

Again, this excludes pensions, staffing, buildings, security, and operational costs of Parliament as a whole.

based on: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c24drvj8yl2o> from bbc and By Bernd Debusmann Jr, White House reporter and Max Matza

Four killed after clash between Cuban border guards and US-registered speedboat.

Four people were shot dead after a confrontation between Cuban border guards and a US-registered speedboat that had entered Cuban waters, according to Cuba's government.



Conceptualised AI generated photo

In a statement, Cuba's interior ministry said the Florida-registered vessel was detected on Wednesday morning near Cayo Falcones, off the northern coast in Villa Clara province. When a Cuban coast guard boat approached to identify it, those on board the speedboat allegedly opened fire, wounding a Cuban commander.

Authorities said four people aboard the foreign vessel were killed during the exchange and six others injured. The wounded were evacuated and received medical treatment. Cuban officials said they do not yet know the identities of those involved or the purpose of the vessel's presence in the area. An investigation has been launched.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the nationalities of those on board remain unclear and stressed that Washington is still gathering facts. He confirmed the vessel was

not carrying US government personnel. "It is highly unusual to see shootouts on the open sea like that," Rubio said, speaking from Saint Kitts and Nevis during meetings with Caribbean leaders. He added that the US would conduct its own investigation and not rely solely on information from Cuban authorities. The US Coast Guard has travelled to the vicinity of the incident.

Rubio said US officials are seeking access to the individuals involved if any are American citizens or residents. "We're going to find out exactly what happened," he said. The episode comes amid heightened tensions between Washington and Havana. Cuba is facing a worsening fuel shortage, exacerbated by US restrictions on oil shipments from Venezuela. On the same day as the incident, the US Treasury announced limited easing of some private-sector transactions, including certain oil sales, aimed at supporting the Cuban people for commercial and humanitarian purposes.

The shooting also occurred one day after Cuban-American groups in Miami marked the 30th anniversary of the 1996 Brothers to the Rescue shoot down.

Several Florida lawmakers called for a full investigation. Congressman Carlos Giménez described the incident as a "massacre" and urged authorities to determine whether any of the victims were US citizens or legal residents. Congresswoman María Elvira Salazar said she was monitoring developments and awaiting further details. Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier said local law enforcement would investigate, while Senator Rick Scott called for accountability.

US Vice-President JD Vance said the White House was monitoring the situation but declined to comment further, citing limited information.

US Vice-President JD Vance said the White House was monitoring the situation but declined to comment further, citing limited information.

from <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2025/03/24/with-tuberculosis-tb-on-the-rise-again-how-can-we-prevent-further-spread/>

Tuberculosis Is Rising Again – How Can We Stop Its Spread?

The latest UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) figures show tuberculosis (TB) cases in England increased by 13% in 2024, rising to 5,480 cases from 4,850 in 2023. This marks a return to levels above those seen before the COVID-19 pandemic, reversing years of steady decline.

While TB rates in England have historically remained low, the recent increase signals the need for renewed vigilance.

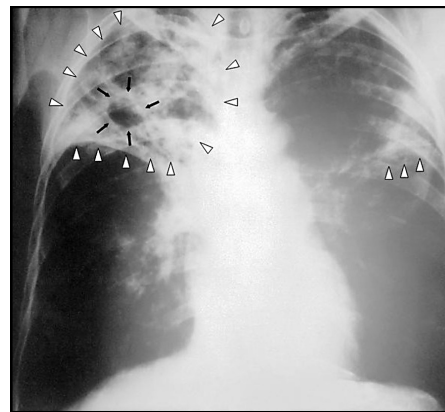
What Is TB and Why Early Diagnosis Matters

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection that most commonly affects the lungs, although it can also affect other parts of the body, including the lymph nodes, bones and brain.

It spreads through the air when someone with infectious TB in their lungs or throat coughs or sneezes.

Common symptoms include:

- A persistent cough lasting more than three weeks
- Fever
- Night sweats
- Loss of appetite
- Unexplained weight loss



Chest x-ray of someone with advanced TB

TB can be serious and potentially fatal, but it is curable with a course of specific antibiotics. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are critical — both to improve patient outcomes and to reduce transmission.

Current Trends in England

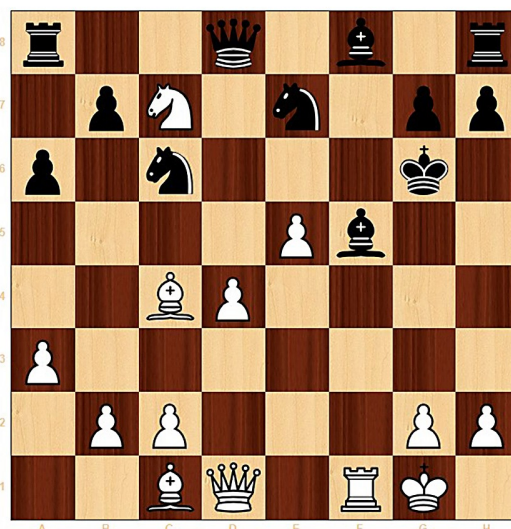
Although TB remains most prevalent in large urban areas such as London, recent increases have also been recorded in regions where rates have traditionally been lower, including the South West and North East.

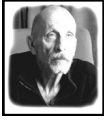
The latest data indicate England is drifting further from the World Health Organization's 2035 TB elimination targets. These goals include diagnosing and successfully treating 90% of cases, ensuring equitable access to care, and using rapid diagnostic tests as the standard first-line method.

Who Is Most at Risk?

In England, the highest incidence of TB is

White to mate in two moves





The truth is here, not out there!

among people born outside the UK (81.5% of cases).

Among UK-born individuals (18.5%), TB is strongly associated with social disadvantage. Higher rates are seen among people experiencing:

- Homelessness
- Drug or alcohol dependency
- Contact with the criminal justice system

These social risk factors can also make treatment completion more challenging.

The Role of Healthcare Professionals

Awareness remains essential. Early TB symptoms — particularly a prolonged cough and fever — can be mistaken for flu or COVID-19. Healthcare professionals should ensure communities understand that a cough lasting more than three weeks, especially with mucus, warrants further investigation.

Prompt reporting of confirmed cases is equally important, as it enables timely public health action to prevent further spread.

Addressing Barriers to Treatment

Many individuals diagnosed with TB face practical and social barriers to accessing care. These can include:

- Limited awareness of symptoms
- Language or cultural barriers
- Difficulties attending appointments
- Lack of support to complete long courses of medication

Around one in four people with social risk factors do not complete treatment within the expected timeframe.

To address this, UKHSA has published a toolkit focused on inclusion health groups. It promotes evidence-based approaches such as:

- Targeted screening based on local need
- Tackling stigma and misinformation
- Training staff on local TB pathways
- Involving people with lived experience in service design

Providing incentives and practical support to improve treatment completion

Advances in Genomic Surveillance

UKHSA's genomic sequencing capabilities have significantly improved treatment speed and precision. The time needed to identify effective antibiotics has been reduced from 6–12 weeks to approximately 2–4 weeks in most cases. Faster drug targeting helps improve recovery and reduce onward transmission.

Moving Forward

With TB cases rising again, sustained collective action is essential. Although TB is preventable and treatable, progress depends on early detection, equitable access to care and continued public health vigilance.

UKHSA is working with partners across the healthcare system to refocus efforts and strengthen England's response.

from Wikipedia

Tuberculosis (TB) has a long history in the UK, particularly peaking in the 18th and 19th centuries when it was responsible for a significant portion of deaths, with mortality rates as high as 900 per 100,000 people. By

the late 19th century, about 70-90% of urban populations were infected, but mortality rates began to decline with advancements in medical understanding and treatments.

Overview of Tuberculosis in the UK

Tuberculosis (TB) has a long and significant history in the UK, particularly during the 18th and 19th centuries. It was a major public health issue, affecting large segments of the population.

Prevalence and Impact

In the 18th century, TB had a mortality rate of approximately 900 deaths per 100,000 people annually in Western Europe, including the UK.

By the 19th century, TB became epidemic, killing about a quarter of the adult population in Europe.

Between 1851 and 1910, around four million people died from TB in England and Wales, with particularly high mortality rates among young adults.

Medical Understanding and Treatment

The identification of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* as the causative agent by Robert Koch in 1882 marked a turning point in understanding TB.

Following this discovery, the development of vaccines and antibiotic treatments in the mid-20th century significantly reduced TB mortality rates.

Decline in Cases

Mortality rates began to decline in the late 19th century due to improved living conditions and medical advancements.

By the 20th century, TB was less common in the UK, although it remains a concern in some low- and middle-income countries.

The history of TB in the UK reflects broader trends in public health, urbanization, and medical advancements, highlighting the disease's impact on society over the centuries.

PHOTO of lung x-ray : file is a work of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services,

BASED ON <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1mjx1qri3yo>

BY Sima Kotecha, Senior UK correspondent and Thomas Mackintosh

Ian Huntley Seriously Injured in Prison Assault

Ian Huntley, who is serving a life sentence for the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, has been seriously injured in an attack at HMP Frankland in County Durham.

While prison officials have not formally identified the inmate involved, the BBC understands the injured prisoner is Huntley. The Prison Service confirmed that a male inmate is receiving hospital treatment but declined to comment further while police investigations continue.

The assault is believed to have taken place shortly before 09:30 GMT in a prison workshop. An air ambulance was initially dispatched to the high-security jail, although the injured prisoner was ultimately transported to hospital by road. Durham Constabulary said

detectives are investigating the incident and are working with prison staff.

The Soham Murders

Huntley is serving a life sentence for the murders of 10-year-olds Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, whose disappearance in Soham, Cambridgeshire, in August 2002 prompted a nationwide search and widespread public shock.

The girls vanished on 4 August 2002. Huntley, who was working as a school caretaker at Soham Village College at the time, lured them into his home. He later killed them and disposed of their bodies in a ditch near Lakenheath in



All reconstruction of a real photo

Suffolk, around 12 miles from Soham.

Suspicion fell on Huntley after he gave detailed media interviews during the search for the missing girls. Two weeks after they disappeared, their bodies were discovered near an RAF base. At his trial at the Old Bailey in 2003, prosecutors described Huntley as calculating and deceitful. He claimed during his defence that one of the girls had died accidentally, but admitted killing the other and attempting to conceal the crimes. He was convicted in December 2003 and ordered to serve a minimum term of 40 years. He will not be eligible for parole until 2042.

Huntley's then-girlfriend, Maxine Carr, who had worked as a teaching assistant at the girls' school, was convicted of perverting the course of justice for providing a false alibi. She was released in 2004 under a new identity.

Background and Previous Incidents

Following Huntley's arrest, it emerged that previous allegations of sexual offences had been made against him while he was living in Humberside. The case led to significant reforms in vetting procedures for people working with children.

This is not the first time Huntley has been targeted in prison. In 2005, he was scalded with boiling water while held at HMP Wakefield. After being transferred to HMP Frankland in 2008, he was attacked again in 2010 and suffered a slash wound to his throat. HMP Frankland is a Category A high-security prison that houses some of the UK's most dangerous offenders.

Police inquiries into the latest assault are ongoing.

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