**Press Review March 24th to March 30th**

* **UK**

**Slide 2: UK economy**: Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves [will put £2bn into affordable housing](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEBRo1ClYygL5euNz7Bw18eiI6CyZUMtukZ5qZVZAzROGmfQuUAu7-VW0JwVPpJqkT8tNKtJuLp17RUwAHCtsdFVI6yH2Jr_FGcR8CsAlYl6eHoivU7Na2VjlzoRYAj3hGXc3piPRXW0iTT0se8YZW3y2OP-dj7V87S1pBwb-wCSFSHVYNzAZ7VxKcXTgi30zhMF4Hsc-Ptn7GH1N9qZD7jrWnJhtRgnasEsJBRDLq_g32wBedF3gNXUq69ER5MgwbuKk74zkm-iKU4rQNhxT-jIXzeEHwbdLQmxrlo1lcqNFg/4f3/23svHdbaRQuhEC3fPxD_kQ/h36/h001._6eCX-mnVZMcbdQgihC3ovv0r3Y7O3ZM7a_l8joScyQ) in a bid to “sweeten the pill” of the spending cuts being announced at this week’s spring statement. The chancellor will set out one of the tightest budget buffers on record, with the Office for Budget Responsibility expected to put the government about £5bn in the red.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/25/reeves-to-put-2bn-into-affordable-housing-to-sweeten-the-pill-of-cuts?utm_term=67e2547451463ed9a5b304147089f0e6&utm_campaign=FirstEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition_email>

**Slide 3: Rachel Reeves’s Spring Statement 🡪 more spending cuts to welfare and public services**

Rachel Reeves blamed “global uncertainty” as she announced swingeing cuts to welfare and other public spending designed to plug a fiscal hole caused by soaring borrowing costs and sluggish economic growth.

The chancellor told the Commons that the UK’s growth forecast for this year had been [halved from 2% to 1% by the Treasury watchdog](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/mar/26/obr-forecast-uk-economic-growth-2025-spring-statement), which concluded that the chancellor would have missed her goal of balancing the books if she did not act.

Striking a defiant tone, Reeves set out measures in her [spring statement](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/26/spring-statement-2025-key-points-rachel-reeves) that she said would turn a predicted £4.1bn hole in the public finances back into a £9.9bn surplus within five years. This would restore “in full” the headroom against [her self-imposed fiscal rules](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/23/should-rachel-reevess-fiscal-rules-stay-golden-or-are-they-meant-to-be-broken), she said.

In a pointed message to her cabinet colleagues and Labour backbenchers who have privately argued for the fiscal rules to be revisited, Reeves said they were “non-negotiable” and “an embodiment of this government’s unwavering commitment to bring stability to our economy”.

She suggested that abandoning those fiscal rules would be an irresponsible move akin to [Liz Truss’s disastrous 2022 mini-budget](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/oct/20/the-mini-budget-that-broke-britain-and-liz-truss).

The chancellor said the cuts she announced would be offset by billions of pounds in long-term investment to grow the economy, with a particular focus on the building of millions of new homes and supporting higher spending on defence.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/26/spring-statement-2025-key-points-rachel-reeves>

* **Foreign affairs**

**Slide 4: Ukraine:** Russia and Ukraine [have agreed to “eliminate the use of force” in the Black Sea](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEDZ6B-1FqgwPH629GPFez9eGDZ6hJklzSEDDOtEM_j_uiRloztxcN9M7lWQeDyCGB7Wk8nFa2jVmc3soMSOk5n6SXdNva_wAnruXnw7T0EW5fe7NOwlEGg56PveNJWgoxP9qGqmRkTE3JtEie9zgyaJviFTquzOnKsLBleTn3NsQXs6MsISjo5Vo_u7Ae54uAsdaJIivgWlg3dffgAJ4L6W1n0uVy0nr2g5RtKgsF-J_1unR1zizzrz1LfD2gFx1nE/4f4/iGCeUCHdRgev7glRePrxLw/h35/h001.JUekfOfwEJWCOPbWoKb-sQxBLfHI4wFBlHipTUjQpiE), though the Kremlin said it was conditional on sanctions relief for its agricultural exports. The warring parties also agreed to implement a previously announced 30-day halt on attacks against energy networks.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/25/russia-and-ukraine-agree-ceasefire-in-black-sea?utm_term=67e3a4c95eff654df9053abcce753986&utm_campaign=FirstEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition_email>

* **The environment**

**Slide 5: environment**: Supporters of the climate group Just Stop Oil have announced that after three years of disruptive protests they are [ending their campaign of civil resistance](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEAhzD0WUI17vwhqJTqDOvEGLMOAO3koTHdSAD5pQ7SpkFvbkNgRR8bYEMZZXT1jpopBV2zhzbRhW5qfIfLRRC0A7zGbban6fliEP6nRf7Dt1qRLeJlHxuak5Vfr7kpFdlmxquLf3nyOZPG0s09iZr2HVNXRuq45nApUTb1pysAjS4xjltpiSU3pEOBmKSY0oVMxNs5oaeUqdm5Ifk_l64UwgYvqUMY_1o7NKkMG2gFp9XhRNa1ERRVdc7MK6BeYPEBwT--jsJwS83vddEiMiM9olwUchFJHUM1FGmw0-buHWQ/4f6/2PR7XnwOR4mCeKw1WCnVwA/h55/h001.UVzz2J6wanQpavecbvUl_Jovj0snF1dXyyrFFH1sygk). Hannah Hunt, whose speech on Valentine’s Day 2022 marked the beginning of the campaign, made the announcement outside Downing Street in London on Thursday March 27.

* **Miscellaneous**

**Slide 6: DNA testing company 23AndMe** **announced that it was going bankrupt.** The 15 million people shared their DNA with 23andMe are urged by authorities to delete their data, as the company’s financial situation means that they could end up in someone else’s hands.

Indeed, Sunday’s announcement clears the way for a new company to purchase 23andMe — and the wealth of genetic information in its databases. The privacy statement of 23andMe reads: “If we are involved in a bankruptcy, merger, acquisition, reorganization, or sale of assets, your Personal Information may be accessed, sold or transferred as part of that transaction.”

* **USA: Trump administration news**

**Slides 7-8-9: “Over the last two months, all the worrywarts** (*a person who tends to dwell unduly on difficulty or troubles*) **have been running around, going ‘Oh, the Trump administration’s evil!’ I don’t think that’s fair: they’re also dumb.” (Stephen Colbert on *The Late Show*)**

Senior members of [Donald Trump](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump)’s cabinet have been involved in a serious security breach while [discussing secret military plans](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/) for recent US attacks on the Houthi armed group in [Yemen](https://www.theguardian.com/world/yemen).

In an extraordinary blunder, key figures in the [Trump administration](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/trump-administration) – including the vice-president, JD Vance, the defence secretary Pete Hegseth, the secretary of state, Marco Rubio, and the director of national intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard – used the commercially available chat app Signal to convene and discuss plans – while also including a prominent journalist in the group.

The news was [met with outrage](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/24/journalist-trump-yemen-war-chat-reaction) and calls for an investigation in the US, with Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer calling it “one of the most stunning breaches of military intelligence I have read about in a very, very long time”

Signal is not approved by the US government for sharing sensitive information.

Others in the chat included the Trump adviser Stephen Miller; Trump’s chief of staff, Susie Wiles; and the key Trump envoy Steve Witkoff.

The breach was [revealed in an article published on Monday by Jeffrey Goldberg](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/), the editor of the Atlantic magazine, who discovered that he had been included in a Signal chat called “Houthi PC Small Group” and realising that 18 other members of the group included Trump cabinet members.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/24/journalist-trump-yemen-war-chat>

+ Stephen Colbert unpacks the scandal:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihHU3IVVrfM&list=PLiZxWe0ejyv84Wv9qKFmvjyZD9FrI6t8x&index=2>

**Slide 10: Law firms are refusing to represent Trump’s opponents following his attacks.**

President Donald Trump’s crackdown on lawyers is having a chilling effect on his opponents’ ability to defend themselves or challenge his actions in court, according to people who say they are struggling to find legal representation as a result of his challenges.

Biden-era officials said they’re having trouble findinglawyers willing to defend them. The volunteers and small nonprofits forming the ground troops of the legal resistance to Trump administration actions say that the well-resourced law firms that once would have backed them are now steering clear. The result is an extraordinary threat to the fundamental constitutional rights of due process and legal representation, they said — and a far weaker effort to challenge Trump’s actions in court than during his first term.

Legal scholars say no previous U.S. administration has taken such concerted action against the legal establishment, with Trump’s predecessors in both parties typically respecting the constitutionally enshrined tenet that everyone deserves effective representation in court and that lawyers cannot be targeted simply for the cases and clients they take on.

Trump has used executive orders to target powerful law firms that have challenged him. The latest came Tuesday against Jenner & Block, which employed attorney Andrew Weissmann after he worked as a prosecutor in Robert S. Mueller III’s special counsel investigation of Trump in his first term. The orders have sought to strip law firms of their business by banning their lawyers from government buildings and barring companies that have federal contracts from employing the firms.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/03/25/trump-law-firms/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41c3c4d%2F67e28a5f67ea090c7fb5b861%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F27%2F102%2F67e28a5f67ea090c7fb5b861>

**Slide 11: layoff plans across US agencies**

Federal officials are preparing for agencies to cut between 8 and 50 percent of their employees as part of a Trump administration push to shrink the federal government, according to an internal White House document obtained by The Washington Post that contains closely held draft plans for reshaping the 2.3-million-person bureaucracy.

The document covers 22 agencies and doesn’t have information in some categories. Several people familiar with the document stressed that planning remains fluid and that the numbers do not necessarily reflect what agencies will ultimately cut.

For example, the document lists the Department of Housing and Urban Development as cutting half of its roughly 8,300-person staff, while the Interior Department would shed nearly 1 in 4 of the workers it had when Trump took office and the IRS would cut nearly 1 in 3.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/03/27/federal-worker-layoffs-government-agencies/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41d1ed8%2F67e67edfa658864abd1be186%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F28%2F99%2F67e67edfa658864abd1be186>

**Slide 12**: **major** **cuts have been announced by RFK for the Department of Health and Human Services**

Kennedy’s plan will shrink the HHS’s 28 divisions to 15 — and include the formation of a new unit called the Administration for a Healthy America — as he tries to align the department with his [“Make America Healthy Again” agenda.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/10/18/trump-rfk-maha-health/) The changes will also slash the number of HHS regional offices in half, leaving five to cover the country.

HHS did not detail how different portfolios within agencies would be affected and gave only partial estimates of how many employees would be cut from certain agencies. Other agencies, like the Indian Health Service and the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, were not mentioned in the restructuring announcement at all.

* **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,** which oversees public health policy and response, will **shed approximately 2,400 employees.** HHS said **the agency will absorb about 1,000 workers from the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response** as the CDC is refashioned to focus on preparing for and responding to disease epidemics and outbreaks.
* **The Food and Drug Administration,** which manages the inspection and safety of consumables like baby formula, bottled water, over-the-counter and prescription drugs and cosmetics, as well as technology like medical implants and X-ray equipment, **will lose 3,500 full-time employees.** HHS said the workforce cuts would mostly affect “operations” and “administrative” functions, rather than inspectors or workers who review food, drugs and medical devices.
* **The National Institutes of Health,** which fundsresearch focused on improving health and prolonging life, will **lose roughly 1,200 employees.** HHS said the reductions are expected to affect “procurement, human resources, and communications” across NIH’s 27 institutes and centers. Those subagencies [focus on specific concerns](https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/list-institutes-centers), like cancer research, aging, infectious disease, allergies, kidney disease, and disorders affecting hearing and sight.
* **The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will lose 300 employees.** HHS said the services provided by Medicare, a health insurance program for people 65 and older and younger disabled people, and Medicaid, a health insurance program for low-income and disabled people, will not be affected.

**Slide 13: Trump issued an executive order to eliminate ‘anti-American ideology’ from the Smithsonian**

President Donald Trump issued an executive order Thursday evening promising to eliminate “divisive narratives” from the Smithsonian Institution’s museums and restore “monuments, memorials, statues, markers” that have been removed over the past five years.

The **“Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History” order** directs Vice President JD Vance to eliminate what he finds “improper” from the Smithsonian Institution, including its museums, education and research centers, and the National Zoo. The White House [fact sheet](https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/03/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-restores-truth-and-sanity-to-american-history/) describing the order said it will focus on removing “anti-American ideology.”

The institution, the official keeper of the American story, has operated independently as a [public-private partnership](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/art/2025/03/28/smithsonian-institution-donald-trump-funding/) created by an act of Congress in 1846. The order is an unprecedented act to edit an institution that has been expanding over many decades to include a wider, richer and more diverse telling of the nation’s history.

**Slide 14: tariffs** - Donald Trump has announced plans [to impose sweeping 25% tariffs on cars](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEAkCD247PEzzJghnkN7Siw6Z6W8NEOFXHusCqLt_GtL_KPXOk3EEhmKaKRxoewQQZD3pM6IM88RyWeCslZuatPdt-KFJzCq3iQUuNZA_lx0NbEFcHyXQjFdfbTr5g1l5OcBNEgmfM_ScsAiViKew32kj4SNKzYP47EY8V_nx4vtX3bJ6GIZReFlOdfiPZhzc_6GkG-72vkjbHY3KBm6Q_eCAtcswa1tZfgYDi964OJYlA/4f5/c7DVGDTUTvepDUZrLj-piw/h32/h001.ngTLWvDGYXfWwUBvRpVxftRt-CAh6hvNbkqHlCtHzFY) from overseas, days before the US president is expected to announce wide-ranging levies on other goods from around the world. The announcement drew swift condemnation from the European Union, Canada, and Japan.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/26/trump-new-car-tariffs?utm_term=67e4f7758d4d32f95fa5912a299e2e0f&utm_campaign=FirstEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition_email>

**Slide 15: JD Vance’s visit to Greenland**

JD Vance told troops in [Greenland](https://www.theguardian.com/world/greenland) that the US has to gain control of the Arctic island to stop the threat of China and Russia as he doubled down on his criticism of Denmark, which he said has “not done a good job”.

As the US vice-president toured Pituffik space base, [Donald Trump](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump) reiterated his previous claims that the US needs Greenland for “world peace”. “I think Greenland understands that the United States should own it,” the US president said at a press conference at the White House on Friday. “And if Denmark and the EU don’t understand it, we have to explain it to them.”

In a show of national unity before Vance’s arrival, four of the territory’s five parties signed a coalition agreement that states on page one: “Greenland belongs to us.”

**Slide 16**: **Musk** - Thousands of people worldwide protested [Elon Musk](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/elon-musk) and his efforts with Donald Trump to dismantle the US federal government, with rallies held in front of nearly every Tesla showroom in the US and many around the world – a concerted effort to go after the billionaire’s deep pockets as the CEO of the electric vehicle maker.

Protest organizers asked people to do three things: don’t buy a Tesla, sell off Tesla stock and join the [“Tesla Takedown” movement](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/mar/28/anti-elon-musk-protests-tesla).

“Hurting [Tesla](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/tesla) is stopping Musk,” reads one of the group’s taglines. “Stopping Musk will help save lives and our democracy.”

On Saturday 29, with more than 200 events planned worldwide, protests kicked off midday in front of Tesla showrooms in Australia and New Zealand and then rippled across Europe in countries including Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the UK. Each rally was locally organized with original themes. In Ireland, it was “Smash the Fash”, and Switzerland had “Down with Doge”. Photos posted to Bluesky by Tesla Takedown showed demonstrators in [San Jose, California](https://bsky.app/profile/joelyjoelyjoelyjoe.bsky.social/post/3lljvbvhzyc2m), close to where Tesla was previously headquartered, and [Austin, Texas](https://bsky.app/profile/artcandee.bsky.social/post/3lljsd62r222q), where its headquarters are now.

* **USA: non-Trump news**

**Slide 17: Florida work laws** - Beneath the smugness of [Ron DeSantis](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ron-desantis), at Florida [leading the nation](https://www.wlrn.org/government-politics/2025-03-21/florida-ice-police-sheriff-deportation-task-force-trump) in immigration enforcement lies something of a conundrum: how to fill the essential jobs of the scores of immigrant workers [targeted for deportation](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/immigration-florida-deportation-fears-desantis-trump-rcna188942).

The answer, according to [Florida](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/florida) lawmakers, is the state’s schoolchildren, who as young as 14 could soon be allowed to work overnight shifts without a break – even on school nights.

A bill that progressed this week through the Republican-dominated state senate seeks to [remove numerous existing protections](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5cd5801dfdf7e5927800fb7f/67e1b4e9a2b15644d9fb9449_childlaborbill_march2025%201.pdf) for teenage workers, and allow them, in the Florida governor’s words, to step into the shoes of immigrants who supply Florida’s tourism and agriculture industries with “dirt cheap labor”.

“What’s wrong with expecting our young people to be working part-time now? That’s how it used to be when I was growing up,” DeSantis said at an [immigration forum](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrEIaj5nPRE) with [Donald Trump](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump)’s “border czar”, Tom Homan, in Sarasota last week.

“Why do we say we need to import foreigners, even import them illegally, when teenagers used to work at these resorts, college students should be [doing] all this stuff.”

Unsurprisingly, the proposal has alarmed immigration advocates and watchdog groups concerned about child labor abuses and exploitation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/29/florida-republicans-immigrant-jobs-child-labor>

**Slide 18: The US Supreme Court upheld the Biden administration’s rules on ghost guns.**

Largely untraceable firearms, typically [purchased as kits online](https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/07/12/teens-ghost-guns-deadly-shootings/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41ccd41%2F67e52d5f1c02d2281d816ae4%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F52%2F107%2F67e52d5f1c02d2281d816ae4). Rules from 2022 required them to have serial numbers, sales receipts and background checks. Justices [ruled 7-2 to uphold](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/03/26/ghost-guns-supreme-court-ruling/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41ccd42%2F67e52d5f1c02d2281d816ae4%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F53%2F107%2F67e52d5f1c02d2281d816ae4) the regulations, despite their decision in 2022 to make it [easier to challenge gun restrictions](https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/07/07/gun-laws-supreme-court-bruen-rahimi/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41ccd43%2F67e52d5f1c02d2281d816ae4%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F54%2F107%2F67e52d5f1c02d2281d816ae4).