



PRESS RELEASE

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Helping the UK on its path to recovery: Lloyds Banking Group launches The Big Conversation: Helping Britain Recover

- **Lloyds Banking Group CEO, António Horta-Osório, announces plans for meaningful conversations about economic and social recovery across the UK's nations and regions**
- **Findings to be used to support businesses with their recovery, help communities rebuild and inform recommendations for public policy, with the ultimate aim of building back better**

Business and industry leaders, community members, political representatives and expert voices across the UK's nations and regions will participate in conversations about the road to recovery from the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic as part of an ambitious grassroots programme being launched by Lloyds Banking Group this summer.

As part of The Big Conversation: Helping Britain Recover, Lloyds Banking Group will run a series of virtual events, initially focusing on small and medium-sized businesses, bringing together local and regional voices to explore the best road to recovery for their region. The series, beginning in September, will consider the challenges, opportunities and critical areas of support needed to help rebuild businesses and communities and inform recommendations for public policy. Findings will be shared across the UK's nations and regions later this year.

The need for local recovery

While all areas of the country have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, different parts of the UK will inevitably face different challenges in recovery. In a study commissioned by Lloyds Banking Group in partnership with YouGov, 72% of leaders of small and medium-sized business stated that recovery plans should be tailored to the unique needs of each region. More than eight in ten (81%) said that recovery plans needed to address the needs of different business sizes, while three quarters (75%) said that recovery must also meet the needs of different sectors.

Convening expert voices

The Group will partner with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), whose representatives will bring the experiences of its 190,000 members to the events across Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions. The Group is also proud to partner with the CBI on a new report focused on what's needed to level up the English regions.

António Horta-Osório, CEO of Lloyds Banking Group, said: "The UK is starting to get back on its feet, but the difficult task of rebuilding businesses and the economy lies ahead."



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“Our regions and nations have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic in different ways, and our knowledge of regions, sectors and businesses throughout the UK tells us that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to recovery. Lloyds Banking Group is here to help the UK weather this storm and, importantly, The Big Conversation: Helping Britain Recover will bring together key voices from across these regions, sectors and businesses to get to the heart of the issues that matter and encourage true collaboration along the road to recovery.”

Dame Carolyn Fairbairn, CBI Director-General, said: “If the UK is to truly build back better from the sharp hit the country has taken from COVID-19, then we must work from the ground up.

“Local communities have an integral part to play in how our villages, towns and cities recover, helping to ensure that opportunities for people can be both protected and created in the future. The Big Conversation: Helping Britain Recover from Lloyds Banking Group can provide that platform for local voices within communities to help get the economy back on its feet as soon as we can.”

For more information visit:

www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/our-purpose/the-big-conversation-helping-britain-recover

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Notes to editors

YouGov research, commissioned by Lloyds Banking Group, was conducted amongst a nationally representative sample of 1,005 leaders of small and medium-sized businesses in Great Britain, aged 18+. Fieldwork took place between 13 and 20 July 2020.

Contact

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