

News story: UK Hydrographic Office receives Highly Commended STEM Inspiration Award

In recognition of their outstanding commitment to encouraging young people into science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers, the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) has been awarded Highly Commended at the STEM Inspiration Awards.

Held at the House of Lords on 1 November, and attended by guests across industry, education and government, the STEM Inspiration Awards, organised by STEM Learning, celebrated the work of individuals and organisations in inspiring young people into STEM careers. Finalists in the large employer category included Nissan, Just Eat, Legrand Electrical Ltd and Amey.

Speaking at the event, Professor Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation commented:

The UK Hydrographic Office have developed bespoke resources that bring their work to life, they are using these to engage thousands of young people and their parents, as well as supporting teachers. The judges were inspired by their longstanding and substantial commitments to STEM inspiration.

Amy Northern, STEM Ambassador and Data Engineering Team Manager at the UKHO commented:

We are delighted that we've been awarded Highly Commended at the STEM Inspiration Awards, which is down to the dedication of our STEM Ambassadors and the support of the wider business. We're really looking forward to continuing our STEM journey and working with more people in the local community.

The UKHO has 28 STEM Ambassadors who take part in outreach work across the local community, working with more than 2,000 people aged 5-19 over the last 18 months. This has included local activities in partnership with Digital Taunton, Code Club in the South West, Sorpotimist International and the Raspberry Pi Foundation, including free weekly code clubs.

The organisation is committed to encouraging more young people into STEM careers, with plans to work with a further 13,500 young people and 41,000 members of the public within their STEM Programme.

[Press release: Interim Managers appointed to Achiezer Association Limited and Achiezer](#)

The Charity Commission has appointed joint Interim Managers to Achiezer Association Limited ([registered charity number 255031](#)) and Achiezer, ([registered charity number 234038](#)).

The appointment comes as part of the regulator's [class statutory inquiry](#) into both charities, which began in June 2015. The charities are linked by common trustees and similar objects.

Due to continued concerns about the governance, administration and financial management, the Commission appointed [Geoffrey Carton-Kelly](#) and [Jason Baker](#), of FRP Advisory LLP, as joint Interim Managers to both charities on 30 October 2018 under section 76(3)(g) of the Charities Act 2011.

The Interim Managers will take over the general management, administration and operation of both charities and their property, and discharge the functions and duties of the trustees to the exclusion of the current trustees. These are temporary appointments and will be reviewed on a regular basis in line with normal procedures.

The inquiry is examining the governance, administration and financial management of the charities. The full scope of the investigation is set out on [GOV.UK](#).

Both charities were previously investigated by the Commission as part of a double defaulters class inquiry.

The inquiry continues and the Commission intends to publish a report setting out its findings and conclusions in due course.

Ends

Notes to editors

1. The Charity Commission is the regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work see the about us page on [GOV.UK](#).
2. Search for charities on our [check charity tool](#).
3. The Interim Manager appointment is a temporary and protective power that will be reviewed at regular intervals. It will continue until the Commission makes a further Order for its variation or discharge.
4. It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes

were. Reports of previous inquiries by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

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[News story: Innovative firms capitalise on emerging technologies](#)



Technology businesses in London are helping the city outperform every other European capital, Minister Jo Johnson has heard.

The Minister for London visited Amazon Web Services to host a roundtable meeting of tech start-ups, which was told that the city attracted £13.8 billion of investment between 2012 and 2016, more than Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam combined.

Among the attendees were Goodbox, a firm developing contactless devices to help charity and non-profit sectors raise money by making it easier for people to donate.

Minister for London Jo Johnson said:

London has always been at the forefront of developing emerging technologies.

The city's technology sector will continue to flourish for years to come and it was great to see so many companies which are leading the way, using new innovations to help make people's lives easier.

The [Digital and Industrial Strategies](#) sets out how the government will build on the success by building a world-leading digital economy that works for everyone including supporting the social sector to become digitally confident.

Published 7 November 2018

[News story: Transparency of academy system leads to greater accountability](#)

Thousands of schools' accounts have been published today (Tuesday 6 November), demonstrating the transparency of the academy system and the Government's commitment to taking action against those not following the rules.

Accounts covering around 7,000 academies have been published online and laid before Parliament for the second year running – allowing the public and Parliament to scrutinise the accounts of any academy school.

New information published today shows that 97% of academy trusts submitted financial returns to the Department for Education on time, proving they are using public money responsibly and complying with the clear rules set out in the Academies Financial Handbook.

The data also shows that only 88 academy trusts – equivalent to 3% nationwide – submitted two or more financial returns late in the 2017/18 academic year. Those trusts have been named publicly to improve compliance and help the department hold those schools to account and make sure every pound is spent as efficiently as possible.

The publication of this information is the latest step taken by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to ensure academy finances are in good order, and trusts are more accountable for the public money they spend.

This comes after Education Secretary, Damian Hinds, announced a clampdown on related-party transactions – supplies to academy trusts from linked individuals or organisations – with trusts required to seek approval from the ESFA for all payments over £20,000 from next April.

Minister for the School System Lord Agnew said:

Since expanding the academies programme we have made sure that increased autonomy is supported with increased transparency. And this transparency means that we know and can take action where trusts are not following the clear rules we have laid down.

Providing financial returns on time is just one example of how we monitor and scrutinise academies to ensure their financial health is robust and they continue to be more transparent in their reporting than local authority schools.

It's encouraging that the overwhelming majority reported on time, and we are taking action in the small number of cases where we find that this has not happened.

Other new accountability measures introduced for this academic year (2017/18), mean academies must notify the ESFA of:

- Their total salary expenditure, broken down into teachers, leadership, administration and support;
- The job title and role description of all staff whose full time pay package exceeds £100,000 per year; and
- Whether each role is focused on curriculum and education leadership, or school business management leadership.

All academy trusts must abide by the Academies Financial Handbook, which outlines the Department's expectation in how they should operate and examples of best practice.

The information on academies' financial reporting and the Academy Sector Report and Accounts (SARA) coincides with an additional publication from the Department for Education to make the system more transparent.

A new, dedicated webpage for Headteacher Boards – advisory committees that provide support to Regional Schools Commissioners – has been designed to give a greater insight into the decisions taken by Regional Schools Commissioners. The webpage will give parents, teachers and school leaders easier access to information about decisions taken to raise standards across the country. The new page will include:

- a clear explanation of the role of Regional Schools Commissioners;
- meeting minutes and agendas – published with six weeks of a meeting;
- schedules of meetings; and
- meeting templates to clarify the information and data Headteacher Boards consider.