

Notice: Wienerberger Limited: application made to abstract water

The Environment Agency consult the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by

Speech: Celebrating the Creative Industries Federation's 3rd anniversary

It's fantastic to be here tonight; thank you to the Creative Industries Federation for inviting me this evening.

I've been privileged enough to start my new year with a new job and I'm delighted that this is my first speech as Secretary of State at DCMS.

And what a fantastic place to do it, here at the Natural History Museum – featuring one of the world's finest collections of artefacts, from the T-Rex to the woolly mammoth.

And I see only one mammoth. And that's the mammoth that is our creative industries.

The creative industries are one growing faster than ever, contributing almost 100 billion pounds to the UK economy every year.

John, I want to give credit to you and the CIF for helping to give the creative industries a powerful voice over the past three years.

This includes the work you have done with DCMS on the Sector Deal, which is due to be published in the next few weeks.

Your input and insight is really important to us and I'm thrilled that we can continue working together now that I am Secretary of State.

Greg Clark and I were both really keen to come here tonight to underline the

Government's commitment to this fantastic industry and the exceptional work that you all do.

Looking back

Tonight, of course, is about celebration. And we have lots to celebrate.

Of course there were difficulties and moments of uncertainty last year. Not least for me...But 2017 really was a year of remarkable creative success.

The thought I really want to leave you with today is that the UK's creative industries are getting their mojo back.

And I'm not just talking about London. Across the length and breadth of Britain, the power of culture and creativity is bringing people together like never before.

Just look at Hull's landmark year as UK City of Culture. It not only led to a boost of around 60 million pounds to the local economy, but also saw nine out of ten residents taking part in a City of Culture event. I know that city and it changed it for good.

And Hull won't be just a one hit wonder. The cultural legacy that has been left for the region will inspire future generations and foster waves of new talent.

We were also able to give much-needed reassurance to the creative industries when we reached an agreement on the first phase of Brexit.

I know that the issue of citizens' rights is very important for everyone in this room tonight. EU citizens enrich every part of our economy, our society and our cultural life.

We have now reached a deal that protects the rights of EU nationals in the UK and UK citizens in the EU, which I hope will provide valuable certainty.

This agreement has shown that as a country we can strike a good deal with the EU. This means we can forge a strong future with our cousins across the Channel but also remain open to the wider world.

I believe Britain's future is bright, and that we can be an open, gregarious, optimistic nation, engaged with the world. Culture transcends boundaries and we have a strong track record of working with other countries to produce artistic brilliance.

But I know that sometimes things get in the way. For example, we want to support the industry in its fight against rogue ticket touts.

I was lucky enough to see the phenomenal Hamilton last week and I was impressed at the measures they are taking to put real fans first.

And I'm also immensely proud of the work we did together with the music industry to persuade the Met Police to abolish Form 696.

Looking ahead

As I said earlier, 2017 was a year of success. The creative industries have their mojo back – I have great optimism that they will motor on in 2018.

The creative industries give a massive boost to our economy. Everyone deserves to be able to access them – regardless of your ethnicity, gender, background or taste.

I am committed to doing this, whether it's through lifting restrictions on performing that could hold back the next Skepta, or making sure that fans are being treated fairly and get to see the artists they love.

You may have noticed the blue whale skeleton above us in this magnificent room. She's called 'Hope' and she was installed as a symbol of humanity's power to shape a sustainable and positive future.

Numbers of blue whales had been declining for centuries, until there were just 400 left in 1966. Since then, enlightened people worked hard to protect blue whales and helped to restore the population to 20,000. It's the perfect backdrop for tonight's celebration.

It shows that through concerted action and creative solutions we can create a better future.

The same applies to culture. The passion, creativity and talent here in this room will help ensure a positive future for our creative industries and for our country.

Let's take our inspiration from Hope and not the dinosaurs and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead in 2018.

Thank you and have a fantastic evening.

[News story: Ministerial appointments: January 2018](#)

This government is about building a country fit for the future – one that truly works for everyone with a stronger economy and a fairer society.

This reshuffle helps us do just that by bringing fresh talent into government, boosting delivery in key policy areas like housing, health and social care, and ensuring the government looks more like the country it serves.

It also allows a new generation of gifted ministers to step up and make life better for people across the whole UK.

[Press release: Inspector appointed to investigate Northamptonshire County Council](#)

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, has today (9 January 2017) appointed an inspector to look into concerns around financial management and governance at Northamptonshire County Council.

Under powers granted to him under the Local Government Act 1999, the Secretary of State can commission an independent inspection to better understand whether a council is complying with its 'best value' duty – a legal requirement to ensure good governance and effective management of resources.

The Secretary of State has now appointed Max Caller CBE to complete a report. He will have a legal right to inspect and take away documents, and to access any council properties.

Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, said:

My decision to appoint an inspector is not taken lightly. I hope it sends a strong signal that robust processes are in place to investigate allegations of failures in financial management and governance in local government.

Read the [written ministerial statement](#).

The best value duty was introduced in England and Wales by the [Local Government Act 1999](#). Its provisions came into force in April 2000. The aim was to improve local services in terms of both cost and quality.

A best value authority must make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness ([section 3\(1\) of the Local Government Act 1999](#)).

Under [section 10 of the Local Government Act 1999](#), the Secretary of State may appoint a person to carry out an inspection of a specified best value authority's compliance with the best value requirements in relation to specified functions.

News story: Charles Forte appointed new MOD Chief Information Officer

Following an open competition to both internal military and civilian candidates and to candidates from outside the MOD, the Permanent Secretary Stephen Lovegrove and General Sir Chris Deverell, Commander Joint Forces Command have today announced the appointment of Charles Forte as the new Defence CIO.

Charles has 36 years industry experience gained from leading Information Technology companies globally. He has previously had the role of CIO at British Petroleum and in an interim position at Thameswater. He was also the Chief Executive Officer of Global IT Service at Prudential.

Lieutenant General Ivan Hooper, who has been acting both as the Chief Executive Officer of Information Systems & Services (ISS) and the Defence CIO will hand over the latter role to Charles when he joins the Department. Charles is expected to start in post towards the end of January 2018.

As part of his new role, Charles will be responsible for the development of MOD strategy and policy on the operation and protection of all MOD Information and Communications Technology, including cybersecurity.