

[Guidance: Webinars for importers of food and drink products from the EU to Great Britain](#)

Webinars on changes to importing food and drink, including composite food and fishery products from the EU to Great Britain from 1 October 2021.

[Technology beats tradition in Personnel Accounting trial](#)

The traditional system for recording sailors entering or leaving a vessel is a simple pegging in/out board. This records the number of Souls on Board (SOB) in cases of an emergency whilst in port and the basis for muster sheets for emergencies at sea. Separate processes for visitors and contractors add to the complexity.

Organised through a Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) competition, The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is supporting this project to look at innovative Personnel Accounting and Location (PAL) solutions to account for, muster and locate personnel aboard Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) carriers in real time.

Owing to the size of the ship, the relatively low size of ship's company and the high number of compartments, it is currently extremely difficult to accurately locate crew if they have not been seen for some time.

A number of technologies were trialled on several vessels, resulting in the selection of a system by Kinsetu which delivers a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)-based solution. This is now being assessed through a Fleet Trial involving HMS Queen Elizabeth (QNLZ) and HMS Prince of Wales (PWLS).

A Fleet Trial of Kinsetu's ktrack system installed in both QNLZ and PWLS is being tested to explore the system's effectiveness on a real Royal Navy vessel and explore the human factors issues associated with SOBs wearing this RFID technology.

Some of the ship's company aboard HMS Prince of Wales

The scope of this trial has included investigating the merits of a combined

HF (High Frequency) and UHF (Ultra High Frequency) identity card worn on a lanyard (around the SOB's neck) versus tags on bootlaces or sewn into uniforms.

BAE Systems and Kinsetu installed all of the PAL equipment, cabling and modifications to the INE (Internal Network Electronics) VLAN (Virtual Local Area Network) in PWLS and QNLZ ready to provide an interim PAL capability for operational testing through Op Fortis – the operational deployment of the Carrier Strike Group.

On QNLZ, the PAL functions supported include:

- Accounting via High Frequency (HF) readers (4 each at Starboard Forward, Starboard Aft, Port Forward and Port Aft gangway reception areas); the ingress and egress direction of these readers can be set dynamically to maximise SOB flow on or off the ship.
- SOB registration and querying via 2 client laptops (swapped between Starboard / Port Forward reception areas and Exec / RN Police office) plus 2 registration HF devices.
- Experimental Locating function provided by 6 Ultra High Frequency (UHF) readers plus antennae on 2 and 5 Decks (near laundry, NAAFI and Junior / Senior Rating Mess halls) that can detect when a UHF tag worn by a SOB is near the reader.
- Mustering of SOBs in simulated emergencies via 4 HF readers located at entrances to Junior and Senior Rate Mess halls.
- Mobile registration and accounting HF reader to be used to manage SOBs who arrive / depart the ship via helicopter or boat.

Traditional peg board on HMS Prince of Wales

Gangway ingress readers on HMS Queen Elizabeth

Over the coming months, the trial is being conducted on both ships to build system functional data and capture operator and end user feedback until June 2022. Information gathered will be used to shape a full requirement specification to Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) for future procurement.

Lieutenant Commander Glen Kerrigan, Capital Ships Weapon Engineer in the Royal Navy and outgoing project sponsor, said:

The PAL project has exceeded expectations; this capability is now providing positive evidence that technology can reduce the Risk to Life (RtL) of Souls on Board and is being used as the primary accounting method on HMS Queen Elizabeth for her global deployment Op Fortis.

To achieve this success on a strategic defence platform in a highly demanding environment is remarkable for any project; to get this far from a tech demo project is unheard of and has been the result

of solid collaboration across defence organisations and suppliers.

George Curtis, Dstl Project Manager, added:

The trial and deployment will generate valuable operational feedback, while providing the Royal Navy with a practical interim personnel accounting solution. It will be a significant enhancement to the safety of navy personnel, with potential for adoption on other vessels.

[New Members appointed to the board of The Royal Parks](#)

The Secretary of State has appointed Viscountess Dunluce and Jane Hurst as Members of the board of The Royal Parks for a term of four years commencing on 14 August 2021 until 13 August 2025.

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Viscountess Dunluce

Aurora Dunluce (Aurora Antrim, from August 12th) is an award winning documentary filmmaker who, as Aurora Gunn, has been producing and directing arts films for ITV and Sky Arts' South Bank Show since 1999. Her subjects have ranged from Shakespeare to Tracey Emin to Herbie Hancock. Aurora is currently developing her first historical drama series for television.

Over the past two decades Aurora has also overseen the running of the Glenarm Castle estate in Northern Ireland. Her estate experience ranges from restoring and replanting an historic walled garden, now considered one of Ireland's finest, to diversifying the business in order to create new income streams ranging from retail, events and the creation of several high quality local food brands. More recently her board experience has included oversight of the public facing side of the business as well as efforts to drive down its environmental impact and make it more sustainable.

Aurora is passionate about the arts, particularly live theatre and is a patron of Northern Ireland Opera's Festival of Voice. This is Aurora's first

public board appointment.

Jane Hurst

Jane is a qualified accountant (ACA) and former partner in KPMG UK, with 20 years experience of complex financial and operational restructuring, performance improvement and turnaround. She has worked in a vast range of businesses in manufacturing, defence, consumer, retail, insurance and banking – from the very large, and global, to the very small. She has also supported multiple public sector entities undergoing change. Jane has been a co-opted member of The Royal Parks' Audit and Risk committee since October 2020 where she has really enjoyed getting to know some of the Executive and Trustees. She looks forward to her role as a full trustee of The Royal Parks.

Jane is Mum to two boys aged four and six who love anything outdoors and spend a lot of time bug hunting and kicking balls around. Jane's other interests include running, cycling and photography, although all need a fair amount of improvement!

These appointments have been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The Royal Parks board members are not remunerated. The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Both Viscountess Dunluce and Jane Hurst have declared no such political activity.

[SLC offers support to students receiving exam results](#)

Chris Larmer, Executive Director, Operations on the steps students need to take to get their student finance sorted after A-level results day.