

[Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Montenegro](#)

2015 – present FCO, Temporary duties in the Middle East & North Africa, Finance and Prosperity Directorates 2013 – 2015 Sana'a, Deputy Head of Mission 2013 Full time language training (Arabic) 2010 – 2012 FCO, Head of Policy Unit, National Security, Middle East, North Africa & South Asia 2008 – 2010 FCO, Deputy Director Estates & Sustainability, Estates and Security Department 2007 Kurdistan Region & Northern Iraq, Consul General 2006 – 2007 Liberia, Political Chargé 2004 – 2005 FCO, Near East Team Leader, Arab, Israel North Africa Group 2002 – 2004 FCO, Head of Political Team, Afghanistan Unit 1999 – 2002 Colombo, Second Secretary Political 1997 – 1998 FCO, Desk Officer Greece and Cyprus 1997 Joined FCO

[News story: Focus on driving excellence in the nuclear sector](#)

NSAN was established by nuclear employers and Government to address the skills challenges facing the nuclear sector. It provides a forum in which organisations can come together to discuss these challenges and develop solutions to address them. It currently has around 145 member organisations drawn from both the public and private sectors.

Ann McCall, Waste Management Director at RWM said: "Having worked closely with NSAN in recent months we are thrilled to be confirmed as a member. We are committed to maintaining and driving up skills within our organisation and we look forward to playing an active role within the Skills Academy."

NSAN works with employers in the nuclear sector to develop a range of solutions which can help train staff and support them in developing their skills. One example is the Nuclear Training Network, an online portal where staff can access a range of training courses.

RWM has recently produced a new e-learning training course which is now available via the NSAN portal. Aimed primarily at those involved in decommissioning and waste management, the course provides an overview of RWM, its role as the public sector delivery body for a geological disposal facility (GDF) and the support it provides to radioactive waste packagers. More than 150 people have already signed up for the course from across the nuclear industry.

Further information on the course can be found [here](#)

[The Government must deliver the broadband infrastructure that UK homes and businesses need – Tom Watson](#)

Tom Watson, Labour's Shadow

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, commenting on the announcement of an agreement for Openreach to legally separate from BT, said:

“This is a welcome announcement that must now deliver for customers, far too many of whom don't have access to broadband or put up with a poor quality service.

“The Government's failure to create healthy competition in the UK's digital market has caused the rollout of broadband to be far too slow and millions of British households and businesses have paid the price, at a cost of billions of pounds to the economy.

“While the legal separation of Openreach from BT is clearly a good thing for consumers we must also ensure it works for Openreach's 32,000 employees and the Government must work with CWU to ensure that jobs, pensions and terms and conditions are protected.

“Now the separation has been agreed the Government must waste no time in delivering the broadband infrastructure that UK homes and businesses so badly need.”

[Press release: Countryside Stewardship opens for 2017](#)

From today (10 March 2017) farmers and land managers can apply for the Mid Tier and Higher Tier of Countryside Stewardship. This is a targeted scheme which funds projects to:

- restore habitats
- improve water quality and woodland
- reduce flood risk

- protect landscapes
- provide year-round food and shelter for pollinators, birds and other wildlife

Improvements have been made to the application process this year to make it easier to apply, including simplifying evidence requirements for claims and applications wherever possible. Additional support and advice is also available from Natural England.

Countryside Stewardship grants will be offered to those who propose to make the best environmental improvements within their local area.

The Mid Tier of Countryside Stewardship offers 5-year agreements for environmental improvements in the wider countryside, such as reducing diffuse water pollution or improving the environment for birds, pollinators and farm wildlife.

Higher Tier specifically focuses on environmentally important sites, including commons and woodlands, where the more complex management requires support from Natural England or the Forestry Commission, including tailoring of options.

Application packs can be requested from Natural England by calling 0300 060 3900.

Those thinking of applying for the Higher Tier, including woodland improvement, will need to have submitted an initial application by 5 May 2017. Higher Tier application packs will need to be requested by 13 April so that Natural England can send out the maps and evidence requirements in time for farmers and land managers to develop their application.

Mid Tier applications need to be submitted by 30 September 2017. Mid Tier application packs will need to be requested by 31 July.

Natural England will contact everyone who has a Higher Level Stewardship or Entry Level Stewardship agreement expiring this year to let them know which scheme they will be most suited to and what support is available.

See the main [Countryside Stewardship](#) page for more information, including guidance material.

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