

Press release: Unemployment levels at record low

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, said:

This Government is committed to delivering a United Kingdom that works for everyone and so I welcome today's Labour Market Statistics, which show a continued strength in the Northern Ireland economy.

The unemployment rate is down to its lowest ever level of 3.1% from over 8% in the wake of the recession and, crucially, the employment rate is up to one of the highest rates on record at 69.7%.

More than 15,000 new jobs were created over the last year, meaning more people with the security of a regular pay packet to provide for themselves and their families.

News story: The AAIB has sent a team to Hampshire

The AAIB has sent inspectors to Lasham, Hampshire, to investigate an accident involving a glider

News story: Food chain resilience in a changing world: 2018 conference programme

Updated: Lord Henley will be giving a keynote speech and we have an updated programme for the conference. Please register for your place now.

[Lord Henley](#), Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will be giving a keynote speech at the 2018 Government Chemist conference. The conference will be opened by the Government Chemist, and will focus on the challenges presented to the resilience of the food chain, in terms of food safety, security, authenticity and sustainability, especially as trading conditions and regulations evolve.

Conference programme – Day 1

- Welcome and introduction – Government Chemist
- Referee cases outcomes – Michael Walker, LGC
- Application of whole genome sequencing for public health interventions around foodborne pathogens – Kathie Grant, PHE England
- Keynote speech – Lord Henley, BEIS
- The role of Public Analysts in ensuring food chain resilience – Jon Griffin, Association of Public Analysts
- Regulating our future – modernising food regulation in the UK – Catriona Stewart, FSA
- The European Commission Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality – Franz Ultberth, JRC
- The Scottish Food Crime Unit: how FSS is using science to verify the authenticity of the food chain in Scotland – Lynsey Scullion and Duncan Smith, Food Standards Scotland
- Road map for the harmonisation of DNA testing for meat speciation – Tim Wilkes, LGC
- TBC – James Donarski, FERA

Conference programme – Day 2

- Are your genes to blame when your jeans don't fit? – Giles Yeo, Cambridge University
- How the food industry is preparing for EU exit – Helen Munday, Food and

Drink Federation

- Food Safety Challenge – Hong Kong Perspective – Tom NG, Hong Kong Government Chemist Laboratory
- Antimicrobial resistance – Jim Huggett, LGC
- The Hand That Feeds: A musical about food crime – Kate Cooper, Birmingham City Council
- Early warning systems to detect, predict and assess food fraud – Yamine Bouzembrak, RIKILT
- Authenticity tools for detecting food fraud – Selvarani Elahi, LGC
- Accelerating rice improvement in South Asia – Katherine Steele, Bangor University

Download the conference programme and booking form



[Government Chemist Conference 2018 programme and booking form](#)

PDF, 644KB, 3 pages

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Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.

Get the latest updates to the programme by signing up for alerts on the [Government Chemist](#) page or on Twitter [#foodchainresilience_gc18](#).

News story: This is Me in the Nuclear Industry

We are joining other big businesses to back the 'This is Me' campaign.

Our 'This is Me' video features employees from across the NDA Group to show people that anyone can suffer from mental health issues and that it's okay to talk.

This is me: NDA Group employees

Adrian Simper, NDA's Director of Strategy and Technology, said:

As the NDA's executive sponsor for mental health, my job is to help us change the way we think about mental health, to make it as important as physical wellbeing.

Mental Health Awareness Week marks the start of a step change for the NDA. In this video, we've teamed up with the rest of the Group to show that all kinds of people suffer from mental health problems and that it is ok to talk about it.

Sellafield Ltd's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion lead Alan Rankin, said:

This is Me is a fantastic campaign and we are proud to be getting involved with some of the biggest companies in the North West region. We are keen to end the stigma associated with mental health and to let people know that it is okay not to be okay.

The first step towards improving your mental health is often having a conversation, so we want our staff to know that it's okay to talk about their mental health.

Employees are invited to join events this week and raise money for mental health charities.

The This is Me campaign challenges the stigma around mental health at work and aims to break the culture of silence by supporting people to tell their own stories.

The campaign was created by Barclays in association with the Lord Mayor's Appeal in the City of London. The North West launch is the first time that the campaign has been launched outside the capital.

Businesses including Barclays, Manchester Airports Group, PwC, and United Utilities, along with Manchester City, Manchester United and Everton football clubs, make up some of the organisations coming together as part of the

campaign.

It is being supported by the Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham, who said:

Good mental health is fundamental to all our lives – an essential and precious resource that needs to be protected and enhanced. That's why I'm pleased to be supporting This is Me, which is now being rolled out across the region, showing once again how we are leading the way by being the first region outside of London to adopt the campaign.

For responsible employers in Greater Manchester and the North West of England, this tool offers a vital opportunity to normalise conversations about mental health, build an open and supportive culture, and contribute to the health and happiness of their workforce, allowing them to thrive.

Alan Rankin added:

Around 1 in 4 people in the UK experience a mental health problem each year, and by 2030 the estimated cost of staff mental health related issues nationally is set to rise to £32.7 billion.

As responsible businesses we all have an obligation to get involved and take an active interest in the wellbeing of our staff whilst creating environments where those in need can get the help and support required both now and in the future.

Press release: Taunton boss handed suspended sentence after pocketing £100,000

Andrew Reed (53) was the director of APR Media, formerly known as APR Video, where he produced and duplicated recordable media since it was first incorporated in 1996.

However, when the company began to make a loss and after 16 years of trading, Andrew Reed instructed insolvency practitioners in October 2012 to place APR Media into creditors' voluntary liquidation with a total deficiency of just over £800,000.

During the initial investigation into the company's affairs, the insolvency

practitioners could not account for around £125,000 which had been transferred out of APR Media's accounts just a couple of months before it was placed into liquidation.

Further enquiries by the Insolvency Service found that Andrew Reed fraudulently transferred money out of APR Media in the full knowledge that the business was insolvent in order to avoid paying his creditors.

In August 2012, Andrew Reed paid himself a £100,000 dividend and in September 2012, he transferred £25,250 to M5 Audio & Events, a company where his wife was a director.

Andrew Reed pleaded guilty to two fraud charges and on 27 April 2018 he was sentenced to 15 months in prison, suspended for two years, while also being ordered to complete 120 hours of unpaid work and pay £7,500 in costs.

The sentence was handed down despite the fact that Andrew Reed had paid back over £200,000 to the estate once the wrongful payments had been identified by the insolvency practitioner.

Glenn Wicks, Deputy Chief Investigation Officer of the Insolvency Service, said:

Andrew Reed knew his company was failing and unscrupulously ripped off his creditors by transferring money to his other company. The court has shown anyone doing this stands a serious chance of going to prison.

Notes to editors

APR Video Limited (Company number: 03239812) was incorporated on 20 August 1996 before it changed its name to APR Media in 2006.

On 19 March 2018 Andrew Reed pleaded guilty to two charges contrary to section 207(1)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986 of undertaking transactions in fraud of APR Audio Limited's creditors at Taunton Crown Court.

Insolvency Service

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

BEIS' mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy that works for all, in particular by creating the conditions for business success and

promoting an open global economy. The Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team contributes to this aim by taking action to deter fraud and to regulate the market. They investigate and prosecute a range of offences, primarily relating to personal or company insolvencies.

The agency also authorises and regulates the insolvency profession, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

Contact Press Office

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