

[Press release: Security Vetting Appeals Panel appointments: April 2017](#)

The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of four new members to the Security Vetting Appeals Panel. They are James Barron CBE, Sally Berlin, Nicholas Griffin QC and Claire Stokes, who have all been appointed with effect from 1 April 2017.

The new appointments replace Sue Jarvis, Stephen Monk, Claire Smith and Robert Wright who recently retired from the Panel after several years of service. At the same time, the appointments of the Chair, Sir George Newman and Deputy Chair, Sir Stephen Silber have been extended to 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2018 respectively.

The [Security Vetting Appeals Panel](#) was set up in 1997 to provide an independent means of challenging a decision to refuse or withdraw national security vetting clearance. It is available to hear appeals from individuals in government departments, the armed forces and other organisations, or their contractors, who have exhausted the internal appeals process and remain dissatisfied with the outcome.

The Chair and Deputy Chair are retired members of the judiciary, with other members having relevant experience at a senior level both inside and outside government. They form a panel from which 3, including the Chair or the Deputy Chair, are normally selected on each occasion when the Panel is required to hear an appeal.

These appointments have been made in accordance with the [Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies](#).

[News story: Happy anniversary, payroll giving](#)

Launched in 1987, payroll giving is a way to give to charity straight from your wages or pension without paying tax on it.

Over the course of three decades, the scheme has raised over £1.8 billion for good causes thanks to the generosity of employees. More than a million UK employees currently give in this way.

As part of the celebrations, the [Association of Payroll Giving Organisations](#) and the [Institute of Fundraising Payroll Giving Special Interest Group](#) are showcasing six individuals and what payroll giving means to them. From

employee donors to HR managers, find out about their [payroll giving stories](#).

How to get involved:

- Find out more about [how to donate](#) through payroll giving
 - If you are an employer, you can find out how to [set up a scheme](#)
 - Show your support for payroll giving on social media by joining the [Thunderclap](#) and using the #PayrollGivingAt30 hashtag
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[News story: Control systems for wave energy generation: apply for funding](#)

Organisations can apply for up to £47,000 to develop advanced control systems for cost-effective wave energy generation technology.

Up to £47,000 (excluding VAT) is available for businesses to develop advanced control systems for use in wave energy generation.

This funding call is for feasibility study proposals. It is the first of 3 stages in the [Wave Energy Scotland](#) (WES) control systems programme.

Up to 100% of project costs are available via a research and development contract. WES will invest further funding in successful projects which progress to design, development and demonstration stages.

The role of control systems in wave energy generation

Advanced control systems have the potential to play a vital role in the development of cost-effective wave energy generation technology.

WES aims to support collaboration between academia, industry, wave energy specialists and new entrants in this competition. There are relevant technology transfer opportunities in many industrial sectors including:

- robotics
- mechatronics
- electrical engineering
- aerospace
- automotive
- mining
- offshore and sub-sea vessel stability and manoeuvring

Competition information

- this competition opens on Wednesday 5 April 2017
- there will be a webinar for potential applicants on Thursday 13 April 2017 (registration required)
- individual companies can apply, but smaller businesses are expected to prefer to form a consortium for their bid
- there will be a brokerage event in Edinburgh on Friday 12 May 2017 (registration required) to help businesses find partners
- you must apply before midday on Monday 12 June 2017
- projects can last up to 3 months

This is the fourth WES innovation funding call.

[News story: Veterans' Gateway](#)

Veterans' Gateway went live on 3 April 2017 and is the first point of contact for veterans seeking support.

There is a huge network of organisations supporting the armed forces community, so finding the right one for your needs can be tricky.

Veterans' Gateway will make it quick and easy by being your first point of contact for whatever support you need, whether you are based in the UK or abroad.

Many of the team are veterans themselves so they understand the issues that people face after leaving the armed forces and they will work with people on a one-to-one basis, connecting them with the right support as soon as possible.

You can find out further information and contact the team via their website www.veteransgateway.org.uk .

[Speech: Chancellor at the India-UK FinTech Conference](#)

I am delighted to be here in Mumbai – the financial capital of India – and to participate in this UK-India FinTech Conference.

This conference is symbolic of the deep and burgeoning economic partnership between our two countries. It reflects our strong desire, and ability, to work together for mutual benefit.

And it demonstrates our shared determination to make this partnership stronger and deeper still by forging cooperation in new areas.

For me, it's a partnership based on a unique shared history, united by common values, and with a shared stake in each other's future prosperity and success.

That's why I'm delighted to have made India my first port of call outside Europe since the British Government triggered the start of negotiations on our exit from the European Union last week.

The vote for the UK to leave the EU was clear.

It reflected a desire for Britain to make its own decisions and to determine its own destiny. But it wasn't a vote for isolation. Far from it.

Rather, it was a vote for a more internationally-engaged, more Global Britain:

A Britain that will remain a close friend and partner to our European neighbours.

But a Britain that builds and strengthens relationships with old friends and new allies around the world too.

We will remain the strongest and most committed advocates of free trade and open markets. That is the way to continue to raise living standards for our citizens and to go on lifting millions across the world every year out of poverty.

And while we want to continue to trade with the EU as freely as possible, we also want the freedom to strike trade agreements with countries outside the European Union too – including with the fast growing economies of the world.

As the Prime Minister said when she led her first ever trade mission here to India in November, we stand the greatest chance of success when we work with partners with whom we share similar values, legal systems, approaches to business and ways of looking at the world.

That is why we have such a strong partnership between our two countries already. And that is also why this partnership has such great potential to develop so much further.

British companies have invested more in India since 2000 than the United States or any other European nation has done.

And investment from UK companies accounts for 1 in 20 Indian jobs in the organised private sector. Indian companies, meanwhile, invest more in Britain than in the rest of the EU put together.

And Indian companies, such as Tata, are amongst the biggest employers in the UK transforming British businesses with their focused management and long-term investment.

Yesterday, I held formal discussions with Finance Minister Jaitley on a range of critical areas of cooperation as part of our [Economic and Financial Dialogue](#).

Financial services were, as you'd expect, at the heart of those talks.

In the UK, we consider our financial services sector to be world-leading, with strengths across all the major areas and the services that support them.

And we have world-leading positions in the markets of the future – whether that's green finance, FinTech, or indeed rupee and renminbi products.

We want to use the strength of that sector for the benefit of India and the UK alike.

For example, The UK already hosts more than 15 Indian banks who play a central role in our vibrant international banking community. And Britain's financial services firms are some of the most famous names in India, across insurance, asset management, FinTech and banking.

India's appetite for investment is clear, particularly in infrastructure. And the deep links between our two financial sectors can ensure that this desire is fulfilled.

London's capital markets are uniquely deep and liquid – the perfect place to raise finance from a diversified international investor base.

In the last year we've seen the creation of a whole new market, with the world's first masala bonds issued in London – raising over \$1.5 billion. To date, almost 80 percent of all masala bonds have been issued in London. And we will see even more, very soon from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency and the National Highways Authority of India.

And today's conference highlights another exciting area where the UK and India can collaborate to our mutual advantage – in FinTech.

In the UK, in India, around the world, FinTech products have already begun to demonstrate their huge transformational potential.

Whether it's sending money across the globe at the touch of a button on your smartphone or allowing savers to lend directly to small businesses; it has already revolutionised the way we access financial services. It's already helping consumers manage their own finances better.

And it has the potential greatly to enhance financial inclusion in the future.

I'm proud that both EY and Deloitte have independently ranked the UK as the best place in the world to succeed as a FinTech firm.

And of course, here in Mumbai you are at the heart of India's FinTech revolution, attracting over a third of total investment in India's FinTech sector in 2016. Today I visited Barclays Rise with our Special Envoy for FinTech, Eileen Burbidge, to see first-hand some brilliant examples of the many innovative FinTech firms based here. And it's great news that Barclays Rise will expand their FinTech programme, including piloting a UK-India FinTech exchange programme.

I believe there's huge potential for the UK and India to be strong partners in this high growth sector. India has 220 million active smartphone users – over three times the entire UK population! What's more, India's demonetisation programme means its financial services sector is undergoing a significant transformation.

New FinTech payment firms, small finance lenders, and insurance players are entering the market.□ These firms will be crucial in helping the RBI achieve its target of 90% of the population having access to banking services by 2034.

As the world leader in FinTech, the UK couldn't be better placed to help support this target, and in the process give more Indian citizens access to crucial financial services than ever before.

Yesterday, [we announced a deepening collaboration on FinTech](#).

This will help forge closer commercial ties between our companies, and comprehensive links between our regulators.

Our collaboration will benefit ambitious FinTech firms from both countries looking for opportunities to expand their businesses. We celebrate the UK FinTech firms who are already succeeding in the Indian market, including the delegation of UK FinTech firms who have joined me here in Mumbai today.

And we welcome the successful Indian FinTech firms already established in the UK.

I look forward to welcoming still more Indian FinTech investors to the UK and to seeing many of you at our [International FinTech Conference](#) in London next week.

A deeper partnership between our FinTech sectors will be good for our financial services industries, good for our economies, and good for our consumers in both countries.

And it clearly has an important part to play in the reform programme that is developing so successfully under Prime Minister Modi and Finance Minister Jaitley's guiding hands.

So as we focus on building a stronger strategic partnership between India and the UK, I believe it is in both our interests to maximise our collaboration across our economies – and particularly in the most exciting areas of innovation, like FinTech.

In London and in Mumbai, we have deep pools of expertise and creative energy on which to draw.

And by working together, drawing on each other's strengths, we can make our respective FinTech industries stronger still, to the benefit of British and Indian consumers alike.

So I urge everyone in this room, innovators, regulators and legislators alike, to look to the opportunities ahead. And to seize them with both hands.