

Clearing launches for 2022

Thursday 18th August – a day etched in the minds of students across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. After what feels like the longest wait, they will finally receive their A-Level results.

Once the results are in and the initial excitement (or disappointment) has settled, decisions need to be made, which for some will mean finding a course through Clearing. The window for Clearing is expected to be particularly busy this year and we understand it is an anxious time for students and their parents, as they are eager to secure a spot on a course and cement their plans for the year ahead.

Our Operations team deals with around 1.5m applications every year and despite the significance of the day for many students, it's actually business as usual for us. Our teams have been through many Clearing periods before and are well versed on their responsibilities and the importance of the job at hand.

We have been inviting students to apply before our deadlines (20 May for new students and 24 June for returning students) so that we can guarantee that funding is in place at the start of the academic term. If students are accepting a place at university or college through Clearing, they need to sign-in to their student finance account and let us know. Students need to change the university or college on the application as well as the course and tell us the correct tuition fee being charged for the new course.

It can take six to eight weeks to process an application, so eligible students who have applied after the deadlines, and who are applying for higher rates of maintenance loans or for additional grants, may not receive their full funding entitlement at the start of term. However, in these circumstances, SLC will award the Tuition Fee Loan and the minimum amount of Maintenance Loan before the start of the course, while we confirm household income and any other relevant details. Students will get the remainder of their maintenance and any other funding entitlement as a top up payment as soon as possible once those details are confirmed.

We are in a strong position, with more customers processed and ready to pay than ever before, and our focus now is to process the applications received as a result of Clearing as quickly as we can, ensuring that all our checks are carried out efficiently and effectively.

There is plenty of information online to answer any questions students have and we also have the online application tracker, which will keep people up to date with where we are with their application. It's also worth mentioning that any student going through Clearing, who applied before the deadlines, should log in to their online account asap and update their course details.

On behalf of everyone at SLC, I would like to wish students all the best for A-Level results day. We hope it goes well.

Why would I like to meet my neighbours in the Falkland Islands? (Regional Student Competition 2022)

World news story

The Falkland Islands Government and the British Embassies in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay invite university students to participate.



This regional competition offers winners the chance to visit the Falklands for a week with all the costs covered. To participate, contestants should send a one minute video answering the question: “Why would I like to meet my neighbours from the Falkland Islands?” in English.

Winners will be staying with a local family, to experience first-hand the life in the Falkland Islands. The ideal winner should be active in social media and willing to share his/her experience about the Falkland Islands through these channels.

The contest is meant to promote the cultural exchange between the Falklands and the region, and to spread the knowledge about the Falkland Island and its people.

Find out more about the competition here: [Regional Student Competition regulations](#)

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Updated guidance on destruction and disposal of veterinary medicines containing controlled drugs (CDs)

News story

Revised guidance on veterinary medicines containing controlled drugs (CDs) including who can witness their destruction.



We have reviewed and updated our guidance; [Controlled drugs: recording, using, storing and disposal](#) including the interpretation of 'independent veterinary surgeon' that can witness the destruction of CDs.

We recognise that destruction and disposal of CDs can be complicated especially when faced with a shortage of Police Controlled Drug Liaison Officers, reduced availability of VMD inspectors when inspections are being carried out remotely, or a lack of independent vets within close proximity.

The updated guidance is a result of a survey that indicated that a vet's preferred option is to use an independent vet to witness the destruction of CDs.

The changes introduced will increase the pool of vets able to witness destruction of CDs, and as such will help:

- reduce the stockpiling of large quantities of CDs awaiting destruction and disposal
- improve safety
- reduce the risk of diversion of CDs

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) are currently reviewing their '[guidance to help vets comply with the Controlled Drugs legislation](#)', which is available via our guidance on [Controlled drugs: Veterinary medicines](#). The RCVS guidance will be updated to reflect the changes in due course.

[Navees Rahman appointed as interim Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate](#)

The Planning Inspectorate is pleased to announce that Navees Rahman is appointed Interim Chief Executive. Navees will be seconded from his current role as Corporate Services Director at the Inspectorate. The appointment follows the news earlier this summer of [Sarah Richards' intention to stand down as Chief Executive this autumn](#). Navees will lead the Inspectorate, whose services are a core part of the English planning system dealing with planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England.

Chair of the Planning Inspectorate Board and Non-Executive Director Trudi Elliot said:

“I am delighted that Navees has accepted the role of interim Chief Executive of the Inspectorate. In addition to his leadership experience within the Inspectorate, Navees is also bringing his experience of leadership positions across financial strategy, financial management, audit, governance and business partnering in executive agencies and central government departments to the role.

“On behalf of the Board and non-executive Directors, I am looking forward to working with Navees in his new role.”

Director of Planning at Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Simon Gallagher said:

“I’m glad to welcome Navees into the interim role of Chief Executive while we recruit for a permanent appointment. Recruitment for the permanent post commences today. The leadership of the Planning Inspectorate is a pivotal role within English planning, particularly with the current focus on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill progressing through parliament.”

Navees was appointed as Corporate Services Director at the Planning Inspectorate in 2016. He has been leading the professional services that support the work of the Inspectorate, developing a performance culture, investing in technology and processes, and using our diversity to help us innovate. As well as improving existing services, the directorate has been developing new capabilities in the digital and data fields to ensure that our public-facing services are digitally available and adhere to Government Digital Service standards. Our emerging capabilities in data will ensure that

we can both protect and exploit the valuable data that the Inspectorate holds.

Navees said:

“I am proud of the work the Planning Inspectorate and the important role it plays in the planning system.

“As interim Chief Executive I look forward to continuing to deliver the priorities set out by the Department and the changes the Inspectorate has set out in our Strategic Plan. I believe that these will improve our customers’ experience and ensure that the Inspectorate is a thriving, challenging and inclusive place to work.”

[Chief Executive job advert – closing date 28th September 2022](#)

[Andrew Hochhauser QC appointed as Chair of RCEWA](#)

News story

The Secretary of State has appointed Andrew Hochhauser QC as Chair of The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA).



Appointed for a four year term commencing 17 September 2022.

Andrew Hochhauser is a QC at Essex Court Chambers, a Deputy High Court Judge, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Hon Counsel to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He specialises in commercial and employment litigation.

As well as a LLM from the LSE, he has an MA from the Courtauld Institute of Art, where he studied British Modernism.

He is a former Trustee of the V&A, a Bencher and (in 2021) the former Treasurer of the Hon Soc of Middle Temple, Chair of the Samuel Courtauld Trust and an ex officio member of the Board of the Courtauld Institute of Art, Chair of Paintings in Hospitals (until January 2023), a Governor of the University of the Arts London, a Trustee of the National AIDS Trust, the V&A Foundation, the Aurora Orchestra, Orchestra for the Earth and a Director of Ensemble Plus Ultra. He was Chair of Dance Umbrella from 2007-2014 and thereafter a Governor of the Central School of Ballet. He is currently on the Board of Ballet Black.

Remuneration and Governance Code

Members of RCEWA are not remunerated. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). 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. Andrew Hochhauser QC has declared no activity.

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