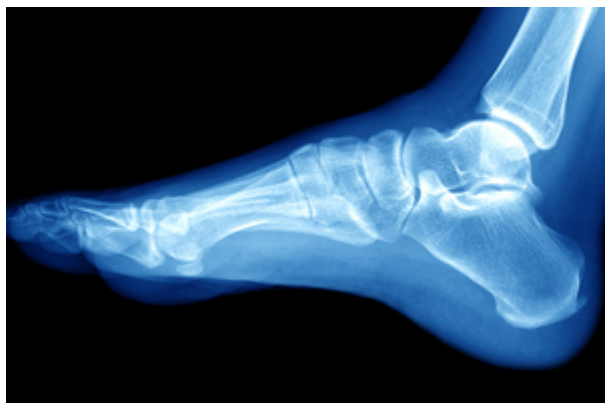


Medical device suppliers' merger raises competition concerns

News story

The CMA has concluded that the merger of 2 suppliers of medical devices could lead to a reduction of competition in the supply of total ankle replacement prosthetics.



The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is concerned that, should the proposed £4.2 billion purchase by Stryker Corporation (Stryker) of Wright Medical Group N.V. (Wright) go ahead, it would have a negative impact on vulnerable patients in the UK who need ankle replacements.

Stryker and Wright both manufacture a range of orthopaedic products for patients requiring assistance with their feet, ankles and hands. The total ankle replacement prosthetics produced by Stryker and Wright are predominantly used in elderly orthopaedic patients suffering from arthritis.

Following its initial Phase 1 investigation, the CMA found that the proposed merger would result in the merged entity having a share of over 90% in the total ankle replacement prostheses market in the UK. Should the deal go ahead as planned, the CMA is concerned that Stryker would not face enough competition from other suppliers, leading to higher prices or less choice for hospitals and their patients.

Joel Bamford, CMA Senior Director, said:

The CMA is concerned that this merger and the resulting reduction in competition could lead to worse outcomes for hospitals and patients. The companies are the two major producers of vital medical products for vulnerable people suffering from serious degenerative conditions such as arthritis.

Healthy competition in the medical technology market is central to continued innovation and improvements in patient treatments.

Stryker and Wright now have until 7 July 2020 to address the CMA's concerns through the offer of undertakings in lieu of a Phase 2 reference. If they are unable to address the CMA's concerns, the deal will be referred for an in-depth Phase 2 investigation.

For more information, visit the [Stryker/Wright Medical merger inquiry web page](#).

For media enquiries, contact the CMA press office on 020 3738 6460 or press@cma.gov.uk.

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[Extra funding for service charities as veterans' support is stepped up](#)

- £6-million of new funding announced for 100 military charities across the UK
- consultation will be launched in July on tax relief for businesses that employ veterans
- enhanced support for ex-service personnel announced during Armed Forces week part of government's drive to make the UK the best country to be a veteran.

Today the Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA) and the MOD have announced that 100 UK Armed Forces charities will benefit from nearly £6-million of extra funding to support serving personnel, veterans and their families during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This is part of a package of support announced by the Chancellor in April to ensure charities can continue their vital work during the pandemic.

The charities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland that are benefiting from this funding range from smaller local charities to bigger, more well-known names.

The charities provide support to veterans and serving personnel in a range of different areas, including employment, mental health and well-being, physical health, and recovery and support for service families.

As part of the government's commitment to supporting service personnel throughout their military and civilian lives, next month a consultation will also be launched on employers paying no National Insurance contributions on the salary of any veteran they take on during their first year of civilian employment.

This delivers on the government's manifesto commitment to encourage businesses to further utilise the immense skills and experience that veterans can bring to businesses.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Johnny Mercer said:

Today we mark and give thanks to our veterans for the outstanding service which they have given to this country. To show our appreciation we're advancing veterans issues across government, through the Office for Veterans' Affairs. I'm delighted as well to confirm extra funding for service charities to help them through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

If it wasn't for the brave servicemen and women who serve and protect our country, we would not have a United Kingdom to call our home.

That's why we must continue to do everything we can to support our veterans through these challenging times.

Under the plans announced in this year's Budget, an employer taking on a veteran earning £25,000 will save around £2,000 in NICs.

General Sir John McColl, Chairman of the Confederation of Service Charities, said:

This emergency funding is a very welcome step towards sustaining life-saving support for those in need across the Armed Forces Community. The Service Charity Sector has once again demonstrated great imagination and determination in adapting its delivery methods during this crisis, and we look forward to continuing to work with the MOD and the OVA to sustain these vital services in the coming months as the true impact of the pandemic is fully felt by charities throughout the Sector.

Employers currently pay Employers' National Insurance contributions of 13.8% of the employee's salary. Under this measure, they will be able to save this cost on an employee's salary up to the Upper Earnings Limit (£50,000).

Recently the OVA announced the launch of a study to look at whether COVID-19 has had any specific impact on the veteran community in the UK. This in turn will allow policy makers in government to understand potential issues affecting veterans and respond accordingly based on expert advice and evidence.

The OVA, which was created last year, is ensuring that the whole of

government is delivering better outcomes for veterans, particularly in areas such as mental health, employment and housing. It is working in partnership with government departments, the Devolved Administrations and charities to coordinate activity across the United Kingdom.

The role of the OVA includes:

- pulling together all functions of government, and better coordinating charity sector provision, in order to ensure this nation's life-long duty to those who have served
- ensuring that every single veteran and their family knows where to turn to access support when required
- helping to generate a 'single view of the veteran' by making better use of data to understand veterans' needs and where gaps in provision exist
- improving the perception of veterans.

The charities receiving funding are as follows:

- ABF The Soldiers' Charity
- Age UK Suffolk
- Alabaré Christian Care and Support, £62,462
- Armed Forces Community Support Hub
- Beyond the Battlefield NI, £40,000
- Blind Veterans UK, £125,000
- Bravehound, £45,849
- Bright Horizons Day care Centre, £20,160
- British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, £125,000
- British Nuclear Test Veterans Association, £59,600
- Brooke House Project
- Broughton House Home for Ex-Service Men and Women, £125,000
- Building Heroes Education Foundation, £50,250
- Burnley FC in the Community, £17,981
- Can International, £24,074
- Cardiff City FC Foundation, £11,108
- Care After Combat, £83,318
- Care and Repair (North East Wales), £23,460
- Care for Veterans (formerly The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home), £125,000
- Catterick Garrison Preschool Group, £16,689
- Central Bank Lisburn Station, £20,000
- Ceredigion Armed Forces Veterans Hub, £2,000
- Combat Stress, £250,000
- Communities Fiji Britain £15,000
- Deafblind Cymru
- Dig In
- East Sussex Veterans Hub
- Erskine
- Finchale Group
- Friends of Wavell
- Future for Heroes
- Gloucester Rugby Foundation
- Groundwork Manchester Salford Stockport Tameside and Trafford
- Help 4 Homeless Veterans

- Help for Heroes
- Historic Army Aircraft Flight Trust
- Home Start Richmondshire
- Horseback UK
- Hull FC Community Foundation
- Icarus
- Improving Lives Plymouth
- Invictus Games Foundation
- KartForce
- Maximum Edge C.I.C.
- Mindfulness Scotland
- Mission Motorsport
- Nomad Construction Training CIC
- On Course Foundation
- Operation Veteran CIC
- Oxford Parent Infant Project
- Poppy Factory
- Poppyscotland
- PTSD Resolution Ltd
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity
- Quick Response Memorial Woodland
- RAF Association
- RAF Brize Norton Pre-School
- RAF Benevolent Fund
- Reading Force
- Recruit for Spouses Career Academy CIC
- RFEA – The Regular Forces Employment Charity
- Royal British Legion Industries
- Royal Hospital of Chelsea
- Sailors Children's Society
- Scotty's Little Soldiers
- Sharks Community Trust
- Sheffield Mind
- Shots in the Community Foundation
- Smart Savings South West CIC
- Special Boat Service Association
- Spinal Injuries Association
- St John & Red Cross Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS)
- Stand Easy
- Step Together
- Supporting Wounded Veterans Ltd
- Surf Action
- Team Endeavour Racing UK
- The Advocacy People
- The Bridge for Heroes
- The British Training Board
- The Felix Fund
- The Matthew Project
- The Military Wives Choirs Foundation
- The Not Forgotten Association
- The Royal Air Force Central Fund

- The Royal British Legion
 - The Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund
 - The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity
 - The Royal Star and Garter Homes
 - The Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation
 - The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help
 - The VC Gallery
 - The Veterans Charity
 - The Veterans Hub Weymouth & Portland CIC
 - The Warrior Programme
 - Thistle Health and Wellbeing
 - Tom Harrison House
 - Veterans Aid
 - Veterans in Communities
 - Veterans Outreach Support
 - Walking With The Wounded
 - Waterloo Uncovered
 - Wigan Borough Armed Forces HQ CIC.
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Coronavirus (COVID-19): letter from Minister Hall to local authorities on funding support for those in emergency accommodation and EEA rough sleepers

Letter from Luke Hall, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing, to all local authorities in England on announcement of additional funding to support individuals placed in emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and support for EEA rough sleepers.

One year left to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme

Today (30 June 2020) marks one year before the EU Settlement Scheme application deadline of 30 June 2021. So far, there have already been more than 3.6 million applications and, according to internal management figures, more than 3.3 million have now been granted status.

EEA citizens and their family members who have been granted pre-settled or settled status have secured their rights in UK law, ensuring that, whether in four or 40 years' time, they will have the evidence they need to continue living and working in the UK – the country they call home.

The latest [detailed official statistics](#) show that the highest number of applications have so far come from Polish (697,900), Romanian (590,100) and Italian (363,600) nationals with more than 3.2 million applications coming from EEA citizens living in England, 180,700 from Scotland, 59,400 from Wales and 59,700 from Northern Ireland.

Minister for Future Borders and Immigration Kevin Foster said:

European citizens are our neighbours, colleagues, friends and loved ones. They enrich our culture and play an integral part in our society which is why I'm pleased 3.3 million have already been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme and secured their rights in UK law.

From today, there is one year to apply before the deadline of 30 June 2021 and my message to European citizens and their family members is clear – apply now. There is plenty of support available if you have questions or need help applying.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, people have had access to a [range of support](#) either online, by email or by telephone to help them apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Last year, the Home Office [awarded £9 million funding](#) to 57 charities across the UK who have already helped hundreds of thousands of vulnerable EEA citizens to apply. A further [£8 million of funding](#) was announced earlier this year for such work.

Head of Services at The Refugee and Migrant Centre Abbas Baig said:

The Refugee and Migrant Centre has engaged with more than 8,500 EU citizens and their family members in the Black Country and Birmingham to help them apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

With only a year left until the deadline, we encourage everyone eligible to apply now to secure their status and feel confident about their future in the United Kingdom after Brexit.

There are over 1,500 Home Office staff working on the EU Settlement Scheme with 250 Settlement Resolution Centre staff in place to provide assistance to applicants with any questions about the scheme or who need help applying.

The [EU Settlement Resolution Centre](#) continues to provide support seven days a week by telephone and by email. People can also use the [EU Exit ID Document](#)

[check app](#) to complete the identity stage of their application and we estimate that more than 3.2 million have already done so. A postal route is also available.

EUSS Team Manager at Newport Mind Tom Finney said:

Newport Mind Association provides practical EU Settlement Scheme support to vulnerable EU citizens living in Wales.

Working with 20 local Mind organisations, we have broken down barriers and reached out to over 5,000 vulnerable EU citizens living in Wales, including those with poor mental health, victims of domestic abuse and the elderly.

Additional support is available for those who do not have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to apply online through [Assisted Digital](#), which can offer assistance over the telephone.

We have also translated [communication materials](#) into 26 EU languages, including Welsh and Irish.

[The Secretary of State has appointed Kate Still as the Scotland Chair of the National Lottery Community Fund.](#)

News story

Kate Still has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as the Scotland Chair of the National Lottery Community Fund for four years from 15 June 2020 – 14 June 2024.



Kate is Director for Scotland for the Prince's Trust, a leading youth charity

supporting young people to live, learn and earn. She was a Board member of ERSA for many years, Chair of Employment Support Scotland and a Fellow of the Institute of Employability. Kate started her career as a teacher after completing an MA (Hons) in Politics at Glasgow University. She has over 25 years of relevant experience in delivery of education, apprenticeships, skills, employability and community enterprise and regeneration programmes across multiple sectors, including 15 years in the Charity sector. Kate has a passionate desire to make a difference coupled with the drive to achieve impact on issues of poverty, inclusion, and social justice. Kate has held strategic leadership roles at EU and UK levels including Management of EU aid programmes to Central and Eastern Europe. A former Board Member of Strathclyde European Partnership, she completed her MPhil in European Policy research at Strathclyde University in 2011. She has held Director roles previously with Rathbone and Wise Group. Kate has spent over four years volunteering with her local community council.

This role is remunerated at £24,000 per annum. This appointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#), the process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Ms Still has not declared any activity.

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