

Domestic Abuse Commissioner reappointed for a second term

News story

Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, will continue in her role for a further 3 years.



The Home Secretary has today (18 July 2022) announced the reappointment of Nicole Jacobs as Domestic Abuse Commissioner for a second 3-year term, effective from September 2022, which will run until September 2025.

Appointed in 2019, Ms Jacobs was previously Chief Executive Officer of the charity Standing Together Against Domestic Violence and has more than 2 decades of experience working to tackle domestic abuse.

Home Secretary, Priti Patel said:

Domestic abuse ruins lives and causes enormous suffering. I am committed to doing all that I can to tackle this heinous crime in all its forms, while protecting and supporting victims and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice.

Nicole's work as Commissioner has been extremely valuable and I look forward to seeing her continue ensuring that the voices of victims and survivors are heard.

Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs said:

I am delighted to be reappointed as the Domestic Abuse Commissioner. I look forward to building on the work that my office has already started to improve domestic abuse provision for all victims and survivors of domestic abuse across England and Wales. I am proud of all that we have achieved, and we are now in a strong position in the next 3 years to achieve real change.

As set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner is an independent voice that champions the voices of victims and survivors, engaging those with lived experience to help shape government policy and make recommendations on what more can be done to tackle domestic abuse. The Commissioner will use her statutory powers, which are set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to raise public awareness and hold both agencies and government to account in tackling domestic abuse.

The government is committed to continue working with Ms Jacobs in delivering its cross-government [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#), which was published on 30 March 2022.

The plan sets out an investment of over £230 million and will seek to transform the whole of society's response to prevent offending in the first place, support victims and pursue perpetrators, as well as to strengthen the necessary systems and processes to deliver these goals.

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[Frances shares opportunities for females at Hull STEM careers event](#)

Taking place in Hull, the Women into Manufacturing and Engineering (WiME) Public Careers Fair highlighted the world of opportunities for women to join these fast-paced and exciting sectors.

During the day, approximately 200 girls from schools across the Humber area attended the event, with around 70 women going along in the evening. The event aimed to drive positive change in terms of gender balance in the workplace, challenge stereotypes and inspire girls and women to consider careers in these industries.

Among the inspirational females offering a glimpse into the industries was Frances Oliver. Frances is the National Highways Project Manager for the A63 Castle Street improvement scheme, which is transforming Hull city centre. She oversees this £355m upgrade which will improve access to the port, reduce congestion and enhance safety as well as connections between the city centre and tourist and recreational facilities.

Frances said:

I hope to promote equality so that women and girls don't feel that, if they do go for those roles, they will be the only female on their team. You can't be what you can't see.

After graduating from the University of York in 2006 with a BA Degree in Linguistics, Frances joined National Highways in 2007. Having initially joined the agency in the HR department, she went on to become involved in financial management for IT projects.

She later became involved in project management. She says:

This was a great way to be involved in an area that was fast-paced and public-facing.

She moved into Major Projects in 2012. Supported by the organisation, Frances worked her way up, going on to be assistant project manager for the A63 scheme before becoming project manager.

She says:

I've been involved in a variety of construction projects, but this is the biggest construction project I've seen – and I get to be manager of it!

Frances says she doesn't recall seeing a female engineer or project manager growing up:

I think, if you can't see something, you're not aware you can do it. I want to promote the fact that there are great roles out there for everyone and there are all kinds of women doing them. I work with fantastic women in our team.

The WiME event was led by Green Port Hull. This is a collaboration between Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council to promote investment and development of the renewable energy sector in the Humber region. It also aims to support investors and their supply chains to secure long-term economic growth for the area.

Chair of WiME, Dr Kirsty Clode, said:

We're thrilled Frances and the team from National Highways could join us at our Hull careers event, which was supported by female employees from over 35 different organisations. What makes a huge difference is that we set up our events so that women who do these roles are available for girls and women to chat to. We're so thankful to everyone who gave up their time to make this possible.

National Highways and delivery partner Balfour Beatty have worked together to create a lasting "local first" legacy, helping charities, businesses,

suppliers, schools and colleges throughout the life of the scheme.

The project is engaging with young people on employment and skills activities, promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as a career.

The project team has engaged with more than 12,000 students in the last 12 months and delivered STEM-based activities to schools, colleges, and the University of Hull, including a full day for 45 students from a local Special Educational Needs and Disabilities school.

Women into Manufacturing and Engineering (WiME)

WiME is an initiative to encourage women to choose a career in these industries.

With great pay, a high number of vacancies and attractive prospects, careers in manufacturing and engineering present a wide variety of interesting and exciting roles, which play an important part in our economy.

This is why Green Port Hull has launched WiME, to encourage, inspire and help women in discover the opportunities available in manufacturing and engineering.

WiME has grown in strength with a network of 50 local companies, and has engaged with over 2,700 women and girls, encouraging them to consider STEM subjects and career opportunities.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the National Highways customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the National Highways press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[New £5 million innovation fund for cutting edge veterans' healthcare](#)

Press release

Bids open for £5 million funding for the Veterans' Health Innovation Fund to enhance veterans' healthcare



- Bids open for £5 million funding for innovative projects and cutting edge-tech to enhance veterans' healthcare
- The Veterans' Health Innovation Fund will support development of new treatments, techniques and interventions, including through use of AI, virtual reality and regenerative engineering
- Bids sought for initiatives to help enhance female veterans' healthcare in particular

A new £5 million fund has opened today for projects which will provide innovative healthcare treatments for veterans.

The funding will support organisations looking to research and trail cutting-edge technology which could help veterans with complex healthcare needs.

Veterans sometimes face unique health issues as a result of their military service and the Veterans' Health Innovation Fund will spur innovation in techniques which will ultimately help treat ex-service personnel who have been injured whilst serving the country.

The fund is now open for a number of areas, including:

- Digital, data and technology, including through artificial intelligence, virtual reality and using data to predict long-term health outcomes
- Improvements in innovative surgical techniques, rehabilitation for blast injuries and intervention technologies for mid traumatic brain injury
- Trial interventions and treatments for the impact of pain, hearing loss and visual impairment
- Initiatives to help identify and provide solutions to disparities in female veterans' health and healthcare

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Johnny Mercer said:

Our military veterans deserve the very best physical and mental healthcare available. That's why it is right that we invest cash in exploring how the latest innovation and technology can be used to help deliver that.

I want to make the UK the best place in the world to be a veteran. That means ensuring we do all we can to help ensure better health and employment outcomes for those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf.

The £5m Veterans' Health Innovation Fund, announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Autumn Budget, is designed to fund a range of projects to improve understanding of how innovative medical treatments or new clinical pathways can be used to better meet veteran healthcare needs.

Organisations will receive grants or contracts to research or trial cutting-edge treatments, techniques and interventions for physical and mental health challenges to help veterans enjoy civilian life to the fullest of their ability.

The grant bidding process has been supported by the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA). The bidding process is open until 31 August 2022.

The funding will also help the government meet its commitment in the Strategy for our Veterans for all veterans to enjoy a state of positive physical and mental health and wellbeing,

Interested applicants can attend an engagement session to find out more about the bidding process. Details on how to apply for a portion of the fund can be found [here](#).

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[Court winds-up online broker after misleading investors](#)

Scothop Limited has been wound up in the public interest in the High Court of Justice Business and Property Courts on 21 June 2022 before ICC Judge Jones. The Official Receiver has been appointed as Liquidator of the company.

The court heard that Scotthop Limited, more commonly known as Genesis11, set itself up as a regulated online broker, with the ability to trade different commodities.

The Insolvency Service, however, received complaints about the practices of the company and launched confidential enquiries into Scotthop Limited's activities before uncovering significant losses to investors.

Investigators uncovered customers were encouraged to invest with the online broker and would often see their investments increase in value, prompting

customers to invest further.

When investors attempted to withdraw their funds, they were either charged a substantial fee or their investments significantly reduced in value. Scothop Limited would then cease contact with investors if they continued to remove funds or did not pay the fee.

Further enquires found that Scothop Limited claimed to keep funds in segregated third party accounts. But funds were held in accounts in the name of individuals that were not registered as officers of the company.

The financial regulator had no knowledge of Scothop Limited and throughout the investigation and court proceedings, the individuals connected to or in control of the company's affairs and management failed to engage with the Insolvency Service.

Investigators received information from at least 7 investors who have suffered combined losses of at least £263,000, including one investor who has lost close to £100,000.

At the winding-up hearing, Judge Jones agreed that the company traded without commercial probity and had obtained funds on a false and misleading basis.

The Judge also commented that Scothop Limited acted with a lack of transparency and that there was an absence of proper records to confirm that investors' funds had been used for a proper purpose or to establish what happened to any funds received.

As part of their duties, the Official Receiver as Liquidator will seek to recover and realise the assets of the company to make returns to creditors.

Edna Okhiria, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

Our investigations identified that Scothop Limited misled investors, illegitimately securing thousands of pounds whilst falsely claiming to be regulated.

Thankfully the court recognised the severity of the company's actions and wound-up Scothop Limited before any more investors lost their money. We hope this outcome serves as a warning to other rogue investment firms that we have the necessary powers to put a stop to unscrupulous misconduct.

All enquiries concerning the affairs of the company should be made to the Official Receiver of the Public Interest Unit: 16th Floor, 1 Westfield Avenue, Stratford, London, E20 1HZ; Email: piu.or@insolvency.gov.uk

Scothop Limited (company number 11748109), was incorporated on 3 January 2019. Its registered address is that of a serviced office provider at 27 Old Gloucester Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1N 3AX

The appointed director of Scothop Limited at the time of its winding up was Ilie Adascalitei, sole registered director since 22 January 2019.

A petition to restore and wind up the Company was presented by The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 21 June 2022 in the High Court of Justice, Business and Property Courts in England and Wales (CR 2022-001042), under the provisions of section 124A of the Insolvency Act 1986 following confidential enquiries by Company Investigations under section 447 of the Companies Act 1985, as amended.

Company Investigations, part of the Insolvency Service, uses powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Further information about live company investigations is available [here](#).

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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[UK launches biggest electricity market reform in a generation](#)

- Major review into Britain's electricity market design launched by UK government to radically enhance energy security and cut costs of electricity for consumers in the long term
- Proposals out for initial consultation include exploring changes to the wholesale electricity market that would stop volatile gas prices setting the price of electricity produced by much cheaper renewables
- Coupled with immediate action to help people with higher energy bills this year, the government continues to be on the side of British energy consumers short and long term

The UK's exposure to volatile global gas markets and energy costs for consumers could be radically reduced in the long term, thanks to a transformational review into Britain's electricity market design, launched today [Monday 18 July] by the UK government.

The Review of Electricity Market Arrangements (REMA) will seek views on a wide range of options to address the combined challenges of responding to higher global energy costs, the need to further boost energy security and move the UK to a cleaner energy system.

Some of the changes being consulted on include:

- introducing incentives for consumers to draw energy from the grid at cheaper rates when demand is low or it's particularly sunny and windy, saving households money with cheaper rates
- reforming the capacity market so that it increases the participation of low carbon flexibility technologies, such as electricity storage, that enable a cleaner, lower cost system
- de-coupling costly global fossil fuel prices from electricity produced by cheaper renewables, a step to help ensure consumers are seeing cheaper prices as a result of lower-cost clean energy sources

Under the current system, gas prices often end up setting the wholesale electricity price, because it is often the last source of supply to meet demand. The ever-increasing participation of renewables in the system means over time, cheaper electricity produced by renewables energy will determine the price more often. This consultation will explore ways of updating this pricing system to further reflect the rise in cheaper renewable electricity – something that could have a direct impact on reducing energy costs, ensuring consumers reap the full benefits of the UK's world-leading and abundant supply of cheaper, cleaner energy.

Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

We've just seen the price of offshore UK wind power fall to an all-time low and gas is a shrinking portion of our electricity generating mix, so we need to explore ways of ensuring the electricity market is adapting to the times.

That includes ensuring the cost benefits of our increasing supply of cheaper energy trickle down to consumers, but also that our system is fit for the future – especially with electricity demand set to double by 2035.

In what could be the biggest electricity market shake up in decades, I am confident that this review will significantly enhance GB's energy security and supply for generations to come.

Today's consultation launch forms part of the government's comprehensive review of the electricity market, first announced in the British Energy Security Strategy (BESS). The BESS significantly raised ambitions for building low carbon and cheaper-to-run technologies such as offshore wind, solar and nuclear, as part of UK plans to deliver a clean and secure electricity system by 2035.

The UK is already making huge progress in accelerating the delivery of cheaper, home-grown renewable energy. Earlier this month, the UK secured a record capacity of almost 11GW of clean energy at record low prices, through the government's flagship renewables scheme – almost double the capacity achieved in the previous round, and enough to power around 12 million British homes.

With electricity demand set to at least double over the next 13 years, REMA

will focus on establishing a fit-for-purpose market design, identifying and implementing the reforms needed to GB electricity markets that work for businesses, industry, and households.

This includes consulting on both the continued evolution and expansion of existing schemes, such as the Capacity Market and Contracts for Difference, and the introduction of more fundamental change where needed to guarantee uninterrupted supply during periods of no wind or sun at the lowest cost possible for consumers.

Energy Minister Greg Hands said:

Today's launch of REMA is a major step in delivering a secure energy future for Britain, putting in place the electricity market design we need to allow us to make the most of our world-leading diversity of power sources while offering more value for money for consumers.

Today marks the first major consultation stage within REMA's comprehensive programme of work. Through this initial consultation, the UK government will engage extensively with the sector to develop and assess options for reform, with a response expected to be published this winter. Following this consultation, the department will further develop, refine and narrow down options for reform during 2022-2023 before delivering proposed reforms.

A National Grid ESO spokesperson said:

"We welcome the breadth and depth of BEIS' Review of Electricity Market Arrangements. Wholesale markets need reforming to meet net zero and deliver better outcomes for consumers across Britain. REMA is the right forum for stakeholders to align on what is needed."

An Ofgem spokesperson said:

"Protecting consumers is our top priority which is why we are supporting government to do this wide-ranging Review of Electricity Market Arrangements. A fair energy market that protects consumers' interests will only work if we can make best use of Britain's cheap, plentiful renewable resources and invest in ways that deliver a low-cost net zero power system using our home-grown energy.

"We now look forward to working closely with government and all participants on this timely review to ensure our energy market arrangements deliver in consumers' interests and help to make bills better."

Deputy Director at Energy UK, Adam Berman, said:

"The energy industry is ready to help create an affordable, clean power system that meets both our Net Zero and Energy Security targets. REMA will help to ensure that the energy market can channel private investment to deliver on the government's ambitious targets for delivering clean, low-cost,

domestically produced electricity.

“With the cost of energy reaching unprecedented levels, it’s right and timely that the government reviews how to provide the most efficient market arrangements to support decarbonisation – so that it reduces bills in the long term.”

Director of RenewableUK’s Future Electricity Systems, Barnaby Wharton, said:

“The electricity system will go through a profound transformation over the next decade as we continue to expand our renewables capacity. It’s vital that we have a market which supports investments in new projects and infrastructure and allows consumers to get the full benefits of a low cost, low carbon system.

“This consultation is an important step forward in that process, and the industry will continue to work closely with government on building the clean energy system which the UK needs to reach net zero as fast as possible”.

Notes to editors

The government is undertaking a comprehensive Review of Electricity Market Arrangements (REMA), as announced in the British Energy Security Strategy, to help deliver our world-leading climate targets whilst reducing exposure to volatile international gas markets, bringing major energy security and cost benefits

The consultation can be found [here](#) and is open until 10 October 2022.

The consultation sets out why we believe that reform is necessary in our case for change, on which we are seeking views.

The UK government will introduce reform where this proves necessary.

REMA will consider a range of options for reform to electricity markets and policies that can provide signals for the investment in, and operation of, assets that generate or use electricity. It will cover wholesale markets, the balancing mechanism, and ancillary services provision; as well as all policies with an impact on these, including the Capacity Market and Contracts for Difference.