

[News story: Crime news: workshops to improve accuracy of Crown Court claims](#)

A provider workshop is to be held on 11 April 2019 showing providers how to correctly claim for electronically served Pages of Prosecution Evidence (PPE).

Additional events will be held in Leeds, London and Newcastle over the coming months.

This follows a successful 'PPE and special preparation pilot' workshop in Manchester on 11 March 2019.

Why is this happening now?

A number of claims are being submitted without the correct information. This is leading to unnecessary rejections and fee reductions.

Is the workshop only about electronic evidence?

The workshop will cover:

Where will it be held?

The workshop will be at the Legal Aid Agency office, 18 The Priory Queensway, Birmingham, on 11 April 2019, between 11am and 1.45pm.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in attending email jennifer.johnson@justice.gov.uk

Places are limited so you will need to apply early.

Where can I find electronic billing guidance?

Guidance is available on GOV.UK pages for all aspects of Crown Court legal aid fees. This explains:

The electronic disc evidence you must post is listed in the [Crown Court fee guidance](#) document. See paragraph 16 on page 69, appendix D.

This needs to be sent to: Legal Aid Agency, Fothergill House, 2nd Floor, 16 King Street, Nottingham, NG1 2AS DX: 10035 Nottingham 1

Further information

[Criminal legal aid processing: applications and digital systems](#)

Press release: HM Land Registry Apprentice wins award

Erin, who appeared on Radio Plymouth to talk about her award, has been with HM Land Registry for a year. Working as a content designer, she has played a key role in HM Land Registry's groundbreaking Digital Street research and development project.

The project, which looks at how technology can improve and ultimately transform land registration, will allow HM Land Registry to explore and visualise different ideas of how land registration might work in the future and make conveyancing simpler, faster and cheaper. Now in its second year, the project is exploring the use of blockchain technology and smart contracts to bring greater transparency, speed and trust to property transactions.

Commenting on her award Erin said:

I am absolutely delighted to have won the Radio Plymouth Apprentice of the Year award. Every day at HM Land Registry, I'm surrounded by passionate, energetic colleagues who inspire me to work hard and are role models for me within the IT sector. They're all so supportive of my development as an apprentice and I'm truly grateful for all the time and energy that's been invested in me, to mentor me and prepare me for my career.

I am truly humbled to have been won this award and I can't wait for the next half of my apprenticeship and what other opportunities HM Land Registry has in store for me.

This award follows HM Land Registry winning two highly prestigious apprenticeship awards. In February 2019, HM Land Registry won the GOLD award for the Apprenticeship Programme of the Year from the Learning and Performance Institute. In October 2018, HM Land Registry won the Learning and Development award at the Guardian Public Service Awards for designing bespoke two-year paralegal and chartered legal executive apprenticeships.

The new apprenticeship programme means for the first time experienced caseworkers can now progress to the lawyer grades, making it possible to join HM Land Registry as an entry-level caseworker and move up.

Since the scheme was launched last year, 19 caseworkers aged between 21 and 59 have joined the programme.

Anyone interested in an apprenticeship can [take a look at our current vacancies and sign up to job alerts](#) to be notified when more apprenticeships

are available.

Digital Street

HM Land Registry's ambition is to be at the forefront of innovation by exploring how land registration and conveyancing can be made easier and how technology and data could revolutionise the process.

Digital Street is HM Land Registry's research and development project designed to make buying and selling property simpler, quicker and cheaper through the innovative use of technology. Now in its second year, the project is exploring the use of blockchain technology and smart contracts to bring greater transparency, speed, and trust to property transactions.

The project has already created a digital register for a small selection of properties, which is a first step towards establishing a register that is fully machine-readable and able to be updated instantly.

HM Land Registry

HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth in excess of £4 trillion, including around £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land Register contains more than 25 million titles showing evidence of ownership for some 86% of the land mass of England and Wales.

HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales.

HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862.

For further information about HM Land Registry visit www.gov.uk/land-registry.

Follow us on: [Twitter @HMLandRegistry](#), [our blog](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

[News story: 10,000 troops from 13 countries arrive in the UK for major exercise](#)

More than 10,000 military personnel, 35 warships, 5 submarines and 59 aircraft and helicopters from 13 countries will take part in Exercise Joint Warrior until 11 April.

The aim of Joint Warrior is to allow the UK's Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and their allies to conduct joint operations involving different forces

and units and against a range of current and future threats.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson MP said:

The UK military is a partner of choice for its major international allies and a resolute force for peace around the world. The UK will not waver in continuing to work with its allies to protect our mutual interests.

Led by the UK, Joint Warrior allows key NATO allies to tackle complex warfare scenarios to ensure that the international community stands fit and ready to work to face any threat together.

Although run by the UK, Joint Warrior is closely aligned to NATO training aims and is included in the NATO exercise programme.

Joint Warrior will take place across the UK:

- The Exercise will be controlled and directed from the Maritime Operations Centre at Scotland's largest military establishment, HM Naval Base Clyde, with a range of air, surface, sub-surface, sea control and maritime security roles being rehearsed off the West Coast of Scotland.
- Air units will coordinate with maritime and land forces, exercising Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), air defence, air mobility and attack. Aircraft will operate from RAF Lossiemouth, Prestwick and Stornoway airports as well as from RAF Leeming, RAF Coningsby, RAF Mildenhall, RAF Marham and RAF Brize Norton.
- Land activity will focus on integrating with close air support at the Cape Wrath naval bombardment range and the RAF bombing range at Tain, supported by the RAF Spadeadam Electronic Warfare Training Range in Cumbria. There will be amphibious landings by Royal Marines at the MOD's Castlemartin range in Wales and possibly also in Dumfries and Galloway.

The following nations are taking part in Exercise Joint Warrior: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the UK and the US.

Together these allies and partner nations will deploy 10,300 armed forces personnel (at Sea 6,500 personnel, Land 3,000 personnel and Air 800 personnel)

After an initial briefing weekend at HMNB Clyde, the exercise splits its participants into two opposing Task Forces starting in the Scottish Exercise Areas (water and airspace generally to the West of Scotland, particularly The

Minches). As the exercise progresses elements of the Task Forces will progress south to conduct an amphibious exercise off the South West Coast of Wales.

Speech: Nurses are mission-critical to culture change in the NHS

It's good to be back in Birmingham – I wasn't sure if I was going to make it today...

There's been a few things going on in Westminster this week, as you may have heard, and the entire nation could probably do with a little nursing at the moment.

So, I'm delighted to be here with you, at my first ever Chief Nursing Officer Summit.

And there's a lot I wanted to say today.

But when I was thinking about it, there's really one message I want to leave with you, more than any other.

And that message is that nurses, and chief nurses in particular, are mission-critical to the change in culture we need to see in the NHS.

Because you lead the organisations that you work in, at every level, from chief nurse to clinical specialist, to paediatrics, to ward matron, to theatre nurse, every nurse, caring for every patient, in every setting across the land.

Because the foundation of nursing and the NHS is the same: caring.

Valuing the care you provide is fundamental to creating the right culture within the NHS.

So I will pledge you my support to tackle the challenges I can take on and I'll say a little about those in a moment.

And in return my request from you, is that you seize this challenge to change the culture of the NHS:

To make it the best it can be, by breaking down hierarchies, integrating care, removing barriers, empowering staff, embedding that spirit of continuous improvement that's vital to making the NHS the best it possibly can be.

And in doing so, we need to change how people think of this profession.

I've worked with the NHS, as a local MP, for almost 10 years now, and I know the incredible work that nurses do, but I also know that the public perception of the profession is deeply sympathetic, yes, and we must never lose that.

But the public just don't get what a highly skilled, highly technical, knowledge-based profession nursing is, so we must change that.

And I'm delighted that Ruth has been doing so much to challenge and raise the public perception of nursing since she started.

She's a vital and valued part of my team, and let me tell you: she makes sure your voice is heard at the top table – and she can be pretty direct.

Ruth and I met some primary school pupils from here in Birmingham this morning.

They are part of the brilliant Nursing Now campaign to encourage more young people to think about a career in nursing.

I asked how many wanted to be nurses when they grow up and many of them said they would – strangely none of them wanted to be MPs.

And what was refreshing is that girls, and boys, were excited about the idea of becoming a nurse.

And we were able to tell them that this is a profession at the cutting edge of research, science, and technology.

Caring, yes, perhaps more than any other profession, but it's so much more too.

We could tell them what we need to tell the world about what modern nursing is all about:

You are pioneering new treatments and new clinical models.

You lead teams across wards, departments, hospitals and trusts.

You run the show, whether it's the frontline or the boardroom.

I've seen it for myself. You know it too.

You're the brains and the heart of every organisation you work in.

You're so in demand that an NHS nurse could go to any country on earth and be guaranteed to get a job – not that I want you to of course.

Junior doctors look to you for leadership.

Senior doctors – the smart ones at least – work with you hand-in-glove.

Frankly, without you there is no NHS.

And yet...

Our society doesn't value nursing enough.

Why? Why is that?

I've been thinking about this a lot.

I think it's because not enough people know what modern nursing is.

Too often, nursing is still seen as Florence Nightingale – maybe not the lady with the lamp, but ladies with sponges and bandages: the most basic level of nursing.

The image of nursing in the popular imagination is half a century out of sync with the modern-day reality. Nursing is an aspirational career choice for girls and boys.

Caring, compassionate, and highly, highly skilled.

We need to talk about the reality, the possibilities and opportunities of a nursing career.

Equal as a challenge to being a doctor or an engineer, a profession young men and women aspire to join.

As Professor Alison Leary puts it:

The compassion and caring are really important, but it isn't generally compassion that will save somebody's life.

If we can help society to understand that nursing is a "knowledge intensive occupation", she believes it would help nursing to be more valued and attract more men and women into the profession.

I wholeheartedly agree with her.

I don't need reminding that nurses are some of the most caring and compassionate people in our society: I've seen it for myself.

I see it every time I visit a hospital.

I see it every time I'm on a night shift.

I've seen it in simple gestures that speak volumes:

Senior nurses bringing junior staff cups of tea in the middle of night, checking they're OK, asking if they need anything – even though their own night has been just as tough and tiring.

But the real reason I understand what it's like, and what it takes to be an amazing nurse, and where my admiration for nurses comes from, is my grandma,

Pem.

My grandmother Pem Hills worked nights at the Pilgrim in Boston until my early childhood.

And I saw first-hand her dedication, her love for the job and her sacrifice. I can see her now, in her uniform, with her funny upside-down watch.

And even after she retired, she never stopped caring.

She had a deep reservoir of love and kindness to draw on, just when you needed it.

But she was also the most ferociously organised person I ever knew. And I bet she kept those doctors under control.

So let's shout loud and clear about the value of nursing.

And I tell you this straight: let's not talk down the profession either.

I fear that sometimes – and in particular the public debate – people talk so much about the struggles and the difficulties – and I get that there are serious challenges in the NHS, but we focus on them so relentlessly that we rarely hear, in the public debate, about the possibilities and the opportunities.

Now of course, we must tackle those challenges – and we will.

And I will do my part, and the NHS leadership will do their part too.

We need to recruit more nurses. We now have a record number of undergraduate nursing places. Dido is going to expand that number even further in the Workforce Implementation Plan.

We need to attract the best international talent. And after Brexit we must and will continue to welcome nurses from around the world into the NHS.

We need to do more on retention. Retention isn't a single policy – it's about asking how we can keep people supported and motivated in their jobs.

We are going to have a constant focus on continuous improvement to policy. One of the things I've heard repeatedly is about the motivational power of CPD and how there's not enough of it. I agree.

I've been hammering home the importance of continuous learning and education since I started.

So I'm delighted Simon set out yesterday that he's going to do whatever it takes to restore CPD because it is vital to valuing and retaining our nursing staff.

So, we will do our bit at the centre. We don't have all the answers – we don't even have most of the answers. You do.

Let's work together to address those challenges, but let's also talk about how fulfilling the profession is, how exciting and essential being a nurse is.

Let's give people reasons to want to join this great, noble profession and the brilliant, talented people within it.

Let's challenge old-fashioned, outdated perceptions of who nurses are, and what nurses do, and tell the story of why a bright, talented 18-year-old would choose to become a nurse.

We do that by creating the right culture. And the right culture starts at the top: it starts with leaders.

It starts with you.

The type of leadership we need in the NHS is the type of leadership John F Kennedy demonstrated when he visited NASA after setting them the Apollo mission.

Kennedy stopped to talk to a janitor sweeping the floor and said: "Thank you, for helping to put a man on the moon."

The only difference I have with what JFK said is that I really think he should have been gender neutral.

Great leaders know the importance of making everyone feel valued, making everyone feel part of the same team, with the same mission.

And I've found that nurses are some of the best leaders within the NHS.

Nurses often make better leaders than doctors because you understand that caring for your staff is mission-critical for caring for your patients.

You know hierarchy can be a hinderance to improvement.

I find it shocking that, in my grandmother's day, nurses were expected to stand up when a doctor entered the room.

And worse, I find that's still the case in some antiquated, archaic corners of the NHS. I want it to stop. If anything, it should be doctors standing up for nurses.

Because who runs a hospital at 2am in the morning?

Who keeps the show on the road?

We need more nurses as leaders.

We need more nurses leading NHS trusts: inspiring others to aim higher, empowering staff through empathetic leadership.

We need better leadership to build a better, and bigger, workforce.

That's the only way we're going to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

It's the only way we're going to get the best return for the taxpayer on the longest and largest cash settlement in the history of the NHS – the £34 billion injection confirmed again yesterday.

It's our only hope of making the ambitions within the NHS Long Term Plan a reality.

Because one thing's for certain: the NHS can't afford to stand still.

So I just want to end by talking about the future.

None of us can know exactly what 2030 will look like in my profession – perhaps not even what next week will look like...

But here's what we do know:

As people are living longer, their health needs are becoming more complex, their expectations are growing.

New technology, like genomics, AI, robotics, personalised medicines, is going to transform healthcare systems around the world.

Some people say these new technologies will take away human jobs, but the truth is that the thing that can't be replicated by machines is the caring, compassion that's at the heart of your profession.

So we're going to need more people in caring jobs, even before we think about the ageing population, using the power of technology to take away the boring stuff, giving more time for the empathetic, because that simply can't be replicated.

And for those who worry about those technologies, it won't be a case of should we, or shouldn't we, have these technologies within the NHS: the NHS has always embraced the best technology.

The question is how we embrace these technologies within the NHS for patients and staff. And your role is crucial as leaders, shaping and influencing their development, so they adapt to the NHS, so they benefit everyone, so they stay true to the founding principles of the NHS.

Building that technology must be done in a way that frees up time to care.

And you know who I think is best placed to help the techies design the tech to work for you?

Yes, you guessed it: you.

The techies should be asking what your needs are and how we use the best technology to help you to care.

So let's bring the perception of nursing up to date.

Let's ensure leaders lead with compassion and conviction.

Let's embrace change.

Let's work together.

I fully recognise the challenges.

I will do my bit.

But I'm relying on you.

Without nurses there is no NHS, so we need you – to make it, to shape it, and lead it to the brighter future we all want to see.

Press release: New investment in European Bioinformatics Institute to tackle life threatening diseases

- Life scientists around the world to access more genomics and molecular biology data that will improve diagnosis of disease and inform new life-saving treatments
- new funding to EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute in Cambridge will analyse large and complex data sets and turn into digestible knowledge for scientists
- investment illustrates the government's Industrial Strategy in action to ensure the UK remains globally competitive in the life sciences, with UK science and innovation supported by the largest increase in public research and development investment on record

Drug discovery, research into cancer genetics, regenerative medicine and crop disease prevention will be strengthened following £45 million government investment to extend the largest biological open data facility hosted in the UK.

Life scientists around the world use [EMBL European Bioinformatics Institute's \(EMBL-EBI\)](#) infrastructure in Cambridge to store, share, access and analyse data to drive cutting-edge research in genomics and molecular biology. This £45 million investment from government will increase the centre's computing, storage and building capacity as it works to improve the world's understanding of genetics and molecular biology.

Through collaborations, the Institute is integral to fighting human diseases, and has supported initiatives including:

- the Human Cell Atlas which is the world's first data platform that maps every single cell in the human body. By doing so, it allows scientists to identify which genes associated with disease are active in our bodies and where
- UK Biobank which is a collection of health data from over 500,000 volunteers in the country, set to offer new insights to disease prevention and treatment

Making the announcement, Science Minister Chris Skidmore said:

People around the world are affected by food security, diseases that could be prevented and access to effective medication. Through the vital datasets made available by EMBL-EBI many of these issues can – and are – being prevented.

That is why the government has invested £45 million to boost the work being undertaken at the Institute, and why boosting the UK's genomics sector is a key commitment in our Life Sciences Sector Deal, to avoid premature deaths and to ensure food security for years to come.

The new funding is delivered through UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) [Strategic Priorities Fund](#) which supports high quality research and development priorities. UK science and innovation is supported by the largest increase in public research and development investment on record by committing to raising R&D funding to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

UKRI Chief Executive, Professor Sir Mark Walport, said:

Our ability to process, access and interrogate large volumes of data is absolutely crucial to scientific discovery in the 21st Century, none more so than in health and life sciences where the fields of genomics and molecular biology are fuelling major advances.

This funding enables EMBL-EBI to continue to grow its global leadership in large biological datasets and bioinformatics, which are used by researchers all over the world, every day of the week.

This investment will expand EMBL-EBI's technical IT and building infrastructure which will support the growing demand for scientists to access biological data sets more quickly and simply than has previously been the case. It will also support the emerging use of machine learning across the life sciences, which requires quality-controlled datasets that EMBL-EBI.

Dr Ewan Birney, Director of EMBL-EBI, said:

EMBL-EBI websites receive over 38 million requests for data or

analysis every day. The demand for our data resources has risen dramatically in the last decade and we expect this trend to continue, so we need to be ready for when it happens. Building a robust and accessible data infrastructure is crucial for the life science discoveries of the next decades.

Bioinformatics – the science of analysing, storing and sharing large biological datasets – is essential to discovering how genes affect the health of humans, plants and animals.

The UK is a founding member of EMBL, a not-for-profit intergovernmental organisation established in 1974 and now funded by 26 member states, including much of Europe and Israel, and two associate members, Argentina and Australia. EMBL-EBI is one of the 6 sites of EMBL.

EMBL-EBI, based on the Wellcome Genome Campus in Cambridgeshire, is a global leader in bioinformatics. Researchers today depend on access to large data sets of many different types, spanning genes, proteins and the behaviour of small molecules. Bioinformatics makes it possible to collect, store and add value to these data so that life science researchers can retrieve and analyse them efficiently. EMBL-EBI is one of very few places in the world that has the capacity and expertise to fulfil this important task. They develop databases, tools and software that make it possible to align, verify and visualise the diverse data produced in publicly funded research, and make that information freely available to all.

EMBL-EBI supports large-scale science programmes, for example:

- [UK Biobank's](#) genomic and health data collected from 500,000 volunteers
- the [Human Cell Atlas](#), a global endeavour to map every single cell type in the human body
- the [Earth BioGenome](#), which aims to characterise the genomes of all of Earth's eukaryotic biodiversity

In the last 5 years, approximately 20 petabytes of new biological data has been deposited to EMBL-EBI resources. This is equivalent to the capacity of 20,000 laptops with one terabyte of storage each. This data growth is likely to intensify due to the diverse use of genomic data in biotechnology, medicine and agriculture.

But the amount of data produced is doubling twice as quickly as computer storage and processing power, and this rate is increasing. This is partly due to the rise of new technologies, such as single-cell sequencing, and [cryo-electron microscopy](#).

The [Strategic Priorities Fund](#) is being delivered by UKRI to drive an increase in high quality multi- and interdisciplinary research and innovation; ensure that UKRI's investment links up effectively with government research priorities and opportunities; and ensure the system responds to strategic priorities and opportunities.