

DVLA contact centre opening times: Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend 2022

News story

DVLA's contact centre opening times over the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend 2022.



Date	Opening hours
Wednesday 1 June	8am to 7pm (normal hours)
Thursday 2 June (Spring bank holiday)	closed
Friday 3 June (Platinum Jubilee bank holiday)	closed
Saturday 4 June	closed
Sunday 5 June	closed
Monday 6 June	8am to 7pm (normal hours)

Customers will be able to use our [online services](#) throughout this period.

Published 31 May 2022

Marcus Bokkerink confirmed as the preferred candidate for Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority

Press release

The preferred candidate for Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority has been confirmed as Marcus Bokkerink.



Marcus Bokkerink has been announced as the preferred candidate for Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) by Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng today (Tuesday 31 May).

The CMA is a non-ministerial department responsible for enforcing competition and consumer law and carrying out investigations into mergers and markets. It has recently taken on new functions including the Office for the Internal Market (OIM). The Chair works with the board to set the overall strategic direction, provide strong leadership and develop a positive culture for the board and organisation.

Mr Bokkerink has 30 years of experience advising corporate executive teams and boards on strategies to build competitive advantage and harness digital technologies with a particular focus on industries that interact directly with consumers.

He retired in December 2020 as Managing Director and Senior Partner at Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and since leaving BCG as Senior Partner Emeritus he has focused on investing in start-ups and challenger brands and mentoring the entrepreneurs who lead them. He has also worked as a Senior Advisor to BCG and a strategic advisor to a small number of corporates. He chairs the Development Board of Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

Marcus will make an excellent addition to the CMA team, bolstering its work to promote competition and innovation to help grow our economy and ensure the best deals for consumers. There are many opportunities on the horizon and his appointment will help us to seize them.

Marcus Bokkerink said:

The CMA is a leader among its peers in promoting effective competition and protecting consumers. I am delighted to be asked to work with the outstanding team there and the Board to help it

fulfil its expanded responsibilities.

The announcement follows an open competition for the role. The Business Secretary has invited the Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee to hold a pre-appointment hearing and to report on Mr Bokkerink's suitability for the post. This is in line with the government's commitment to strengthen the role of Parliament in scrutinising major public appointments.

Pre-appointment hearings enable select committees to take evidence from preferred candidates for major public appointments before they are appointed. Hearings are in public and involve the select committee publishing a report setting out their views on the candidate's suitability for the post. Pre-appointment hearings are non-binding, but ministers will consider the committee's views before deciding whether to proceed with an appointment.

Published 31 May 2022

[YJB publishes AssetPlus evaluation](#)

News story

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) publishes its outcome evaluation of AssetPlus.



Youth Justice Board
Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuencid

Following the implementation of AssetPlus, the YJB commissioned an independent evaluation into the outcomes of AssetPlus, the approved, standardised framework for assessment and review of children in the justice system.

The YJB is pleased to publish the [AssetPlus outcome evaluation](#) and welcome the challenge and opportunities for continuous improvement that it offers.

Although there were areas where data collection made it difficult for the independent researchers to draw conclusions, there were four main findings, these were that:

- the time taken to complete an AssetPlus assessment is not proportionate to risk and need
- there is limited evidence that AssetPlus has an impact on promoting a child's strengths and protective factors
- there is some evidence that AssetPlus has an impact on improving compliance with sentences and supervision
- AssetPlus did not have an impact on community safeguarding and public protection incidents or more appropriate use of remand

These findings have been considered alongside known strengths of the AssetPlus framework, including those found in the evaluation, such as the ability to effectively transfer cases between services and the secure estate, and its evidence-based and holistic approach.

These have been fully considered and the following conclusions drawn and actions committed to:

1. AssetPlus provides clear and unique advantages for children on statutory orders in relation to promoting safeguarding, enabling consistency, avoiding duplication and effective information transfer. It therefore remains the standard framework for use in statutory cases.
2. It is acknowledged that, for children subject to out-of-court disposals and diversion programmes, the current AssetPlus framework does not appropriately meet their assessment needs.
3. The YJB will work with colleagues across the sector to develop a standard, appropriate and proportionate tool for the needs of children subject to out of court disposals and diversion programmes.
4. The YJB will work to better align AssetPlus to the principles of Child First, improve the navigation of the framework making it easier and less resource intensive to use.
5. The YJB will consider how AssetPlus can better align with family support and early help assessments.

We look forward to working with youth justice professionals and wider partners to continue to improve AssetPlus to ensure children receive the best possible assessments to support their needs and enable positive outcomes.

Keith Fraser, YJB Chair, said:

This evaluation shows that AssetPlus provides clear advantages for children on statutory orders. Its approach to safeguarding, consistency, avoiding duplication and information transfer cannot be found in any other framework.

However, there are also areas where AssetPlus 'must' improve. This is critical if we are to support children and practitioners as well as oversee improvements to the youth justice system.

Government Property Agency appoints new Chief Security Officer

Press release

The Government Property Agency (GPA) has appointed Brindha McDonald as its new Chief Security Officer to lead its security posture strategies



Brindha McDonald, GPA Chief Security Officer

In collaboration with key Civil Service partners, Brindha will continue to build the GPA's security strategy and capability across its collective security status of all assets, software, hardware, services, networks and information. Key to this is personnel and infrastructure security.

Brindha brings more than 20 years experience from across Whitehall, including several high-profile security roles.

Steven Boyd, CEO at the GPA, said: "As the Government's delivery body for its office and warehouse portfolios, it's crucial our security standards are at the highest level. With the evolving needs to the way we all work, it's imperative all civil servants across the UK are protected across digital and physical environments. Brindha's strategic security experience coupled with her Civil Service knowledge are key to the GPA delivering safe and secure working environments."

Brindha said: "I am extremely pleased to be leading the GPA's security strategies and delivery across digital and physical environments. The GPA is creating great places to work for civil servants across the UK. A crucial part of this is ensuring our assets – both physical and digital – are safe and secure for everyone. The GPA is transforming the way we work and I am proud to be playing a key role in this."

Published 31 May 2022

Thousands of prisoners trained to become cooks

- over 2,500 prisoners trained for jobs through scheme to date helping to cut crime
- achievement marked with Jubilee tea served by catering trainee prisoners

The number of Clink Kitchens, training prisoners for jobs in hospitality, has quadrupled since September 2021 as part of the government's drive to reduce reoffending and make our streets safer.

The target-smashing result has been celebrated by the Deputy Prime Minister and staff at a Platinum Jubilee-themed afternoon tea hosted by serving prisoners on the cooking scheme.

It was prepared at one of the country's newest Clink Kitchens at HMP Exeter which opened in March. The innovative scheme trains up offenders in catering so they can find work on release and turn their backs on crime for good.

Over 2,500 prisoners have found jobs through The Clink Charity since it launched at HMP Brixton in 2014, with ex-offenders now working at eateries ranging from chip shops to Michelin star restaurants.

Today (31 May 2022), the Deputy Prime Minister announced plans to double the number of Clink kitchens again to 50 by the end of 2023 – meaning thousands more offenders will walk straight into a job on release.

Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State, Dominic Raab, said:

Schemes like The Clink are training thousands of prisoners in catering and hospitality – to give them the skills to find work, and turn their back on crime.

I've quadrupled the number of Clink kitchens operating out of our prisons – which is helping offenders stay on the straight and narrow, and keeping our streets safer.

Since September last year, the Deputy Prime Minister has overseen the opening of 20 Clink Kitchens, bringing the total to 26 and exceeding the government's commitment to open 25 more across the prison estate.

The proportion of prison leavers in work six months after release has also increased by 9 percentage points, rising to 23 per cent between April 2021 and March 2022.

The Clink Kitchens scheme trains prisoners towards catering and hospitality qualifications while behind bars, getting on the job experience cooking for fellow inmates.

The Clink Charity's work has been proven to significantly cut reoffending, ultimately creating safer streets, with participants 32 per cent less likely to go on to commit further crimes compared to those who did not receive training.

This success means for every £1 invested, its work [generates at least £4.80](#) back to the prison service, government and society in reduced reoffending rates.

The Clink Charity's Chief Executive, Yvonne Thomas, said:

The Clink Charity, with the support of our charitable funders and HMPPS, is now providing over 400 training places in prisons, a number that is rising each month as we open in more prison kitchens.

We will continue to help people in prison through training qualified hospitality staff, and through intensive support after their release. We are grateful to our donors, the employers we work with and to the Ministry of Justice for their continued support.

The Prisons White Paper – the Deputy Prime Minister's strategy to reduce reoffending and keep the public safe – puts a laser sharp focus in getting prisoners into work both behind bars and on release.

In March, 20 big-name businesses including Lotus Cars and COOK pledged to head up new Employment Advisory Boards in prisons – acting as a link between jails and employers to make sure offenders use their time in jail to gain the skills they need to get work on release.

Over the next 2 years we will also:

- Hire new education, work and skills specialists to improve education and training in prisons on offer to get more offenders into work on release
- Set up a new work innovation fund to support prisons in working with more employers to and meet the needs of local businesses and the economy and smooth the path from prison to employment
- Overhaul literary education in prisons to improve the reading and writing of all offenders so they are better placed to get a job.

Notes to editors

- The New Futures Network (NFN) is a specialist part of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). It brokers partnerships between prisons and employers in England and Wales. These partnerships help businesses fill skills gaps and prison leavers find employment.

- By the end of 2023, the Clink Charity will be training over 1,000 prisoners each year.
- [The latest statistics](#) from the Ministry of Justice shows that the proportion of persons released from custody who were employed at 6 weeks from their release rose by 6 percentage points to 16 per cent between April 2021 and March 2021. This is an increase of more than half (57 per cent).
- The proportion of persons released from custody who were employed at 6 months from their release rose by 9 percentage points to 23 per cent between April 2021 and March 2022. This is an increase of almost two thirds (66 per cent).

Case studies of Clink kitchen graduates

Cody

During his time in custody at HMP Bristol, The Clink helped Cody negotiate two family court cases and earn his NVQ Level 2 in Professional Cookery with Clink Kitchens. Following his release, Cody regularly sees his children and works as a kitchen porter at Bristol Zoo.

Hayden

19-year-old Hayden enjoyed learning cookery skills on The Clink Kitchens training programme, and The Clink supported him through significant struggles with ADHD. He is now employed as a kitchen porter and regularly sees his young daughter.

Dan

One of the first Clink Kitchens graduates, Dan qualified in NVQ Level 2 Professional Cookery whilst serving his third sentence at HMP Bristol. With the help of Clink Support Workers, he finished his license for the first time in 15 years, moved into an abstinence housing project, and is ready to start work.