

[News story: Historic Royal Palaces reappointments](#)

Jane Kennedy is an architect with 35 years' experience in the care and development of historic buildings and has played a key role in securing the future of some of the finest historic buildings in the country.

Professor Sir David Cannadine is a distinguished academic with an international reputation, having written pioneering and influential works of history on many subjects, including on the British monarchy.

The roles are not remunerated. These reappointments have 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. Both Jane and Sir David have declared no such political activity.

[News story: Health charge for temporary migrants will increase to £400 a year](#)

The government plans double the immigration health surcharge paid by temporary migrants to the UK.

The surcharge will rise from £200 to £400 per year. The discounted rate for students and those on the Youth Mobility Scheme will increase from £150 to £300.

The annual charge is paid by people from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) who are seeking to live in the UK for 6 months or more to work, study or join family.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) estimates that the NHS spends £470 on average per person per year on treating surcharge payers. Projections suggest that the increased charges may provide around £220m extra every year, with this money going to NHS services.

Health Minister James O'Shaughnessy said:

Our NHS is always there when you need it, paid for by British taxpayers. We welcome long-term migrants using the NHS, but it is only right that they make a fair contribution to its long-term sustainability.

By increasing the surcharge so that it better reflects the actual costs of using health services, this government is providing an extra £220 million a year to support the NHS.

Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes said:

It is only right that people who come to the UK should contribute to the running of the NHS. The surcharge offers access to health care services that are far more comprehensive and at a much lower cost than many other countries.

The income generated goes directly to NHS services, helping to protect and sustain our world-class healthcare system for everyone who uses it.

The government plans to make the changes later this year in order to better reflect the actual costs to the NHS of treating those who pay the surcharge.

Press release: Science Minister promotes joint working in science, research and innovation with EU Ministers

- Science Minister Sam Gyimah attended the Research Day of the Competitiveness Council to exchange views on research and innovation developments
- The UK is a world leader in research and innovation, and sharing this knowledge and expertise internationally is vital to address global challenges

The importance of international collaboration was reinforced on Friday 2 February by Science Minister Sam Gyimah at the Research Day of the EU Competitiveness Council in Bulgaria, where he outlined his desire to see the principles of excellence, competitiveness and openness to the world to remain the guiding principles of European science and innovation, and for the UK to play a leading role in shaping these principles, both now and in the future.

He further stressed these messages in bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other member states while discussing the concerns of British and European researchers. The Minister reiterated the government's desire for an ambitious science and innovation agreement with the EU, and the UK's commitment to guarantee competitive EU funds bid for while the UK is a member of the EU.

The informal Council provides a forum for European Research Ministers to discuss EU policy on research and innovation, and this time around the Council had a particular focus on boosting innovation and investing in people. During the meeting, the Minister highlighted how the UK's ambitious [Industrial Strategy](#) has science and research at its heart, as well as outlining the contribution that British knowledge and expertise is making to the UK helping tackle global challenges and the UK's commitment to developing the technologies of the future.

Following the Council, Science Minister Sam Gyimah said:

The Competitiveness Council provided a fantastic opportunity to discuss the importance of working together for the advancement of research and innovation, ensuring UK researchers can continue collaborating on European programmes.

The UK has world-leading academic institutions and an internationally recognised science and innovation base, with some of the best minds from across world coming to research here.

Through the government's ambitious vision for an Industrial Strategy we are committed to ensuring the UK remains a 'go to' destination for research and innovation for years to come.

That's why it's in all our interests to pursue a deep and special partnership with the EU recognising our shared interest in maintaining and strengthening research collaboration and driving innovation.

[Press release: Prime Minister's call](#)

with President Erdogan: 26 January 2018

This afternoon the Prime Minister spoke with President Erdogan of Turkey. The leaders discussed the ongoing Turkish operation in Afrin in Syria, with the Prime Minister recognising the right of Turkey to secure its border. The Prime Minister and President Erdogan agreed on the need to protect civilians and avoid a deterioration in the humanitarian situation. The Prime Minister also underlined that the UK would continue to work with Turkey to tackle the threat posed by the PKK more broadly.

The Prime Minister recognised the important role that Turkey is playing in Syria, both in the Counter-Daesh Coalition and in hosting more than 3 million refugees from the conflict. She reiterated her strong belief that the long-term stability of Syria can only be secured through a political settlement and restated the importance of the primacy of the UN-led talks in Geneva to achieve this.

The Prime Minister and President Erdogan welcomed the continuing industrial collaboration between the UK and Turkey, including through the recent Turkish Airlines deal with Airbus. They agreed to continue to discuss ways to enhance the UK's trade relationship with Turkey as we leave the EU.

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed her strong desire for a resolution to the case against Amnesty International staff.

News story: Treating organic-rich water for home supply: apply for funding

Large industrial water treatment and boiler room.

[Scottish Water](#), supported by the [Can Do Innovation Challenge Fund](#), has up to £450,000 to invest in projects that explore ways of turning high-organic surface waters into drinking water that meets regulations.

Sustainable and safe provision of water

Scotland has more than 10,000 water supplies that serve only one home and another 20,000 that serve populations of fewer than 50 people.

Its rivers often have high or variable levels of organic matter, and there is no effective point-of-use water treatment on the market capable of treating it.

Reliable point-of-use treatment systems are essential for long-term sustainability and provision of wholesome drinking water.

Funding for the competition is under SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative).

Systems must be simple to operate and maintain

Scottish Water is seeking ideas for water treatment systems that could supply rural, dispersed and remote island communities and also work for private supplies.

Solutions must be easy for the general public to maintain and operate. They must also:

- meet quality standards
- be affordable
- recycle rain and grey water
- provide a complete treatment from source to tap
- be automated

Up to £150,000 is available to fund feasibility studies in a first phase. Up to £300,000 is available to develop the most promising ideas in a second phase.

Competition information

- the competition opens on 12 February 2018, and the deadline for registration is at midday on 18 April 2018
- it is open to any organisation that can demonstrate a route to market for its idea
- we expect phase 1 contracts to be worth up to £30,000 and last up to 6 months
- we expect phase 2 contracts to be worth up to £150,000 and last up to 12 months
- successful projects will attract 100% funded development contracts
- a briefing event will be held in Edinburgh