

Press release: National Park Authorities, Broads Authority and AONB Conservation Boards appointments

Environment Secretary Michael Gove makes appointments to the National Park Authorities, the Broads Authority and an AONB Conservation Board.

Appointments to England's National Park Authorities, the Broads Authority and the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Conservation Board have been made by Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove.

National Park Authority members have a primary responsibility to ensure that the Authority furthers the statutory purposes of the Park. Ten members have recently been appointed for four-year terms (ending June 2021) on the following National Park Authorities and Broads Authority:

- Broads Authority: Bruce Keith
- Dartmoor: Peter Harper and Mark Simpson
- Lake District: Michael Carter
- New Forest: Gavin Parker, Patrick Heneghan and David Bence
- Northumberland: Chris Mullin and Pippa Ross
- Peak District: James Berresford

Additional information regarding the members listed will be made available on the individual Authority websites found [here](#).

Secretary of State Members on AONB Conservation Boards have a primary responsibility to ensure that the Conservation Board furthers the statutory AONB purposes as set out in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Three members have recently been appointed for three-year terms (ending June 2020) to the Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board:

- Simon King
- Daniel Szor
- Brendan McCarthy

Additional information regarding the Cotswold AONB Conservation Board members is available on the [Cotswolds AONB website](#).

[News story: Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\) launches new online services](#)

We've introduced new digital services for you to use. We know that you'd like more online services, which will improve our processing times and help you manage your information quickly and easily.

Barring

Our new online barring system is now available.

Employers and organisations can submit barring referrals [online](#) by registering to create an [online account](#) with DBS. A DBS account will also enable you to manage your barring referrals online and share information with DBS through our secure government platform.

In addition, anyone who has been referred to DBS can now [set up an account](#) to communicate confidentially with us about their case.

Basic criminal record checks

If you need a basic criminal record check for a job in England and Wales or for personal reasons and you live in England and Wales you'll be able to apply direct to DBS for a basic check from January 2018. As part of the online application you'll need to prove your identity through GOV.UK Verify. You can also apply now for a check through a [Responsible Organisation](#), which is a third party registered with DBS.

If you need a basic criminal record check for a job in Scotland or for personal reasons and you live in Scotland you'll be able to apply direct to [Disclosure Scotland](#), who will continue to process basic criminal record checks for Scotland.

A basic criminal record check shows unspent convictions. Anyone can apply for a basic criminal record checks. Many employers also use them as part of the recruitment processes. If you're self-employed you can also apply for a basic check.

Standard and enhanced criminal record checks

Also in 2018 we'll be introducing online standard and enhanced checks for employers and organisations. The system will allow you to:

- register to create an online account with DBS
- manage DBS check applications online
- track the progress of DBS applications online and do status checks

These checks are needed for [certain roles](#), especially when working with children and vulnerable adults.

We'll continue to keep you updated about DBS online services over the coming months.

Use our [eligibility tool](#) to find out which criminal record check is right for you.

GOV.UK email alerts

You can sign up for GOV.UK alerts, which will notify you of any updates to our web content. Go to the [DBS homepage](#) and click on the email icon under the 'Latest' box.

You'll be asked for an email address to create a subscription, and can choose how often you'd like to be alerted when DBS publishes web updates.

[Press release: New PHE figures show decline in HIV diagnosis rates](#)

The decrease in HIV diagnoses in gay and bisexual men represents the most exciting development in the UK HIV epidemic in the last 20 years, when effective treatment became widely available.

Commenting on the figures, Dr Valerie Delpech, Head of HIV Surveillance at Public Health England, said:

This is very good news. It is the first time since the beginning of the HIV epidemic in the 1980s that we have observed a decline in new HIV diagnoses among gay and bisexual men, and is clear evidence that HIV prevention efforts are working in the United Kingdom.

Our success in reducing transmission is due to high levels of condom use among gay men, and a sharp rise in the number of men testing for HIV each year, with those at greatest risk testing more frequently. Early diagnosis is also key to making sure that people benefit from HIV treatments so they can live long and healthy lives and are protected from passing on the virus to others.

With continued investment in testing and diagnosis, the decline in HIV infection which has taken place for gay and bisexual men in London can be replicated in other parts of the country and in all those at higher risk of HIV. HIV testing enables diagnosis and the opportunity for treatment which

not only means people can live long, healthy lives but also provides reassurance that the virus cannot be passed on.

It is easy to get tested for HIV. Testing is freely available through GP surgeries, local hospitals and sexual health clinics as well as on self-sampling and self-testing (see NHS Choices for further information). As well as getting tested, using a condom with new or casual partners protects against HIV and other STIs.

1. The [HIV in the UK health protection report and annual HIV data tables](#) comprise the number of HIV diagnoses, late HIV diagnoses and numbers accessing HIV care. Data can be interrogated and analysed at [local authority level](#) via an online tool allowing a range of outputs to be generated.
2. The December 2016 edition of Health Matters, PHE's resource for local authorities and health professionals focuses on [increasing HIV testing](#).
3. The HIV home sampling service offers an alternative to traditional testing offered by GPs and sexual health clinic. Visit www.freetesting.hiv to find out more about the HIV home-sampling test kit.
4. PrEP Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), has been a contributory factor in the downturn in new diagnoses in gay and bisexual men. Previous trials such as the PROUD trial have shown that HIV PrEP is clinically effective, dependent on drug adherence, and that risk behaviours and other STI infection rates did not increase. PHE is supporting NHS England in the 3 year [PrEP Impact Trial](#) beginning in October 2017. PHE helped finalise the trial design, governance, recruitment and drug procurement processes of the Impact Trial and will continue to be an active and committed partner during its running.

[News story: World Space Week: International Partnership Programme \(IPP\)](#)

The IPP is a £152 million programme, designed to partner UK space expertise with overseas governments and organisations.

In 2017 more than £70 million in funding has already been allocated to

projects in partnership with the UK space industry, applying inventive satellite solutions to a range of areas such as deforestation, illegal fishing, marine pollution, disaster recovery, drought and flooding.

Later this year the Agency will announce which projects are to receive a share of a further £50 million to tackle more global challenges

Graham Turnock, Chief Executive of the UK Space Agency, said:

“World Space Week is about celebrating the contributions of space science and technology to improving life on Earth, which is what our International Partnership Programme is all about.

“The primary aim of IPP is to make a positive, practical impact on the lives of those living in developing countries. We do this by using space solutions to solve their specific challenges, partnering with end users in the developing countries and increasing their capacity to respond to those challenges.”

So far this year 22 projects have been selected to provide solutions for local issues in countries across Africa, Asia and Central and South America. All of the projects will have a long-term sustainable impact in the country they are working with, which is a vital element of IPP.

The IPP is part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), which aims to support cutting-edge research and innovation that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries.

You can find out more from the latest [IPP brochure](#).

World Space Week runs from 4 October to 10 October.

[Press release: Three...two...one...blast off! Dstl launches £50 million Space Programme](#)

The Science Programme at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is set for a rocket boost of cash having recently begun a new 5 year £50 million programme of innovation.

The money will help to fund projects like the [Daedalus experiment](#) which is exploring the effect on satellites of so-called “de-orbit sails”. When deployed, the sail increases drag, causing a controlled descent into the Earth’s atmosphere where the satellite will burn up. Dstl is leading co-ordination of the UK element of Daedalus, tasking sensors to collect data to

support this experiment. Of particular relevance to the military community is the effect that such high-drag satellites have on current Space Situational Awareness (SSA) sensors and processing.

The funding will also support experiments to look at the science of the ionosphere; Dstl is collaborating with the US on CIRCE (Coordinated Ionospheric Research Cubesat Experiment), which is a small satellite mission due to launch in 2019, which will improve our understanding of how satellite communications are impacted by disturbances in the ionosphere during periods of heightened solar activity. Working with US scientists, the Dstl space team are also partnering with UK companies to keep Britain at the cutting edge of space science for defence.

Recruitment for new members of the space team is underway to support the growing programme. Dstl has recently launched its [annual graduate recruitment activity](#), and the Cyber and Information Systems Division is looking for scientists and engineers to support the future Dstl Space Programme, on topics such as spacecraft design and operations, earth observation and space situational awareness. We are also looking for both graduates and mid-career scientists to support our work on military satellite communications.

Michael O'Callaghan, the lead for space at Dstl, said:

This programme is fantastic news for Dstl and for the UK as a whole. It allows us to invest in research and innovation that supports Defence and Security aspirations, as well as supporting UK prosperity and developing skills in government and the space industry. We are expanding our team with new roles for senior scientists, and graduate roles, to bring in the best talent. This cash will reinvigorate our work.