

# Press release: Over 3 million more people in work since 2010

According to the Office for National Statistics, the number of people in work is at the highest level since records began in 1971.

The record figures have been driven by increases in the number of people in secure work – over 75% of the increase in employment over the past 7 years has been in full-time work.

There are now 338,000 more people in work compared to this time last year.

Minister for Employment, Damian Hinds said:

These statistics show that record levels of people are in work across the country and earning a wage, which is great news.

Over 3million more people are in work now than in 2010, with 7 in 10 of these roles being in higher skilled work.

Over the past year the rise in employment has been overwhelmingly driven by permanent and full-time jobs, as employers continue to invest in Britain's strong economy.

The task now is to build on this success through Jobcentre Plus and our employment programmes so that everybody can benefit from the opportunities being created.

Today's figures also show:

- the employment rate is at a record high of 75.1%, with 32.07 million people now in work – an increase of 338,000 on the year
- this year has been a strong one for employment growth with 247,000 more people now in work since January
- there are a near record 768,000 vacancies in the economy at any one time
- the female employment rate is at a record high of 70.5%, with over 15 million women in work
- youth unemployment is down by 394,000 since 2010
- there are more British people in work than ever before and around 9 in

10 people in jobs are UK nationals

- the UK employment rate is now the fourth highest in the European Union and 7 percentage points higher than the EU28 average

Separate figures out today [show 1.3 million claims have been made to Universal Credit](#). Of the 570,000 people now claiming Universal Credit, 39% are in work.

The government recently announced up to [£35 million of funding with devolution authorities across England for 6 new innovation employment pilots](#). These will help over 18,000 disadvantaged people into employment, and tackle long-term barriers to work and in-work progression.

Estimates of the claimant count are no longer included in the ONS statistical bulletin as they may now be providing a misleading representation of the UK labour market. For further information, read the [ONS statement explaining the decision \(23 February 2017\)](#).

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## [Press release: Contract award – Operations Site Works](#)

Sellafield Ltd has awarded a contract to OneAIM, a joint venture comprising AmecFosterWheeler and Interserve.

The four-year Operations Site Works framework has a value up to £160m and will provide engineering support services to Sellafield's reprocessing plants and associated facilities.

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## [News story: Civil news: 2018 contracts tender timetable](#)

We are opening tenders for new 2018 civil legal aid contracts across all categories in mid-September 2017.

This follows publication of the government's policy consultation response to

contract procurement proposals for the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS).

## **Face to face and CLA timetable**

The tender process to procure new face to face and Civil Legal Advice (CLA) contracts will open in mid-September 2017.

The tender will be open for 8 weeks, closing in November.

We expect to notify bidders of the outcome of successful:

- face to face tenders in March 2018
- CLA tenders in May 2018

## **HPCDS timetable**

The tender process for HPCDS contracts will follow on from a number of market engagement events which will run in August and September. Dates and locations will be confirmed shortly.

During August we will also engage the consultative bodies in a consultation on the proposed 2018 HPCDS contract.

The tender for HPCDS contracts will then open in October. It will run for 6 weeks before closing in November.

The LAA expects to notify bidders of the outcome of their tenders in June 2018.

## **Contract extensions**

It will be necessary to extend current contracts beyond 31 March 2018 as follows:

- Some face to face and CLA telephone advice contracts – 5 month extension with new contracts starting 1 September 2018
- HPCDS schedules – 6 month extension with new contracts starting 1 October 2018

We will be writing to notify providers of the contract extensions in due course.

## **Further information**

[HPCDS Policy consultation process – government response](#)

[Legal aid civil tender 2018](#) – information for organisations interested in delivering face to face civil, and/or specialist legal advice by telephone from 2018.

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## [News story: Tackling drug resistance: UK-China funding competition announced](#)

A new competition for 2018 will make up to £10 million available to UK organisations to work with Chinese partners.

Next year will see a collaborative competition launched between the UK and China to develop solutions that address the threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Innovate UK is to invest up to £10 million in UK businesses, on behalf of the [Department of Health](#). The [Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology](#) (MoST) will invest up to 60 million RMB to fund the Chinese partners.

The aim is to support novel projects that neither country would be able to conduct within the same timeframe without the other's expertise. These should develop new products or services against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Where appropriate, they should include clinical evaluation.

### **Addressing the threat of drug resistance**

It has been estimated that failure to tackle drug-resistant infections will lead to at least 10 million extra deaths a year by 2050. This would cost the global economy up to \$100 trillion USD.

A substantial research and innovation effort is needed to address the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance, and to speed up the development of new antimicrobials and supporting technologies.

### **What is in scope**

When the call opens we will be looking for projects that:

- explore opportunities from traditional Chinese medicine for the treatment or prevention of infectious diseases in humans or animals
- advance the discovery of new agents to prevent or treat drug-resistant bacterial infection in humans or livestock. New agents could include small molecule drugs, vaccines, antibodies or other biological products
- identify new agents that will increase the feed energy conversion in livestock. This should be done without use of antibiotics or hormones
- maximise the clinical utility of current antibiotics. The aim is to improve the prognosis of patients with extensively drug-resistant infections
- improve capabilities for the diagnosis, treatment selection and surveillance of bacterial infections and antibacterial resistance

All projects must comply with [Official Development Assistance \(ODA\) criteria](#).

## Competition information

- this competition will open in early 2018
- to lead a project you need to be a UK-based business of any size. There must be at least one partner from the UK and one for China in a project team
- projects should last no more than 3 years
- up to £750,000 is on offer for projects on the UK side. On the Chinese side, funding of up to 5 million RMB will be made available
- you could get up to 70% of your project costs
- there will be a series of events to help you meet partners and find out more

Contact Gabriela Juarez Martinez, Knowledge Transfer Network, for information on events and to get notified when the competition opens by emailing [gabriela.juarezmartinez@ktn-uk.org](mailto:gabriela.juarezmartinez@ktn-uk.org).

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## [Press release: HMS Queen Elizabeth makes debut in Portsmouth](#)

Greeted by thousands of people lining the Portsmouth seafront, the 65,000-tonne carrier was met with the warmest of welcomes as she arrived in her home port this morning.

Sailors lined the flight deck of the largest warship ever built for the Royal Navy as she passed Portsmouth's Round Tower. HMS Queen Elizabeth was also greeted with a flypast from the Fleet Air Arm, including Wildcat and Merlin helicopters and Hawk jets.

Secretary of State for Defence Sir Michael Fallon said:

Today we welcome our mighty new warship, HMS Queen Elizabeth to her home for the very first time. She is Britain's statement to the world: a demonstration of British military power and our commitment to a bigger global role.

The thousands of people across the UK who have played a part in building her and her sister ship, HMS Prince of Wales, should be immensely proud as our future flagship enters Portsmouth. She has made good progress in sea trials and will now embark on the next phase of preparations that will see the return of Britain's carrier strike ability.

When she enters service she will help keep Britain safe at a time of increased threats, able to fill multiple roles from providing air power anywhere at any time to fight future campaigns, supporting allies or delivering humanitarian aid.

The Carrier programme has brought together the best of British industry, with construction taking place across six cities and involving more than 10,000 people. This includes 700 businesses and suppliers, 800 apprentices and nearly 8,000 jobs at shipyards around the UK.

The UK has 11 state-of-the-art F-35 Lightning II jets and 120 UK personnel training in the United States. By the end of this year that will be 14 jets, with trial flights from the carrier's deck on track to begin next year.

Captain Jerry Kyd, the Commanding Officer of HMS Queen Elizabeth, said:

HMS Queen Elizabeth's first entry into her home port of Portsmouth is an historic, proud and exciting occasion, not only for those of us serving in her, but also for the wider Royal Navy, the city of Portsmouth and the entire nation.

The UK's future flagship, as well her sister ship HMS Prince of Wales, will be powerful symbols of Britain's outward facing global character and ambition. The Royal Navy has a very special relationship with Portsmouth dating back half a millennium and both carriers will ensure the Navy's city remains the focal point of our great nation's maritime power for generations to come.

The ship will berth at the newly-named and upgraded Princess Royal Jetty at Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth, which will be home to both of the Royal Navy's new aircraft carriers. The second, HMS Prince of Wales, will be officially named in a ceremony at Rosyth next month.

The berth has been upgraded and strengthened to support the carriers as part of a £100 million raft of infrastructure upgrades which took place ahead of the arrival of the ship.

A total of 3.2 million cubic metres of sediment, equivalent to 1,280 Olympic swimming pools has been removed from the harbour and approach channel, making it wide and deep enough to accommodate the enormous 65,000 tonne ships.

Sir Peter Gershon, Chairman of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, said:

I am incredibly proud to witness HMS Queen Elizabeth arrive at her home port of Portsmouth Naval Base having successfully completed the first phase of her sea trials programme.

Over 10,000 people have come together to bring HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales to life, from early design to the

magnificent ships they are today. It is thanks to their industrious endeavours and pride that we have achieved this historic moment in the programme to bring HMS Queen Elizabeth into service.

We're excited to complete the remainder of her test and commissioning programme before delivering her to the Royal Navy by the end of the year.

Leading Airman Liam Forgeron, 28, from Portchester, is an aircraft handler on board HMS Queen Elizabeth. He said:

Being a local lad, I am extremely proud that Portsmouth will now be the base port for the nation's future flagship.

The historic port has a long and proud association with the Royal Navy and the arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth will cement this relationship for a further 50 years. As a Royal Navy aircraft handler, serving on board this mighty vessel is a real honour, as I too get to make history in my home town.

Both aircraft carriers are being delivered by the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, a partnership between the Ministry of Defence and industry.

#### Carrier Key Facts

- Each carrier weighs 65,000 tonnes and is 280 metres in length.
- Top speed is upwards of 25 knots.
- The carriers will have a crew of around 700, increasing to 1,600 when a full complement of F-35B aircraft and four Crowsnest helicopters are embarked.
- The flight deck is 70 metres wide and 280 metres long – enough space for three football pitches
- Each carrier keeps 45 days' worth of food in its stores.
- Each carrier is made up of 17 million parts.
- There are 364,000 metres of pipes inside each of the Ships.

ENDS

#### Notes to Editors

- Imagery is available at Defence Imagery
- For more information contact the MOD News Desk on 0207 218 7907 or Royal Navy communications officer Sam Bannister on 023 9262 5256 or email [sam.bannister@royalnavymail.mod.uk](mailto:sam.bannister@royalnavymail.mod.uk).
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