

## **Press release: Pubs Code Adjudicator releases new figures on arbitration awards**

Paul Newby, the Pubs Code Adjudicator, has today announced the latest figures on completed arbitration cases.

The total number of cases in which the Adjudicator has made awards has now reached 25, including the five first cases announced on 9 March 2017.

Mr Newby said: “We are making good progress in moving cases through the arbitration process and this rising figure of awards shows that our systems and resources are robust and working.

“We currently have 97 cases at different stages within the arbitration process. The timetable for resolving cases is largely in the hands of the parties to the dispute but my team and I are making all efforts to ensure the process moves forward as quickly as possible. This includes issuing prompts and reminders for information or actions whenever there are delays.

“I continue to encourage tenants and pub-owning businesses to sit down together and negotiate purposefully. As a result, in a number of cases this is achieving the desired result of a narrowing of the issues, a stronger negotiating position for tenants and swifter settlements.

“Arbitration awards remain private unless all parties to the dispute agree to release details. However, I am committed to identifying general principles where I can do so without breaching confidentiality and will share these with tenants and pub-owning businesses to help guide their future relationships.

“The PCA enquiry line remains open for tenants and others who want help understanding the Code and there is a wealth of information on the [PCA website](#), including flowcharts and templates to guide tenants and their representatives through the processes. I urge them to read and understand this information.”

For further information contact Sheree Dodd on [office@pca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:office@pca.gsi.gov.uk)

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## **News story: Non-Executive director appointment to the Health and Safety**

# Executive

## **Biography**

Martin Esom became Chief Executive of Waltham Forest Council in October 2010, having previously been Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Environment and Regeneration. An environmental health officer by training, he worked at 3 other London Boroughs in senior roles before joining Waltham Forest. He was awarded the Ronald Williams Gold Medal on graduation by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, where he later served as a Board Member and Trustee for 8 years.

During his time at the Council, Martin has led a number of community safety initiatives, including Waltham Forest's award-winning gang prevention programme and a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy. Martin is also the Chair of the London Prevent Board, which continues to drive work in relation to counter-terrorism and anti-radicalisation across the capital.

He has led on the transformation of the William Morris Gallery, which has since been awarded the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2013. He has also taken forward the regeneration of the Borough, in particular rejuvenating high streets and the construction of the Borough's new cinema and entertainment complex in Walthamstow, which opened in November 2014.

Martin has a Masters in Business Administration and holds technical qualifications in Health and Safety and Noise Control.

## **More information**

Non-Executive Board members are entitled to an annual remuneration of £15,100 a year for approximately 30 days commitment.

Read further information about the [HSE and its Board](#).

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## **News story: View Gender Pay Gap Information**

Thousands of employers are now required to publish their gender pay gap figures for the first time. You can see what information companies have published so far on the [gender pay gap viewing service](#).

As part of the new regulations, by April 2018 employers will be required to:

## **Publish their median gender pay gap figures**

By identifying the wage of the middle earner, the median is the best representation of the 'typical' gender difference.

## **Publish their mean gender pay gap figures**

By taking into account the full earnings distribution, the mean takes into account the low and high earners in an organisation – this is particularly useful as women are often over-represented at the low earning extreme and men are over-represented at the high earning extreme.

## **Publish the proportion of men & women in each quartile of the pay structure**

This data will show the spread of male and female earners across an organisation, helping to show employers where women's progress might be stalling so they can take action to support their career development.

## **Publish the gender pay gaps for any bonuses paid out during the year**

As there is a significant issue around bonus payments in some sectors, employers will also have to publish the proportion of male and proportion of female employees that received a bonus during the year.

Employers will also be encouraged to publish an action plan alongside the figures on their own website, demonstrating the steps they will take to close the gender pay gap within their organisation.

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## **[News story: Boost to National Infrastructure Commission's expertise](#)**

Lord Adonis has today (21 April 2017) been appointed as the permanent Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), where he will provide expert and impartial advice to ensure modern Britain has the infrastructure it needs for the future.

Previously interim Chair, Lord Adonis, who served as Transport Secretary between 2009 and 2010, has successfully led the Commission since it was first established in October 2015.

The Chancellor has also appointed Sir John Armitt as Deputy Chair. He brings a wealth of experience to this role with a long and distinguished career in business and a proven track-record in delivering major infrastructure projects.

Four new Commissioners – Dame Kate Barker, Professor David Fisk, Andy Green and Julia Prescott – will also join the NIC to help boost its expertise as it develops a National Infrastructure Assessment setting out how best to meet Britain's long-term infrastructure needs.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said:

The National Infrastructure Commission plays a crucial role to help ensure the UK's infrastructure is fit for the future. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Lord Adonis as the permanent Chair. He has great ambition, vision and energy, and brings cabinet-level experience and deep knowledge of infrastructure to this role.

The government has a plan for Britain and is determined to make the most of the opportunities ahead. Part of this will be ensuring our infrastructure is fit for purpose to support an economy that works for everyone and ensure our outward-looking country can continue to succeed on the global stage.

Lord Andrew Adonis said:

I'm delighted to have been formally appointed as Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), and to be able to build on the work that I began as interim Chair. Our infrastructure networks are central to the UK's economy and society, but too often their planning has been piecemeal and short-term. The NIC provides the opportunity to transform this and deliver the infrastructure that the UK needs to ensure its prosperity over the coming decades.

I'm also pleased to welcome the new Commissioners to the NIC. These Commissioners, along with our existing ones, are leading experts and ensure the NIC provides the best advice to government on the UK's long-term infrastructure needs.

The government has also asked the existing members – Tim Besley, Demis Hassabis, Sadie Morgan and Bridget Rosewell – to serve as Permanent Commissioners until October 2020, having been initially appointed on an interim basis.

### **Further information**

The NIC was established in January 2017 as an executive agency to help plan, prioritise and ensure efficient investment in infrastructure. It has its own budget and is autonomous, which is set out in a [charter](#) detailing the government's clear commitment to its operational independence.

Today's appointments of the Chair, Deputy Chair and new Commissioners follow an open competition, in line with the principles set out in the Governance

Code on Public Appointments. Lord Adonis, Sir John Armitt and the new Commissioners will serve 5 year terms on the Commission.

**Further details on the new Commissioners:**

- Dame Kate Barker is a business economist, and was a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) from 2001 to 2010
- David Fisk is Emeritus Professor of Systems Engineering and Innovation at the Centre for Systems Engineering and Infrastructure at Imperial College London, and a member of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority
- Andy Green is a business leader. He currently chairs IG Group plc, a global leader in online trading, and the Digital Catapult, an initiative to help grow the UK digital economy
- Julia Prescott is Chief Strategy Officer at Meridiam, a leading global investor and asset manager specialising in public infrastructure

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## **News story: Statement on the Sky / Fox merger media public interest consideration process**

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley, today confirmed that, following discussion with the parties, Ofcom, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and the Propriety and Ethics Team in the Cabinet Office, she has written to the CMA and Ofcom extending the period within which they must report to her on the proposed merger.

As has been the case throughout this process, the Secretary of State has kept Parliament informed on progress of the proposed merger and intends to table a Written Ministerial Statement early next week on this issue. In the meantime, she has written to the speakers and leaders of both the House of Commons and House of Lords, the chair of the commons select committee (CMS), and the shadow culture secretary – these letters have been laid in the parliament library and are public.

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley, said:

On Thursday 16 March I intervened in the proposed acquisition of Sky by 21 Century Fox on the media public interest grounds of media plurality and commitment to broadcasting standards by issuing a European Intervention Notice (EIN).

The EIN triggered the requirement for Ofcom to assess and report to me on the public interest grounds specified and for the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to report to me on jurisdiction. I required Ofcom and the CMA to provide their reports to me in response to the EIN by Tuesday 16 May. Once these reports are received, my decision-making role in this process would resume.

Given the proximity of this decision to the forthcoming general election and following discussions with the parties, Ofcom, the CMA and the Cabinet Office Propriety and Ethics team, I wrote to Ofcom and the CMA on Friday 21 April to extend the period by which these reports should be submitted to Tuesday 20 June.

### **Notes to editors**

1. Sky Plc announced on Friday 9 December that it had received an approach from 21 Century Fox (21CF) to acquire the 61% share of Sky Plc which it does not already own.
2. The Secretary of State confirmed, in a statement to both Houses of Parliament on 16 March that she had issued a European Intervention Notice (EIN) on the media public interest grounds of media plurality and commitment to broadcasting standards.
3. The original EIN required Ofcom and the CMA to provide reports to the Secretary of State by Tuesday 16 May. The revised deadline is Tuesday 20 June and is expected to fall after the State Opening of Parliament
4. The General Election was called on Tuesday 18 April and will take place on Thursday 8 June. The purdah period begins at midnight on Friday 20 April.
5. For further information please contact the DCMS press office on 0207 2112210