

Civil Service to deliver thousands of high quality apprenticeships across the UK

One in twenty civil servants will be an apprentice by 2025, under new plans that will diversify the pipeline of talent into government and spread Civil Service jobs across the country to level up opportunity.

More than 35,000 apprentices have been recruited since 2015, exceeding the government's manifesto commitment and establishing the Civil Service as a leading provider of apprenticeships. The new strategy will build on this by committing to 5% of the UK Home Civil Service being apprentices by 2025.

The schemes offer people across the UK a route into employment, with a programme of industry-leading training and opportunities for secondment in the private sector equipping apprentices with highly-recruitable skills.

New targets will also bring government closer to the communities it serves than ever before, capitalising on the creation of local hubs to ensure the number of apprenticeship roles in every region reflects local Civil Service workforce numbers. This forms part of the concerted shift of government focus and resources to Britain's forgotten communities throughout the 2020s. .

An advertising campaign blitz and the promise to harness new initiatives like T-Level work placements will also help ensure at least 39% of apprenticeships are taken up by people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, the Social Mobility Commission benchmark, ensuring the opportunity to work in government is open to everyone.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Cabinet Office, Minister Wheeler said:

With more than 35,000 apprenticeship starts in the Civil Service since 2015, it's clear that the door is well and truly open for anyone to get in and get on in government.

The new apprenticeship strategy contains a relentless focus on driving up standards in government, building a pipeline of highly-skilled public servants from across the UK to deliver on the people's priorities.

Not only will this improve the quality of public service in the long term, it is also putting young people at the forefront of the government's work to level up the country.

Leon Soyinka Sinden, a current apprentice who has worked across a range of communications teams in the Cabinet Office, said a Civil Service apprenticeship had set him up for success:

Going straight from school to the heart of government is daunting at first, but it's given me so much confidence in myself.

After only 4 months, I've had so many incredible experiences and opportunities – working on large scale national projects at this stage in my career is a privilege. I know I'll leave this apprenticeship with the skills needed to have an amazing career.

The new strategy is just one of several steps the government has taken to grow the number of apprenticeship opportunities offered in the UK, including offering cash incentives to support employers to create new apprenticeship opportunities and creating the new Flexi-Job Apprenticeship scheme.

[Read the Civil Service Apprenticeships Strategy 2022 to 2025.](#)

[Hawker Sea Fury T Mk 20, G-RNHF, Anniversary Statement](#)

News story

Forced landing after engine failed on base leg, approx 0.5 nm from Runway 04, RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset, 28 April 2021.



This statement provides an update on the ongoing AAIB investigation into an accident involving Hawker Sea Fury T Mk 20, G-RNHF, 0.5 nm from Runway 04, RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset on 28 April 2021.

The aircraft was being positioned for a landing on Runway 04 at RNAS Yeovilton following a low engine oil pressure indication. As the aircraft began the base turn, the engine seized suddenly and the pilot was unable to feather the propeller. Due to the extremely high rate of descent required to maintain speed it was not possible to reach the runway. The aircraft struck the ground approximately 0.5 nm from the runway threshold. The aircraft was

destroyed but both occupants were able to extract themselves from the cockpit.

The investigation has identified that the engine's rear crankpin bearing had overheated, leading to extensive damage within the rear crankcase and causing the engine to seize. Due to the severe damage to the engine, the cause of the rear crankpin bearing becoming overheated was not established. The final report into the accident is expected to be published in June 2022.

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[UKHSA appoints non-executive members to its board](#)

Press release

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has appointed 5 non-executive members and 3 associate non-executive members to its management board.



The new non-executive members (NEMs) will provide impartial oversight and advice to the UKHSA's chair Ian Peters and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dame Jenny Harries, helping the organisation to deliver its strategic objectives.

The appointments bring together a wealth of expertise from across the country, from diverse backgrounds. The members have rich and varied experience across sectors including health, technology, local government, the military and third sector organisations.

UKHSA is responsible for protecting the public from the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and other health threats. It provides intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation's health secure.

The new NEMs and associates are:

1. Jennifer Dixon – CEO of The Health Foundation, formerly at The King's Fund and Nuffield Trust, trained in medicine and previously held multiple policy, public health and national regulatory roles.
2. Jon Friedland – Deputy Principal (Research and Enterprise), St George's, University of London, clinically trained infectious diseases academic, specialism in tuberculosis (TB). Significant involvement with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and more recently with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
3. Graham Hart – a health social and behavioural scientist with expertise in sexual health and HIV. A professor at University College London (UCL) with interests in multidisciplinary population health and co-production.
4. Mark Lloyd – CEO of Local Government Association, experienced in integrating national, regional and local services to deliver better outcomes for communities and residents.
5. Gordon Messenger – Ex-Vice Chief of Defence Staff. Experienced in contingency planning, crisis management and leadership, with recent experience working with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the NHS.
6. Simon Blagden – Former Chair of Fujitsu UK. Career in ICT and digital transformation. Chair of Larkspur International and Chair of the UK government's Telecoms Supply Chain Diversification Advisory Council at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).
7. Marie Gabriel – Chair of North East London Integrated Care System and Chair of NHS Race and Health Observatory, with previous non-executive and chair experience in acute, mental health and commissioning. Prior career in local and regional government and the voluntary sector.
8. Raj Long – professional career in medicines and vaccines development and regulation, currently with roles at the World Health Organization (WHO) and Gates Foundation. A Non-Executive Director on the board of the MHRA.

UKHSA chair Ian Peters said:

We're delighted to confirm the appointment of our non-executive members and associates to the new UKHSA Advisory Board and its committees.

These new non-executive members are a diverse group who have been selected to bring a wide range of expertise, perspectives and thinking styles. I am really pleased that we have attracted such a high calibre group and I am sure they will add tremendous value both collectively and individually. I look forward to working with them as we establish UKHSA in the next phase of its development.

UKHSA Chief Executive, Dame Jenny Harries, said:

I am absolutely delighted to welcome our new colleagues to UKHSA. As we learn to live with COVID-19 and navigate complex and newly emerging health threats, I am hugely grateful for the time and experience that our new board members will provide to help us keep the nation's health secure. I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead.

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[UK's digital watchdogs take a closer look at algorithms as plans set out for year ahead](#)

- Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum calls for views on the benefits and risks of how sites and apps use algorithms
- Also seeks input on auditing algorithms, the current landscape and the role of regulators
- Workplan set out for coming year, including protecting children online

This “algorithmic processing” is commonplace and often beneficial, underpinning many of the products and services we use in everyday life. From detecting fraudulent activity in financial services to connecting us with friends online or translating languages at the click of a button, these systems have become a core part of modern society.

However, algorithmic systems, particularly modern Machine Learning (ML) or Artificial Intelligence (AI) approaches, pose significant risks if used without due care. They can introduce or amplify harmful biases that lead to discriminatory decisions or unfair outcomes that reinforce inequalities. They can be used to mislead consumers and distort competition.

Regulators need to work together to articulate the nature and severity of these risks and take measures to mitigate them. That's how they can help empower the development and deployment of algorithmic processing systems in safe, responsible ways that are pro-innovation and pro-consumer.

The four digital watchdogs – the Competition and Markets Authority, Financial Conduct Authority, Information Commissioner's Office and Ofcom – today invite

views on what more is needed from regulators and where industry should step up.

The four organisations are working together through the Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum (DRCF), which today publishes its annual report, its workplan for the year ahead and two papers on algorithms with a call for comments.

[The DRCF workplan for 2022/23](#) includes projects that will help to tackle some of our biggest digital challenges, including:

- Protecting children online – improving outcomes for children and parents by ensuring the privacy and online safety protections overseen by the ICO and Ofcom work in unison together.
- Promoting competition and privacy in online advertising – foster competitive online advertising markets that deliver innovation and economic growth, while respecting consumer and data protection rights, via joint ICO and CMA work.
- Supporting improvements in algorithmic transparency – support the use of algorithmic processing to promote its benefits and mitigate the risks to people and to competition, by exploring ways of improving algorithmic transparency and auditing.
- Enabling innovation in the industries we regulate – encourage responsible innovation and explore different models for how we coordinate our work with industry to support innovation.

Gill Whitehead, DRCF Chief Executive, said:

The task ahead is significant – but by working together as regulators and in close co-operation with others, we intend for the DRCF to make an important contribution to the UK's digital landscape to the benefit of people and businesses online.

Just one of those areas is algorithms. Whether you're scrolling on social media, flicking through films or deciding on dinner, algorithms are busy but hidden in the background of our digital lives.

That's good news for a lot of us a lot of the time, but there's also a problematic side to algorithms. They can be manipulated to cause harm or misused because firms plugging them into websites and apps simply don't understand them well enough. As regulators, we need to make sure the benefits win out.

Speaking on behalf of the algorithms project team, Stefan Hunt, CMA Chief Data and Technology Insight Officer, said:

Much work has already been done on algorithms by the CMA, FCA, ICO and Ofcom but there is more to do.

We're asking now, what more is needed, including from us as regulators and also from industry?

Today marks the chance for anyone involved in or with a view on the use of algorithms to have their say, particularly on how we might move to an effective, proportionate, approach to audit to help ensure they are being used safely. The opportunity to offer views is open until Wednesday 8 June 2022.

We invite comments and discussion on the DRCF's workplan and priorities for the year ahead. These should be submitted to DRCF@ofcom.org.uk.

More information can be found on the [Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum case page](#).

[Appointment of members of the Judicial Pension Board](#)

News story

Kim Brown and Josephine Maguire appointed as independent members of the Judicial Pension Board.



The Lord Chancellor has approved the appointments of Kim Brown and Josephine Maguire as Independent Members of the Judicial Pension Board for 3 years from 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2025.

Kim Brown is the pension scheme director for Mastertrust and Independent Governance Committee at Legal and General and is a board member of NextGen Trustees. Previously she was Head of the Master Trust Authorisation and Supervision department at The Pensions Regulator.

Jo Maguire is a Trustee of the DH&S Retirement and Death Benefits Plan and the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) Pension Fund. Previously, she was a Pensions Assurance director with PwC and an Executive Director of the Pensions Research Accountants Group.

The Judicial Pension Board (JPB) is responsible for helping the Lord Chancellor to manage and govern the Judicial Pension Schemes. The Commissioner for Public Appointments regulates the appointment of Independent Members to the JPB and the recruitment process must comply with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

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