

Tech transfer leader Dr Alison Campbell OBE appointed as CEO of government's new technology transfer unit

- UK government hires Dr Alison Campbell OBE, former Director of Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI), as CEO of the Government Office for Tech Transfer (GOTT)
- GOTT will support the way government manages and commercialises its estimated £104 billion worth of knowledge assets
- Dr Campbell will oversee later stages of GOTT's development ahead of formal launch later this year

Dr Alison Campbell OBE has been appointed as CEO of the newly formed Government Office for Tech Transfer (GOTT), the government announced today (25 April 2022).

Technology transfer is the broad term applied to the transfer of assets, such as intellectual property rights, technology or new knowledge, from one organisation to another, with the objective of stimulating the development and adoption of new products, processes and services that benefit society.

An experienced leader from within the Knowledge Transfer industry, Dr Campbell joins GOTT from a previous position as Director of Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI), Ireland's national office helping businesses to benefit from access to public sector research expertise and technology.

The new government unit will sit within the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and is being developed to ensure that the public sector is maximising the value of its knowledge and innovation assets estimated to be worth £104 billion – including intellectual property, software, processes and data – leading in the long term to new productivity-driving innovations that will serve business and public services, and result in benefits to the economy.

She brings over 20 years of experience to the role, having started her career in the biotech industry, holding positions including interim CEO of the Medical Research Council's technology transfer company (MRCT), and leading technology transfer and research support at King's College London. Dr Campbell was also Chair of the Board at AUTM (the US based international association for technology transfer).

She was awarded an OBE in 2010 in recognition of her contribution to Knowledge Transfer.

Incoming GOTT CEO Dr Alison Campbell OBE said:

I am delighted to take up this new role, helping to support the management of knowledge assets from across the public sector to deliver societal and economic impact.

Here in the Government Office for Tech Transfer we will have a strong platform to build from thanks to the significant work and delivery from the existing Knowledge Assets Team and the engagement and support from key public sector stakeholders.

Science Minister George Freeman said:

Home to some of the greatest institutions and scientists in the world, the UK is an exceptional research, knowledge, and innovation base.

For too long however, we have let British discoveries slip through our fingers and be brought to market elsewhere: often commercialised in the US, taking the expertise and financial benefits from UK research to foreign shores.

This is why I am so pleased that Dr Alison Campbell, a formidable leader in the field of Knowledge Transfer, is joining us to lead our excellent new Government Office for Technology Transfer, a body that will be critical to maximising UK government's outstanding home-grown knowledge assets to benefit the country's economy, society, and position as a global science superpower.

The unit will launch later this year, providing specialist skills to support the way government manages its knowledge assets. Alongside this are 2 public sector funding schemes:

- a grant fund, investing in pre-commercial proposals
- a managed fund focused on providing pre-seed and seed capital to public sector knowledge assets

The Grant Fund has already awarded one round of funding, via which GOTT is funding several exciting scientific projects, including technology for earlier and more effective diagnosis of breast cancer.

Further details on the government's strategy for knowledge and innovation assets in the public sector can be found in the [Mackintosh Report](#), in which the plan to develop GOTT was set out.

[Call for cash and in-kind sponsorship for the Platinum Jubilee and Queen's Birthday Party 2022 in Japan](#)

World news story

The British Embassy Tokyo is looking for cash and in-kind sponsorship to help mark the Platinum Jubilee and deliver the annual event to mark the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is in 2022, and the British Embassy in Tokyo will hold the Queen's Birthday Party on Thursday 16 June. Any company wishing to register an expression of interest to provide sponsorship should make contact with the Embassy as below by 17:00 JST on Friday 06 May 2022.

Cash sponsorship: Japan.PlatinumJubilee@fco.gov.uk for the attention of Paul Ellis

In-kind sponsorship: Japan.PlatinumJubilee@fco.gov.uk for the attention of Takako Nakano

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[US trade delivering for Scotland as Aberdeen hosts second transatlantic dialogue](#)

- International Trade Secretary welcomes US counterpart Ambassador Tai to Aberdeen to discuss how transatlantic trade is delivering for the people

of Scotland and the rest of the UK.

- Talks focus on key sectors for Scottish economy and bring together iconic Scottish businesses including Walker's Shortbread and innovative energy SME, Enpro-Subsea.
- Figures show US investment is supporting over 100,000 jobs and generating nearly £50 billion for the Scottish economy.

The UK will on Monday (25 April) host the second transatlantic trade dialogue in Aberdeen aimed at boosting our £200 billion trade partnership with the US.

Against a backdrop of Aberdeen's flourishing tech scene and world-leading energy sector, the dialogue will focus on agreed priority areas including digital and innovation, green trade, supporting SMEs and supply chain resilience.

Latest figures show the importance of transatlantic trade to Scottish workers, businesses and industry:

- Nearly a quarter of the nation's services exports are to the US
- Scotch whisky exports continues to play a vital role in wider UK-US trade, with almost two thirds of beverages exported to the US coming from Scotland
- The US is Scotland's number one foreign investor, according to EY
- US-owned businesses support over 100,000 jobs, generating nearly £50 billion for the economy

The Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan will discuss the importance of trade for creating jobs and spreading economic opportunities throughout the UK – a key part of our levelling up agenda.

The dialogue will convene leaders from across Scottish, central and local government, a wide range of businesses as well as trade unions and civil society groups such as Trades Union Congress.

International Trade Secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, said:

This dialogue gives us a platform to explore more modern, digital ways of trading. It will identify and resolve barriers to trade to make it cheaper and easier for businesses in Scotland and throughout the UK to do business with our US friends.

As two leaders in green innovation, it also gives us the opportunity to harness trade to tackle shared challenges such as climate change.

The Trade Secretary met with leaders on Sunday evening (24 April) from Scotland's food and drink industry including Walker's shortbread and Clootie McToot.

Attendees also included US spirits company Brown-Forman which owns three of Scotland's top distilleries GlenDronach, Benriach and Glenglassaugh and

employs hundreds of people in the UK. The firm hailed the lifting of tariffs on US whiskey thanks to the recent resolution of the S232 steel and aluminium tariffs dispute, and revealed it is now planning a multi-million pound investment in its Scottish facilities .

Ahead of the dialogue, Trevelyan and Tai will visit offshore energy SME, Enpro-Subsea in Aberdeen where Trevelyan will highlight the UK's energy strategy aimed at securing energy security and independence, while we support the transition from fossil fuels to new technologies. The company demonstrates that achieving our environmental goals must go hand-in-hand with an evolving North Sea industry.

Discussions at the dialogue will provide a solid foundation for further engagement with the US. This includes ongoing work at a state-level such as mutual recognition of qualifications as well as continuing to remove barriers to trade.

The Government has already helped lift the ban on UK exports of lamb and beef and resolved the Large Civil Aircraft dispute, which removed 25 percent tariffs on Scotch whisky, resulting in huge wins for Scottish producers and exporters.

UK Government Minister for Scotland Iain Stewart said:

We're delighted to host today's talks in Aberdeen, marking a positive development in our already strong trade relationship with the US. Improving our partnership will create new high-quality opportunities for businesses in Scotland, including from our thriving food and drink, tech and energy sectors.

At a time when we face immense global challenges, joining with our friends in the US to lift barriers, improve communication and encourage new and innovative ways of working together will support jobs across Scotland and beyond, benefiting businesses of all sizes.

Shevaun Haviland, Director-General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said:

The UK and US are natural trading partners. These dialogues are an opportunity to build on that relationship and set new ambitious standards on sustainable trade. In a shifting and uncertain world, we must also take this opportunity to reinforce the resilience of our supply chains and stabilise prices.

Smaller businesses make up the majority of our membership, and the UK economy, so it's vital they are given a voice in these talks and that they get to reap the benefits on both sides of the Atlantic. Supply chain disruption and soaring inflation have reduced the operating margins of many small firms to almost nothing, so reducing the costs of trade with the US would be a huge boost for

them. This would then help communities right across the UK to see the benefits that improved trade with the US could bring.

Allan Hogarth, Executive Director of the Scottish North American Business Council (SNABC) said:

The SNABC is very much looking forward to participating in the Aberdeen session of the Transatlantic Dialogue, building on the success of the Baltimore session last month. These discussions will cover vital areas to the Scottish, UK and US economies – it is a great opportunity to make sure Scottish voices are heard on this, our single biggest export market, and to try and make it simpler for us all to continue to prosper and strengthen the transatlantic relationship for our mutual benefit.

Background:

- According to EY, the US was the largest contributor of Scottish FDI projects in 2020. The 38 investment projects originating from the US accounted for 35.5 percent of all projects recorded in Scotland in 2020. EY's Attractiveness Survey Scotland, June 2021

[PM call with UN Secretary-General António Guterres: 24 April 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres this afternoon.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres this afternoon on the situation in Ukraine.

The Prime Minister described Putin's actions in Ukraine as nauseating and blatant aggression, which is having devastating consequences for Ukraine's people.

They discussed their shared concerns on attacks in areas besieged by Russian forces, such as Mariupol and Kherson, and the need to secure a ceasefire, facilitate humanitarian efforts and allow civilians to leave.

The Prime Minister made clear the importance of global solidarity with Ukraine, with the UK continuing to work closely with international partners to support Ukraine to defend itself.

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[Yemen: Foreign Secretary statement after British man released from unlawful detention](#)

News story

The Foreign Secretary has issued a statement after a British man was released from unlawful detention by the Houthis in Yemen.



Luke Symons, a British man who was detained in Yemen by the Houthis has been released, after he was held without charge or trial since 2017.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

I am pleased that Luke Symons, who was unlawfully detained, without charge or trial since 2017 in Yemen, has been released. Luke was 25 when he was unlawfully detained by the Houthis. His son was only a few months old at the time.

He was allegedly mistreated, in solitary confinement, and refused visits by his family.

He has been flown to Muscat and soon he will be reunited with his family in the UK.

We thank our Omani and Saudi partners for their support in securing his release.

I pay tribute to our excellent staff for their hard work in returning Luke home.

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