

Should the UK have a Chief Risk Officer?

News story

Calls for the government to appoint a Chief Risk Officer are the topic of our latest blog.



The Deputy Government Actuary Colin Wilson examines these issues and other calls for reassessments as to whether the UK is sufficiently prepared to address extreme risks and he also identifies several questions that need answering. Read more in [the latest GAD blog](#).

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Public Sector Equality Duty: Ensuring the Inspectorate is an inclusive place to work

In our employee equality objectives 2020 – 2025, we have pledged to being an inclusive place to work where employees feel trusted, respected and confident. These objectives are to:

- embed an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) approach to all our work
- build upon our excellent approach to promote wellbeing at work
- ensure that we offer a fair deal to our people.

To achieve our objectives, we have set ourselves 5 key priorities that we are

committed to achieving over the next 5 years.

1. Continued analysis and understanding of our workforce diversity
2. Reducing the Gender Pay Gap
3. Developing an inclusive culture
4. Attracting, selecting and retaining our talented and diverse workforce
5. Implementing Outreach programmes

Using data to target our actions

In November 2021 [we published our workforce diversity data](#). This insight has helped us to identify and understand disparities in outcome and under-representation, and enabled us to target our actions to address these issues.

For example, we identified that the proportion of women, disabled colleagues and Black, Asian and minority ethnic colleagues decreased as the seniority of the role increased

The data also showed that newer staff are less likely to declare their protected characteristics. We continue to encourage all employees to declare their diversity details so that we can improve the quality of our data and ensure we are inclusive in our workforce measures. We have a senior champion who is helping to promote the reasons why it is important for employees to make this declaration.

Alongside our evidence-based approach, we are undertaking a review of policies to ensure the language is inclusive, and we have signed up to outreach opportunities such as [10,000 Black Interns](#).

Support for disabled colleagues

We are a member of the government's voluntary Disability Confident employer scheme. This means we offer guaranteed interviews for candidates who declare a disability and meet the minimum criteria.

We support disabled colleagues with our 'workplace adjustment passport', which has 3 main functions, to:

- support conversations between an employee and their line manager about a disability, health condition or gender reassignment and any workplace adjustments that might need to be made
- act as a record of that conversation and of the adjustments agreed
- act as a record of any adjustment made for individuals as supportive measures.

This year we have also focused on improving our attraction and recruitment processes to make them more inclusive.

Equality, diversity and inclusion highlights

Some of the EDI actions we've taken as an organisation include:

- aspirational goals to improve representation rates throughout the Inspectorate
- increased the availability of our diversity data to inform decision-making
- added Equality Impact Assessments as a mandatory part of our policy and project development procedures
- continued to invest resources in our employee networks, providing a senior sponsor for each network, a budget and time allowance to lead the networks
- introduced gender-balanced interview panels by default
- signed the Race at Work charter and submitted the Stonewall Workplace Equality index for the first time in 2021
- celebrated National Inclusion week and Black History Month, as well as other important days throughout the year by sharing personal insights and interesting information with employees
- ensured our senior leaders have diversity and inclusion goals, encouraging them to lead on aspects of diversity and inclusion they are interested in.

We have made good progress towards treating all employees fairly and making the Inspectorate a great place to work. We will continue to work to achieve these aims.

[UK proposes measures on Continuous Glass Fibre from China be kept](#)

- UK TRA proposes anti-dumping and countervailing measures on Continuous Glass Fibre from China be kept for a further five years
- It has, however, proposed that duties on a specific form, mats made of glass fibre, be revoked.
- Glass fibres are used in the creation of wind turbine blades as well as in construction and automotive applications including manufacture of electric vehicles.

In its [initial findings](#), the UK's [Trade Remedies Authority \(TRA\)](#) has today (20 April 2022) proposed that existing measures on imports of Continuous Glass Fibre from China be maintained.

The TRA's provisional findings, contained in the Statements of Essential Facts, would mean that this UK industry, predominantly based in Wigan, continues to be protected from injury caused by dumped and subsidised imports of products from China for another five years. A 30 day period for comments is now open.

Following a transition review, the TRA has recommended that countervailing and anti-dumping measures be kept on Continuous Glass Fibre products from

China. Continuous Glass Fibres are used in the make-up of wind turbine blades, which are integral to the UK Government's strategy to boost the country's energy security. They are also used in such industries as transportation (automotive, marine, aerospace), building and construction, electric/electronics, as well as wider manufacturing of various consumer goods.

The TRA found that imported products from China accounted for 8.44% of total UK imports in 2020, making China the fifth largest source of imports of continuous filament glass fibre products.

The TRA has recommended that the measures on continuous filament glass fibre products be maintained at their current levels until 31 January 2026 – that is five years subsequent to the date when the measure would have expired (31 January 2021) had no transition review been initiated.

However, the TRA determined that mats made of glass fibre should be excluded from the measures. Mats are not produced in the UK, and the TRA did not receive any submissions in relation to keeping mats within the scope of the measure.

While mats of glass fibre produced in China are bought by multiple UK importers, the TRA found no evidence of UK production and there is no suggestion that mats imported from China would compete against domestically produced other forms of Continuous Glass Fibre.

Oliver Griffiths, TRA's Chief Executive, said: "Glass fibre is a vital component in UK advanced manufacturing, used in wind turbine blades and electric vehicles. The provisional findings we are announcing today would protect UK glass fibre producers from unfair international competition."

Following today's publication, there will be a 30-day period in which interested parties can comment on the report. Comments can be submitted by Interested Parties to the TRA via the [Trade Remedies Service website](#).

The TRA will then consider and produce a Final Recommendation, which will be sent to the Secretary of State for International Trade who will make the final decision on whether to uphold the TRA's recommendation.

Notes to editors:

- The Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) is the independent UK body, established in June 2021, as the first non-departmental public body of the Department for International Trade, that investigates whether trade remedy measures are needed to counter unfair import practices and unforeseen surges of imports.
- Read more about the TRA's mission in its [Business Plan](#).
- Anti-dumping duties allow a country or union to take action against goods sold at less than their normal value, which is defined as the price for 'like goods' sold in the exporter's home market.
- Trade remedy investigations were carried out by the EU Commission on the UK's behalf until the UK left the EU. Forty-four EU trade remedy

measures of interest to UK producers were carried across into UK law when the UK left the EU and the TRA is currently reviewing each one to assess whether it is suitable for UK needs.

- Countervailing measures address imports which have benefited from a government subsidy that's countervailable in their country of origin. Trade remedies can only counter certain types of subsidies and these are known as countervailable subsidies. You can find out more in our [online guidance on subsidy investigations](#).

[Recruitment Vacancy in the Corporate Services Team](#)

News story

Details of vacancy for a Facilities and Administrative Officer in the Corporate Services Team.



This interesting job puts you at the heart of the VMD's Corporate Services Team within our Business Support Division. The team provides a range of services which support the business and its staff to deliver the VMD corporate objectives.

Job Title

Facilities and Administrative Officer in the Corporate Services Team

Grade

A0

Salary & Pension

£24,369 -£24,369 per annum with Pension Scheme

Annual Leave entitlement

Commencing at 25 days

Role

You will be a point of contact for VMD colleagues and contractors and you will work closely within a small team as well as more widely across the organisation. Your main duties will range from coordinating accommodation requirements, supporting travel needs, as well as facilities management and procurement.

How to apply

You must make your application via [Civil Service Jobs](#) where you will find a full job description including salary details.

Closing Date

18th May 2022

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[Scottish Secretary Alister Jack responds to February 2022 GDP](#)

News story

Our priority is a strong and steady recovery while tackling rising cost of living, says Secretary of State.



Figures for Scotland's GDP for February 2022 have been published [here](#) today.

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

The UK Government-funded vaccine and booster programme is enabling us to live with Covid while protecting our most vulnerable, but we are acutely aware of the new global challenges our economy faces, including from the war in Ukraine.

Our priority remains on a strong and steady recovery and we are helping to tackle the rising cost of living.

We've introduced a package of measures worth £22 billion this financial year. That includes boosting take-home pay by raising the National Insurance threshold and ploughing £9.1 billion into our energy support package – with £290 million in Barnett Consequential funding council tax rebates in Scotland. That's in addition to the record £41 billion per year funding settlement for the Scottish Government for next three years.

We can, and will, level up all areas of the UK and build back better from these troubled times.

Scotland saw an estimated GDP increase of 0.4% in February, and is now 1.3% above the pre-coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic levels seen in February 2020. Scottish economic output rebounded at the start of 2022 after a fall at the end of 2021.

UK GDP increased 0.1% in February and is 1.5% above its pre-pandemic levels.

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