

[OISC Campaigns](#)

Welcome to the OISC Campaigns page.

The OISC has begun an awareness campaign on the importance of using registered Immigration Advisers and what to do if those who have sought support believe they have received poor or illegal advice.

We have produced a video which is a useful guide on how to use our Adviser Finder platform, to share via your websites or social media pages.

Secondly, a series of posters on the themes of “Have concerns re immigration advice received?” and “Use a registered Immigration Adviser” is available for printing and sharing.

These posters are available in a variety of languages including Chinese, Farsi, Polish and Urdu. Visit this [page](#) for more details .

OISC Campaigns: Adviser Finder Guide

It is important that you get the right advice from the right people to help you with your application.

This specially produced OISC video (in two formats) explains what you should do to find a local registered OISC Immigration Adviser to help you.

MP4 Version

[OISC Adviser Finder Video – MP4 version](#)

MP4 Version w/subtitles

[OISC Adviser Finder Video w/subtitles – MP4 version with subtitles](#)

OISC Posters

The OISC has created a series of posters designed to raise awareness among advice seekers of the importance of using registered Immigration Advisers and what to do if they have received poor or illegal advice.

Below you will find posters which you can print and place in your offices or other convenient spaces. The posters are also available in a variety of different languages which can be found [here](#).

OISC Posters (Print Versions x 4) – Have concerns re immigration advice received? – [OISC Posters \(Print Versions x 4\) – Have concerns about immigration advice received?](#) (PDF, 15.9 MB, 4 pages)

OISC Posters (Print Versions x 4) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser – [OISC Posters \(Print Versions x 4\) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser](#) (PDF, 16 MB, 4 pages)

You will also find versions which can be used in your social media channels.

Concerns – Have concerns re immigration advice received?

OISC Poster #1 (Social Media Version) – Have concerns re immigration advice received? – [OISC Poster #1 \(Social Media Version\) – Have concerns re immigration advice received?](#) (JPEG, 447 KB)

OISC Poster #2 (Social Media Version) – Have concerns re immigration advice received? – [OISC Poster #2 \(Social Media Version\) – Have concerns re immigration advice received?](#) (JPEG, 585 KB)

OISC Poster #3 (Social Media Version) – Have concerns re immigration advice received? – [OISC Poster #3 \(Social Media Version\) – Have concerns re immigration advice received?](#) (JPEG, 531 KB)

OISC Poster #4 (Social Media Version) – Have concerns re immigration advice received? – [OISC Poster #4 \(Social Media Version\) – Have concerns re immigration advice received?](#) (JPEG, 524 KB)

Advice – use a registered immigration adviser

OISC Posters #5 (Social Media Version) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser – [OISC Posters #5 \(Social Media Version\) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser](#) (JPEG, 529 KB)

OISC Posters #6 (Social Media Version) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser – [OISC Posters #6 \(Social Media Version\) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser](#) (JPEG, 659 KB)

OISC Posters #7(Social Media Version) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser – [OISC Posters #7\(Social Media Version\) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser](#) (JPEG, 759 KB)

OISC Posters #8 (Social Media Version) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser – [OISC Posters #8 \(Social Media Version\) – Use a registered Immigration Adviser](#) (JPEG, 653 KB)

[Apply now for finance as the application service launches for 2022 to 2023](#)

News story

Full-time undergraduate students in Wales are being encouraged to apply now for student finance



Full-time undergraduate students in Wales are being encouraged to [apply now](#) for student finance, as the application service opens for the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The Student Loans Company (SLC) expects approximately 1.5 million full-time, undergraduate students to apply for funding this year and the advice is to get applications in early.

Students in Wales can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to pay for tuition fees and a Maintenance Loan and Grant to help with living costs. By applying before the deadline (27 May 2022 for new students and 17 June 2022 for returning students) students can ensure they will have their finance in place for the start of term. Even if they are unsure of what course they will be doing or what university they will be attending, SLC is still encouraging students to apply now.

Applications can take six to eight weeks to process. Students can check their application status online and view a 'to do list' of any outstanding actions they need to take.

Chris Larmer, SLC Executive Director of Operations, said: "SLC exists to enable opportunity for students to invest in their futures through access to further and higher education. We want students to get their higher education journey off to the best start by ensuring they have their finances in place at the start of term. That's why we are encouraging them to apply now for their student finance.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for students to access student finance and to support them resources are available online at <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/discover-student-finance>. They can also follow Student Finance Wales (SFW) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for all the latest student finance information."

To help students apply for student finance we have provided the tips below:

- **Apply Now**

Apply as early as possible to make sure your finances are in place before your studies start. The deadline to apply is 27 May for new

students and 17 June for returning students. Even if you don't know what course you'll be studying, you should still [apply now](#) using your preferred choice and update your application later if you need to. This is the best way to make sure you have your money when you start your course.

- **Don't call us – we'll contact you!**

Remember it can take 6 to 8 weeks to process an application. There is no need to contact us during this time to check on your application status. We will contact you if we need anything further. Applicants can also check their application status online and view a 'to do list' of any outstanding actions they need to take.

- **Find the answer online first**

Take advantage of the information and resources provided online at <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/discover-student-finance> – these resources are continually updated to respond to the needs of students and their parents and partners as they progress through the application cycle. Students should follow SFW on social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)) to stay up to date with the very latest information.

- **Make sure you understand how much funding you may be entitled to**

Students in Wales can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to pay for tuition fees and a Maintenance Loan and Grant to help with living costs. Visit the SFW website to find out [what's available](#). Watch the Discover Student Finance film to find out more.

[Discover Student Finance film](#)

- **Have your important documents at hand**

Have your National Insurance number, UK passport details and bank details to hand before you start your application as you will need this information when you apply.

- **Provide your supporting evidence online**

Don't forget to submit any evidence you're asked for. All evidence apart from some ID or residency evidence can be submitted digitally via your online account.

- **Make sure you tell us if you have studied before**

If you have studied before it could affect your eligibility – even if your previous course was self-funded. Make sure to submit your application early so your entitlement can be confirmed.

- There may be some circumstances where you are able to access extra money, for example if you have a disability, or have children. Find out more: <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/discover-student-finance>

- **Follow Student Finance Wales (SFW) on social media.**

Students can get all the latest information on student finance by following SFW on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Published 1 March 2022

[HMCTS launches Welsh Language scheme consultation](#)

News story

We've launched a new consultation to review our Welsh Language Scheme, which is open for views until 8 April 2022.



Today (1 March 2022) on St David's Day, we launched [our consultation](#) to review whether our Welsh Language Scheme still meet the needs of our Welsh speaking court and tribunal users. The consultation opens today until 8 April 2022 and seeks to introduce standards to strengthen our consideration of Welsh language matters at initial policymaking stages.

Increased court and tribunal services in Welsh

A growing number of our online services can already be accessed in Welsh, including:

Aligning our in-house Welsh Language Unit with our new Court and Tribunal Service Centres provides a more cohesive service, including access to ongoing user feedback. We introduced a [Welsh Language Twitter Account](#) and we'll be providing more Welsh content on [our YouTube channel](#) in the future.

You can use Welsh in your court or tribunal hearings. Asking to speak in Welsh in your hearing will not delay the hearing or have any impact on proceedings or the outcome. Over the next few months, our reform programme will provide more reformed services in Welsh in both the civil and family jurisdictions.

A grateful member of the public who interacted with us in Welsh during a highly emotive hearing recently shared this praise for the service:

You have restored my faith in humanity.

Kevin Sadler, Acting Chief Executive of HMCTS, said:

Today, on St David's Day I'm proud to launch our consultation on our revised Welsh Language Scheme. Improving our Welsh language provision and approach requires a cultural shift.

Our revised Welsh Language Scheme will contribute to a more lasting and sustainable approach to us providing our services in Welsh. It's our legal and moral duty to make sure our services are accessible in the Welsh language and just as importantly, that Welsh speakers know that they are available.

Hywel Hughes, Head of Welsh Language Services at HMCTS, said:

We're seeing an increased demand for Welsh language services across the public sector in Wales. From our experience in our courts and tribunals, it is plain to see users vastly appreciate being able to use Welsh when they contact or access our services. The language is an integral part of their identity and if they can't use it, they feel incomplete and alienated. The changes proposed in our revised Welsh Language Scheme cement our commitment to providing equal access to justice for Welsh speakers.

Colonel James Phillips made first Wales Veterans' Commissioner

The Office for Veterans Affairs and the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales have jointly appointed Colonel James Phillips as Veterans' Commissioner for Wales.

Welsh Secretary Simon Hart said he was delighted that James Phillips had been appointed to the role, which will build on the success of counterpart roles in Scotland and Northern Ireland and will mean that all devolved nations have a Veterans' Commissioner.

James will be working to enhance the support for veterans in Wales, as well as scrutinising and advising on government policy for veterans.

The establishment of a Welsh Veterans Commissioner will ensure that the particular needs and contributions of veterans in Wales are represented.

The Veterans' Commissioner will help direct veterans and their families to local support available in areas such as healthcare and mental health provision, housing and employment, as well as assisting charities and advocating for the veteran community in Wales.

The appointment has been announced as Wales celebrates St David's Day and during Wales Week in London, where the UK Government is holding a number of events.

James has just completed his own transition to civilian life after 33 years in the Army. He has served in Germany, Cyprus, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq. He has commanded soldiers, sailors and air personnel and worked in NATO, MOD, Joint and Army Headquarters. He is married and lives in Pembrokeshire with 4 children and a very boisterous Welsh Springer Spaniel.

The Veterans' Commissioner for Wales, Colonel James Phillips said:

As a veteran of more than thirty years' service, I am very excited to be appointed as the first Veterans' Commissioner for Wales. The ex-forces community forms an important part of Welsh society and there is a long tradition of service and sacrifice. I will utilise my experience and position to improve the lives of all veterans and their families.

Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart said:

The Armed Forces have a long and important tradition in Wales and we are exceptionally proud of our Welsh veterans. Our ex-servicemen and women and their families deserve recognition, support and respect throughout the duration of their service and beyond.

The appointment of a Veterans' Commissioner for Wales will increase and coordinate the support available and highlights the UK Government's commitment to the welfare of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

I am delighted that we could make this hugely important announcement on St David's Day.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay said:

We want to ensure that veterans across all corners of the United Kingdom have access to high quality support.

The appointment of Colonel Phillips to this role now means that all parts of the UK have commissioners to champion veterans across society and hold the public sector to account.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Leo Docherty said:

This appointment delivers on a key part of our Veterans' Strategy Action Plan and I look forward to working with Colonel Phillips.

I know they will work hard to represent veterans in Wales – driving forward support for them across the country, whether it is housing, employment or healthcare.

Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn said:

Wales provides a wide range of support for veterans – from NHS Veterans Wales to our Armed Forces Liaison Officers – and we are committed to working with stakeholders to supporting all those who have served.

The Veterans' Commissioner for Wales is a UK Government appointment. We look forward to working with Colonel James Phillips as part of our commitment to veterans across Wales.

Colonel Phillips will be reporting directly to the Secretary of State for Wales, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay and Minister for Defence, People and Veterans Leo Docherty.

In January the Office for Veterans' Affairs launched the government's Veterans Strategy Action Plan. Commitments in the plan relating to Wales include:

- Stepping up data and understanding of the veterans' cohort in Wales, through the first veterans question in last year's Census in England and Wales. This will allow us to publish insights developed from the census data across a range of topics affecting veterans and their families, from health and wellbeing to housing and employment.
- The Welsh Government continuing to support the Veterans NHS Wales specialist mental healthcare service and Veterans Trauma Network (VTN) Wales service for veterans with complex physical injuries.
- The Welsh Government will work with Armed Forces Liaison Officers (AFLOs) and partners including regional suicide and self-harm prevention coordinators to promote mental health first aid training.
- The Welsh Government will review and publish a new Armed Forces Covenant, Healthcare Priority for Veterans Guidance, subject to UK developments including the Armed Forces Bill.

England's largest seagrass restoration continues in Plymouth Sound

Research shows at least 44% of the UK's seagrass has been lost since 1936¹.

This restoration work is part of England's largest seagrass planting effort under the LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES partnership, led by Natural England.

The partnership's restoration lead – Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT) – is carrying out 1 hectare of planting on 7 and 23 March, at Jennycliff Bay in Plymouth Sound. This will be in addition to the 1.5 hectares of seagrass planted there last year as part of the project.

It involves a huge contribution from volunteers, who will join the ReMEDIES partnership at the National Marine Aquarium (NMA) in Plymouth for 5 days of seed bag packing during March.

Fiona Crouch, Natural England Project Manager for ReMEDIES, said:

Restoring seagrass meadows means restoring the benefits they bring to people and nature – vital homes for wildlife, enhanced water quality, carbon storage, and so much more.

Disease, pollution, and physical disturbance has all contributed to the loss of seagrass. But seagrass is an important habitat, providing homes for sea life including juvenile fish and protected creatures like seahorses and stalked jellyfish. Seagrass also helps stabilise the seabed, reduce coastal erosion, clean surrounding water, and can be as effective at absorbing and storing carbon as our woodlands.

Mark Parry, Development Officer at the Ocean Conservation Trust, said:

After the success of our previous planting effort, we are excited to be getting underway again.

These events take a lot of hard work, planning and preparation, and wouldn't be successful without the help of our community.

We are so proud of how many volunteers are willing to dedicate their time to help restore such an important habitat, within what is going to be the UK's first ever National Marine Park.

The 4-year ReMEDIES project (July 2019 to October 2023) aims to plant a total of 8 hectares of seagrass meadows – 4 hectares in Plymouth Sound and 4 hectares in the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation. In mid-March, planting will begin at the Solent restoration site west of the mouth of the Beaulieu River, adjacent to the North Solent National Nature Reserve shoreline.

Find out more about LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES by following on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook @EULIFERemedies, or visiting www.saveourseabed.co.uk.

¹ Research by Alix Green, published in Frontiers in Plant Science journal, March 2021 <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2021.629962/full>)

LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES

LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES is a £2.5 million, 4-year marine conservation project to [Save Our Seabed](http://www.saveourseabed.co.uk) at 5 Special Areas of Conservation along England's South Coast, through seagrass restoration, education and innovation. It is funded by the [LIFE programme](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) and led by Natural England in partnership with Marine Conservation Society, Ocean Conservation Trust, Plymouth City Council/Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum and Royal Yachting Association. Visit [saveourseabed.co.uk](http://www.saveourseabed.co.uk).

Natural England

Natural England is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england.

Ocean Conservation Trust

The Ocean Conservation Trust is an ocean conservation charity that focuses on 2 key areas: habitat restoration and behaviour change. Following a conservation pathway that has been proven to work, the charity's approach puts people at the centre, working hard to create meaningful connections between people and the ocean as the first step to inspiring long-term behaviour change. This is done in tandem with more traditional conservation work surrounding the monitoring and restoration of crucial ocean habitats, with a particular focus on seagrasses www.oceanconservationtrust.org.

Royal Yachting Association (RYA)

The RYA is the national body for dinghy, yacht and motor cruising, all forms of sail racing, RIBs and sports boats, windsurfing and personal watercraft and a leading representative for inland waterways cruising www.rya.org.uk. The Green Blue is the joint environment programme created by British Marine and the RYA. It was set up to encourage everyone who enjoys getting out on the water or whose livelihood depends on it, to do so as sustainably as possible thegreenblue.org.uk.

Marine Conservation Society

The Marine Conservation Society is the UK's leading charity for the protection of our seas, shores and wildlife www.mcsuk.org.

Plymouth City Council/Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum

Plymouth City Council is a unitary authority and has hosted Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum since it was first established in the early 1990s. It has a vision for Plymouth to be Britain's Ocean City and one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities which is sustainable and cares about the environment and is currently working towards creating Britain's first National Marine Park www.plymouth.gov.uk.

The Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) is a collaborative partnership bringing together the key authorities responsible for the management of the tidal waters of Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site. Under the chair of the Queen's Harbour Master, members consist of 5 local authorities, 4 harbour authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation, Duchy of Cornwall and both Devon and Severn, and Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.