

Appointment of Bishop of Newcastle: 20 October 2022

Press release

Her Late Majesty The Queen approved the nomination of The Right Reverend Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Suffragan Bishop of Ripon, for election as Bishop of Newcastle.



Her Late Majesty The Queen approved the nomination of The Right Reverend Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Suffragan Bishop of Ripon, for election as Bishop of Newcastle, in succession to The Right Reverend Christine Hardman following her retirement.

Helen-Ann Hartley was educated at the University of St. Andrews and Worcester College, Oxford. She trained for ministry on the St Albans & Oxford Ministry Course and was ordained Priest in 2006. She served her title at St Mary the Virgin, Wheatley, in the Diocese of Oxford, and was appointed Curate at St Mary the Virgin and St Nicholas, Littlemore, in 2007. During this time she was also Director of Biblical Studies and Tutor in New Testament at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

In 2012, Helen-Ann moved to New Zealand where she was Dean for the New Zealand Dioceses at the College of St John the Evangelist, Auckland, and in 2014 she was consecrated Bishop of Waikato, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

Helen-Ann returned to the UK in 2018 when she was appointed to her current role as Suffragan Bishop of Ripon in the Diocese of Leeds.

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AAIB Report: Boeing A75N1 (PT17) Stearman (N707TJ), loss of engine power during flying display and ditching off Sandbanks, Poole, Dorset.

News story

During a display routine flight at Bournemouth Air Festival, a Boeing A75N1 (PT17) Stearman (N707TJ) ditched after a complete loss of engine power in the sea off Sandbanks, Poole, 4 September 2021.



While performing an aerobatic wing walking display over the sea at Bournemouth Air Festival, the aircraft experienced a reduction in engine power. The pilot stopped the routine and flew the aircraft west, while the wing walker returned to her seat in the front cockpit. The engine subsequently experienced a complete loss of power and the pilot ditched in the entrance of Poole Harbour. The aircraft flipped over on contact with the water, but both the pilot and the wing walker were able to exit the aircraft unaided.

The investigation found that the loss of engine power was due to a failure of the oil inlet pipe most likely due to fatigue, which prevented oil being supplied to the engine. This was precipitated by a fatigue failure of the metal strap which supported the weight of the oil inlet pipe. The fatigue failure was initiated at an area of mechanical damage on the surface of the support strap, which had been caused by over-tightening of the retaining nut.

Following this accident, the operator introduced additional hand signals to enable the wing walker to inform the pilot of any oil or fuel leaks and for the pilot to inform the walker that he intended to ditch.

[Read the report.](#)

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[RSH identifies key risks facing social housing sector in 2022 and beyond](#)

Press release

The Sector risk profile sets out the main risks facing the social housing sector and some of the actions registered providers should be taking to manage those risks.



The Regulator of Social Housing today (20 October) sets out its view of the key risks and challenges facing the social housing sector. Against a very challenging and fast-moving economic backdrop, the Sector Risk Profile highlights a significant number of specific risks for social housing providers that boards need to manage in meeting the regulator's standards. Some areas of risk are also relevant to councillors where their authority is responsible for local authority homes.

The report shows that providers face substantial financial pressures. High inflation is impacting on operating costs and the cost of debt is rising at the same time as increased cost of living pressures on tenants, a proposed rent cap, and a weakening housing market. To maintain financial resilience, providers need to continue responding appropriately to the changing conditions. Boards and councillors will need to have a clear sense of their priorities and make trade-offs. They must ensure that their mitigating actions are strategic and timely, underpinned by stress testing and robust planning, and communicated effectively to stakeholders.

Alongside their financial viability, tenant safety and the delivery of landlord services are key responsibilities which boards must continue to prioritise. Providers are planning significant investment in existing homes to meet quality, building safety, and decarbonisation commitments. This must be underpinned by robust data on stock condition, a clear understanding of

policy changes in these areas, and properly engaging with and listening to tenants. Boards will also need to recognise that delaying investment in existing stock could increase cost pressures over the long term and damage the sector's reputation.

Demand for new homes remains high even as the economics of development become more uncertain. Providers will need to consider carefully how to assess new development, ensuring that risks are tightly managed, including investment in market-sale homes which could affect providers' core social housing business.

Fiona MacGregor, Chief Executive at RSH, said:

Providers must take a strategic approach to managing the significant risks we have identified in our Sector Risk Profile and act appropriately to maintain their continued financial viability. Boards and councillors are the custodians of people's homes, and it's absolutely vital that tenants' homes, safety and the delivery of essential landlord services are not put at risk.

The annual publications are available on the [Sector risk profiles page](#).

Notes to editors

1. For press office contact details, see our [Media enquiries page](#). For general queries, please email enquiries@rsh.gov.uk or call 0300 124 5225.
2. The Regulator of Social Housing promotes a viable, efficient and well-governed social housing sector able to deliver and maintain homes of appropriate quality that meet a range of needs. It does this by undertaking robust economic regulation focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money that maintains lender confidence and protects the taxpayer. It also sets consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants.

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[£180 million to improve children's](#)

development in the early years

Every region in England will benefit from programmes to improve teaching of children's early speech, language and numeracy, along with professional development to build strong leadership skills and improve the understanding of children's development. New opportunities will also be provided for graduates looking to embark on a career in early years teaching, as well as staff looking to train as early years special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs).

Evidence shows that access to early education is crucial in supporting children to thrive in adulthood and contribute to society. The [Education Endowment Fund](#) has also shown that improving young children's pre-school language skills could boost the economy by up to £1.2 billion over the course of their lifetimes.

Up to £180 million of government funding over the three years will support the sector to focus on children's development in their earliest of years and help to address existing recruitment and retention challenges. It follows commitments by the Government to improve parents' access to affordable, flexible childcare through ambitious reforms, for which work continues.

Minister for Schools and Childhood, Kelly Tolhurst, said:

The early years of a child's life are vital, not only in establishing important developmental skills, but also in building a lifelong love of learning that will help them succeed in adult life.

I'm really proud of the quality and dedication of our early years workforce. This package of support is a huge investment in their skills and professional development, because raising the status of this important sector is key to its growth.

The Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) programme, which has already helped to boost the speech and language skills of an estimated 90,000 children, will also continue this academic year.

The Department for Education, in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care, has also launched a new '[Better Health – Start for Life](#)' campaign, providing parents of children aged 0 to 4 with practical advice and tips to help them develop their child's language and literacy skills before starting school. Funding from today's announcement will also support parents to gain additional advice through new Family Hubs, expected to open in the first half of 2023.

Today's package of support, which will benefit pre-school children all over England, includes:

- **Early maths, language, and social development training for 10,000 professionals through the third phase of the Professional Development Programme (PDP3)** – more than 1,300 professionals in 51 local authorities were provided with bespoke training designed to support the learning and development of children affected by the pandemic during the second phase of this programme, meaning around 20,000 children will have benefited from better trained, more confident staff;
- **The national rollout of the Expert and Mentors programme to provide bespoke leadership support to 7,500 early years settings and childminders** to address the impact of the pandemic on children in their care. This support is free and available across the country to eligible settings. Around 200 settings across the North of England, Lancashire and Yorkshire received support through a pilot of this programme this Spring;
- **Graduate-level specialist training** leading to early years teacher status – evidence is very clear that higher qualifications are consistently identified as a predictor of higher quality and associated with better child outcomes;
- **Support for nearly 6,000 early years professionals to achieve the National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)** which is designed to support early years leaders to develop expertise in leading high-quality education and care, effective staff and organisational management, and support the recovery of children's development that has been impacted through the pandemic;
- **Training for up to 5,000 Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs)** to help identify children's needs earlier so they have the right support. A commitment reaffirmed in the SEND Green Paper;
- **A new network of 18 Stronger Practice Hubs** to support early years practitioners to adopt evidence-based practice improvements, build local networks for sharing effective practice and cultivate system leadership;
- **A new universal online child development training offer** to help staff improve their knowledge and understanding of how pre-school children develop, as well as training for early years professionals to help parents and guardians encourage their children's development at home;
- **The continuation of the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) programme** during the academic year 2022-23 – building on the two-thirds of primary schools which have already benefitted from this investment, improving the speech and language skills of an estimated 90,000 children in reception classes.

This investment builds on continued work to put children's education and skills back on track after the pandemic. The government has set a target of 90% of primary children reaching the expected standard in literacy and numeracy, with wider investment confirmed to help every young person leaves school with a strong grasp of these skills.

The government continues to consider responses to its consultation on regulatory changes in childcare and will respond in due course.

[New bill to keep Britain moving during transport strikes](#)

- law will ensure that transport services keep running during strike action
- the bill will keep Britain moving, allow businesses continuity of some services and allow passengers to still go to work, school and medical appointments
- delivers on Prime Minister's commitment to introduce the legislation within first 30 days of Parliament sitting

The government has today (20 October 2022) taken the first steps to ensure transport strikes no longer grind the country to a halt.

The Transport Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill means, even during the most disruptive of strikes, a certain level of services will still run. This will allow passengers to go to work, attend school and make vital medical appointments and allow businesses to continue to grow the economy.

As well as the huge impact on people's day-to-day lives, economists have assessed that the first wave of rail strikes alone, in June 2022, cost the UK economy nearly £100 million, putting extra pressures on business and stopping people across the country from accessing their workplace during a cost-of-living crisis.

This law will mean businesses and passengers are no longer disproportionately and unfairly hit in the pocket through events outside of their control and the decisions of striking workers and the unions.

The Prime Minister is delivering on her commitment to introduce the legislation within her first 30 parliamentary sitting days and meets a Conservative Party manifesto commitment to limit the impact strikes have on hardworking people and businesses across the country.

Prime Minister Liz Truss said:

Hardworking people and businesses should not be held to ransom by strike action which has repeatedly crippled our transport network this year.

This legislation delivers on our 2019 manifesto and will not only limit the unions' ability to paralyse our economy, but will ensure passengers across the country can rightly continue to get to work, school or hospital.

Transport Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

Strikes have affected nearly all of us over this last year – whether that means losing out on a day's pay at work, having to close your business, missing vital medical appointments or stopping our children from getting to school.

It is vital that public transport users have some continuity of service to keep Britain moving and growing – this legislation will give everyone the certainty they need to carry on with their daily lives.

The legislation will mean:

- a minimum service level must be in place during transport strikes – if this is not delivered, the unions will lose legal protections from damages
- employers will specify the workforce required to meet an adequate service level during strikes and unions must take reasonable steps to ensure an appropriate number of specified workers still work on strike days
- specified workers who still take strike action will lose their protection from automatic unfair dismissal

The bill will set out the legal framework to allow minimum service levels to not only be set across the entire transport sector, but also implemented and enforced. The specific details of how minimum service levels will apply to transport services will be set out in secondary legislation in due course after a public consultation.

The intention of the legislation is that relevant employers and unions agree a minimum service level to continue running during all strikes over a 3-month period. If such a level cannot be agreed, an independent arbitrator – the Central Arbitration Committee – will determine the minimum number of services.

The bill will undertake its first reading today. The legislation is expected to come into force on transport services across the country in 2023 and follows similar rules already in place in countries across Europe, including France and Spain.