

# New directors appointed to the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

News story

Biosecurity Minister Lord Benyon has appointed six new members to the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England



Biosecurity Minister Lord Benyon has appointed six non-executive directors to the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE).

The appointments of Peter Laurie, Emma Slawinski, Gwyn Jones, James Russell, John Reed and Charles Sercombe will take effect from 1 November 2021 for 3 years and will support the new Chair Jonathan Statham.

All appointments to AHWBE are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. The appointments comply with the Ministerial Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Commenting on the appointments, Biosecurity Minister Lord Benyon said:

These appointments will bring a wealth of farming, veterinary and animal welfare experience to the vital work of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England.

The UK is a world leader in animal health, welfare and biosecurity and I look forward to working closely with the Board to further build our knowledge, research and resilience in this important area.

## **Biographies:**

### **Peter Laurie**

- Peter has been Chief Executive Officer of Battersea Dogs and Cats Home since January 2021.

- He has worked at the organisation since 2015 and has years of experience of working in the companion animal and regulated animals in sport sectors.
- He was the Chief Executive of the Greyhound Trust until 2015 and the Deputy Director of Regulation for the Greyhound Board of Great Britain until 2011. He is still on the Greyhound Board of Great Britain UKAS Impartiality Committee that is involved in the inspection and licensing of greyhound racecourses.
- He is a Trustee of Petplan Charitable Trust which funds advances in veterinary science and animal health and a founding Trustee at the Southern Thailand Elephant Foundation.

### **Emma Slawinski**

- Emma is the Director of Advocacy and Policy at the RSPCA and previously Global Director of Campaigns and Communications at Compassion in World Farming, during which time the organisation won the 2020 Charity Film of the year, and was awarded 2nd place (as part of a coalition) in the European Commission's EU Health Award for reducing the threat to human health from antimicrobial resistance.
- She has also been a Director at World Animal Protection, running campaigns on wildlife tourism and working with the Serbian and Romanian Governments on dog population management.

### **Gwyn Jones**

- Gwyn is a current non-executive director of the AHWBE. He has farmed in Sussex for many years but originally comes from a hill farming family in Snowdonia, North Wales.
- He spent 35 years as a dairy farmer and bring a wealth of experience in that profession.
- He has a long history with the NFU including local and National Board positions such as Vice President.
- He has also been the Chairman of other groups including the AHDB Dairy Board, RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals) and the European platform EPRUMA .

### **James Russell**

- James is an independent veterinary consultant and an officer of the British Veterinary Association (BVA).
- His role at the BVA has allowed him to take positions as a member of the RUMA group and the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Veterinary Group, Ruminant Health and Welfare Group and both Defra's TB Partnership Group and the Welsh Government's TB EPI Group.
- He is also a SEMEX named veterinary surgeon where he is able to support farmer training.

### **John Reed**

- John is a small livestock farmer and a non-executive director of Avara Foods.

- He brings extensive experience of agriculture to the Board and has been involved with the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme for the last 20 years.
- He has been involved in numerous industry and government committees, initiatives and reports on poultry and animal health and welfare including the Radcliffe Cost and responsibility review and several Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) reviews.
- He has been involved with and represented the poultry meat industry for many years, including an 8 year term as Chairman of the British Poultry Council.
- He is the co-founder and former chairman of the Poultry Health and Welfare Board and a member of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

### **Charles Sercombe**

- Charles is a first-generation sheep farmer involved in a wide variety of work in agriculture.
- He has significant experience of chairing and contributing to a diverse range of boards and committees including Defra's Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Steering Group; the Sheep breeders Round table; Sheep Health & Welfare Group and the Ruminant Health and Welfare Group.
- He is also an independent farmer member on the NOAH Complaints Committee.
- He has also been the Chair and member of several NFU Boards, including the Livestock Board and a member of the NFU National Policy Board and Governance Board.

### **About the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England:**

- Launched in 2011, the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE) is the principal source of advice to Defra ministers on all strategic health and welfare matters relating to kept animals in England.
- Its responsibilities include animal health and welfare policy, assessing the threat from animal diseases, and reviewing contingency plans for disease outbreaks.
- [More information about the board](#) is available on GOV.UK.

Published 29 October 2021

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## **[Better broadband for 500,000 rural homes in UK gigabit revolution](#)**

- 570,000 more rural premises in line for best broadband available via £5 billion Project Gigabit
- Includes Cheshire, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Essex, Herefordshire,

Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, East Riding and North Yorkshire

- Follows £8 million broadband boost for 3,600 rural homes and businesses in northern Scotland announced at Budget

More than half a million more rural homes and businesses will be given access to better broadband as part of plans to level up the country with improved internet connectivity, Digital Secretary Nadine Dorries has announced.

An estimated 567,000 hard-to-reach premises across Cheshire, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Essex, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, East Riding and North Yorkshire are in line to benefit from the government's £5 billion Project Gigabit, which is bringing next generation gigabit-capable broadband across the UK.

Project Gigabit is the biggest broadband rollout in UK history and part of the Prime Minister's plan to level up communities with the future-proofed connectivity they will need for the next forty years.

Most of the gigabit-capable connections will be delivered through full fibre broadband cables. This provides the speed and reliability needed for several people to work from home, stream ultra high definition video content and play next-generation online games all at the same time.

The increase in speed will help accelerate the country's recovery from Covid-19, fire up high-growth sectors such as tech and the creative industries, and enable people to start and run businesses online from anywhere in the UK.

In Scotland 3,600 premises in Aberdeenshire, Angus, the Highlands, Moray and Perth & Kinross will get access to much faster gigabit speeds thanks to an £8 million cash injection announced by the Chancellor in Wednesday's Budget. Many more premises across Scotland will be announced in the months ahead.

The government has already announced a raft of measures to bring better broadband to Wales and Northern Ireland. In Wales up to 234,000 hard-to-reach premises have been revealed as in-scope for an upgrade through Project Gigabit, and in Northern Ireland the UK Government has invested £150 million through Project Stratum to level up areas with slow speeds.

Digital Secretary Nadine Dorries said:

The latest stage of our £5 billion Project Gigabit plan will help hard-to-reach homes and businesses out of the broadband slow lane and plug them into the fastest and most reliable connections available.

This investment is levelling up in action – building new internet connections in our rural communities so people > have the speed, reliability and freedom to live and work flexibly, and take advantage of new technologies. The hundreds of thousands of properties across ten English and six Scottish counties are not currently due for a gigabit upgrade from broadband companies or

other public schemes. So the government is subsidising the roll out of new internet infrastructure capable of blistering download speeds of 1,000 megabits per second.

The specific locations to benefit in the areas announced today will be named when the contracts to deliver the connections are out to tender.

The Scottish premises were due to get access to superfast broadband through the Reaching 100% (R100) programme, a Scottish Government initiative which aims to deliver connections capable of 30 megabits per second to every home and business in Scotland. But thanks to £8 million of funding from Project Gigabit, agreed between the UK and Scottish governments, these homes and businesses will now get even faster gigabit-capable broadband instead.

The projects will help the government deliver its target for at least 85 per cent of the UK to have access to a gigabit-capable connection by 2025. The UK has already hit 57 per cent gigabit coverage, up from less than six per cent in 2019.

**ENDS**

## Notes to editors

Today the government has published the Project Gigabit quarterly update Autumn 2021, providing the estimated sequencing, scope and dates for the English Phase 3 rural projects:

Regional areas to benefit from Project Gigabit Phase 3

Phase 3	Estimated Procurement Start Date (subject to change)	Estimated contract commencement date (subject to change)	Modelled number of uncommercial premises in the procurement area subject to change	Indicative Contract Value subject to change
Dorset	May – Jul 2023	Apr – Jun 2024	56,500	£62 – £105m
Cheshire	Feb – Apr 2023	Jan – Mar 2024	74,300	£85m – £144m
Devon & Somerset	Feb – Apr 2023	Jan – Mar 2024	159,600	£198m – £337m
Herefordshire & Gloucestershire	Feb – Apr 2023	Jan – Mar 2024	64,600	£67m – £113m
Essex	May – Jul 2023	Apr – Jun 2024	78,351	£79m – £135m
Lincolnshire (including NE Lincolnshire and N Lincolnshire) and East Riding	May – Jul 2023	Apr – Jun 2024	105,700	£106m – £180m

Phase 3	Estimated Procurement Start Date (subject to change)	Estimated contract commencement date (subject to change)	Modelled number of uncommercial premises in the procurement area subject to change	Indicative Contract Value subject to change
Northern North Yorkshire	Aug – Oct 2023	Jul – Sep 2024	28,200	£25m – £42m

Today marks the latest in a series of announcements this year outlining the details of Project Gigabit:

- In March the government announced plans to connect the first phase of areas, with work set to begin in Dorset, Northumberland and Teeside from June next year. Other areas in Phase 1 include Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumbria, Durham, Essex, South Tyneside and Tees Valley.
- In August more phases were announced which included Shropshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Worcestershire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as among the first to benefit, followed by counties including Derbyshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Surrey, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

The English projects are due to go out to procurement for broadband companies in 2023, with work to build the connections set to commence early 2024.

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## [Achieving Net Zero: The Crucial Role of Business](#)

Hosted by the British Office in Taipei in partnership with the Taiwan Climate Partnership, 'Achieving Net Zero: The Crucial Role of Business' took place virtually on 28 October to share the experiences of influential Taiwan businesses that have already committed to Net Zero, as well as providing practical support on steps Taiwanese companies could take to reduce emissions.

The event encouraged Taiwan business to make a visible commitment to addressing climate change by signing up to Net Zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. More than 150 companies joined the event to discuss the need for stronger action on climate change.

The event saw a mix of speakers from the UK and Taiwan sharing about the crucial role of business in taking concrete climate action.

The meeting included the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Taiwan Lord Faulkner and the President of the UK Confederation of British Industry (CBI) Lord Bilimoria, discussing the crucial role that UK business has played in addressing climate change in the UK.

Two UK based advisory firms, Carbon Trust and ERM, provided guidance on what a commitment to Net Zero would mean in practice, and what companies could do to reduce emissions.

The meeting also heard the views from influential businesses in Taiwan on the steps they are already taking, including Microsoft, Standard Chartered Bank, cosmetics brand Armore and Delta Electronics.

Lord Faulkner the Prime Ministers trade envoy to Taiwan said:

If we are to avoid the most serious consequences of climate change, we must global emissions by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050. This requires rapid action across the global economy, which means the business community must be at the heart of the solution. We need the innovation, the influence, and the drive of the private sector on our side. Companies that make these adjustments now will be best-placed to thrive as the global economy undergoes a transition to a net-zero future by 2050. It is encouraging to learn about the steps Taiwanese businesses are taking, I urge others to be ambitious enough to set targets and to plan their own green transition.

John Dennis, Representative of the British Office Taipei said:

This is an opportune moment to come together with Taiwan business community to support and encourage greater action on climate change. To help Taiwan deliver its commitment to net zero there will need to be coalition of business, government and civil society. With support and encouragement of the business community, I believe that Taiwan can adopt a full-scale program of ambitious carbon reduction whilst continuing its robust economic growth and technology leadership. I have been pleased to learn today about the steps some businesses are taking. However, we must all do more. Making a commitment to Net Zero is a step I would encourage all businesses in Taiwan to take.

In the UK, a third of our largest businesses have already pledged to eliminate the carbon emissions by 2050. These firms have a market capitalization of over six hundred fifty billion pounds. That's a huge commitment. And of course, there are always room to go farther.

Climate change is a global challenge. Just as there is more that the business community in the UK can do, so it is the case in Taiwan. Cutting emissions is something that each and every business can do as we all seek to address

climate change.

We look forward to learning about more climate cooperation between UK and Taiwan.

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## E-cigarettes could be prescribed on the NHS in world first

- Medical regulator to work with manufacturers to assess safety and effectiveness of products
- Move supports government ambition for England to be smoke-free by 2030 and to reduce stark health disparities in smoking rates

E-cigarettes could be prescribed on the NHS in England to help people stop smoking tobacco products, as Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid welcomed the latest step forward in the licensing process for manufacturers.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is publishing updated guidance that paves the way for medicinally licensed e-cigarette products to be prescribed for tobacco smokers who wish to quit smoking.

Manufacturers can approach the MHRA to submit their products to go through the same regulatory approvals process as other medicines available on the health service.

This could mean England becomes the first country in the world to prescribe e-cigarettes licensed as a medical product.

If a product receives MHRA approval, clinicians could then decide on a case-by-case basis whether it would be appropriate to prescribe an e-cigarette to NHS patients to help them quit smoking. It remains the case that non-smokers and children are strongly advised against using e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes contain nicotine and are not risk free, but expert reviews from the UK and US have been clear that the regulated e-cigarettes are less harmful than smoking. A medicinally licensed e-cigarette would have to pass even more rigorous safety checks.

Smoking remains the leading preventable cause of premature death and while rates are at record low levels in the UK, there are still around 6.1 million smokers in England. There are also stark differences in rates across the country, with smoking rates in Blackpool (23.4%) and Kingston upon Hull (22.2%) poles apart from rates in wealthier areas such as Richmond upon Thames (8%).

E-cigarettes were the most popular aid used by smokers trying to quit in England in 2020. E-cigarettes have been shown to be highly effective in



supporting those trying to quit, with 27.2% of smokers using them compared with 18.2% using nicotine replacement therapy products such as patches and gum.

Some of the highest success rates of those trying to quit smoking are among people using an e-cigarette to kick their addiction alongside local Stop Smoking services, with up to 68 % successfully quitting in 2020 -2021.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Sajid Javid said:

This country continues to be a global leader on healthcare, whether it's our COVID-19 vaccine rollout saving lives or our innovative public health measures reducing people's risk of serious illness.

Opening the door to a licensed e-cigarette prescribed on the NHS has the potential to tackle the stark disparities in smoking rates across the country, helping people stop smoking wherever they live and whatever their background.

Almost 64,000 people died from smoking in England in 2019 and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) is supporting efforts to level up public health and ensure communities across the country have equal health outcomes.

Reducing health disparities – including in smoking rates – and keeping people in better health for longer is good for the individual, families, society, the economy and NHS. To achieve this overall ambition, the OHID will work collaboratively at national, regional and local levels as well as with the NHS, academia, the third sector, scientists, researchers and industry.

The government will soon publish a new Tobacco Control Plan which will set out the roadmap for achieving a smoke-free England by 2030.

**Notes to editors:**

- The NHS can only prescribe e-cigarettes when NICE recommends them for use
  - Smoking death rates for 2019 in England can be found [here](#).
  - Data on products used to support smokers trying to quit can be found [here](#).
  - Success rates alongside local stop smoking services can be found [here](#).
  - The international study on e-cigarette safety and effectiveness can be found [here](#)
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# Operational Honours and Awards List October 2021

News story

The latest Operational Honours and Awards List recognises the bravery, commitment and commendable service of Armed Forces personnel.



The latest Operational Honours and Awards List has been announced recognising the bravery, commitment, and commendable service of Armed Forces personnel.

The recipients have all shown outstanding examples of courage and dedication while on operations.

The full list is below:

## **Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)**

- Commodore Dean Anthony BASSETT, Royal Navy

## **Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)**

- Commander Murray William ADAM, Royal Navy
- Captain Fiona PERCIVAL, Royal Navy
- Colonel James Douglas LOUDOUN, Late Parachute Regiment
- Wing Commander Jennie Bernadette CROSS, Royal Air Force

## **Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)**

- Lieutenant Commander Paul INGLESBY, Royal Navy
- Lieutenant Colonel Brian Douglas DUFF, Corps of Royal Engineers

## **Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service**

- Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician Martin CRAIB, Royal Navy
- Lieutenant Martin Andrew HEAD, Royal Navy
- Commander Oliver HUCKER, Royal Navy
- Petty Officer Richard James Paul JENKINS, Royal Navy

- Chief Petty Officer Warfare Specialist Glenn THOMPSON, Royal Navy
- Corporal Frazer Duncan BERRY, Intelligence Corps
- Sergeant (now Colour Sergeant) James Alain CHISSEL, The Royal Irish Regiment
- Lieutenant Colonel Darren Edward DEMPSEY, The Royal Logistic Corps
- Acting Major (now Captain) Jonathon Oliver NORFIELD, Corps of Royal Engineers
- Corporal Oluwabunmi Daniel OJO, The Royal Logistic Corps
- Acting Major (now Major) Sam PATTERSON, The Royal Logistic Corps
- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew David PEARCE, The Rifles
- Lance Corporal Max RICHARDSON, Intelligence Corps
- Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Andrew ROUND, Royal Army Medical Corps
- Rifleman Daniel Lee ROWE, The Rifles
- Captain Malcolm Alexander SCOTT, The Royal Logistic Corps
- Major Simon Christopher STOTT, The Light Dragoons
- Colour Sergeant Warren Aiden Keith SWAIN, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- Lieutenant Colonel Martin Gerard WINDSOR, The Royal Logistic Corps
- Squadron Leader Samantha Anne MURRAY, Royal Air Force
- Major Mads Fogh RASMUSSEN, Danish Army

### **Queen's Commendation for Bravery**

- Petty Officer Engineering Technician Jonathon WAYNE, Royal Navy
- Colour Sergeant (now Warrant Officer Class 2) Bishwahang RAI, The Royal Gurkha Rifles
- Corporal Dean Jonathan WILSON, The Royal Logistic Corps, Army Reserve

Published 29 October 2021