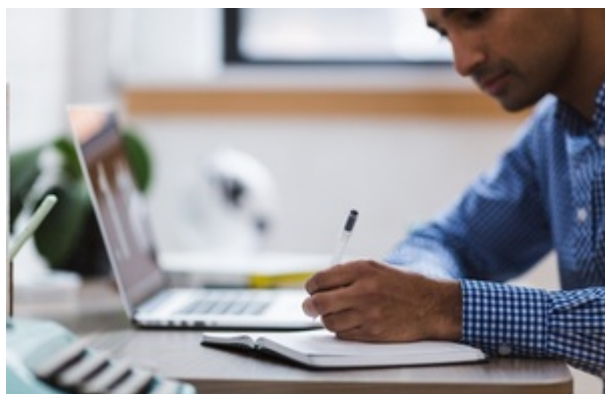


Civil news: providers given financial eligibility tool to trial

News story

We are making a caseworker spreadsheet tool available to providers on a trial basis as support guidance when calculating client eligibility for legal aid.



Providers checking client financial eligibility for legal aid can now access a spreadsheet tool used by our caseworkers when looking at applications.

This spreadsheet should only be used as a guidance support tool. It is not a replacement for the resources available on our GOV.UK means testing page.

You should also note that we are only recommending the spreadsheet for legal aid providers and not wider members of the public. Clients should continue to use the public-facing 'legal aid checker' tool.

Why is this happening now?

We recently removed the online civil legal aid calculator used by providers to assist with eligibility calculations. The online calculator was a legacy tool which we were unable to update. So, we are trialling the spreadsheet to see how well this works as a substitute.

How do I find the spreadsheet?

The caseworker spreadsheet is available on our online training site where you can submit feedback on how well it is working for you.

How do clients check financial eligibility?

Your clients will continue to have access to the 'legal aid checker' set up for members of the public to use.

The old civil legal aid calculator was never designed for client use. It was a tool specifically for legal aid providers carrying out civil work.

Further information

[Training site link](#) – to access caseworker spreadsheet tool

[Civil legal aid: means testing](#) – resources for providers

[Legal aid checker](#) – external tool for members of the public to check their

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[Ensuring information assurance to provide data advantage for UK Defence](#)

In our era of accelerating technological change, we have become dependent on the pervasiveness of information and digital technology. We have to adapt and remain agile to disruption by enhancing cyber defence capabilities, to ensure the security of UK Critical National Infrastructure and Defence.

To help secure our data and provide information advantage to UK Defence, the [Defence and Security Accelerator](#) (DASA) is pleased to launch a new Innovation Focus Area (IFA): [Military Systems Information Assurance \(MSIA\)](#).

This [Innovation Focus Area](#) aims to identify, develop and accelerate novel technical solutions for Information Assurance, as an alternative to cryptology, which is the traditional solution for information assurance or novel uses of existing cryptographic techniques.

Can you help? [Read the competition document now and submit your idea](#)

How much funding is available?

Funding for this IFA will be split by [Technical Readiness Level](#). Less mature, lower TRL (2 – 4) proposals will be considered an Emerging Innovation while more developed, higher TRL (4 – 6) proposals will be considered a Rapid Impact:

- Lower TRL, emerging innovation proposals should bid for funding up to £150K to provide a proof of concept within a 6 month contract.
- Higher TRL, rapid impact proposals should bid for funding up to £350K to provide a concept demonstrator within a 12 month contract.

[Read the full competition document to find out more](#)

Seeking novel technical solutions for Information Assurance demands within the military operating environment

What is MSIA?

Military Systems Information Assurance (MSIA) is a project element within the Cyber Defence Enhancement through Life Project, funded as part of the UK Government's Integrated Review of security, defence, development and foreign policy (IR).

The Defence Enterprise is expansive, comprising many Operational Technologies which are legacy. This presents a large and varied cyber-attack surface, increasing the increasing cyber threat to UK.

What solutions are we looking for to enhance information assurance?

The [Military Systems Information Assurance](#) (MSIA) IFA seeks alternative technologies and approaches that may not use cryptography or novel uses of existing cryptographic techniques. Proposals will need to account for the unique and hostile demands placed on information systems functioning under the challenging conditions of military operations. Examples include:

- innovative ways to provide assured information flow across both enterprise level architecture network and low bandwidth, intermittent comms channels
- innovative ways of securing data at rest
- innovative methods for authentication
- securing information in a Cloud environment, i.e. to secure data at rest and whilst being processed; this will focus on end user/system implementation as opposed to relying on the underlying cloud infrastructure
- novel key management solutions

Do you have a novel idea to address information assurance demands within the military operating environment?

If you have an in-depth understanding of emerging capabilities, technologies, initiatives and novel approaches that may help prevent bolster the UK's ability to secure data, we want to hear from you.

The closing date for proposals of this IFA is 05 January 2022 at midday BST. A second cycle will run from 05 January 2022 to 02 March 2022.

UK supports integration of women in the armed forces and OSCE Code of Conduct

Mr Chairperson, the UK strongly supports the [Code of Conduct](#) and considers it a key component of the OSCE's politico-military acquis. We welcome the discussion today on the integration of women in the armed forces – which is an important aspect of the wider Women, Peace and Security agenda. I would like to thank the presentations by the five esteemed speakers on their various experiences of this issue, including the practical examples of including women in the Armed Forces.

Mr Chair, the UK's position on the Code of Conduct remains the same. We continue to support the Code and its fundamental principles. As a reminder, all participating States agreed to the full, faithful and effective implementation of the Code of Conduct. Such implementation of commitments under the Code of Conduct would be transformative in the Euro-Atlantic area today – including in the case of Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and its illegal annexation of Crimea.

Mr Chair, I will now focus on the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. The UK remains committed to the full implementation of [UNSCR 1325](#) and the subsequent resolutions related to WPS. This includes through the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the UK's Armed Forces. Over 20 years ago, UNSCR 1325 acknowledged the critical importance of women in peace and security efforts, including in conflict prevention and resolution, in the delivery of relief and recovery efforts and in the forging of lasting peace. It also highlighted the need to prevent against and protect women and girls from gender-based violence, including in armed conflict and in post-conflict settings. [At the Tirana Ministerial Council fifty-two participating States made clear their desire to see concrete action at the OSCE](#), and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) in particular, to further the full implementation of UNSCR 1325.

In that context, I welcome the Swedish Chair-in-Office's hosting of a Code of Conduct event in Stockholm last month focused on actions which can be taken to safeguard the full and equal participation of women in the Armed Forces. The event explored different perspectives, challenges and solutions and how possible obstacles could be avoided or overcome, in order for women to serve on equal terms.

Another important element is the voluntary information-sharing on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the framework of the replies to the annual Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico Military Aspects of Security. The UK sees its return as an important way of sharing national efforts and best practices in implementation of the WPS agenda. It is particularly encouraging to see that the number of participating States reporting on implementation of UNSCR 1325 is increasing over time – from 33

last year to 40 in 2021. To help facilitate returns from all participating States, I am delighted that the UK and Belgium are hosting a side event today to explore how we can make the voluntary returns process easier, as well as more meaningful, to help States identify shared challenges and best practice. I hope that your delegations and capitals will participate in the discussion to help make this process better and more helpful for us all.

Mr Chair, the OSCE Code of Conduct remains a key document because it clearly establishes the fundamental principles of State behaviour required to ensure security and stability in the OSCE area. We should live up to the commitments we all undertook, and rediscover the constructive and collaborative spirit that made agreement of the Code of Conduct possible over a quarter of a century ago. We particularly value the Austrian FSC Chair's commitment to 'mainstream' Women, Peace and Security in the work of the FSC this trimester. This remains an issue with overwhelming support amongst participating States and hope we can build on that with further practical cooperation.

National Apprenticeship Awards 2021 regional winners announced

Tuesday 19 October marks the start of the National Apprenticeship Awards 2021 regional finals, with virtual ceremonies taking place to recognise apprentice employers, apprentices, Rising Stars and Champions up and down the country.

Back for their 18th year, the National Apprenticeship Awards highlight the benefits apprenticeships bring to individuals, businesses, and local communities, and celebrate the successes of those that have gone above and beyond to make a difference.

Over 1,000 entries from apprentice employers, apprentices, and apprenticeship champions have been received this year from all over England. The breadth of industries and sectors recognised highlights the broad appeal of apprenticeships, and how employers and individuals are continuing to build business and career success through apprenticeships.

Minister for Skills Alex Burghart said:

As the new Minister for Skills, I'm a major believer in what apprenticeships can do for employers, the economy, and the apprentices themselves, so a huge congratulations to everyone taking part in these regional finals.

Apprenticeships are incubators of greatness. These nominees are showing just how much potential apprenticeships have to offer

opportunities and skills on the job. Good luck to everyone involved.

I very much hope you all enjoy a fantastic ceremony and celebrate the achievements and successes of apprenticeships in your region, and I thank you very much for all you do.

Director of Apprenticeships, Education and Skills Funding Agency Peter Mucklow added:

Apprentices and apprentice employers are really flying the flag for apprenticeships at this time, and I admire that commitment to rebuild our economy and drive change.

I am also delighted to see the 'Apprentices in Action' mini-series, which has been supported by EY, and I cannot wait to see some of the amazing stories that have and will be shared.

This year the Apprentices in Action series, presented by EY, follows on from the success of last year's 'Apprentices on the Frontline' campaign where we celebrated and recognised employers who retained apprentices and supported them to do outstanding things throughout the pandemic.

For 2021, we will be focussing on how employers and apprentices are contributing to business recovery and highlighting those who have shown their ongoing resilience.

The Special Recognition Award winner will be selected from a short list of the most inspirational 'Apprentices in Action' stories and will be announced at the National Ceremony.

Winners and highly commended announced in the North East are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is McCarrick Construction Co Ltd.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Northumbrian Water.
- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. Hays Travel is highly commended.
- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Northumbrian Water. Hays Travel is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Eryn Wood. Ross Fiori is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Eden McGlen.

Victoria Heron is highly commended.

- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Kate Todd-Davis. Jessica Clark is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is William Gallon. Jason Henry is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year is Ian Green. Natasha Scorer is highly commended.

Winners and highly commended announced in London are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is Blue Structural Engineering LLP.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Great Ormond Street NHS Trust. Coca-Cola Europacific Partners is highly commended.
- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is Go-Ahead Group. BT Plc is highly commended.
- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Go-Ahead Group. Great Ormond Street NHS Trust is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Rio Mason Tsang.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Jess Liddy. Jamie Mewburn-Crook is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Dilani Selvanathan. Georgia Shaw is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Abbie Tripp. Madeleine Turner is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year is Sharon Blyfield. Elaine Everitt-Smith is highly commended.

Winners and highly commended announced in the South West are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is Combe Pafford School. Walpole Dunn Chartered Certified Accountants is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Motus Commercial. MAN Truck & Bus UK Ltd is highly commended.
- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is Devon County Council. Somerset County Council is highly commended.
- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Combe Pafford School. Devon County Council is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Henry Powell. Georgia Pugsley is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Lucy Hanman. Matthew Gill is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Hamzah Ahmed. Guy Turner is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Jacob Fahy. Nicola Morris is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year is Becca Thurston. Demelza Hyde is highly commended.

Winners and highly commended announced in the East of England are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is Higgins Partnerships..
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Flagship Housing Group. VINCI Construction UK Limited is highly commended.
- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is Care UK. Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is highly commended.
- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Higgins Partnerships. Care UK is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Bryony Wright. Grace Fussey is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Roxanne Freestone. Abby Verney is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Adam Hearn. Abby Mullord is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Erin Maciejewski. Finn Janson is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year is Claire Wright. James Millar is highly commended.

Winners and highly commended announced in the South East are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is McFarlane Telfer ta MCFT.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is RSM. Dyer & Butler Ltd is highly commended.
- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is Royal Navy. Thames Valley Police is highly commended.
- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Royal Navy. RSM is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Ben Gray. Heather Dickinson is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Charley Curtis. Danny Joy is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Lily Marston. Emma Hawking is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Frasier Crouch. Charley Curtis is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year is Nicola Morgan. David Worley is highly commended.

Winners and highly commended announced in the West Midlands are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is Lander Automotive Ltd. Penny Post Credit Union Ltd is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is The Coventry Building Society. RWE Renewables UK Limited is highly commended.
- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is J.C. Bamford Excavators Limited. Mitchells & Butlers is highly commended.
- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is J.C. Bamford Excavators Limited. Mitchells & Butlers is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Morgan Fisher. Callam Bassett is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Gavin Archer. Alex-Louise Jones is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Lauren Carroll. Jaymz Goodman is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Nihal Dhillon. Thomas Bartlett is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year is Louise Ward. Emma Horne is highly commended.

Winners and highly commended announced in the East Midlands are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is DeNtal22
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Chesterfield Royal Hospital Foundation Trust. Nottingham City Homes is highly commended.

- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. Barratt Developments PLC is highly commended.
- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Barratt Developments PLC. Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Gemma Smith. River Carson is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Kelly Durham-Flinter. Edyta Zacharska is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Jo Adkins. Natalie Parnham is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Ben Deegan. Elizabeth Capel is highly commended.

Winners and highly commended announced in the Yorkshire and The Humber are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is Town Hall Group. Resolve is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. LabCorp is highly commended.
- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is Lloyds Banking Group. Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust is highly commended.
- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is LabCorp. Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Isla Williams. Rhyanna Razey is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Thomas Smetana. Ashley McKenzie is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Martin McCutcheon. Robyn Bursnell is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Kyle Parr. Jade Taylor is highly commended.

Winners and highly commended announced in North West are:

Employer categories winners and highly commended:

- The BCS for SME Employer of the Year is Inspire Childrens Services. The Forshaw Group is highly commended.
- The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year winner is AJ Bell plc. Electricity North West Limited is highly commended.
- The Macro Employer of the Year winner is North West Ambulance Services

NHS Trust. Sodexo is highly commended.

- The Award for Recruitment Excellence winner is Electricity North West Limited. Inspire Childrens Services is highly commended.

Individual categories winners and highly commended:

- The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year is Destiny-Mya Robinson. Lydia Halliwell is highly commended.
- The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year winner is Ashleigh Lewis. Elle Barnett is highly commended.
- The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year is Khadija Al-Selini. Charlie Hewitt is highly commended.
- The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year winner is Cameron Ackroyd. Remsha Asif is highly commended.
- The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year is Phoebe Jay. Martin Norris is highly commended.

Regional ceremonies take place between 19 and 25 October, with the national ceremony broadcast taking place on Wednesday 1 December.

You can watch the National Apprenticeship Awards 2020 national ceremony highlights on YouTube.

[YouTube](#)

Follow Apprenticeships on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to keep up to date with all the latest awards information.

[Fusion Demonstration Plant building takes a step forward](#)



Artist's impression of the Fusion Demonstration Plant

The project to build the Fusion Demonstration Plant (FDP) Building to house the General Fusion Inc. FDP at UKAEA's Culham Science Centre in Oxfordshire

has taken another step forward with agreement on the location of the plot for the building and further detailed terms.

The construction of the new building, funded by both UKAEA and General Fusion, to house the FDP, is expected to be completed in 2023, subject to planning. When complete, General Fusion will occupy the building.

For details on the FDP project announcement, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/general-fusion-to-build-its-fusion-demonstration-plant-at-ukaeas-culham-campus>.

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