

Dstl staff among top 50 female tech Leaders

News story

This year's Inspiring Fifty UK awards have been announced today by organisers accelerateHER at the start of London Tech Week 2021.



The annual awards recognise women transforming the tech industry and Dstl is proud to announce Linda Knutsen, Head of its Exploration Division, is named in the list of 50 trailblazing female leaders.

I am incredibly surprised and delighted to be included in the top 50 inspirational women in tech in the UK, and I am pleased to receive this award for all the inspirational women in Dstl, who undoubtedly will be in the top 50 in the future.

Dstl has undertaken talent management for some time, and rather like a football scout spotting talent of the future, I was one of those people who was spotted 10 years ago as a future leader.

I have been on numerous leadership development courses, mentorship, coaching and more recently the Dstl #mypersonalbest programme to help hone my leadership development and experiences to give me the capability and conviction to apply for Executive positions.

Among those speaking at the event was Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former United States Secretary of State, who took part in 'A Conversation on Leadership' panel.

Linda added:

I think it is very important that senior roles in any organisation represent society at large. It is also important for women to have a role model within their senior leadership, and I take my

responsibility of being that role model for our female staff in Dstl very seriously.

I like to think I can be my true self at work at a senior level, and I hope that it inspires women to have confidence in being themselves too.

Inspiring Fifty UK 21 is an initiative that highlights women who are driving the tech industry in the UK. These women are role models to look up to with the initiative bringing more visibility and recognition to them, and helping to increase the diversity in the field of technology. Linda says women should seek out the opportunities, rather than wait for them to appear.

I don't think that more opportunities should be made available for women – rather that women should see roles that they can make a success of and have the confidence to go for them, and not let their lifestyle, and a perceived lack of assertion, hold them back.

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[UK's first Green Gilt raises £10 billion for green projects](#)

£10 billion was raised from the sale of the Gilt this morning: the largest inaugural green issuance by any sovereign, with the largest ever order book for a sovereign green transaction. This will be followed by a second issuance later in the year. Green Gilts will raise a minimum of £15 billion for green government projects like zero-emissions buses, offshore wind and schemes to decarbonise homes and buildings in this financial year.

By launching the Green Gilt in the run up to COP26 next month, the UK is demonstrating its commitment to tackling environmental challenges and the vital role that green finance plays in this fight.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak said:

Green finance is vital in helping us to tackle the environmental challenges we face, and the launch of our first green bond is a signal that the UK continues to be a world leader in this area.

This funding will be used to finance vital green government projects across the country, including things like clean

transportation, renewable energy and preserving our natural environment. In helping us to build back better and greener, it will also help to create jobs as we transition to net zero.

Government bonds, or gilts, are sold to institutional investors and provide a fixed rate of return until their expiry. The UK's inaugural Green Gilt is a 12-year bond, maturing on 31st July 2033.

As set out in the government's Green Financing Framework, published earlier in the summer, the money raised by the Green Gilt will be used to finance expenditures in clean transportation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, pollution prevention and control, living and natural resources, and climate change adaptation.

And in a first among comparable sovereign issuers, the UK has committed to reporting on both the environmental impact, and the important social co-benefits of green expenditures financed by Green Gilts, such as job creation, access to affordable infrastructure and socioeconomic advancement.

The Green Gilt will be followed later in the year by the world's first standalone retail Green Savings Bonds, issued by NS&I. These two products will give UK investors and savers the opportunity to join the collective fight against climate change while creating green jobs across the country.

Further information

[The new Salisbury charging decision](#)

With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement on the announcement today by Counter Terrorism Policing that the Crown Prosecution Service has authorised charges against a third individual in relation to the 2018 Salisbury attack – an appalling event which shook the whole country and united our allies in condemnation.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the opposition for their courtesy and support in allowing some of their Parliamentary time to be used for this statement and the House will of course understand that this is an ongoing investigation and so we are limited in terms of what can be said about these 3 individuals.

In March 2018, Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were poisoned with a military-grade nerve agent of a type developed by Russia, commonly known as 'Novichok'.

Two police officers from Wiltshire Police involved in searching the victims' home were also poisoned with the same agent.

In July 2018, a further 2 members of the public were found unwell in Amesbury, both of whom had been exposed to Novichok. And tragically, one of them died and this is Dawn Sturgess.

An inquest into her death is ongoing. I know that the thoughts of the whole House will be with the loved ones of Dawn today.

Mr Speaker, This House has profound differences with Russia.

By annexing Crimea in 2014, igniting the flames of conflict in eastern Ukraine and threatening western democracies, including by interfering in their elections, Russia has challenged the fundamental basis of international order.

Although attacks like this are uncommon, this is not the first time Russia has committed a brazen attack in the UK.

Today the European Court of Human Rights has ruled that Russia was responsible for the assassination of Alexander Litvinenko. This supports the findings of the independent Litvinenko Inquiry.

However, as the then-government made clear in 2018 and I reiterate today – we will not tolerate such malign activity here in the UK.

The United Kingdom, under successive governments, has responded with strength and determination,

As my Rt Hon Friend the member for Maidenhead, then Prime Minister, announced in 2018, 250 detectives were involved in the Salisbury murder investigation, working around the clock to discover who was responsible.

On 5 September 2018, the independent Director of Public Prosecutions announced there was sufficient evidence to bring charges against 2 Russian nationals for:

- conspiracy to murder Sergei Skripal
- the attempted murder of Sergei Skripal, Yulia Skripal and Nick Bailey
- causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Yulia Skripal and Nick Bailey
- possession and use of a chemical weapon, contrary to the Chemical Weapons Act 1996

The 2 Russian nationals were known as Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, but the police believed these to be aliases.

The then-Prime Minister announced that the government had concluded the 2 men were members of the Russian Military Intelligence Service, the GRU – and that the operation was almost certainly approved outside the GRU at a senior level of the Russian state.

I want to recognise the exemplary work of our emergency services, our intelligence agencies, armed forces, and law enforcement staff who led the initial response to this despicable attack.

I also pay tribute to the ongoing work to bring the perpetrators of this outrageous attack to justice. We will not let this go.

As Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon has said, this investigation has been extraordinarily complex and our country is very fortunate that so many brave people do such outstanding work to keep us safe.

As a result of these efforts, the police can now evidence that Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov are aliases for Alexander Mishkin and Anatoliy Chepiga, and that both are members of the GRU.

The CPS has now authorised charges against a third individual, known as Sergey Fedotov.

The CT Policing investigation identified that Fedotov entered the UK on a flight from Moscow to London Heathrow and stayed at a hotel in central London between the 2nd and 4th of March 2018, before returning to Moscow.

While in the UK, he met with Petrov and Boshirov on more than one occasion in central London.

The CT Policing investigation has established that Fedotov is in fact Denis Sergeev, that he is also a member of the GRU, and that all 3 individuals previously worked together for the GRU as part of additional operations outside Russia.

All 3 men are now wanted by UK police. Arrest warrants are in place for all 3. The police have applied for an Interpol Notice against Fedotov, mirroring those already in place against the other 2 suspects.

Russia has repeatedly refused to allow its nationals to stand trial overseas. This was also the case following the murder of Alexander Litvinenko when a UK extradition request was refused. This has only added to the heartache of those hurt by these attacks and, Mr Speaker, inevitably further damaged our relations with Russia.

As was made clear in 2018, should any of these individuals ever travel outside Russia, we will work with our international partners and take every possible step to detain them and extradite them to face justice.

Mr Speaker, after the attack in Salisbury, my Rt Hon Friends the Members for Maidenhead and Uxbridge and South Ruislip put in place the toughest measures the UK has levied against another state for more than 30 years, comprising of diplomatic, legislative, and economic measures.

We continue to take robust steps to counter the threat posed by the Russian state.

In 2018, 23 undeclared Russian intelligence officers were immediately expelled from the UK. In solidarity, 28 other countries and NATO joined us, resulting in the largest collective expulsion ever – of over 150 Russian intelligence officers.

This fundamentally degraded Russian intelligence capability for years to come.

The government will continue to provide the security services and law enforcement agencies with all the additional tools they need to deal with the full range of state threats, which continue to evolve.

In direct response to the Salisbury attack, we introduced new powers to enable the police to stop, question, search, and detain individuals at the UK border to determine whether they are a spy or otherwise involved in hostile activity.

These vital powers are already helping the security services and law enforcement agencies to protect the UK from very real and serious threat posed by states who seek to undermine and destabilise our country.

In July 2020, we published a full and comprehensive response to Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee's Russia report. This addressed point by point all the key themes and recommendations raised by the Committee.

But we are going even further and have committed to introducing new legislation to counter state threats to protect the United Kingdom.

Earlier this summer, we held a public consultation on the government's proposals, to improve our ability to detect, respond to, and prevent state threats, keep our citizens safe, and protect sensitive data and intellectual property.

Responses to that consultation are currently being considered and we will return with comprehensive legislation.

Another crucial strand of this work is combatting illicit finance. Squeezing out the dirty money and money launderers out of the UK to secure our global prosperity is our priority.

We are at the forefront of the international fight against illicit finance, combatting the threat from source to destination.

We have introduced a new Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime and a Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regime.

The National Crime Agency continues to lead UK effort to bring the full power of law enforcement to bear against serious criminals, corrupt elites, and their assets, including through increased checks on private flights, customs, and freight travel.

In July and September 2020, working in tandem with the EU, we announced sanctions against the Russian Intelligence Services for cyberattacks against the UK and her allies.

We have also taken robust action in response to the poisoning and attempted murder of Alexei Navalny – enforcing asset freezes and travel bans against 13 individuals and a Russian research institute involved in the case.

The government will continue to respond extremely robustly to the enduring and significant threat from the Russian state.

We continue to make huge strides to counter this threat and to increase our resilience and that of our allies to Russian malign activity.

Mr Speaker, we respect the people of Russia, but we will do whatever it takes, everything it takes, to keep our country safe. We will actively work to deter and defend against the full spectrum of threats emanating from Russia until relations with its government improve.

Mr Speaker, I would like to end by paying tribute to the resilience of the people of Salisbury, who suffered a sickening and despicable act in their community, and to the people of Amesbury, who lost one of their own in the most dreadful of circumstances.

Our government will be relentless in our pursuit of justice for the victims of these attacks and continue to do whatever is necessary to keep our people safe.

I commend this statement to the House.

[August 2021 Transaction Data](#)

News story

This data provides information about the number and types of applications that HM Land Registry completed in August 2021.



Image credit: NicoElNino/Shutterstock.com

Please note this data shows what HM Land Registry has been able to process during the time period covered and is not necessarily a reflection of market activity.

In August:

- HM Land Registry completed more than 1,659,600 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 383,237

HM Land Registry completed 1,659,680 applications in August compared with 1,802,037 in July and 1,657,858 last August 2020, of which:

- 295,540 were applications for register updates compared with 330,434 in July
- 886,226 were applications for an official copy of a register compared with 973,204 in July
- 224,582 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 216,203 in July
- 15,465 were postal applications from non-account holders compared with 17,207 in July

Applications by region and country

Region/country	June applications	July applications	August applications
South East	461,380	419,988	383,237
Greater London	360,836	323,772	292,204
North West	217,869	205,529	196,939
South West	191,804	179,015	162,228
West Midlands	162,245	152,818	141,022
Yorkshire and the Humber	149,885	141,689	133,245
East Midlands	139,228	130,392	119,935
North	91,406	88,118	83,033
East Anglia	82,177	76,628	70,143
Isles of Scilly	59	68	47
Wales	87,928	83,927	77,548
England and Wales (not assigned)	76	93	99
Total	1,944,893	1,802,037	1,659,680

Top 5 local authority areas

August 2021 applications

Top 5 local authority areas August applications

Birmingham	24,853
Leeds	19,956
City of Westminster	18,865
Cornwall	17,585
Buckinghamshire	16,215

July 2021 applications

Top 5 local authority areas July applications

Birmingham	26,267
Leeds	21,718
City of Westminster	20,615
Cornwall	20,586
Buckinghamshire	19,066

Top 5 customers

August 2021 applications

Top 5 customers	August applications
Infotrack Limited	105,872
Enact	38,374
O'Neill Patient	26,291
Optima Legal Services	21,796
TM Group (UK) Ltd (Search Choice)	21,751

July 2021 applications

Top 5 customers	July applications
Infotrack Limited	119,308
Enact	41,537
O'Neill Patient	23,356
TM Group (UK) Ltd (Search Choice)	22,820
Optima Legal Services	21,118

Access the data

[Access the full dataset on our Use land and property data service.](#)

Next publication

Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The September data will be published at 11am on Thursday 21 October 2021.

Published 21 September 2021

Milestone hit with over 16 million NHS App users

- NHS App is currently the most downloaded free app in England
- Over 12 million new users since NHS COVID Pass was added on 17 May, after joint work by NHSX and NHS Digital
- 265,000 people registered their organ donation decision for the first time through the app, including 150,000 new registrations since May 2021

More people needing organs could benefit from life saving transplants as hundreds of thousands of new donors have registered their preference using the NHS App.

Speaking today (Tuesday 21 September) at London Tech Week, Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid announced that more than 16 million people have now downloaded the NHS App, with over 12 million new users since the NHS COVID Pass – the COVID-19 vaccination status service – was added on 17 May.

The increase in app downloads could have a life-saving impact as 1.5 million people have now used the NHS app to manage their organ donation decision, with 265,000 of these registering their organ donation for the first time via the app. Over 150,000 of these new registrations have taken place in just four months since May 2021.

Registering a preference on organ donation helps NHS specialist nurses to quickly understand people's wishes, which can ultimately save lives.

Speaking at London Tech Week, Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said:

The benefits of technology are enormous. Nowhere has tech transformation proved its worth more than in health and care.

We all owe so much not just to our doctors, nurses and colleagues on the front line but also the coders, developers and innovators who helped our NHS stay so strong [...]

We've seen what healthtech can do at a time when health systems around the world were under incredible strain. We must build on the progress that we've all seen and deliver this long-awaited digital revolution.

NHS App users are also benefiting from easier access to NHS services. During the past four months, almost 3.2 million repeat prescriptions were ordered and over 268,000 GP appointments booked via the app, saving valuable time for patients and clinicians.

With the demand for digital healthcare services greater than ever, the NHS

App provides quick and secure access to a variety of digital health functions and care websites.

Matthew Gould, chief executive of NHSX, said:

This is tech saving lives. By making it easier for people to set their preferences for organ donation, we have thousands more people whose organs might now be used to save others. We will be developing the NHS app so people can use it to drive their own care, set their own preferences, and stay healthy.

Simon Bolton, Interim Chief Executive at NHS Digital, said:

Millions of people downloaded the NHS App over the summer to access their NHS COVID Pass and have been finding out what other services the app has to offer, from booking GP appointments to ordering repeat prescriptions.

We would also encourage people to use the app to register their organ donation decision during Organ Donation Week after tens of thousands of people recorded this important decision through the app during the summer.

Alex Hudson, Head of the NHS Organ Donor Register at NHS Blood and Transplant, says:

Since the new organ donation law came into effect, our priority has been to ensure that each person knows that organ donation is still a choice. By enabling people to check, amend and update their organ donation decision, the NHS app makes it easier than ever for people to manage and control their own organ donation decision.

Even though organ donation has changed to an opt out system, it is important for people to be aware that families will still always be approached before organ donation goes ahead. When a person has proactively registered their organ donation decision, we know this provides great comfort and reassurance for families at what is an incredibly difficult time.

During Organ Donation Week, we urge everyone to take a moment to share your decision with family and friends.

The NHS login service – which supports the NHS App – has most of its users based in London, with more than 20% of Londoners logging onto the service last month, and 40-49 year olds the main users.

Other services available through NHS login include e-Referral services, COVID-19 support and advice, maternity and child health services, online pharmacies, and services to monitor and improve health and wellbeing.

- The Secretary of State's speech can be found [here](#)
- More information about the NHS App can be found [here](#)
- [Data shared by NHS Blood and Transplant](#) to mark Organ Donation Week (20th – 26th September) shows that 9 out of 10 families will support organ donation, if they know it is what their relative wanted.