

Roy Wilsher appointed as new inspector of police and fire service

Home Secretary Priti Patel has announced the appointment of Roy Wilsher OBE QFSM as a new inspector of police and fire and rescue services at the independent inspectorate HMICFRS.

Mr Wilsher will take up the dual role of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary in England and Wales and Inspector of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. He will primarily oversee inspections in the eastern region, covering fire risk assessments across the East Midlands and East of England.

Throughout his career, Mr Wilsher spent almost 40 years working in the fire and rescue service. He started his career in the London Fire Brigade in 1981, where he rose to Assistant Commissioner, before going on to join Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service in 2004. He served as the Chief Executive for the police and crime commissioner for Hertfordshire for 4 years.

Mr Wilsher later became the inaugural chair of the newly formed National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC) in 2017. The NFCC is the professional voice of the UK fire and rescue service, and Mr Wilsher's role involved providing support to firefighters and staff, giving professional advice to Fire Service Management Committee, and working with the Home Office and devolved administrations.

He was awarded the OBE in 2007 and the Queen's Fire Service Medal in 2013. Mr Wilsher will be the first Chief Fire Officer to be appointed as an inspector at HMICFRS.

Mr Wilsher is currently serving as an independent advisor to the Home Office on fire policy. He will leave this role before taking up his appointment at HMICFRS.

Home Secretary, Priti Patel said:

I'm pleased to welcome Roy to this important role, where he will play a vital part in ensuring that our police forces and fire and rescue services provide the excellent service that the British public deserve.

Roy has amassed a wealth of experience from many roles across the fire service – from the guidance and support he's provided to officers, to his role in advising the government during major incidents and I know he will be an excellent addition to HMICFRS.

On being appointed, Mr Wilsher said:

I am extremely proud to be appointed by Her Majesty to the Inspectorate. I have always looked to improve public services for the benefit of all our diverse communities and will look to do the same in this role.

I am really looking forward to working with new colleagues and want to pay tribute to my predecessor, Zoë Billingham. Zoë has done an excellent job and will be a hard act to follow.

Mr Wilsher was selected following a stringent recruitment process, which followed the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) Code of Practice.

HMICFRS inspectors are then appointed by Her Majesty The Queen on the advice of the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister.

Mr Wilsher will take up his duties in the autumn.

[Appointment of Dean of St Albans: 6 September](#)

Press release

The Queen has approved the nomination of The Venerable Joanne Kelly-Moore, Archdeacon of Canterbury and Residentiary Canon at Canterbury Cathedral, for election as Dean of St Albans.



The Queen has approved the nomination of The Venerable Joanne Kelly-Moore, Archdeacon of Canterbury and Residentiary Canon at Canterbury Cathedral, for election as Dean of St Albans, in succession to The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John following his resignation on 31st March 2021.

Background

Joanne was educated at Victoria University of Wellington and the Law Society of New Zealand. After a career in the law in Wellington and London she completed a theology degree at the Bible College of New Zealand, followed by graduate studies for ministry at St John's Theological College in Auckland. Joanne served her title at St Aidan's, Remuera in the Diocese of Auckland, and was ordained Priest in 2001. Becoming Vicar of St Aidan's in 2004, Joanne took up the additional role of Chaplain for Corran School for Girls and in 2005 was appointed Acting Archdeacon of Auckland for the duration of 18 months. Joanne became Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland in 2010. In 2017, Joanne took up her current roles as Archdeacon of Canterbury and Residentiary Canon at Canterbury Cathedral.

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[New UK Commonwealth Envoy announced](#)

News story

Ms Jo Lomas has been appointed UK Commonwealth Envoy in succession to Mr Philip Parham CMG who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment.



Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, FCD0 Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth, has announced the appointment of Jo Lomas as the UK's Envoy to the Commonwealth.

Jo will lead the UK's work as Chair-in-Office to create a fairer, safer, more sustainable and prosperous future for the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion people. She will take up the role in October 2021.

Jo has most recently served as High Commissioner to the Republic of Rwanda and was previously High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia.

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, FCD0 Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth, said:

As Chair-in-Office, the UK has worked with the Commonwealth's other 53 members to tackle some of the biggest global challenges, from building back better from Covid-19 to tackling climate change.

Jo is exceptionally well-qualified to drive this vital work forward and I look forward to working with her as we uphold the UK's commitment to this unique family of nations.

As UK Commonwealth Envoy since the Heads of Government meeting in London in 2018, Philip Parham has played a central role in ensuring commitments from member states on girls education, trade, the environment and other vital issues have been delivered. I am very grateful to him for his service.

The UK has been Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth since the Heads of Government Meeting in London in April 2018 and will hand over the role to Rwanda at the next Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali.

The UK has used its extended period as Chair-in-Office to promote closer co-operation between Commonwealth member states on key global issues, including COVID19, the climate crisis and access to quality education.

For more information on the progress made during the UK's tenure as Chair-in-Office, see the [UK Commonwealth Chair-in-Office Report](#).

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[Independent advice to government on civil aviation noise](#)

The aviation sector is vital to our future as a global trading nation as well as playing a critical role in local economies and in the government's commitment to level up the economy. However, aviation noise can affect the health and well-being of individuals and communities in the vicinity of airports and underneath flightpaths.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a reduction in aircraft movements in most areas, and with it a reduction in associated noise, but as the government focuses on building back better and ensuring a successful UK aviation sector for the future, aviation noise will increase from current levels. It is therefore vital that government has appropriate

and credible advice on aviation noise related matters.

The government established the [Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise](#) (ICCAN) in November 2018 to help ensure that the needs of local communities are properly taken into account when considering the noise impacts of airport expansion, and to help ensure that noise impacts of airspace changes are properly considered.

Following an [independent review of ICCAN](#) conducted earlier this year, I have concluded that many of ICCAN's functions would be more efficiently performed by the [Civil Aviation Authority](#) (CAA), which already has a wider environmental remit. This will help ensure that noise is considered alongside other policy outcomes on the basis of high quality research and advice.

As a result, I can confirm that ICCAN will be wound down this month (September 2021). This will be followed by a transitional phase during which my department will work with the CAA, which will take on the majority of ICCAN's former functions from April 2022. The CAA also plans to establish a new Environment Panel to provide it with independent expert advice on a range of environmental issues including carbon, air-quality and noise. ICCAN's existing functions not transferred to the CAA, will remain within my department.

[New card payment provider for Companies House online services](#)

News story

We're changing our card payment provider, so you'll be directed to a GOV.UK Pay screen when you make a payment on our online services.



We're changing our card payment provider from Barclaycard to GOV.UK Pay. This means you'll see a different screen when you make a payment on some of our online services from the beginning of September.

As a result of the development work needed for this change, you will not be able to use PayPal to make payments on our services on the following dates:

- WebFiling – between 6 September and mid-October
- SCRS and SCRS+ – between 23 September and mid-October
- WebCheck – between 23 September and mid-October

You can use a debit or credit card instead.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these changes.

These are planned changes and you do not need to contact us.

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