

Local Land Charges Register continues to grow as Dudley joins

News story

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council has become the latest local authority to migrate its local land charges data to our central, digital register.



Image credit: Nicola Pulham/Shutterstock.com

From today, anyone requiring local land charges (LLC) searches in the local authority area of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council will need to get them from HM Land Registry rather than going directly to the council.

Iain Newman, Director of Finance and Legal at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, said:

We are delighted to be the first borough within the Black Country to migrate to HM Land Registry's Local Land Charges Register. We are confident that the change will be seamless for our clients and residents, whilst maintaining our high level of service and the quality of our data.

Mark Kelso, Programme Director for HM Land Registry's Local Land Charges Programme, said:

I am delighted that people buying property in Dudley will now have access to instant local land charges search results. We are working hard with local authorities like Dudley to ensure property buyers can obtain the information they need quickly, allowing informed property buying decisions.

Local land charges searches are normally required in the property-buying

process. Most local land charges are restrictions or prohibitions on the use of the property such as planning permissions or listed building status. The local land charges search will reveal whether a property is subject to a charge which then informs a buyer's decision to buy a property or parcel of land.

HM Land Registry is working in partnership with local authorities to migrate their local land charges data to a central, digital register as part of a phased approach. Once migrated, anyone will be able to get instant online search results via GOV.UK using the [Search for Local Land Charges](#) service.

HM Land Registry's business customers can use their existing portal and Business Gateway channels or their usual search providers to access local land charges data for those local authorities which have migrated.

Customers will need to continue to submit CON29 enquiries to the local authority.

For an overview of the service, watch [our short video](#).

For more information, read about the [Local Land Charges Programme](#).

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[Plans for governing body to make digital identities as trusted as passports](#)

- Plans to boost legal status of digital identities to make them as widely recognised as driver's licences and bank statements
- Easily recognised trustmarks to be issued for digital identity products to build public confidence

Plans to create a new system to make digital identities as trusted and secure as official documents, such as passports, have been published by the government.

Digital identities allow people to easily and quickly prove their identity, such as when buying a house or starting a new job, without the time, effort and expense currently involved when using a physical document.

The technology, which can take a number of forms such as a phone app or other web-based service, has many advantages over paper documents. For instance, 220,000 cases of personal data abuse and impersonation were recorded in 2019. Digital identities could help reduce these cases as they are much harder for

fraudsters to access and replicate.

They also boost privacy by restricting the personal information an organisation sees to precisely what is required. For example, someone buying age-restricted goods would be able to prove they are over 18 without needing to disclose their date of birth, name or address.

Today the government launched [a consultation on proposals](#) for a governing body charged with making sure organisations follow government rules, developed with industry and published in draft form earlier this year, that allow digital identity companies to prove they adhere to the highest standards of security and privacy.

The body – which could be housed within an existing regulator – would have powers to issue an easily recognised trustmark to digital identity firms which certifies that people's data will be handled in a safe and consistent way. It will work with organisations to take proactive action to prevent and enable the detection of fraud and security incidents, as well as encouraging inclusion.

Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman said:

The plans laid out today will ensure people can trust the app in their pocket as much as their passport when proving their identity.

Digital identities offer a huge opportunity to make checks easier, quicker and more secure, and help people who do not have traditional forms of ID to prove who they are.

This technology is a vital building block for the economy of the future, and we're ensuring that people who choose to use it can have confidence their data will be handled safely.

Digital identity will widen access to legally valid forms of identification for people who currently find it difficult to prove something about themselves. For example, if someone does not have access to an official document, such as a passport, they may be able to prove their identity digitally through another government service, or other means such as a vouch from a doctor or other trustworthy source.

To ensure digital identity products are available to as many people as possible, businesses will be required to report annually to the governing body on which users are excluded from using their services and outline what is being done to mitigate this.

Equally, digital identity use will not be mandatory and people will retain the option to use available paper documentation.

It also suggests new powers to allow digital identities to be built on a greater range of trusted datasets – such as those managed by the DVLA, or the General Register Office which are responsible for birth certificates. It

proposes allowing digital identity businesses to ask government authorities to confirm whether a piece of information, such as someone's age or address, is valid and matches their records.

Just as the government is committed to not making digital identities compulsory in the UK, it also wants to ensure that people in the future are not forced to use traditional identity documents, if these are not strictly required.

The consultation sets out how the government can build confidence in digital IDs so they have a similar status in law as physical proofs of identity that businesses and individuals already trust.

[The consultation](#) is open to any member of the public and closes on 13 September.

ENDS

[MHRA's new Chief Safety Officer, Dr Alison Cave, starts vital vigilance work today](#)

News story

This work will help ensure the safety of medicines and devices that reach the UK public and health service.



Today, Dr Alison Cave will commence as Chief Safety Officer at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) where she will oversee the Agency's vigilance work – helping ensure the safety of medicines and devices that reach the UK public and health service.

Dr Cave, who holds a PhD and has a wealth of regulatory and biomedical

scientific knowledge and experience, was most recently Industrial Strategy Challenge Director at UK Research and Innovation where she led two major health data-driven challenges representing over £285m of government investment. During her extensive career, Dr Cave also worked at King's College London, the Wellcome Trust and both the MHRA and the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

Dr June Raine, MHRA Chief Executive, said:

Today is an important day for the Agency and for patient safety. Dr Cave brings with her a wealth of relevant knowledge and experience of managing benefit risk for healthcare products that will inform and strengthen our safety and vigilance functions, together with a track record of delivery of change. Most importantly, I know Alison is determined to be a champion for the patient voice.

We are absolutely delighted to welcome her.

Dr Alison Cave, MHRA Chief Safety Officer, said:

Today, I start my new role as the MHRA's Chief Safety Officer where my work will begin immediately.

I am joining at a time in which the scientific, technological and analytical landscape is rapidly changing, and is bringing with it new opportunities to evolve the evidence generation around the benefits and risks of medicines and devices.

I look forward to working with colleagues at MHRA to continue to improve our medicines and devices safety surveillance in the UK and in facilitating the close partnerships with patients and healthcare professionals envisaged by the Cumberlege report.

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[Nick Bitel appointed as Non-Executive](#)

Chair of DVSA

News story

Nick Bitel becomes Non-Executive Chair of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).



Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has appointed Nick Bitel as Non-Executive Chair of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

Mr Bitel has been appointed for a term of 3 years and will play a vital role in the effective strategic and operational leadership of the DVSA.

He will replace Shrinivas Honap, who has served as Non-Executive Chair since he was appointed on a temporary basis in April last year.

Mr Bitel brings a wealth of leadership experience at board level and joins the DVSA from Sport England, where he had served as Chair since April 2013. He has been Chief Executive of the London Marathon since 1995.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

I would like to welcome and congratulate Nick, who joins the DVSA at a really exciting time, as we adopt innovative new technologies and ensure the rapidly changing needs of drivers, cyclists and vehicles are upheld.

Nick brings a huge amount of experience to the role and I look forward to working closely with him as we deliver the tech revolution and level-up journeys across the UK.

Nick Bitel said:

I'm delighted to be appointed DVSA's new Chair.

DVSA's vital work affects everyone in the country and our committed, professional colleagues make an important contribution

to road safety.

I look forward to working with Loveday Ryder and the DVSA Board to develop and shape our future strategy, helping everyone stay safe on Britain's roads.

DVSA Chief Executive Loveday Ryder said:

I'm so pleased to welcome Nick to the team.

His knowledge and experience will be invaluable as we continue to recover our services and achieve the outcomes set out in our Business Plan.

I look forward to working closely with him as we develop our strategy for the next 5 years.

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UK Carrier Strike Group to exercise with Indo-Pacific partners

On a visit to US Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) in Hawaii, UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace met with the Commander Admiral John C Aquilino and announced that the UK Carrier Strike Group will undertake a series of multinational exercises with global allies in the Philippine Sea this August.

Operating alongside Naval and Air Forces from the United States, Australia, France, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, the UK Carrier Strike Group will undertake a number of integration exercises designed to build interoperability between like-minded international partners in this globally significant region of the world. The HMS Queen Elizabeth led Strike Group will operate with a US Carrier Strike Group, which combined, will be the largest concentration of F-35 jets anywhere in the world.

Complex exercises like these will enable 617 Squadron to develop F-35 Lightning interoperability with partner nations, building a core of valuable Royal Air Force and Royal Navy experience in operating this cutting-edge technology. These air exercises will build upon the capability development that 617 Squadron achieved through the combat missions mounted from the Carrier in the East Mediterranean, during a dedicated period in support of Operation Shader, the UK mission to defeat Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

The Carrier Strike Group will also undertake Anti-Submarine exercises with US Pacific Fleet with allied submarines, helicopters and P8 Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

Overall these events represent a crucial milestone in the regeneration of the UK Carrier Strike capability that will contribute to collective defence and security for decades to come. Carrier Strike Group 21 embodies the Prime Minister's vision for the UK as an outward facing, modern and responsible international actor who also takes its global defence and security responsibilities seriously and invests in them accordingly.

UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

As we witness a tilt in power towards the Indo-Pacific region, we are committed to working with our partners here to defend democratic values, tackle shared threats and keep our nations safe.

The involvement of the UK's fifth generation Carrier Strike Group in this significant series of exercises right across the Indo-Pacific region highlights the renewed importance we place on the UK's long-standing defence and security relationships with our valued partners and allies in the region.

As announced in the Integrated Review of Defence, Security and Foreign Policy earlier in the year, the UK is committed to a more persistent presence in the Indo-Pacific.

First Sea Lord Tony Radakin said:

2021 marks the UK's return to Carrier Strike with the first operational deployment of HMS Queen Elizabeth, the world's first carrier designed around fifth generation aircraft. She is deployed with UK and US F35-B jets, accompanied by Royal Navy, US Navy and Royal Netherlands Navy ships as they travel 26,000 nautical miles to the Indo-Pacific.

The Integrated Review and the uplift to the Defence budget provided by the Government enables us to have two aircraft carriers – HMS Queen Elizabeth and her sister ship HMS Prince of Wales. This provides us with the platform and ability to operate globally, supporting and working with our partners and friends.

Following on from the strike group's inaugural deployment, the UK will permanently assign two Offshore Patrol Vessels to the region from later this year as well as contributing a Littoral Response Group (LRG) in the coming years. HMS Spey and HMS Tamar will deploy to the Indo-Pacific at the end of August 2021 and will be supported by partners during their operations, including Australia, Japan and Singapore.