

# [Insolvency Steering Group welcomes Diversity and Inclusion Champions](#)

Following a successful drive to build a network of advocates to promote diversity and inclusion in the insolvency and restructuring profession, the insolvency Steering Group is proud to announce they have appointed 19 Diversity and Inclusion Champions.

Supported by R3 and the Insolvency Service, the new champions hail from organisations across the insolvency and restructuring landscape, from insolvency practitioner firms and legal practices to regulatory bodies.

Together they will act as role models and will have an important role assisting the Steering Group, sharing their experience and best practice to inspire change in the insolvency and restructuring profession.

The new Diversity and Inclusion Champions will participate in outreach work to raise awareness of insolvency and restructuring as an attractive career pathway and take part in research to identify barriers, as well as help amplify existing great practice.

[The Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group](#), established in 2021 to tackle barriers and boost diversity and inclusion in the insolvency and restructuring profession, has also lined up visits to several universities to raise awareness of the insolvency and restructuring profession.

Kicking off in the London School of Economics on 12 October 2022, representatives from the Steering Group will also visit the University of Glasgow, University of Leeds, Nottingham Trent University, University of Nottingham and the University of Wolverhampton, with more to follow later in the year.

Angela Crossley, Steering Group Co-Chair, said:

We are extremely proud to welcome the first cohort of Diversity and Inclusion Champions, who will help break down barriers and contribute to creating inclusive workplaces in the insolvency and restructuring sector.

The new champions bring a wide range of experiences and diversity, and hail from across the country. Using their valuable insights, we want to reach out to even more diverse audiences and showcase how a role in the insolvency profession can be enormously stimulating and fulfilling.

Caroline Sumner, R3 CEO and Co-Chair of the Steering Group, said:

Our inaugural group of Champions will play a critical role in helping amplify the group's work, develop and promote best practice, and attract the next generation of insolvency and restructuring professionals.

They'll build on the excellent foundation the members of the Steering Group have given us by providing additional support, expertise and insight into the challenges and opportunities facing the insolvency and restructuring profession as it seeks to become more diverse and inclusive.

- Rehan Ahmed, Quantuma Advisory Limited
- David Ampaw, DLA Piper
- Hannah Aynsley, Interpath Advisory
- Heather Childs-Potter, Insolvency Practitioners Association
- Charlotte Cooke, South Square
- Frances Coulson, Wedlake Bell LLP
- Fiona Coyle, Accountant in Bankruptcy
- Christina Fitzgerald, Edwin Coe LLP
- Kirran Gibson, Begbies Traynor Group
- Luke Hoare, Grant Thornton
- Asma Iqbal, Chadwick Lawrence
- Megan Kemp, Chamberlains & Co
- Emma Mealiff, FRP Advisory
- Roya Panahi, DLA Piper
- Stewart Perry, Field Fisher

- Anthony Simmons, FRP Advisory
  - Eleanor Temple, Kings Chambers
  - Ali Walji, EY
  - Michelle Westmerland, Leonard Curtis
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## Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts project to hold webinars

To share the valuable learning gained so far, the Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts (PACCo) team is inviting anyone that wishes to find out more about the project to attend. This webinar series is particularly suited to those with a passion for climate change adaptation, and those working within the environmental, civil, and public sectors.

PACCo is a cross-border initiative financially supported by the Interreg VA France (Channel) England programme. It has a total value of €26million, with €17.8million coming from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The webinars will give an overview of the project and its 2 pilot sites – the Lower Otter Valley in Devon and Saône Valley in Normandy, France.

The first, '[PACCo: A Virtual Tour of the Lower Otter Restoration Project](#)' will take place on Wednesday 12 October, 1pm to 2:30pm. It will take attendees on an exclusive tour of the Lower Otter site in Devon.

Utilising the latest drone footage, the session will show the transforming landscape and progress of the project as it is being delivered. It will be led by the Environment Agency and Clinton Devon Estates with the opportunity for discussion at the end of the webinar.

The second webinar, '[PACCo – Natural Capital and Socio-economics](#)' will take place on Wednesday 7 December, 1pm to 2:30pm. It will provide a chance to learn more about PACCo's work on natural capital and socio-economics. The session will look at early findings for both sites, and the potential ecological and economic benefits to their communities, wildlife, and the environment beyond.

The session will be led by the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust/Clinton Devon Estates and the Conservatoire du Littoral Normandie. There will also be a short informal discussion on attendees' thoughts on the

findings at the end of the session.

Mike Williams of the Environment Agency said:

We hope to see all those with a passion for the environment and keen interest in the role that habitat restoration has in climate change adaptation.

A big aim of the PACCo project is to share learning, start conversations and inspire action. Our guests will get to know more about PACCo and the Lower Otter Restoration Project from the comfort of their desk. They will have the opportunity to learn and ask questions about natural capital, and how we can help our coasts and estuaries to adapt better to the challenges brought by climate change.

The PACCo project will reconnect the Otter Estuary in Devon and Saône Estuary in Normandy to their historic floodplains. It will make infrastructure more resilient and restore 100 hectares of historically modified coastal wetland.

Restoration of these landscapes to a more natural state will create landscapes better able to cope with future changes, providing lasting benefits for people and wildlife alike.

To register to attend the webinars, please visit:

12 October – ‘PACCo: A Virtual Tour of the Lower Otter Restoration Project’:  
[www.trybooking.co.uk/BRK0](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/BRK0)

7 December – ‘PACCo – Natural Capital and Socio-economics’:  
[www.trybooking.co.uk/BRKR](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/BRKR)

Both webinars will be available with French interpretation.

Further details of the project can be found at: [www.pacco-interreg.com](http://www.pacco-interreg.com)

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## **2022 is a critical year for biodiversity and our planet: UK statement to the OSCE**

The protection, restoration and sustainable management of natural resources are essential to mitigate the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises, which pose a threat to international peace and stability. This is no truer than in the case of water, which is increasingly a threat multiplier.

In 2013, there were 27 events in which water was a trigger for conflict. Four years later, this had risen to 71.

This upward trend is caused by the growing global water crisis. With only 3 percent of the earth's water freshwater – and most of this inaccessible, degraded or unevenly distributed – scarcity is compounded by population growth, food and energy demands, and climate change. Estimates suggest that four billion people now live in areas with severe water scarcity; and that by 2030 there could be around 700 million people displaced because of water scarcity, affecting national and regional security.

We see these trends play out in our region regularly, particularly in Central Asia where tensions over scarce water resources, and unilateral water infrastructure developments, have aggravated existing disputes and contributed to new conflicts.

Accessing water continues to be a grave issue for those living in conflict zones. Russia's deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure has led to extensive power and water shortages, causing further suffering for the Ukrainian people. Just two weeks ago, parts of the Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih were flooded after Russia attacked a nearby dam.

The OECD has said that as a result of damage to water supply infrastructure in Ukraine, an estimated 1.4 million people currently have no access to safe water, and a further 4.6 million people have only limited access. To help relieve Ukraine from these effects of Russia's brutal aggression, the UK has donated 856 generators to Ukraine to power essential services, including water pumping stations.

However, there is potential for water to play a role in reducing conflict. Water historically has more often led to cooperation than conflict between countries. For example, in the period 1948-2000, co-operative events over international waters outweighed conflictual ones by two to one.

Cooperation over water can also benefit other areas, such as peace, security and prosperity through positive impacts on food security, economic stability, improved regional integration, and better trade relations.

Promoting this cooperation, states need to apply diplomatic tools such as negotiations, fact-finding missions, and the establishment of consultation platforms for existing or emerging disagreements. This is where the OSCE is well placed to play a role. We celebrate the work the OCEEA does to enhance co-operation over transboundary water resource management, and to integrate women's voices.

Mr Chair,

2022 is a critical year for biodiversity and our planet. The UK is committed to working with the OSCE and other international partners to secure an ambitious [post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. We will continue to champion protection of at least 30% of land and ocean globally.

In collaboration with others, the UK has developed a [10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity](#), launched at UNGA last month. The plan defines a clear pathway for bridging the global nature finance gap, and I invite all colleagues here to endorse the 10 point plan ahead of the biodiversity COP later this year. Further, I hope states will join the UK in taking steps to ensure all Overseas Development Assistance becomes 'nature positive'; and supporting the full and effective implementation of the [Multilateral Development Banks' COP26 Joint Statement on Nature, People and Planet](#).

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## [Inquiry opened into Brighton Mosque](#)

Press release

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into Brighton Mosque & Muslim Community Centre (1122974) and appointed an Interim Manager.



The Commission opened the inquiry due to regulatory concerns resulting from a failure to resolve a dispute at the charity which is having a detrimental impact on the charity's governance and administration.

On 28 September 2022, the inquiry exercised the Commission's legal powers and appointed an Interim Manager to the charity to the exclusion of the parties in dispute. Mr Andrew Wilkinson of Shakespeare Martineau LLP takes charge of the management and operation of the charity and amongst other things will identify and appoint new trustees to the charity.

Earlier this year, the regulator issued the charity with an [Official Warning](#) after a former trustee was convicted of encouraging terrorism in a speech given on the charity's premises. The Commission determined that the trustees knew or ought to have known the risk that this individual posed to the charity and set out the actions trustees should take to protect the charity and its beneficiaries from abuse. However, due to an ongoing dispute at the charity about control of its administration and management, there is an increased risk that appropriate actions will not be taken to protect the charity from further undue risk of harm.

The charity has also experienced financial management issues and submitted its statutory annual returns late for its past four financial periods. The Commission is concerned generally about the impact of the dispute on the charity's ability to operate sustainably and for the benefit of its beneficiaries. The parties to the dispute have not, as advised repeatedly by the Commission, been able to appropriately settle the dispute in the best interests of the charity.

In order to investigate relevant matters further, and use its powers of protection and remedy, the regulator opened a statutory inquiry on 3 August 2022. The inquiry will examine the administration, governance and management of the charity and in particular:

- Whether the trustees have been properly appointed and/or removed at the charity since autumn 2021, in accordance with the governing document of the charity.
- Whether there is an accurate and clear understanding at the charity about establishing its members, including in terms of notifying and consulting with members about all relevant events at the charity.
- Whether the trustees have learnt from the issues which led to the charity receiving an Official Warning from the Commission in May 2022 and are willing, and able, to further the charity's objects in an appropriate manner.
- Whether the charity's income and expenditure has been properly accounted for, since autumn 2021, as part of appropriate financial management.
- Whether the charity's expenditure has been used to carry out activities that exclusively furthered a charitable purpose.

The Commission may extend the scope of the inquiry if additional issues emerge.

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.
2. Section 76(3)(g) of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission power to appoint an interim manager to a charity to act as receiver and manager in respect of the property and affairs of the charity.
3. Interim managers are appointed where the Commission has identified misconduct and/or mismanagement in the administration of a charity, or where it is necessary or desirable to protect a charity's property. It is a protective measure.

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# First containers sealed into Dounreay low level waste vaults

News story

Dounreay's waste team is carrying out the first in a series of campaigns to seal the waste into place in the low level waste vaults.



As part of the waste disposal process, the spaces between the containers in the low level waste vault are being filled with grout.

The team undertook a series of trials to confirm that the grout would readily flow between the containers and also tested the membranes that will be used to seal the grout shutters.

A first campaign of grouting has now been completed within the vault and 16 waste packages have been sealed into their final positions. Further grouting campaigns of increasing size are planned.

In parallel with this work, the external space around the outside of the walls of the vault has been backfill filled with aggregate. In the first phase of this work, enough aggregate to fill an Olympic sized swimming pool has been used to fill up to 2.5m high around the structure. This is only 2% of the total volume of material that will be needed to backfill, cap and close the 2 vaults once they are full.

Project Manager Graeme Morgan said:

This work is a strategically important demonstration that we can carry out this crucial part of the disposal process, which will eventually enable us to close the vault.

Senior Engineer Angus Mackay added:



We've had a fantastic level of support from so many people across the site and the quality of the workmanship has been superb. It's great to see the disposal process moving forward.

The work has been completed by a team from Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd along with local contractors Arch Henderson, John Gunn & Sons, JGC Engineering and Hugh Simpson Contractors.

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