

[Liverpool City Council: Commissioner appointment letters](#)

Copies of letters from Catherine Frances, Director General of Local Government, Strategy and Analysis at MHCLG to:

- Mike Cunningham QPM confirming his appointment as Lead Commissioner at Liverpool City Council
- Neil Gibson confirming his appointment as Highways Commissioner at Liverpool City Council
- Joanna Killian confirming her appointment as the Local Government Improvement Commissioner at Liverpool City Council
- Deborah McLaughlin confirming her appointment as the Regeneration Commissioner at Liverpool City Council

The letters confirm the Commissioners' roles and responsibilities, established by the Directions issued under section 15 (5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Copies of letters from Catherine Frances, Director General of Local Government and Public Services at DLUHC to:

- Mike Cunningham QPM confirming his pay uplift
- Neil Gibson confirming his pay uplift
- Joanna Killian confirming her pay uplift
- Deborah McLaughlin confirming her pay uplift

The December 2021 letters confirm the new pay uplift for Commissioners.

[UK's prototype fusion energy plant is one step closer to finding a home](#)

- An open call for sites to host UKAEA's prototype fusion energy plant was announced in December 2020 and nominations closed at the end of March 2021.
- Following an initial assessment for compliance with the key entry criteria, UKAEA has now published the long list of nominated sites.
- Moving fusion from research and development to design and delivery is an important part of the UK's ambition to be a world leader in sustainable,

low-carbon energy.

Fifteen sites are in the running to become the future home of the UK's prototype fusion energy power plant – the [Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production, or STEP](#).

The sites, listed here from North to South across the UK, are:

Site	Nominating entity
Dounreay	Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership
East Airdrie	Fusion Forward (East Airdrie) Consortium
Poneil	Fusion Forward (Poniel) Consortium
Ardeer	Fusion Forward (Ardeer) Consortium
Chapelcross	South of Scotland Enterprise
Moorside	Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, in partnership with Copeland Borough Council
Bay Fusion (Heysham)	Bay Fusion (collaboration between industry, Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and Lancaster University)
Goole	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
West Burton	Nottinghamshire County Council
Ratcliffe on Soar	Nottinghamshire County Council
Milford Haven	Pembrokeshire County Council
Severn Edge (Oldbury/Berkeley)	Western Gateway
Aberthaw	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Bridgwater Bay	Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
Bradwell	Belport Ltd

Acceptance of these sites into our assessment process does not indicate they are preferred or desired, or that we believe their development is, in all cases, possible – simply that the procedural entry criteria have been met and assessment has now begun. Inclusion is without consideration of adjacent operations or proposals.

Many sites have adjacent operations, bringing mutual dependencies if STEP were to be developed in those locations. We will work to understand the dependencies and implications as the assessment continues. No view will be formalised on the potential suitability of sites until the shortlisting phase, which will take place in the autumn.

The successful site for STEP will become a global hub for fusion energy and associated industries, creating thousands of highly skilled jobs during the construction and operation of the plant, while attracting investment that will enable the development of a new UK science and technology centre of excellence.

Fusion has the potential to provide an abundant source of low-carbon energy by copying the processes that power the sun and stars. This exciting new technology will play an important role alongside established renewable technologies such as wind and solar.

STEP will be the UK's prototype fusion plant and is intended to pave the way for commercial fusion power. UKAEA is targeting first operations in the early 2040s, with initial aims to produce a concept design by 2024.

The next stage of the process is a thorough technical assessment to assess the comparative suitability of the sites. Once all assessment processes are complete, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will make a final decision on the site; anticipated around the end of 2022.

STEP Programme Director, Paul Methven said:

STEP is about building on the amazing science done over decades in fusion and translating that into a real prototype power plant that paves the way for this fantastic new energy source.

Selecting a site is critical for that transition to delivery and we are pleased to have received a number of high quality nominations. We are looking forward to getting to know the nominating communities as we progress through the assessment process over the next year.

Wherever STEP is eventually built, it will bring significant benefits to the region, including employment, skills development and the development of a high-technology, low-carbon supply chain.

[Boris Johnson: A billion vaccines, and education – my agenda for a global recovery](#)

Nothing could provide more compelling or tragic proof of the necessity of global cooperation than the pandemic which has swept the world and claimed over 3.7 million lives.

For the first time since the onset of this catastrophe, leaders of the G7 will meet in person for a summit that I will chair in Cornwall in the United Kingdom. I have also invited the Prime Ministers of India and Australia and the Presidents of South Korea and South Africa, allowing a broader gathering of fellow democracies and free societies.

Our shared task is to overcome the pandemic, minimise the risk of any recurrence and build back better after this tragedy.

Around the table in Cornwall will be the world's biggest and most advanced economies, ready to deploy our capabilities and expertise against a common enemy.

The genius and perseverance of our scientists has given us safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19. Now our most pressing task is to use them to protect humanity as swiftly as possible.

The UK helped to established COVAX, the global alliance that has so far supplied 80 million doses to developing countries. Almost all have been the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, developed with British government support – using expertise from every part of the UK – precisely so that it would be cheap to administer and easy to store, capable of protecting the maximum number of people worldwide.

Britain has contributed £548 million to COVAX and we will also donate the vast majority of any surplus doses from our domestic vaccination programme.

But in the heat of emergency, we must all strive even harder. So I want the G7 to adopt an exacting yet profoundly necessary target: to provide one billion doses to developing countries in order to vaccinate everyone in the world by the end of next year.

Nothing like this has ever been tried before and if you doubt whether it can be done, I would urge you to take heart from the unprecedented feats already achieved in the adversity of this pandemic. Our scientists devised vaccines against COVID-19 faster than any disease had ever been overcome before. Britain and many other countries are inoculating their populations more swiftly than anyone thought possible.

Now we must bring the same spirit of urgency and ingenuity to a global endeavour to protect humanity everywhere. It can be done, it must be done – and this G7 summit should resolve that it will be done.

But the reality is that even if we succeed, our efforts would count for little if another lethal virus were to emerge and inflict disaster all over again.

So we need to strengthen our collective ability to prevent another pandemic and provide early warning of future threats, including by creating a network of surveillance centres – a Global Pandemic Radar.

Our scientists took just 300 days to crack COVID and produce the vaccines, but we need to be able to respond even more rapidly. This G7 summit will begin a new effort to accelerate the development of vaccines, treatments and tests for any new virus from 300 to 100 days.

Even as we minimise the risk of another catastrophe, we have an obligation to ensure that something good might come from today's ordeal. We must build back better with a global economic recovery based on greener and fairer

foundations.

It remains a moral outrage – and a grave impediment to economic growth – that millions of girls around the world are denied an education, holding back the development of entire societies. Our shared goal must be to get another 40 million girls into school by 2025. I will ask the G7 and our guests to contribute more towards the Global Partnership for Education’s target of raising \$5 billion for schools in the developing world.

As more children enter the classrooms, we must create jobs to match their talent and safeguard the environment they will inherit. The G7 can take forward both aims by supporting a green industrial revolution and promising to halve our carbon emissions by 2030, in order to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees.

We will bring the world together to strive towards this essential goal when the UK hosts the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November. In the meantime, I want the G7 to safeguard biodiversity for future generations by pledging to protect at least 30 percent of our land and oceans by 2030.

And we should offer developing countries the high quality and transparent investment they need to build clean and green national infrastructure, turbocharging their economies.

This is a compelling agenda for global recovery, ambitious yet achievable, provided we summon the will and the ingenuity. Britain is privileged to chair the G7 and to play our part, alongside our kindred democracies, in setting this immense effort in train. The scale of the challenge demands no less.

[G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council \(GEAC\) presents recommendations to drive global gender equality](#)

The Chair of the Gender Equality Advisory Council, Sarah Sands, will join the Cornwall Summit this afternoon in a virtual presentation to G7 Leaders of the [Council’s recommendations](#), which were published today. GEAC member, Nobel peace prize laureate and gynaecologist, Dr. Denis Mukwege, will also outline the importance of G7 action to address sexual violence in conflict.

The GEAC is an independent group of experts who were convened by Prime Minister Boris Johnson under the UK’s G7 Presidency. The GEAC is responsible for championing the core principles of freedom, opportunity, individual humanity and dignity for women and girls around the world.

Against the backdrop of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEAC’s

recommendations focus on education, economic empowerment and ending violence against women and girls.

Minister for Women & Equalities, Liz Truss, said:

The UK has a proud history of championing the rights of women and girls both here and across the globe.

I'm pleased that we are using our presidency of the G7 to put women at the heart of our recovery from COVID-19 through the work of the Gender Equality Advisory Council.

These recommendations will help us drive forward a strong agenda on women's rights, both domestically and internationally, and I look forward to working with GEAC members as we build back better.

Chair of the Gender Equality Advisory Council, Sarah Sands, said:

We are at an historic moment for women and girls. The pandemic stopped the clocks of social change: now we must accelerate into a recovery. An extraordinary council of women, many of them scientists and all of them brandishing evidence, put their minds to finding solutions.

Our recommendations are now published and we shall hold leaders to account by measuring change. GEAC calls for guaranteed education for girls, for paths into green jobs, for access to capital and for digital inclusion. We want real representation of women, a level playing field in the work place and liberation from sexual violence and online abuse.

Women and girls have astonishing potential. We challenge the G7 to unleash it.

[Members](#) of the 2021 GEAC include world-leading scientists, business leaders, economists, public sector leaders, human rights and democracy advocates and international development experts, from across the G7 countries and beyond. The [first meeting](#) of the GEAC took place in April, and the [second](#) in May.

The GEAC's recommendations include calls for:

- Targeted pandemic response and recovery plans that take account of the needs of women and girls;
- At least 12 years of gender-transformative education for all;
- Strengthened public investment in social care infrastructure – including childcare – to address gender imbalances in care work, both paid and unpaid;
- Greater opportunities for women to thrive in the modern economy, including trading relationships that support women's economic

empowerment around the world;

- A gender-responsive approach to climate financing, investment and policies, and investment in education and life-long learning to ensure that women and girls can benefit from the 'green revolution';
- Progress towards achieving gender parity in STEM education and careers;
- Action to address the digital gender divide and to counteract algorithm bias which puts women, girls and marginalised groups at a disadvantage;
- An end to the stereotyping and unequal treatment of women in the media, including by supporting the Generation Equality Forum Charter of Commitments for Cultural and Creative Industries;
- Global action to end violence against women and girls through increased investment in prevention and response; the ratification of relevant conventions, and enhanced support for eradicating female genital mutilation (FGM).
- Action to tackle online harassment and abuse of women and girls;
- Condemnation of sexual violence used as a weapon of war as an international red line, and greater multilateral action to address it; and
- A clear mechanism to monitor progress and accountability on commitments on gender equality in the G7.

Following the G7 Summit, the GEAC will produce a full report as to how the G7 should work together so that women across the globe drive forward and benefit from the pandemic recovery.

[Empowering women and girls as contributors to the protection of the environment: UK statement](#)

World news story

Justin Addison from the UK Delegation to the OSCE speaks at the OSCE Second Preparatory Meeting of the 29th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.



Madam Moderator,

As we have heard, women should, can and do play a critical role in environmental protection and climate action. Women are often the most affected by changes to the environment, but under-represented in the policy response to address them. When women are included at the political level we see greater responsiveness to citizen's needs, often increasing cooperation across otherwise divided lines. At the local level, women's leadership leads to improved outcomes of climate-related projects and policies.

Parties to the UNFCCC have recognised the importance of involving women and men equally. The Paris Agreement committed all signatories, when taking action to address climate change, to respect, promote and consider gender equality. Parties acknowledged that adaptation action and capacity-building should be gender-responsive.

As well as being a signatory to these commitments, the UK recognises the important role women can and should play as contributors to the protection of the environment through our [COP26 Presidency](#).

For example, we are supporting the 'Women Negotiator Mentoring Initiative' to level the playing field between women and men in international climate negotiations. We have joined the Clean Energy Education and Empowerment Initiative to advance women's participation in the clean energy revolution and enable greater gender diversity in the clean energy professions. And in January we committed to improving the gender-responsiveness of climate finance, including by addressing existing gaps in its provision, and calling on others to do the same.

Finally, we are committed to collecting data, building the evidence-base and enhancing knowledge on the differentiated impacts of climate change. Evidence that a gender-sensitive approach to protecting the environment is strong. But we can always better inform gender-responsive and inclusive policy-making and planning. This capacity-building facilitation is one area where the OSCE could find a role.

Thank you.

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