

# Correspondence between the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State of Health and Social Care: 28 May 2021

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## Analysis in Government Month 2021 – Week 4

News story

Highlights from the final week of Analysis in Government Month 2021



As we reach the final week of Analysis in Government month, it's been a fantastic week with lots of you getting engaged with events, webinars, reading blogs and sharing your stories.

Here are some of the highlights of Week 4:

We featured two Heads of Profession premieres on our You Tube channel, with both David Wood, Head of Geography and Tony O'Connor Head of Government Operational Research talking about highlights of their careers and what makes them proud to be government analysts. David also clearly demonstrates the challenges of balancing home and work life!

[David Wood](#)

[Tony O'Connor](#)

Almost 500 of you dialled in to one of our most popular sessions of this week, focusing on how to make spreadsheets accessible.

We posted six new blogs from government analysts working across the Civil Service:

Loads of you engaged with us on Twitter and we achieved more than 30,000 Twitter impressions. Remember to follow us at [@gov\\_analysis](#) to join in the conversation or start a new one.

You can catch up on events, blogs and video from the month on the [Analysis in Government 2021 homepage](#) for more activities and events taking place throughout the month.

Remember to subscribe to our monthly newsletter for a full event wrap-up and to be the first to hear about any of our events, email us at [analysis.function@ons.gov.uk](mailto:analysis.function@ons.gov.uk) to sign up.

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## [Exceptionally rare Renaissance roundel at risk of export](#)

- UK institutions intending to acquire the artefact will have four months to come forward
- Outstanding piece in exemplary condition depicts Venus Roman goddess of Love

Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage has deferred the export of an exceptionally rare Italian roundel created in Mantua more than 500 years ago.

The richly decorated roundel, valued at £17 million, has been expertly crafted from bronze and is in exemplary condition despite its significant age with vibrant silvered features and mercury gilding. Although the artist is not known, experts reviewing the artefact believe it was created by at least two sculptors of significant talent.

Venus, the Roman goddess of Love, is depicted on the roundel surrounded by her lover Mars, husband Vulcan and son Cupid. The mythological references in the design, and the quality of the relief, reveal the sophistication of the patron and the artist's understanding of the classical past.

The roundel is larger, more complex and more refined than other examples produced in Mantua at the same time which are currently in British collections. The decision to defer the export will give a UK buyer the opportunity to acquire the exceptional piece.

Caroline Dinenage, Culture Minister, said:

This piece is a stunning combination of myth and mystery. I hope a UK buyer can be found so that researchers can reveal its secrets and the public can see this striking design on display.

The Minister's decision follows the advice of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA). The committee noted that the size and unique composition made roundel extremely technically interesting, as well as an object of outstanding beauty.

Stuart Lohead, RCEWA Committee member, said:

Of an exceptional size and of the highest possible quality this beguiling gilt and silvered bronze roundel represents the best of a highly sophisticated and intellectual humanist circle of artists and patrons active in Northern Italy in the late 15th to early 16th century.

Yet many of its secrets are still to be revealed. While it shows clear links to Mantegna and Donatello, it is hoped that further study might reveal who designed and produced it and for whom and therefore contribute to advancing knowledge of the period.

The remarkable craftsmanship, aesthetics and mystery of this sculpture is captivating and its export from the United Kingdom and subsequent loss to the nation would be a misfortune.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds that, as well as being breath-taking in both beauty and grandeur, the roundel was significant for the study of North Italian bronze sculpture in the late 15th century and the history of English collecting in the mid-18th century when it first arrived in Britain.

The decision on the export licence application for the roundel will be deferred until 27 September 2021. This may be extended until 27 March 2022 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £17,000,000 plus VAT of £3,400,000.

Offers from public bodies for less than the recommended price through the private treaty sale arrangements, where appropriate, may also be considered by the Minister for Digital and Culture. Such purchases frequently offer substantial financial benefit to a public institution wishing to acquire the item.

ENDS

## Notes to Editors

1. Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the roundel should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.
2. Details of the roundel are as follows: A roundel depicting Venus, Mars, Cupid and Vulcan Partially gilded and silvered bronze with a deep brown/black patina Dia. 42 cm Italian, probably Mantuan, c.1480-1500
3. Provenance: Almost certainly owned by George Treby III (c.1726-1761), and then by descent within the Treby family of Plympton, Devon until 2003; sold at Christie's London, Important European Furniture, Sculpture and Tapestries, Thursday 11 December 2003, lot 20; and then by descent until 2019; purchased by the current owner.
4. The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council, which advises the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.
5. [The Arts Council](#) champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections.

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## [Chancellor visits Openreach as government's super-deduction supports creation of 7,000 new jobs and expansion of broadband rollout to rural homes](#)

The super-deduction rewards companies that invest in new equipment or infrastructure by cutting their tax bill.

Openreach has announced it is accelerating plans to deliver Full Fibre broadband to the UK's hardest to reach communities, creating thousands of jobs, thanks in part to support provided through the super- deduction.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, visited Openreach's Training Centre in Peterborough today and met some of these new recruits.

Openreach are bringing direct fibre broadband to 25 million UK premises by 2026, while helping to create 7,000 new engineering jobs.

This will include delivering ultrafast, ultra-reliable broadband to more than 6 million premises in the UK's hardest to reach areas. Recruitment by Openreach for 1,000 engineering jobs in 2021 is already underway.

During the visit, the Chancellor received a demonstration on safe working from Openreach apprentices, before touring its "open street" used for training engineers, where he was able to have a go at installing broadband himself.

**Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:**

Announcements of new jobs like the 7,000 being created by Openreach show that our Plan for Jobs is working. As we re-open the economy we are providing incentives for businesses to invest and create jobs which is why we introduced the super- deduction – the biggest 2-year business tax cut in modern British history.

It was fantastic to meet some of Openreach's new recruits today and hear how they are rolling out full fibre broadband to millions living in the hardest to reach communities.

With a £100 billion government investment in UK infrastructure this year, I'm confident that more businesses like Openreach will play their part in helping us level up by investing in all corners of the UK.

**Openreach CEO, Clive Selley said:**

All the research shows that nationwide Full Fibre broadband will deliver economic prosperity, higher employment and a boost to the UK's international competitiveness. It's also massively green.

Having said that, this is a hugely complex, nationwide engineering project – second only to HS2 in terms of investment – and it needs the full force of government and industry to get the job done. That's why we welcome the Government's support – particularly in the form of the super deduction and apprenticeship levy – as it's helping us to build further, faster and create thousands more jobs as we go.

## Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

We are levelling up the UK and taking hard-to-reach homes and businesses off buffer mode with a £5 billion investment in lightning-fast, next generation broadband.

I welcome Openreach's ambitious plans to connect millions more rural homes to gigabit speeds. It means our funding can go even further to help those in need and will create thousands more high-skilled engineering jobs as we build back better from the pandemic.

## Further information

- Announced by the Chancellor at Budget in March 2021, the super - deduction allows businesses to claim a 130% capital allowances on any qualifying plant and machinery investments that they choose to invest in. According to the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, this will help boost business investment by 10% – around £20 billion more per year
- As part of its programme, Openreach will roll out full fibre optic broadband in over 1,000 UK locations including market and coastal towns, villages and hamlets – from Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands and Cardigan in Wales, to Keswick in Cumbria and Allhallows in Kent
- Spending Review 2020 committed £100 billion of capital investment in 2021-22, a £30 billion cash increase compared to 2019-20, with record levels of investment for the railways, strategic roads, broadband networks and flood defences. This was underpinned by the UK National Infrastructure Strategy
- The National Infrastructure Strategy in November 2020 outlined how the Government is working with industry to target a minimum of 85% gigabit-capable coverage by 2025, while seeking to accelerate rollout further to get as close to 100% as possible

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## [New apprenticeship scheme recruitment goes live](#)

News story

The VOA is now taking applications for the latest intake of the apprenticeship scheme.



Today, Friday 28 May, the VOA is launching its latest apprenticeship scheme recruitment for external candidates. The campaigns going live are [Level 3 Surveying Technician](#) and [Level 6 Chartered Surveyor](#) apprenticeships. Applications will be open for two weeks, closing on Friday 11 June.

These apprenticeships are open to all candidates looking to develop their knowledge and gain a fully-funded nationally recognised qualification while gaining experience in a professional role. Our apprentices are supported throughout their journey and allocated 20% of their working time for development and study.

Chief Valuer of the VOA, Alan Colston said: “These surveying apprenticeships are a great way for talented people to get into the profession they want and start gaining hands-on experience straight away while they work towards becoming qualified. “We’re hoping to be able to find enthusiastic and motivated people, from a diverse range of backgrounds to join the VOA family, and develop with us in an environment where we can really help them grow and succeed.”

These opportunities will be followed by an intake in September 2021 for Level 6 Chartered Surveyor MSc routes and our Graduate 2022 programme.

You can apply and read more about the entry requirements and everything on offer in these apprenticeships in the job adverts:

[Level 3 Surveying Technician](#)

[Level 6 Chartered Surveyor](#)

For more information on working for the VOA, visit our [Civil Service Careers page](#).

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