

Appointment of Jo Farrar as Second Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice

News story

The Ministry of Justice Permanent Secretary has today (16 March 2021) announced that Jo Farrar has been appointed as the new Second Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.



The Ministry of Justice Permanent Secretary, with the agreement of the Prime Minister, has today announced that Jo Farrar, currently Chief Executive, HM Prison and Probation Service, has been appointed as the new Second Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

This newly created role brings together HM Prison and Probation Service, the Office of the Public Guardian, Legal Aid Agency and Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, and will support the Permanent Secretary in leading across the 75,000 strong Ministry of Justice group.

Welcoming Jo's appointment, Simon Case, Cabinet Secretary said:

I am delighted to welcome Jo Farrar as the new Second Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice. She has a wealth of relevant experience in the department and I look forward to working with her in her new role.

Ministry of Justice Permanent Secretary, Antonia Romeo, said:

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Jo Farrar into this pivotal position. As a major delivery Department, MOJ has a challenging agenda to protect the public, reduce reoffending and provide swift access to justice. Jo brings a wealth of experience to the newly created Second Permanent Secretary role, which will

lead four of our vital delivery agencies, as well playing a major role leading the whole of the MOJ group.

Jo Farrar said:

This is a fantastic opportunity to help shape the future of the Ministry of Justice and a real privilege. People in the MOJ work incredibly hard to deliver essential public services and I am proud of everything we have achieved over the last two years. I look forward to taking on this new challenge and working with Ministers and the Permanent Secretary to deliver a world-class justice system.

Published 16 March 2021

Last updated 16 March 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 16 March 2021

First published.

[2020 Sanctuary Award winners announced](#)

Held virtually this year, the awards are organised by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and aim to showcase sustainability efforts across defence, both in the UK and overseas.

The prestigious Silver Otter trophy is awarded annually to the best Conservation Group led project or individual conservation effort on the MOD estate. It was won by the Chicksands' Historic Walled Garden Project led by Chicksands Conservation Group. The team demonstrated their commitment to the environment by resurrecting a grade II listed overgrown garden in Chicksands into bloom. The project also won the Social Value, Community and Heritage category.

The Sustainable Business Award is presented to the best commercial project which delivers sustainable solutions to enable the Armed Forces to live, work or train. It was won by Portsmouth Naval Base's The Princess Royal and Victory Jetties Project. This partnership project between the Royal Navy, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, VolkerStevin, Jacobs and Naval Base stakeholders, reconstructed two jetties at HMNB Portsmouth to create sustainable moorings able to accommodate the Royal Navy's two new aircraft carriers, HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. The project also won the Sustainable Construction category.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin MP said:

Defence is the third largest landowner in the UK, I am proud of the innovative work being delivered to create greener ways of working and embedding a culture of sustainability.

Whilst the Integrated Review outlines future threats that our armed forces must adapt to, climate change is a global threat underpinning our commitment to a more sustainable organisation.

I send my congratulations to all of the winners and nominees of this year's Sanctuary Awards.

This year also saw a double win for the RAF: Sergeant Ryan Duffy targeted the consumption of single-use plastics at RAF Brize Norton, and the Curlew Head Start Project supported the protection of curlew eggs across seven military airfields.

The Energy, Low Carbon and Resource Efficiency award was secured by HMNB Portsmouth's Combined Heat and Power Project. The team helped enhance energy resilience with their project which installed a Combined Heat and Power plant to enable the base to deliver the energy requirements of the new aircraft carriers. Defence Equipment and Support's Corrugated Board for use in Military Level Packaging project won the Sustainable Procurement award following the team's work with industry to provide more recyclable packaging materials.

Richard Brooks, DIO Principal Environmental Support and Compliance, said:

DIO is proud to host the Sanctuary Awards to celebrate the positive work taking place throughout Defence on climate change and sustainability initiatives.

DIO takes this work incredibly seriously and we are pleased to continue to contribute to the wider Defence and government sustainability targets. Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you for your contribution to making Defence greener.

A review into how defence meets the challenge of becoming more sustainable has been undertaken recently by Lt Gen Richard Nugee and a departmental response will be published in due course.

Special feature: GAD role in Analysis in Government month 2021

This special feature explores the value of analysis in government decision making, GAD's role, and how you can get involved in the Analysis in Government month.

To receive updates and information on GAD's Analysis in Government month celebrations, [sign up here](#).

Analysts across government

The Analysis Function includes people who work in an exceedingly diverse range of roles. From actuaries to geographers, social researchers to economists, and operational researchers to statisticians. Analysts provide the keystone of information which underpins government decision making.

At GAD we are [proud to be part](#) of this 17,000 strong group who tackle the many complex issues which impact the public today. The breadth of skills and experience that make up our analytical community ensures the right expertise is always available to respond to any given problem. And we collaborate in multi-disciplinary teams to produce bespoke and innovative solutions to challenges faced by the public sector.

Recently, the COVID pandemic has brought the key role of analysis in government decision making even further to the fore. Data analysis, statistics and future scenario planning have all featured heavily in government briefing sessions and have been central to the government's formation of our [roadmap out of lockdown](#). GAD has played an [ongoing role](#) in this, including secondments to support the NHS's 'test and trace' programme, in collaboration with analysts, data scientists and data engineers.

Analysis at GAD

When it comes to GAD's work, 'analysis' is an umbrella term which covers the large array of work across different specialities we undertake each day. We don't just produce actuarial analysis, advice and assurance. We also produce complex financial risk modelling and advice across many issues facing the public sector.

We recognise the need to take this complex analysis and communicate it to policy makers in a clear and comprehensive way. This is essential to enable data-driven decision making, which results in better decisions and improved outcomes for the public.

Some recent policies or projects featuring GAD's expertise include:

Communicating and partnering

Central to these projects and all projects at GAD is communication, collaboration and partnering. This means being able to engage with our clients throughout a project to understand their needs, priorities and timescales.

GAD succeeds in this through collaboration with appropriate specialists within the Analysis Function, using the expertise available within government. We also emphasise clear and concise communications for policy makers. And through all of this, we retain a focus on efficiency and quality, to provide value for money.

At GAD we believe we are successful at communicating and partnering, and our client feedback demonstrates this. In fact, GAD was highly commended for our work in client communications in the inaugural [Analysis in Government Awards 2020](#).

Analysis in Government month – celebrating analytical work

The importance of analytical work will be featured in detail when the Government Analysis Function holds its first [Analysis in Government month](#) in May this year. The month will feature analysis focused blogs, handouts, webinars and more, with input from GAD throughout.

At GAD, we are delighted to be leading on the ‘Users of Analysis’ strand that forms a key part of the month. This strand will bring together analysts and policy makers, to highlight the value in the work that analysts do and encourage greater collaboration across government.

And keep an eye out for ‘GAD takeover day’, when we will take over the Analysis Function’s social media accounts to share stories and insights about our work at GAD.

Everyone across the Civil Service is welcome and encouraged to take part, and you can [sign up here](#) to be kept updated on our plans.

A Civil Service for the future

At GAD, while our actuaries are working hard to build risk management and analytical expertise, we are aware this is not enough in isolation. Evolving government challenges require us to do more than maintain and enhance our technical expertise. We must also develop our communications to ensure we share insights with policy makers in a clear and accessible way.

GAD’s role in the forthcoming Analysis in Government month aims to encourage and facilitate collaborative working between analysts and policy makers. This emphasises our ongoing commitment to improve the partnering service we provide to our clients, as well as a desire to encourage best practice

throughout the wider analytical community.

For policy makers and analysts alike, working together is essential to reach our goal of creating a Civil Service which is ready and able to meet any challenges which arise in the future.

Home Secretary to strengthen Police and Crime Commissioner role

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be more accountable to the communities they serve as a result of a review led by Home Secretary Priti Patel, by requiring them to explain their record on crime to the public and strengthening their relationship with the Chief Constable and force.

The Home Secretary will today (Tuesday 16 March) outline the recommendations of part 1 of the review ahead of the upcoming PCC elections in May 2021.

The review will ensure the public have transparent, democratically-elected, local leaders who are equipped to drive down crime and deliver the safer communities the public deserve. It could also see them lead a wider range of services, in time, such as fire and rescue.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Police and Crime Commissioners play a crucial role as the elected voice of the people for crime and policing, which is why I am committed to ensuring they are accountable to the communities they serve and are strong, visible leaders in the fight against crime.

These recommendations, once implemented, will strengthen and potentially extend the role of PCCs and help them deliver the safer streets that the British public deserve.

The 2-part review was announced in July 2020 and delivers on a manifesto commitment to strengthen the accountability of PCCs and expand their role.

The initial recommendations will enhance the role of the PCC by:

- changing the PCC voting system to first-past-the-post, so the public can vote out those who are failing to deliver – this will create stronger and clearer local accountability, and reflect that transferable voting systems were rejected by the British people in the 2011 nationwide referendum

- making sure PCCs provide the public with clear information on their force's performance
- mandating the appointment of deputy PCCs to ensure continuity in unforeseen circumstances
- making changes to ensure more effective and consistent relationships between PCCs and chief constables

The recommendations will also help all parties (government, PCCs and forces) establish clearer ways of working and provide chiefs with more clarity on their operational independence.

The review also found strong support for the government's ambition to increase the accountability of fire and rescue services by having a directly elected official take on governance of the services in order to simplify and strengthen them across England.

As a result, we will consult publicly on whether to mandate the transfer of fire and rescue authority functions to PCCs in England. This will form part of a Fire Reform White Paper, to launch later this year.

The review's findings also confirmed our desire to see more combined authority mayors with PCC and fire and rescue authority functions, and the government will set out its approach to achieving this longer-term aim in the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper in due course.

The review's recommendations were outlined to Parliament via a [written ministerial statement](#).

The government has been clear that the review will not consider the 43-force structure, or scrap the role of PCCs.

The second part of the review will take place after the May 2021 elections and the government will communicate more about these plans in due course.

Serious Violence Reduction Orders to be piloted in 4 police forces

New court orders to boost efforts to crack down on knife crime will be piloted in 4 police forces, Home Secretary Priti Patel has announced.

The 4 forces – Thames Valley, West Midlands, Merseyside and Sussex – will trial the introduction of Serious Violence Reduction Orders (SVROs), which

give the police new stop and search powers to target convicted knife and offensive weapons offenders.

The orders are designed to ensure convicted offenders are steered away from crime and, if they persist in carrying a knife or an offensive weapon, that they are more likely to be caught and put in prison.

They will also help protect vulnerable offenders from being drawn into further exploitation by criminal gangs, by acting as a deterrent to any further weapons carrying.

Targeted use of stop and search, as part of a wider approach to intervene and support offenders, will help to safeguard those communities most at risk.

The pilot will test how well the orders deter violent offenders from carrying weapons, before a decision is made on national roll out.

Policing Minister Kit Malthouse said:

We are absolutely committed to cutting crime, getting knives off our streets and putting violent criminals behind bars.

The public want criminals who continue to carry knives and other deadly weapons, even after they have been caught before, to be stopped in their tracks.

These orders give police the power to do just that and protect communities from harm.

Chief Constable of Sussex Police, Jo Shiner said:

We are committed to keeping our communities safe, and Serious Violence Reduction Orders will build on the extensive work we already do in Sussex to tackle knife crime and serious violence. Knives and other offensive weapons have no place on our streets.

We welcome this pilot and the additional powers it will give our officers in helping identify and deal with those who persist in carrying dangerous weapons.

Deputy Chief Constable Jason Hogg of Thames Valley Police, said:

Tackling serious violence and particularly knife crime is a priority for the force. We welcome the opportunity to trial these new powers as they are developed and to contribute to national methods of policing and criminal justice outcomes.

The new powers will enable more robust interventions with what remains a relatively small number of offenders, creating a focused

deterrent to prevent reoffending and will help us support those most vulnerable. Through this, we will keep the pressure on those who are involved in the most serious violent crime and ultimately keep our communities safe, right across the Thames Valley.

Our involvement in this pilot contributes to our range of activity already underway, both through our local policing operations and that of the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit, all focused on tackling serious violence and its root-causes.

Assistant Chief Constable Jon Roy of Merseyside Police, said:

Merseyside Police are pleased to be selected as one of the four police forces piloting the Serious Violence Reduction Orders programme.

We are dedicated to tackling serious violence in all of its forms, as well as bringing offenders to justice and protecting all those living, working and visiting Merseyside. We're also committed to offering alternatives to prosecution and working closely with offenders and their families to address their needs and helping them break the cycle of reoffending.

It is welcoming to see that these orders will enhance our powers to target known and prolific knife crime offenders and those insistent on carrying dangerous weapons as well as reducing serious violence and ultimately saving lives.

Chief Constable Sir David Thompson of West Midlands Police, said:

We welcome this Home Office pilot on Serious Violence Reduction Orders as part of a wider public health approach for reducing violence in the West Midlands.

The orders will enable us to target those already convicted of certain knife offences, giving us the automatic right to search those who pose the greatest risk. It is crucial that these orders are policed fairly and effectively and that scrutiny is in place to ensure that happens. We also recognise search should be only one tool in changing the behaviour of those subject to the orders.

Our work as part of the Violence Reduction Unit will also continue, alongside partner agencies, to reduce violence by preventing problems at the earliest possible stage through a wide range of activities.

The introduction of SVROs follows a public consultation, which was [published](#) on 9 March.

Courts will be able to make an SVRO when someone is convicted of an offence involving a knife or offensive weapon. Police officers will have the power to stop and search a person subject to an order to look for knives or offensive weapons. They will apply to those aged 18 and over.

The government is clear that stop and search is a vital tool for tackling violence and saving lives. Last year, it helped remove 11,000 dangerous weapons from our streets and with every weapon seized, a potential life is saved.

SVROs are part of a major criminal justice bill which the government introduced to Parliament last week.

The [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill](#) seeks to equip the police with the powers and tools they need to protect themselves and the public, while overhauling sentencing laws to keep serious sexual and violent offenders behind bars for longer and placing greater emphasis on rehabilitation to better help offenders to turn their lives around.