

Surge testing to be deployed in targeted areas in Merton and Barnet

Press release

Further targeted areas will have additional testing made available to control and suppress the potential spread of the COVID-19 variant first identified in South Africa.



Working in partnership with the local authorities, additional testing and genomic sequencing is being deployed to targeted areas within Merton (Wimbledon Park) and Barnet (East Finchley), where the COVID-19 variant first identified in South Africa has been found.

The increased testing is being introduced in addition to existing extensive testing. In combination with the current lockdown rules and following [Hands. Face. Space](#) advice, it will help to monitor and suppress the spread of the virus. Positive cases will be sequenced for genomic data to help increase our understanding of COVID-19 variants and their spread within these areas.

Enhanced contact tracing will be used for individuals testing positive with a 'variant of concern'. This is where contact tracers look back across an extended period to determine the route of transmission.

People living within targeted areas are strongly encouraged to take a COVID-19 test when offered, whether they are showing symptoms or not.

People with symptoms should [book a free test online](#) or by phone to get tested at a testing site or have a testing kit sent home.

Those without symptoms should [visit their local authority website](#) for more information:

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UN Human Rights Council 46: UK statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children

Thank you, Madam President,

The United Kingdom thanks the Special Rapporteur for her ongoing work in this area.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur that there are numerous factors contributing to the scale and extent of this unacceptable abuse, and we also recognise that these factors may be further compounded by the global Coronavirus pandemic.

The UK is committed to combatting all forms of child sexual abuse and shares the Special Rapporteur's view that a truly concerted, national, regional, international and cross-sectoral effort is needed to strengthen our collective response.

The UK is concerned that the online facilitation of child exploitation continues to present new and evolving challenges. And so in 2021, we published the 'Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy'.

This strategy emphasises the role of prevention and early intervention in keeping children safe, and the use of enhanced technology to stop offenders.

We will drive action across government and society as a whole to prevent all forms of child sexual abuse, bring offenders to justice, protect children, and support all victims and survivors.

In 2021, the UK intends to bring forward legislation to strengthen online safety.

Finally, we would like to ask the Special Rapporteur, what further measures are required to tackle child sexual abuse online?

Thank you.

Charity regulator appoints interim manager to Rabia Educational Trust

Press release

Charity Commission appoints interim manager to educational charity



The Charity Commission has appointed an interim manager to the educational charity, Rabia Educational Trust, which operates the Rabia Girls and Boys School in Luton.

The Commission opened a [second statutory inquiry](#) into the charity in October 2020 to examine concerns about its administration and governance, including the trustees' persistent failure to meet the Independent Schools Standards.

The Rabia Girls and Boys School is currently subject to regulatory action by the Department for Education, including the potential removal of the school from the Register of Independent Schools.

The Commission also continues to have serious concerns about the charity's administration and governance. It therefore exercised its powers under the Charities Act 2011 to appoint an interim manager, Emma Moody of Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP, to the charity on 29 January 2021.

The interim manager will assess the future viability of the charity to the exclusion of its trustees. The trustees of the charity continue to have all the powers and duties of trustees, with the exception of this specific function. Depending on the outcome of this initial assessment, the interim manager's role may vary, for example, to improve the charity's operation or to take steps to wind up the charity.

The Commission's inquiry continues.

Ends.

Notes to editors:

1. [View the charity's entry on the register of charities.](#)

2. 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.
3. The regulatory action imposed by the Department for Education is subject to an ongoing appeal by the charity.
4. Section 76(3)(g) of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission power to appoint interim managers to a charity. Interim managers are appointed as a temporary and protective measure 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.
5. This appointment is a temporary and protective power that will be reviewed at regular intervals. It will continue until the Commission makes a further order for its variation or discharge.
6. It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. Reports of previous inquiries are available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
7. If you are affected by this interim manager appointment or the potential outcomes and want to contact the Commission, please do so via [our contact page](#).

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[Progressing the Analysis Function Diversity & Inclusion Strategy](#)

News story

Working groups are taking forward the ongoing Diversity & Inclusion agenda for the Analysis Function



The Analysis Function Diversity & Inclusion Strategy is supported by the D&I

working group, which is made up of three elements or strands. Each strand supports one of the strategic aims outlined in the Analysis Function D&I Strategy;

- Attract – focus on recruitment and attracting a diverse range of candidates to careers in government analysis. This includes developing a school and university outreach approach, as well as consideration of recruitment diversity data to better understand success rates of candidates from different demographics at each stage of the process.
- Build – focus on creating additional development opportunities for members of the function un under-represented groups, organising a series of talks with senior analysts across government and looking to improve opportunity sharing across profession and departmental boundaries.
- Create – focus is to champion a more inclusive approach and practices across the function. The group seeks to capture different perspectives, identify and share best practice and encourage all analysts to create a welcoming culture in which everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Each month we'll be updating this page, and the AF Newsletter with interesting nuggets and highlighting news from the Create group.

The Create team champion best practice from across government and beyond to demonstrate that creating analytical teams that are both diverse and inclusive is not only right but also more effective. By regularly sharing best practice, the group aims to help you consider how to improve equality and inclusion in your teams and will begin to normalise what is currently the exceptional.

By nurturing differing perspectives, the group hope to encourage analysts to take credit for their hard work and feel supported to bring their diverse experiences to the table in order to improve analytical outputs across government.

If you would like to join the working group, tell us about best practice within your teams and departments or subscribe to the AF monthly Newsletter, please email us at analysis.function@ons.gov.uk

This month, to celebrate International Women's Day, the Create team asked the Women in Economics group to provide us with the highlights of their work:

“Have you ever been the only woman in a meeting and worried that people won't take you seriously? Been so nervous to contribute that you missed your chance? Or cried in the loos during a terrible day? Well we have. And until we started talking to others about it, we thought it was just us.”

The Women in Economics network provides a forum to share experiences,

providing a network for nearly 350 economists (A0-G7) over 25 departments and agencies. Popular events have involved SCS speaking candidly on topics that aren't often discussed – 'Are women judged for what they wear at work?' or 'Being afraid to speak up in meetings'. Hearing honest admissions from senior role models normalises these experiences, empowering members to share their own issues and to recognise that this won't prevent them from achieving their full potential.

To sign up to the mailing list and attend events, please email womineconomicscommittee@gmail.com All are welcome to take part regardless of gender or grade, and the group is also open to non-economists.

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[Standards Matter 2: Committee to hold online evidence sessions](#)

As part of its current [landscape review of standards](#), the Committee is gathering a range of evidence and views about the structures in place to support high standards in public life.

The Committee is also holding evidence sessions, via Zoom, on Wednesday 10, Wednesday 17 and Wednesday 24 March to hear from individuals and organisations on these issues.

These sessions will be livestreamed via [the Committee's YouTube page](#).

Wednesday 10th March – The Ministerial Code

9:30 – 10:30: Sir Alex Allan, former Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests, and Sir Philip Mawer, former Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests and former Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

11:00 – 11:45: Dave Penman, General Secretary, FDA Union

13:45 – 14:45: Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair, Liaison Committee

14:45 – 15:45: William Wragg MP, Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

16:30 – 17:15: Professor Tony Wright, Professorial Fellow, Birkbeck, University of London, and former Chair of the Public Administration Select Committee

Names of further witnesses will follow for the sessions to be held on 17th (the importance of high standards) and 24th March (standards bodies and

regulators).

The [public consultation for this review has now closed](#). The Committee would like to thank all those who submitted evidence and views.

Meetings, roundtables and research for this review are ongoing. Notes and transcripts will be published on the Committee's website in due course.

The Committee will report in the autumn.

Notes to Editors

1. Interview requests and media enquiries should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.
2. The [independent Committee on Standards in Public Life](#) advises the Prime Minister on arrangements for upholding ethical standards of conduct across public life in England. The Committee promotes the [7 Principles of Public Life](#), which outline the ethical standards those working in the public sector are expected to adhere to. The Principles apply to all public office holders and private and voluntary organisations delivering services paid for by public funds. The Committee conducts broad inquiries, collecting evidence to assess institutions, policies and practices and makes recommendations to the Prime Minister where appropriate. It is not a regulator and cannot investigate individual complaints.
3. The current members of the Committee are: Lord (Jonathan) Evans of Weardale KCB DL, Chairman, Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP (Labour), Dr Jane Martin CBE, Dame Shirley Pearce DBE, Monisha Shah , Rt Hon Lord (Andrew) Stunell OBE (Liberal Democrat) and Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP (Conservative).
4. The Committee is also currently conducting [a review of electoral regulation](#), on the way donations and campaign expenditure by candidates, political parties and non-party campaigners in election and referendum campaigns are regulated and enforced by the Electoral Commission, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Police. It is due to report on electoral regulation by June 2021.
5. You can follow the Committee on Twitter [@PublicStandards](#)
6. [Watch the Committee's short videos about the Nolan principles](#)

[Press Release – CSPL Online Evidence Sessions](#)

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