

Political Peerages 2020

Press release

The Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention of conferring the following Peerages of the United Kingdom for Life.



The Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention of conferring Peerages of the United Kingdom for Life upon the undermentioned:

Nominations from the Leader of the Conservative Party:

1. Rt Hon Sir Richard Benyon – former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and MP for Newbury.
2. Peter Cruddas – businessman and philanthropist.
3. Dame Jacqueline Foster – formerly Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party in the European Parliament and Member of the European Parliament for North West England.
4. Stephanie Fraser – Chief Executive of Cerebral Palsy Scotland.
5. Dean Godson – Director of Policy Exchange.
6. Daniel Hannan – formerly Member of the European Parliament for South East England.
7. Syed Kamall – formerly Leader of the Conservative Party in the European Parliament and Member of the European Parliament for London.

Nominations from the Leader of the Labour Party:

1. Cllr Judith Blake CBE – Leader of Leeds City Council.
2. Jennifer Chapman – formerly Member of Parliament for Darlington.
3. Vernon Coaker – formerly Minister of State for Schools and Member of Parliament for Gedling.
4. Wajid Khan – formerly Member of the European Parliament for North West England.
5. Gillian Merron – Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, former Minister of State for Public Health and Member of Parliament for Lincoln.

Nominations for Crossbench Peerages:

1. Sir Terence Etherton PC QC – Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice.
2. Sir Simon McDonald KCMG KCV0 – lately Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of the Diplomatic Service.
3. Sir Andrew Parker KCB – lately Director General of MI5, the Security Service.
4. The Rt Revd. And Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu – lately Archbishop of York.

The House of Lords Appointments Commission was invited by the Prime Minister to undertake vetting of all party political and cross bench nominations. The Commission is an independent non statutory body. It provides advice, but appointments are a matter for the Prime Minister. The Commission has completed its vetting in respect of all nominees. The Commission advised the Prime Minister that it could not support one nominee – Peter Cruddas. The Prime Minister has considered the Commission's advice and wider factors, and concluded that, exceptionally, the nomination should proceed. The Prime Minister wrote to the Chair of the Commission on 21 December. [This letter can be found here.](#)

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Somerset rivers stocked with fish in run-up to Christmas

Every year, the Agency's Calverton Fish Farm near Nottingham breeds coarse fish for release into rivers and still waters across England to help boost fish populations.

Officers from the Agency's Bridgwater fisheries team spent a busy day on Thursday 17 December putting 2,900 fish into the River Sheppey and 1,450 into Marston Pond. The team also visited West Sedgemoor main drain to release another 1,259 fish.

Earlier they re-stocked 4 other rivers and still waters including the Frome, Yeo, Bird's Quarry and Rust Pond with various species including chub, roach, tench, barbel, dace, rudd, bream and crucian carp.

The Rivers Frome and Sheppey lost a large number of fish following pollution incidents in 2016 and 2018 and will particularly benefit from the re-stocking that will help fish numbers recover.

Jim Flory of the Environment Agency said:

Somerset boasts many angling clubs which is evidence that there is a healthy amount of fish in the county's waterway. But occasionally a helping hand is needed to restore the natural balance in the wake of an incident or decline.

The work of our National Fish Farm is funded by income from licence fees, so in the lead up to Christmas it's great to see the fish farm continuing to produce strong and healthy fish needed for re-stocking and recovery.

The restocking is part of an annual programme funded by income from rod licence sales. Restocking occurs in winter because water temperatures are low and this minimises any stress on the fish, giving them the best possible survival rates.

Restocking is done where numbers are low, have been depleted following a pollution incident or to create new fisheries and opportunities for anglers.

You need a rod fishing licence to fish for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt or eel with a rod and line in England. Get yours from <https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences>.

[Record numbers of doctors and nurses working in the NHS](#)

Professionally qualified clinical staff including paramedics are at record levels, as are scientific, therapeutic and technical staff.

Responding to today's NHS workforce statistics, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

This winter will be challenging as we continue to fight this deadly virus, and I'm hugely grateful to all our staff who continue to save lives and provide care to those who need it.

I'm delighted that record numbers of doctors and nurses are working in our NHS, plus a record pipeline of future talent in nursing, medicine and general practice.

We are backing our NHS and thanks to their unrelenting dedication, we will not only beat COVID but secure the future of our health service and deliver on our manifesto commitment of 50,000 more nurses.

The final figures from this year's admission cycle show there were 29,740 acceptances to nursing and midwifery courses in England, 6,110 more than last year and an increase of over a quarter (26%). The number of new nursing applicants to English providers between 15 January and 30 June was 68% (4,600) higher than the same period last year.

In addition, recent figures for this year show the highest ever number of GPs entering training with 3,793 posts accepted, exceeding the mandated target of 3,250. Health Education England has increased GP trainee acceptances year on year for the last 7 years.

Over the summer the [NHS People Plan](#) set out how the NHS will put staff wellbeing at its heart with a new recruitment, retention and support package. It sets out practical support for wellbeing such as safe spaces to rest and recuperate, wellbeing guardians and support to keep staff physically safe and healthy.

The NHS recently announced £15 million to strengthen mental health support for nurses, paramedics, therapists, pharmacists and support staff. Staff will get rapid access to expanded mental health services that are being rolled out across the country as part of efforts to deal with the second wave of coronavirus.

Today, NHS Digital has published its [monthly NHS workforce data for September 2020](#).

Table summarising NHS workforce statistics in England

	Sept 2019	Sept 2020 full-time equivalent (FTE)	Annual FTE change	Annual change (%)
All staff	1,114,473	1,164,729	50,256	4.5%
Professionally qualified	591,712	618,858	27,146	4.6%
Doctors	116,416	122,446	6,030	5.2%
Nurses	285,871	299,184	13,313	4.7%

[DBS Christmas and New Year Opening Times 2020](#)

Our Contact Centre will be closed at certain times over the Christmas and New Year period.

We will be open as usual until December 24th (Christmas Eve).

Date	Opening hours
Christmas Eve	8am to 3pm

Christmas Day Closed
Boxing Day Closed
27th December Closed
28th December Closed
29th December 8am to 3pm
30th December 8am to 3pm
31st December 8am to 3pm
New Year's Day Closed

We return to business as usual on January 2nd.

Our social media accounts will not be monitored between December 24th and January 4th.

Online services such as the [Update Service](#) and [online tracking](#) are available as usual over Christmas.

[Defra update on GB-NI authorised trader self-identification](#)

News story

Defra are working to compile a list of businesses that can take advantage of the authorised GB-NI trader 3 month grace period



Defra update

Defra are working to compile a list of businesses that can take advantage of the authorised trader 3 month grace period, as outlined in the [Command Paper](#) last week. The grace period will

only cover certain goods: products of animal origin (POAO), composite products, food and feed not of animal origin, and plants and plant products.

If you move these goods from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI), please continue reading to assess whether your business can be added to the list.

- ‘Authorised traders’ are supermarkets and their trusted suppliers
- The UK government will not discriminate against smaller suppliers or between different companies in recognising traders as authorised for the purpose of this grace period

A trusted supplier is one that independently moves its end product from GB to NI, for sale in NI.

- For example, a meat pie manufacturer that moves its own products from GB to NI, which delivers its products directly to a store for sale solely within NI would be in scope.

However, where a meat pie producer delivers products to a supermarket distribution centre in GB, which is then moved by the supermarket to NI, the producer would not qualify (but would not need to – the supermarket would be the authorised trader for that movement into Northern Ireland).

Self-identification by traders

Defra are compiling a list of authorised traders who can benefit from the 3 month grace period. Once identified the traders will be added to Defra’s list of authorised traders that will be sent to the European Commission.

You can also self-identify to apply for inclusion on the authorised traders list.

If you self-identify as an authorised trader, complete the [authorised traders form](#). The form must be completed fully.

Make sure you provide your:

- business name
- company affiliation (if a supplier)
- Economic Operators Registration and Identification number (EORI)

- head office address
- NI distribution address (if relevant)

The form will ask further information on your operations. This information will be required to determine whether you are eligible for inclusion on the list.

Please email the completed authorised traders form to nisupermarketandsupplierlist@defra.gov.uk by 17.00 pm (GMT) on 28 December 2020. They will attempt to respond to all emails within 2 working days.

If you have any questions about your eligibility, please email nisupermarketandsupplierlist@defra.gov.uk. The emailed response will either:

- confirm that your business is included on the authorised traders list and detail your business's unique registration number

or

- contain a rejection letter with reasoning and steps to resolution. Businesses can challenge rejection decisions via email until 28 December 2020

If you have any queries relating to authorised trader requirements or the grace period, email nisupermarketandsupplierlist@defra.gov.uk.

We ask that you share this communication with colleagues or business associates who may be eligible for the authorised trader list.

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