

[Fish exporters prepare now for 1 January](#)



The Fish Export Service trial and learn period ends at 5pm, Wednesday 23 December.

It will re-open as a live service at noon on 29 December for fish and seafood exporters, who can register or sign in at the this [link](#).

Exporters and fishers who intend to land catch in non-UK ports should sign in, in advance of 1 January 2021, to check the system has the correct data.

You will need to check the correct names of your vessels (either your own, or those from which you've acquired catch) are held in the system. If you are unable to find the relevant data, please call the helpline on 0330 159 1989 before 4pm on 24 December or after 9am on 29 December.

We are currently making improvements to the system and in particular to allow multiple landings of up to 100 in any one certificate. If you experience issues with this, please call the helpline number.

The service and the helpline team will be operating 24/7 once it is live on 29 December.

Exporting over Christmas?

If you are exporting seafood to the EU over the festive period and need catch certificates before the Fish Export Service goes live, please follow the existing [catch certificate process](#) for exports to third countries and contact MMO for assistance by email at ukiuuccc@marinemanagement.org.uk on 28 December, from 9am to 5pm.

For more information please see our 'one stop shop' and our virtual workshop FAQ available online [here](#).

Published 7 December 2020

Last updated 23 December 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 23 December 2020

Updated to reflect revised FES contact hours and checks needed to be undertaken by exporters before 1 January.

2. 14 December 2020

Updated to reflect trial extended until 5pm 23 December.

3. 7 December 2020

First published.

Government launches independent review of the Human Rights Act

- expert panel will examine how the Human Rights Act (HRA) is operating 20 years on
- review expected to report its recommendations in Summer 2021

The review will be led by former Court of Appeal Judge, Sir Peter Gross, and will consider if the HRA needs updating after 2 decades of being in force.

It will take a fresh look at the Act – how it operates and protects human rights – to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the society it serves.

Specifically, the review will consider:

- The relationship between the domestic courts and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). This includes how the duty to ‘take into account’ of ECtHR case law has been applied in practice, and whether dialogue between our domestic courts and the ECtHR works effectively and if there is room for improvement.
- The impact of the HRA on the relationship between the judiciary, executive and Parliament, and whether domestic courts are being unduly drawn into areas of policy.
- The implications of the way in which the Human Rights Act applies outside the territory of the UK and whether there is a case for change.

The Lord Chancellor, Robert Buckland QC MP, said:

Human rights are deeply rooted in our constitution and the UK has a proud tradition of upholding and promoting them at home and abroad.

After 20 years of operation, the time is right to consider whether

the Human Rights Act is still working effectively.

I am grateful to Sir Peter Gross and his esteemed panel for undertaking this timely and important piece of work and look forward to his findings.

Chair of the Panel, Sir Peter Gross, said:

I am delighted to chair the Independent Human Rights Act Review.

I will undertake this role with a panel selected on the basis of its members' wealth of experience coming from a variety of senior legal and academic backgrounds.

The Act constitutes a most important part of our legal framework; IHRAR will entail an independent process of careful reflection to consider its workings, together with whether and, if so, what, reforms might be justified.

The UK remains committed to the European Convention on Human Rights. The review is limited to looking at the structural framework of the Human Rights Act, rather than the rights themselves.

The panel members have been selected based on their wealth of experience, comprising senior legal figures and academics. The panel includes:

- Sir Peter Gross – Panel Chair
- Simon Davis
- Alan Bates
- Professor Maria Cahill
- Lisa Giovannetti QC
- Sir Stephen Laws QC
- Professor Tom Mullen
- Baroness O'Loan

Notes to editors

A short profile of each panel member below:

Sir Peter Gross (chair):

Sir Peter Gross is a retired Lord Justice and has an eminent legal career spanning over 40 years. He was called to the Bar in 1977 and became a Queen's Counsel in 1992. In July 2010, he became a Lord Justice of Appeal, and was appointed to the Privy Council in 2011. He became Deputy Senior Presiding Judge in October 2011, and was Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales from January 2013 to December 2015. He later was appointed Lead Judge for International Relations in January 2018. On retirement from the Court of Appeal, Sir Peter was appointed President of the Slynn Foundation in November 2019, dedicated to advancing the Rule of Law internationally.

Simon Davis

Simon Davis was a partner in the global law firm Clifford Chance for 26 years, specialising in the resolution of disputes, and is now a consultant. He is ranked consistently in the top tier of practitioners by the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners directories. In 2014 Simon conducted an Inquiry into the briefing of the press by the FCA of information in its 2014/15 business plan ("the Davis Review"). He is a former President of the London Solicitors Litigation Association and was President of the Law Society of England and Wales until October 2020. Simon is deputy chair of Governors at Birkbeck College.

Alan Bates

Alan was Called to the Bar in 2003 and specialises in EU law – and now in the new area of EU relations law (i.e. the law governing the relationship between the United Kingdom and the EU). He holds appointment to the Attorney General's 'A' Panel of Counsel to the Crown and has represented the UK in many cases in the EU Court of Justice. He has also represented the European Commission.

Prior to the entry into force of the HRA, Alan worked on a Law Commission audit of the HRA compatibility of the English law of bail and helped draft associated guidance for judges. In 2004-05 he served as Judicial Assistant to the then Senior Law Lord, Lord Bingham. Alan has contributed to two leading textbooks on EU law and is co-editor of the EU Relations Law resource site (eurelationslaw.com). He is actively involved in promoting diversity and social mobility at the Bar, and previously served on the Bar Standards Board's Education & Training Committee and Middle Temple's Hall Committee.

Professor Maria Cahill

Professor Maria Cahill is a Professor of Law at University College Cork. She is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin (LLB) and the European University Institute (LLM, PhD). She lectured at the National University of Ireland, Galway, before joining the Faculty of Law at University College Cork in August 2008, where she teaches Constitutional Law, Advanced Legal Reasoning, Advanced Constitutional Law and Research Methods for PhD researchers. Professor Cahill was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of European and Comparative Law at the University of Oxford in 2015 and a Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies at the University of Melbourne in 2019.

Her research is focussed on constitutional law, and uses doctrinal, theoretical and comparative perspectives to examine concepts such as amendability, constituent power, subsidiarity, rights, and the relationship between domestic and international law. Her work has been published, inter alia, in the International Journal of Constitutional Law, the Cambridge Law Journal, the American Journal of Jurisprudence, the German Law Journal and the University of Queensland Law Journal, and her research on the European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003 has been quoted with approval by judges of the Irish courts.

Lisa Giovannetti QC

Lisa Giovannetti has a broad public law practice, with a particular focus on human rights, asylum, immigration and cases concerning national security issues. She advises and represents a wide range of clients, including Government Departments and agencies, public bodies and private individuals. Prior to taking silk in 2011, Lisa was a member of the "A" Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown. She has extensive experience of advocacy before courts and tribunals at all levels, including the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, and has represented the UK before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. Lisa is Consultant Editor of Detention Under the Immigration Acts: Law and Practice (OUP) and co-author of the chapter: National Security in Family Law Proceedings in OUP's forthcoming National Security: Law and Practice. She regularly lectures on topics related to her areas of expertise.

Sir Stephen Laws QC

Sir Stephen Laws KCB QC(Hon) is a Senior Research Fellow with Policy Exchange's Judicial Power Project. Following a career as a legislative drafter in the Parliamentary Counsel Office (which he joined from the Home Office in 1976), he was the First Parliamentary Counsel 2006-12. As such, he was the Permanent Secretary in the Cabinet Office with responsibility for the Parliamentary Counsel Office and the offices of the Government's Parliamentary Business Managers, and so, in particular, for the drafting of all Government Bills presented to Parliament and generally for the advice given to Government about the management and technical handling of its legislative programme and about related constitutional issues.

He was a member of the McKay Commission on the consequences of devolution for the House of Commons and subsequently a member of the advisory panel for Lord Strathclyde's review of secondary legislation and the primacy of the House of Commons. He is also a Senior Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and an Honorary Fellow of the University of Kent Law School.

Professor Tom Mullen

Tom Mullen is Professor of Law at the University of Glasgow. His research and teaching interests include constitutional law, human rights law, administrative law and housing law, and he has written and/or edited numerous books, reports and articles on these subjects. He has carried out, along with various colleagues, research funded by Scottish Homes, the Scottish Office, the Scottish Executive, the Scottish Parliament, the Leverhulme Trust, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Consumer Focus into topics including administrative justice, judicial review, human rights legislation, tenancy rights, and housing and anti-social behaviour.

He has acted as expert adviser to the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee and is currently expert adviser to the Scottish Parliament Finance and Constitution Committee. He has also been a member of the Expert Group advising the Advocate General for Scotland on possible changes to the Scotland Act 1998 relating to devolution issues (2010), a member of the

Steering Group for Professor Neil Walkers' Report to the Scottish Government on Final Appellate Jurisdiction in the Scottish Legal System (2009/10), and a member of the Administrative Justice Steering Group chaired by Lord Philip (2008-2009) which published Administrative Justice in Scotland –the Way Forward.

Baroness Nuala O'Loan

Baroness Nuala O'Loan DBE is a qualified solicitor and has been a Member of the House of Lords since 2009. She was a member of Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights, of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee and of the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee of the House of Lords.

She was the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland from 1999-2007. She chaired a Formal Investigation into Human Rights in England and Wales for the Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2009, and conducted a review in 2010, for the UK Home Office, of allegations of abuse contained in a document entitled "Outsourcing Abuse" which was presented to the Home Office. Baroness Nuala O'Loan has produced more than 100 articles and other publications on law, policing, faith and other issues. In the course of her work she has acted in an advisory capacity to government agencies responsible for policing and police accountability across the world.

Bradford: using the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health

This case study has been selected to illustrate how the Prevention Concordat can be used to structure a mental health response during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Bradford District Mental Health Partnership Board requested that Bradford Council's Public Health Department lead a COVID-19 Mental Health Needs Assessment in May 2020. This drew on the 5 domains outlined in the Prevention Concordat.

1. Needs assessment and effective use of data

[A rapid needs assessment](#) of mental health impact and risk and protective factors for Bradford District was carried out. It included quantitative data but also real-time qualitative feedback from mental health service providers and the voluntary sector via an 'emerging needs' survey.

2. Partnership and alignment

This was achieved by working closely with local voluntary sector and community forums on the 'emerging needs' survey which included the Mental Health Provider Forum of over 40 local organisations and services. This work continues with Bradford University providing academic input to a co-designed review of remote crisis services during COVID-19.

3. Translating needs in deliverable commitments – taking action

The needs assessment resulted in a set of recommendations for services, district wide reviews, commissioning and promotion of the wider social and economic determinants of mental health. A number of proposals were put forward by the COVID-19 task and finish group to the Health and Wellbeing Board for funding.

4. Defining success outcomes

An outcomes framework was proposed based on the existing local mental health strategy commitments, along with the new emerging priorities. This covers a mixture of risk and protective factors, diagnosis data, and proxy indicators.

5. Leadership and accountability

Using the Prevention Concordat framework, Bradford District were able to evaluate the effectiveness and strength of the local mental health partnership and their COVID-19 adaption. Going forward all partners understand that the future success of a prevention approach requires them to actively address existing and newly emerging inequalities.

Key messages

- COVID-19 shone a light on inequalities – opening up new vulnerabilities in those with existing mental health issues and creating new ones
- the need for strong workplace wellbeing programmes to protect and maintain health and social care workforce
- the switch to digital services has been rapid and innovative but there is a risk of individuals being excluded
- locally, the 'fear of going out', misinformation, the loss of social support networks, digital language barriers, and lower access to services impacted on mental wellbeing.
- community interventions were widely reported to be successful, for example phone or video check-ins
- working in equal partnership with the voluntary and community services sector, with sustainable and integrated funding streams are essential to maintain a strong preventive tier of support for the challenges to come

Outcome: Bradford COVID-19 Response plan

Peri-natal mental health (young families)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• new mum support, specialist training for other staff• address under representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) mums in services
Suicide and self-harm prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• free access to guideline support service• Youth in Mind (community connectivity)• expanding parental support during family crisis
Money and mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Contact Centre and Credit Union pilot (mental health advocacy)• incentivising safe access to credit during COVID-19 for high risk families
Improving mental health of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) collaborative leading review (better translation services, digital offer, working directly with communities, diversity within the service offer) – draft proposals
Digital inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• still exploring via Learning Difficulty networks• QWELL service went live September
Out of hours mental health support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• addressing work/life, sleep problems, fear of COVID-19, financial problems, relationship issues, alcohol
Carer's support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• addressing lack of respite services due to COVID-19 and skills for new carers
Older people's mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• specialist training for staff in care homes and for mainstream IAPT• befriending schemes

Acknowledgements

- [Duncan Cooper](#), Consultant in Public Health, Bradford District Council
- Sasha Bhat, Head of mental wellbeing, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, NHS
- Bradford district and Craven Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)
- Helen Davey, Chief Executive, Mind in Bradford, On behalf of the Bradford Mental Health Partnership Board.
- David Armitage, Public Health Specialist, Bradford District Council

[Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses](#)

- New scheme to give exporting SMEs access to working capital they need to recover from COVID-19
- Government can provide an 80% guarantee on financial support from

lenders to support general exporting costs, up to the value of £25 million

- GEF will transform UKEF's offer to smaller businesses, encouraging them to export and take advantage of new free trade agreements

UK Export Finance (UKEF) today launches a new guarantee scheme that will free up funds for UK businesses to cover the costs of international trade, supporting thousands of jobs and livelihoods across the country.

Exporters will be able to apply for finance from the UK's five largest banks backed by a UKEF guarantee to free up working capital that can be used for everyday costs linked to exports and to scale up their business operations. This will help thousands of businesses, particularly SMEs, to fulfil multiple export contracts, pay for labour costs, build their inventory and ease cash flow constraints.

Minister for Exports, Graham Stuart, will launch the General Export Facility (GEF) in a speech at UKEF's 'Trade and Export Finance Forum'. He will announce that the government is shaking up the support it provides for internationally focused companies to help bring new trading opportunities to businesses in every part of the country.

Minister for Exports, Graham Stuart, will say:

UKEF's support for smaller businesses is shifting up a gear. The new General Export Facility will make a huge difference for entrepreneurs who need the financial backing to go global and benefit from our free trade agreements. It will help us bring genuine optimism back to exporters.

We were the only top ten exporting nation to grow exports last year. I'm determined for that success to continue as we recover from Covid-19. By transforming access to the world's best export credit agency, we can unlock the entrepreneurial energy needed to make that a reality.

Financial support can be directly accessed from HSBC, Lloyds Bank, Natwest, Santander and Barclays, the major providers of trade finance in the country, which can put in place UKEF's guarantee automatically.

Other lenders will be added to the facility in due course to ensure that it is available for as many businesses as possible.

Supporting British exporters at this time is vital, which is why UK Finance and five of the main export lenders have been working closely with UKEF on the development of this new guarantee scheme.

We expect business to apply from the new year as the General Export Facility enables lenders to support an even wider range of small and medium-sized firms, giving businesses the confidence to win new

contracts by having an agreed revolving facility in place.

General Export Facility Features

GEF was developed in partnership with the banking and finance industry to support a range of trade finance products including trade loans, bonds, letter of credit lines, CapEx and invoice financing.

The facility enables UKEF to provide a partial guarantee to lenders of up to 80% of the credit risk on facilities typically worth up to £25 million, with UKEF's support no longer tied to individual export contracts. This follows the recent launch of the [Export Development Guarantee](#) in July, a guarantee scheme that supports high value investment by major UK exporters.

UKEF has more than doubled the amount that HSBC, Lloyds Bank, Natwest, Santander and Barclays can automatically administer to an exporter through its facilities from £2 million to £5 million.

Eligibility criteria

In order to qualify for GEF as a UK exporter, a business must:

- self-certify that in any one of its last three financial years, at least 20% of its annual turnover has been made up of UK export sales

Or:

- in each of its last three financial years, at least 5% of its annual turnover has come from UK export sales

Full details of eligibility criteria are outlined on the [GEF product page](#).

About UK Export Finance

[UK Export Finance](#) is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, working along-side the Department for International Trade as an integral part of its strategy and operations.

Established in 1919, it exists to ensure that no viable UK export should fail for a lack of finance from the private market. It provides finance and insurance to help exporters win, fulfil and get paid for export contracts.

About UK Finance

UK Finance is the collective voice for the banking and finance industry.

Representing more than 250 firms across the industry, it acts to enhance competitiveness, support customers and facilitate innovation.

Awards success for Coal Authority and partners

The Coal Authority's latest innovative collaboration has been recognised with two awards.

The ground-breaking work, to treat soil heavily contaminated with arsenic at the Mersey Gateway toll bridge site in Cheshire, won Best Re-use of Materials and Best Infrastructure Project at Environment Analyst's Brownfield Awards 2020.

As well as bringing sustainability benefits, by cutting carbon emissions and preventing landfill, it is estimated that safely reusing the hazardous material saved around £2 million.

It is now hoped the process could be repeated at other sites where disposal or off-site treatment is not practical or economically viable.

As part of our work to make a better future for people and the environment in mining areas, we operate 82 treatment schemes in the UK, cleaning 122 billion litres of mine water every year to prevent iron solids entering watercourses, aquifers and the sea.

This process removes thousands of tonnes of hydrous ferric oxide (HFO), also known as ochre, which has a high sorption capacity – a process by which one substance becomes attached to another – for metals and phosphate.

After laboratory and field trials demonstrated the suitability of ochre for remediation, an optimised mix was designed to meet the exacting standards of the project and gained approval from regulators.

More than 5,000 tonnes of ochre were collected from 4 Coal Authority mine water treatment sites across England, Wales and Scotland and delivered to the Mersey Gateway project.

Using magnesium oxide as a cementitious binder, 9,000m³ of contaminated soil were then stabilised on site and reused under an environmental permit.

Jon Aumonier, of the Coal Authority's Innovation team said:

This optimised mix design has never been applied to the treatment of contaminated soils before and is unique to this project, which was one of the largest brownfield infrastructure projects completed in Europe in recent years.

The work was carried out for Merseylink, the consortium behind the Mersey Gateway, with partners including CE Geochem, RSK Group, AECOM and RemedX UK.

As well as being ideal for immobilising contaminants – such as arsenic, lead and cadmium – on former industrial sites, ochre also acts as a replacement for ferric sulphate in waste water treatment and can even be used as an iron oxide pigment to create fine art paints.

We are always researching new ways of using ochre as a valuable resource in a variety of different projects.

[Contact our Innovations team if you think they could help you.](#)

[Ochre from mine water treatment schemes used to treat soil contaminated with arsenic](#)