

The UK helps entrepreneurs develop innovative financial solutions in Mexico

In Mexico, important gaps in financial inclusion mean only 68% of adults use at least one financial product, even though internet access is at 75.6%. The UK's Financial Services Programme sponsored the Sandbox Challenge (SC), which helped increase financial inclusion in Mexico. It did this by helping Fintech entrepreneurs develop their offerings of digital and innovative financial solutions. The second edition of the SC initiative attracted 200 participants from the United States, Taiwan, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador.

To help SC winners develop their business models, they obtained bespoke support covering legal advice, business-consulting mentoring, financial modelling, cyber security advisory, and programming services, among others.

MoneyWays, a Venezuelan firm, provides a digital alternative to the high costs associated with cross-border fund transfers, which disproportionately affect migrant workers sending money to their families back home. MoneyWays solution consists of a platform providing money transfers, remittances, prepaid cards services, and payments through a real-time wallet system. According to MoneyWays, the support they received allowed them to accelerate the development of their services and have a presence in the Mexican market, which, in turn, helped them reduce the financial burden on remittance beneficiaries.

Plataforma 9.9% devised an innovative solution to help women and informal workers access home ownership through a collective, circular form of financing. Plataforma 9.9% recognised that participating in the Financial Services Programme gave them an opportunity to build their methodology whilst at the same accessing professional advice that guided them in structuring their services to comply with official regulations. Sagrario Gutiérrez, member of Plataforma 9.9%, shared:

We were provided with skills, tools, guidance, structure, transparency and certainty; it has been an outstanding experience to help build our solution.

Escrivan helps consumers regularise their real estate assets, which is critical given that over 50% of homeowners in Mexico currently have "irregular" property status. By resolving this issue, more consumers are able to access equity on their property, increase their purchasing power and credit opportunities, and thus contribute to a more financially inclusive market.

Another seven winners of the SC initiative received similar benefits and were

able to advance their offerings of digital and innovative financial solutions. With support from the UK's Financial Services Programme, they too are contributing to the expansion of Mexico's Fintech sector and to the financial inclusion of some of the country's most vulnerable populations.

[New portal for Change of Personal Circumstance \(CPC\) forms](#)

News story

UKSV has introduced a new process to allow CPCs to be submitted via the NSVS portal. You no longer need to download and email a copy of the form.



As of Thursday 11 August 2022, you can submit a Change of Personal Circumstance (CPC) form digitally, via the NSVS portal. We hope this will deliver an improved experience for CPC users, who will no longer have to download a CPC form to submit to UKSV by email.

Following go live on 11 August, there will be a 30-day proving period, during which time users will still be able to submit CPCs via the current service.

Providing there are no significant issues within this 30 day window, the current service will be decommissioned and all CPCs will have to be submitted via the NSVS portal from 12 September onwards.

Please note accessible forms will still be available by request to UKSV-ProfessionQueries@mod.gov.uk and further information about CPCs can be found [on our gov.uk pages](#).

If you have any questions or feedback regarding this new service, please contact UKSV-ServiceTeam@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

All holders of a valid clearance can access the CPC portal via NSVS.

<https://nsv.mod.uk/>

Users who have access to the RLI/ALI Secure Government Gateway can also access this service at the link below:

<https://www.nsvs.r.mil.uk/>

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[Ghana: call for bids for provision of mobile network services](#)

World news story

The British High Commission in Accra is currently accepting proposals for the provision of mobile network services (CPG/7930/2022).



Background

The British High Commission Accra is looking to secure the services of a contractor to provide mobile services. The works covered by this contract

comprise on the below scope of work.

Scope of Works

The Contractor will provide the mobile services as stated below:

1. Voice calls, SMS and data sim cards (202)

The British High Commission requires Mobile lines that should include:

- 100GHs monthly limit voice calls / messages
- 6GB monthly limit data
- flexible data bundles add on to monthly contract should data run out
- flexible adding and removing recurring data not part of contract for programmes/ projects

2. Data sim cards (127)

The British High Commission requires data only sim cards that will be used in routers and MiFis provided by the High Commission:

3. Monthly billing

The British High Commission requires itemised billing of each number (active and inactive accounts). This should be accompanied with the following:

- tax invoice
- PDF statement
- Excel format statement (a must)

All invoices and billing should be before the 7th of each month.

4. International roaming

The voice lines as documented in section A, must all have active international roaming upon request with restrictions or caps on voice calls and data.

5. Information relating to the mobile estate

Information should be readily available relating to the mobile estate, which must be provided to all suppliers appointed on the lot, should include the following:

- overall volume of connections, including a breakdown of voice only, data only or voice and data connections
- usage information, including as a minimum:
 - data consumption volumes for either individual data or shared data bundles
 - UK minutes, Short Message Service (SMS) and data
 - international minutes, SMS and data
 - roaming minutes, SMS and data

- out of bundle usage
- network coverage solutions

For further information on how to access the tender pack and also to submit your proposal, kindly contact Ms Thabang Mokoena on Thabang.Mokoena@fcdo.gov.uk. The deadline for proposal submissions is Thursday, 29 September 2022 at 12h00 GMT.

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[Excellent opportunity to get work experience with the Marine Management Organisation](#)

The Marine Management Organisation have been tasked with preparing the Channel Demersal NQS (non-quota species) FMP, which will stretch from Sussex to Cornwall and will cover a range of demersal species.

This FMP is one of 43 FMPs to be developed under the Joint Fisheries Statement to support a sustainable and profitable fishing industry. The Channel NQS FMP will be among the first of six frontrunner FMPs being developed, with an aim to publish the plans at the end of 2023.

The process is being evidence led and the first step is to scope out what we know and identify evidence gaps. We are looking for recently graduated students to gain some excellent experience by taking up an unpaid internship to work with the MMO on this exciting new area.

Successful applicants will be expected to undertake a targeted literature review/evidence gathering process for the following evidence questions:

- What management measures have been implemented previously for the species (exploring amongst these what has or hasn't worked and why).
- Biological distribution of the priority species.
- Biology of the priority species incl. Life history characteristics such as: fecundity, species resilience, vulnerability and size at sexual maturity.
- Associated food webs/forage fish.
- Define low/medium/high impacts of human activities and climate change for these species (going beyond gear/feature interaction to include additional environmental criteria).
- Dealing with sentience within fisheries – focusing on the newly designated status of cephalopods (the scope could expand to include

sentence in terrestrial harvest for comparison).

Species currently being looked at include: red (Chelidonichthys cuculus), tub (Chelidonichthys lucerna) and grey (Eutrigla gurnardus) gurnards; bib (Trisopterus luscus); john dory (Zeus faber); red mullet (Mullus surmuletus / Mullus barbatus); lemon sole (Microstomus kitt); brill (Scophthalmus rhombus); turbot (Scophthalmus maximus); lesser spotted dogfish (Scyliorhinus canicula); stary smoothhound (Mustelus asterias) and smoothhound (Mustelus mustelus); common (Alloteuthis subulata) and European squid (Loligo vulgaris); common (Sepia officinalis) and elegant (Sepia elegans) cuttlefish; and lastly, the common (Octopus vulgaris) and curled octopus (Eledone cirrhos). Exact species to be prioritised under the FMP will be determined through the evidence gathering and stakeholder engagement processes.

This is a rare opportunity to be involved in helping steer England's new approach to fisheries management. You will be expected to contribute either 15 hours a week for five to eight weeks or 30 hours a week for three to four weeks and we aim for work to commence at the end of September at the latest. The experience you gain here will be invaluable in terms of your employment prospects going forward.

If you are interested, we request that you submit the following to the addresses given below by midnight on Sunday 4th September:

1. We require a CV and a supportive reference from your dissertation supervisor or tutor with a focus on your research experience. Our minimum requirement is 70% or over in your dissertation and 65% or over in your degree.
2. You must also have evidence of undertaking a literature review related to a marine species or a fishery and include a page excerpt from your dissertation with your application.
3. Please submit a cover letter (1-2 pages) introducing yourself, outlining your topic(s) of interest, topical questions and approach to evidence gathering. Please provide your email and telephone/mobile number with the cover letter. These requirements

Successful applicants will be contacted directly following the sift of applications. Before undertaking any work, applicants will be provided a point of contact to help guide and steer the evidence gathering. An engagement plan, detailing: timeline, milestones, check-in and support sessions will be agreed between the applicant and their designated point of contact.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch through the submission email below.

Application submissions should be sent to fmp@marinemanagement.org.uk

Independent Member for the House of Lords Appointments Commission

Press release

The Prime Minister has today confirmed the appointment of Harry Mount as an Independent Member of the House of Lords Appointments Commission.



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Harry Mount has today been confirmed as the new Independent Member of the House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) from 11th September 2022.

The appointment follows a recent open campaign.

Harry Mount

Mr. Mount is a journalist and writer. Editor of the Oldie magazine and contributor to the Financial Times, Daily Telegraph, Spectator, Daily Mail and New York Times. He was a former media and libel barrister at Middle Temple and investment analyst.

Lord True, Minister of State at the Cabinet Office welcomed the new Member appointment, saying:

I would like to congratulate Harry Mount on his appointment as an Independent Member to the House of Lords Appointments Commission. Harry Mount brings a wealth of experience from his career, and has much to offer House of Lords Appointments Commission and I wish him the best in his role

Notes:

HOLAC has two main functions:

- to recommend individuals for appointment as non-party political life peers; and to vet nominations for life peers, including those nominated by the UK political parties, to ensure the highest standards of propriety.
- Independent Members are appointed for five year non-renewable terms. More information about HOLAC can be found on [their website](#).
- The role was widely advertised, including on the Public Appointments website, from 8th June and closed on 12th July.

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