

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).



UK Government

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.

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 sentience 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

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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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50 first dates for Salisbury's most eligible water voles

Salisbury's most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes have been moved to an exotic location and will meet 50 potential lifemates with hopes romance will happen.

But this is more 'Vole Island' than 'Love Island'. And instead of a sun-kissed location in Spain, a dozen water voles from Salisbury have been living on a farm in Ringwood for the past 5 months. They swapped city life for the country before construction started on the Salisbury River Park flood defence and regeneration scheme. Now everyone hopes they will find true love when they meet 50 new bachelors and bachelorettes that were bred in captivity.

The water vole population in Ringwood was severely affected by mink in the past. But with the mink population now in control, in time it is hoped the water voles will breed once they get past their territorial instincts.

Mike Porter of the Environment Agency said:

One of the Salisbury River Park's aims, aside from reducing flood risk and regeneration, is to improve the environment for biodiversity.

So it is very encouraging to see that spill over to this location where the voles are healthy and happy in their new forever home and, in time, will grow in numbers and spread afield.

'Release pens' are wooden cages that the water voles will live in until they get used to their new environment and explore

Water voles are a legally protected species and also Britain's fastest declining mammal. A small population was found during survey work for the Salisbury River Park scheme. The scheme will deliver long-term benefits through habitat improvements for city wildlife, including water voles. However, a small number had to be were moved prior to construction. The scheme is providing ideal habitat for water voles and it is expected that the works area will be colonised quite quickly by voles from neighbouring populations.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Flooding at Wiltshire Council, said:

One of our priorities is for Wiltshire's natural beauty and environment to be protected and maintained whilst improving the natural and built environment and enhancing the city flood defences.

The unique habitats, landscape and wildlife play a key part in the county's visitor economy and the wellbeing of our residents. The translocation of the voles was a vital part of the project to help maintain the local vole population in this part of the river. We look forward to seeing them around the site again in the future.

The Salisbury River Park project is a collaboration between the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council, Salisbury City Council and Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership. But moving water voles to another part of the Avon catchment, along with boosting their numbers, needed extra help and advice from Atkins, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and Derek Gow Consultancy.

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust has been working with the private landowner on this site to improve the habitat ready for the voles. These habitat improvements will also benefit a whole range of other water meadow species in the Avon Valley, including threatened wading birds and invertebrates.

Some of the water voles didn't need release pens and couldn't wait to dive into the nearest watercourse

Jim Girgis, associate ecologist at Atkins, said:

This translocation would enable the population to thrive in suitable habitat as well as aid in restoring key links between known populations in the Lower and Upper Avon.

This is a really important project in terms of supporting the indigenous population of water vole in this area, which bring great benefits to the local eco-system, and it's also another good example of ensuring the best possible outcome both for the scheme and sustainability of the local environment.

Water voles were carefully removed from their transport cages to their release pens

The Salisbury River Park is a £27 million transformational scheme to reduce flood risk to over 350 homes and businesses in Salisbury. It will also create 2 hectares of enhanced riverside habitat for the benefit of wildlife, remove obstructions to allow fish migration to continue upstream and create 13

hectares of high quality public open space. Another benefit will be enhanced foot and cycle paths that benefit residents and visitors.

Construction began in July 2022 and it is expected main construction works will be completed in spring 2024.

You can follow the project's progress at www.salisburyriverparkphase1.com.

[SLC is Preparing for Payment](#)

Following a busy Clearing period (and we continue to process those applications), our attention is now turning to payment as we enter September.

It's hard to believe summer is over and the return to university or college is just days away. Over the next few weeks, we anticipate paying over £2.4billion in Maintenance Loan funding to students and a further £2.8billion in Tuition Fees to higher education providers on their behalf. It's a key milestone for the Operations Team here at SLC, as we fulfil our role as enablers of opportunity and students start the new academic year with their funding in place.

With more than one million student applications processed and ready to pay at this point, we are in a really strong position for the start of the 22/23 academic year. Students can find out their application status by checking their online account. All that's then left to do is register for their course at their university or college.

This year, we have been focussed on improving the application experience for students and our commitment to improving the customer experience continues as we move into payment. Just as students can track the progress of their student finance application via their online account, they can also view their payment schedule online as well. And if students need more support, there is lots of helpful information on how to do this in our [online guide to getting your first payment](#).

We also have some excellent short films on our SFE You Tube channels – including the one below which is dedicated to payment. And students logging into their online accounts will notice that they now have access to a new 'common questions' area, which provides instant answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about payment.

[payment film](#)

We know students will have questions. In the first instance, they should always access their online account and check our guidance before calling us. Our customer communications and customer experience teams have been working hard to ensure that all these resources are as informative, intuitive and as

user-friendly as possible. But, our phonedlines are very busy just now and students may wait for an answer that is already in their online account. It is almost always the quickest way to get information they need and allows our contact centre team to help students with the most complex issues.

We would also recommend checking their online account to make sure their bank details are correct and that they have registered with their university or college – as funding can't be released until this has happened. Again there is more information available about this [online](#) and we are starting to email students, who will be receiving a payment, so that they know what to expect.

It's also important to note that not all students will receive their full entitlement straight away. If they [applied late](#), it may not be possible to fully process their application before term start. In these circumstances, SLC will award the Tuition Fee Loan and the minimum amount of Maintenance Loan before the start of the course, while we confirm household income and any other relevant details. Eligible students will get the remainder of their maintenance and any other funding entitlement as a top up payment as soon as possible once those details are confirmed.

Summer has gone by so quickly and as we enter September, we welcome the new academic year. We wish all students, starting or returning to university, good luck for the year ahead.

Chris

Students can follow Student Finance England on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [You Tube](#) for all the latest student finance information.