

New Deputy Government Actuary

News story

The new Deputy Government Actuary has been named as Matt Gurden. His most recent role was as a GAD Actuarial Director. The appointment followed an open competition.



The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has announced that the new Deputy Government Actuary has been named as Matt Gurden. The appointment followed an open competition for the role.

The Government Actuary Martin Clarke said: "Matt Gurden has an impressive track record of actuarial consulting in both the private and public sectors across a very broad range of areas.

"I congratulate him on this appointment, and I look forward to working closely with him in providing professional and business leadership to the Government Actuary's Department and in developing the valuable contribution that actuaries make within the public sector."

Management and oversight

Matt's most recent role was as the GAD Actuarial Director for Clients, Growth and Development. He is a member of the Management Board and Executive.

He provides Management Board oversight for 2 GAD teams – Specialist Actuarial and the Analytical Solutions Team. He is also the chair of the Thought Leadership Oversight Group.

New role

Matt Gurden said: "I am delighted to be named as the new Deputy Government Actuary. It's an exciting time to be part of GAD as we expand our client offer across the public sector.

"My role as Actuarial Director means I've had the opportunity to take the strategic view of the work we undertake to support our clients. GAD's areas

of expertise continue to include insurance, investment, data science, modelling and quality assurance, as well as pensions and social security.”

Matt joined GAD in 2011 after working in a variety of roles in several private sector actuarial consultancies.

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[21 Argentines will study in the UK with Chevening scholarships](#)

World news story

The British Ambassador welcomed at her Residence the group of young Argentines who were awarded Chevening scholarships.



The group of 2022/2023 Chevening scholars with HMA Kirsty Hayes

On Tuesday 23 August, the Ambassador Kirsty Hayes bid farewell to the 21 Argentine scholarship holders who will leave for the UK to do their master's studies for a year, wishing them a safe and successful trip.

In her speech, the Ambassador congratulated the scholars and appreciated the diversity of courses and universities chosen by the young students who will spend a year in the United Kingdom.

The Chevening scholarships allow outstanding young leaders to carry out postgraduate studies at a British university of their choice with all the expenses covered.

Applications to study during 2023-2024 are open from 2 August to 1 November 2022. Apply today at <https://www.chevening.org/apply>.

Complete list of 2022/2023 scholars

1. Aguilera, Manuel – MPA Innovation, Public Policy and Public Value – University College London
2. Benavidez Lo Bello, Lucía Mariel – MSc Human Rights and Politics – London School of Economics and Political Science
3. Bergia, Agostina – MPP Public Policy – University of Oxford
4. Bonelli, Bárbara – MSc in Urban Development Planning – University College London
5. Brizuela, Agustina – MPA Innovation, Public Policy and Public Value – University College London
6. Bulat, Santiago – MSc Development Economics -University of Sussex
7. Caprarulo, Joaquín – LLM Master of Laws – London School of Economics and Political Science
8. Casalia, Joaquín – LLM Master of Laws – London School of Economics and Political Science
9. Colli, Kevin Emilio – MSc Leadership for Sustainable Rural Development – Queen’s University Belfast
10. Fourcade, Azul – MA Anthropology of Development and Social Transformation – University of Sussex
11. González, Guadalupe Andrea – MSc Social Data Science – University of Essex
12. Guerrero, Gonzalo – LLM Master of Laws – London School of Economics and Political Science
13. Itoiz, Kevin – MA Governance, Development and Public Policy – University of Sussex
14. Modernel, Jonathan Alexander – MSc Social Research Methods – London School of Economics and Political Science
15. Moreno, Teófilo – MA Governance, Development and Public Policy – University of Sussex
16. Novillo Funes, Sofía – MSc Gender (Sexuality) – London School of Economics and Political Science
17. Pesce, Martina – MSc Public Health for Development – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
18. Piazza, Matías Nicolás – MSc The Political Economy of Emerging Markets – King’s College London
19. Semenzato, Rosario – MSc Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship – London School of Economics and Political Science
20. Steuermann Waibsnider, Ezequiel Natan – LLM Master of Laws – London School of Economics and Political Science
21. Walsh Astuena, Agustina Malena – MSc Global Strategy & Sustainability – University of Edinburgh

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1.1 million families claiming tax credits to receive first Cost of Living Payment from 2 September

This £326 government payment will be paid automatically into eligible tax credit-only customers' bank accounts between 2 and 7 September 2022. The first HMRC payments will total around £360 million.

Nadhim Zahawi, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said:

I know people are really concerned by rising prices so I'm glad that over a million more low earners will shortly receive their first Cost of Living Payment. We are also preparing options for further support so the new Prime Minister can hit the ground running.

Alongside £400 off most people's energy bills, tax cuts and the Household Support Fund, these direct payments are a very important part of our £37 billion package of help for households, which is targeted at those who need it most.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary, said:

This first Cost of Living Payment will provide vital financial support for eligible tax credit-only claimants across the UK. A second payment will be made to eligible customers from the winter.

The money will be paid automatically into bank accounts, so people don't need to do anything to get this extra help.

These latest payments mean that more than eight million eligible households in receipt of a means-tested benefit will have received the first of two automatic Cost of Living payments of £326 from 14 July. The second means-tested payment of £324 will be issued later this year – from the autumn for Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefit claimants, and from the winter for tax credit-only customers.

Tax credit claimants who also receive benefits from the DWP will have already received their first Cost of Living Payment from July 2022.

The Cost of Living payments from the government are part of a £37 billion

package of support, which will see millions of low-income households receive at least £1,200 this year to help cover rising costs.

As well as the Cost of Living Payment, other government support includes:

- £400 discount from the government to help with the cost of energy bills from October onwards
- £150 council tax rebate for council tax bands A-D in England
- £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment that will be paid alongside Winter Fuel Payments
- £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment from 20 September for those receiving an eligible UK disability benefit

This is all in addition to changes to the Universal Credit taper rate and work allowances worth £1,000 a year on average for 1.7 million working claimants; a rise in the National Living Wage to £9.50 an hour; and a tax cut for around 30 million workers through a rise in National Insurance contribution thresholds.

The government is offering [help for households](#). Customers should check GOV.UK to find out what cost of living support they could be eligible for.

How payments will be made, and how to identify them

There will be a specific identifier when the first payment from HMRC arrives in customers' bank accounts.

The payment reference will be: 'CL'; followed by the customer's National Insurance number (of two letters, six numbers, one letter); followed by '0001AX'.

For example, if the National Insurance number is AB123456C, the payment reference would appear as 'CLAB123456C0001AX'.

For joint claimants, where one claimant receives Working Tax Credit and the other claimant receives Child Tax Credit, payments will be made into the same bank account as the Child Tax Credit.

Customers do not need to apply for this payment. If customers are eligible through receiving tax credits only, HMRC will make the Cost of Living Payment automatically into the bank account where claimants already receive their tax credits. Customers might find that their payment is delayed if they have recently closed the bank account their tax credits are usually paid into.

If customers have not let HMRC know that their bank account has changed, HMRC will pay the money into their old bank account, meaning the payment will be rejected. If this happens, HMRC will follow this up by letter to the customer, letting them know that we need updated bank details.

Payments schedule

The [latest payment schedule information](#) will be updated on 26 August to show that the first tax credit payments will be made between 2 and 7 September.

Tax credit-only customers, who will receive the first Cost of Living Payment in September 2022, must have been entitled, or later found to be entitled, to a payment, or an annual award of at least £26, of tax credits for any day in the period 26 April 2022 to 25 May 2022.

A second Cost of Living Payment will be made to eligible tax credit-only customers from winter 2022. [Payment schedule information](#) will be updated with more specific payment dates in due course.

Contact HMRC

If customers believe they are eligible but have not received a payment between the published payment dates, they should wait until 16 September at the earliest to contact us, to allow time for their payment to be processed. We won't be able to provide customers with any further information before this date.

You can find phone numbers, and other ways to [contact HMRC about tax credits on GOV.UK](#).

Background

Cost of Living payments were announced in May 2022.

Details of DWP and HMRC payments were publicised in [June](#), [July](#) and [August](#) 2022.

Protect yourself from scams

Beware of scams targeting Cost of Living payments. If someone contacts you about Cost of Living payments saying they are from HMRC, it might be a scam.

You don't need to apply for this payment. We will never ask for your bank details by SMS or email. Don't let yourself be rushed.

Check GOV.UK to:

[British Embassy San Jose: call for bids 2022/2023](#)

World news story

The British Embassy in San Jose is now accepting project proposals for the period of 1 October 2022 to 28 February 2023.



UK Government

Thematic areas

The British Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, with responsibility for Nicaragua, is aiming to support short-term interventions valued at up to US\$30,000 that focus on promoting and protecting human rights in Nicaragua.

We welcome proposals from legally constituted non-governmental, non-profit, charity and multilateral organisations. Unfortunately, we are unable to consider project proposals submitted by companies or for-profit organisations.

Proposals may cover any of the following areas of work:

- Modern Slavery
- Media Freedom
- Promotion of Human Rights

Kindly note that, under this programme, we are unable to cover projects where the main focus is on gender and equalities issues like LGBTI+ rights, women's rights and rights of persons with disabilities.

We are looking for projects that deliver real, measurable results in support of the abovementioned priority areas in Nicaragua and are particularly interested in proposals aimed at the following objectives:

- supporting the rights of marginalised groups, including through the prevention of human rights violations and strengthening of protections

- for groups such as women and girls, indigenous communities and migrants;
- supporting media freedom, including strengthening of responsible journalism and improving the enabling environment in which freedom of the press is protected and respected.

Funding exceptions

Please be aware that project funding cannot be used to finance the following:

- Cash cards, money transfers or seed capital;
- Purchase of groceries and household supplies;
- Purchase or maintenance of IT or capital equipment;
- Communications-related services, such as communications strategies, campaigns, advertisements (for example, in newspapers or on social media), website creation and/or maintenance, video production. If in doubt, please contact the Embassy for clarification.

Project bid guidance

- Projects will be funded for the period running from 1 October 2022 to 28 February 2023, with no expectation of continued funding beyond this period;
- Project bids should demonstrate 50% spend by 15 December 2022 and 100% spend by 28 February 2023;
- Proposals must be submitted in United States Dollars (USD) currency;
- Minimum project budget limit: \$5,000;
- Maximum project budget limit: \$30,000.

Project bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with the above-mentioned thematic priorities and outcomes;
- Outcomes are achievable within the funding period (1 October 2022 to 28 February 2023);
- Project design includes clear monitoring and evaluation procedures, as well as risk and financial accountability procedures;
- Evidence of sustainability – demonstrating that project benefits continue after the funding ends;
- Alignment with the Paris Agreement, demonstrating that a climate and environmental risk and impact evaluation was done and no environmental harm will be done;
- The organisation's safeguarding policies ensure protection of beneficiaries, tackle discrimination and ensure equality of opportunity for those with protected characteristics;
- Overall value for money;
- Administration costs should not exceed 10% of the total project budget.

Key dates

- 19 September 2022 (midnight): Deadline for receipt of project proposals;
- 30 September 2022: Implementers informed of bidding round outcome;
- 1 October 2022 and onwards: Projects begin;
- 15 December 2022: Projects to achieve 50% implementation and spend;
- 28 February 2023: Projects to complete all activities, achieve 100% spend and submit draft project completion report.

Bidding process

- Proposals must be submitted in English using the relevant Project proposal form;
- Proposal Form (up to US\$10K or above US\$10K) and Activity Based Budget templates are provided below;
- All proposals must be received by midnight on 19 September 2022 (Central American time). Late proposals will not be considered;
- Proposals must be submitted to Denise.Lewis@fcdo.gov.uk with the subject line "Call for bids 2022/2023 – Organisation name – Project Title" and include a point of contact in the body of the email;
- Successful bidders will be notified by 30 September 2022.

Additional information and documentation

All implementers will be expected to sign a standard FCDO contract or grant agreement with the Embassy. The terms of the contract or agreement are not negotiable.

As all projects are expected to have achieved 50% spend by 15 December 2022, Activity Based Budgets must reflect this requirement.

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[PM remarks at joint press conference with President Zelenskyy in Kyiv: 24 August 2022](#)

Thank you very much Volodymyr and thank you to the people of Ukraine for the incredible honour that you have done me which is a recognition of the efforts of the UK.

When you rang me at 4 in the morning on that grim day in February and you told me the news that we had been dreading that Putin had been so insane as

to invade a sovereign European country,

I told you then that we were shoulder to shoulder with you and that is as true today as it was in that horrific moment.

And I can also tell you that when we met in the high security room in Downing Street to try to understand what was happening, we were filled with foreboding.

We just did not see how this innocent and beautiful country could repel an attack by more than 100 Battalion Tactical Groups, when the suffering and the casualties would be so immense. But you did.

And like one of those indomitable Ukrainian boxers for which this country is justly famous,

you came off the ropes and you hit him with an upper-cut that sent Putin's armies reeling from Kyiv and then a hook to drive them from Kharkiv,

And it became ever clearer to the world that he had fatally underestimated the grit, the will, and above all the price that you were willing to pay to defend the country you love.

And I salute the heroic dead, I salute the families of the bereaved and the injured,

the emergency services who have been called time after time to the scenes of Putin's atrocities.

I salute the bravery of the ordinary people of Ukraine who have just got on with their lives.

The teachers, the students, the children.

In our country today young people are getting their grades for their exams and of course it has been a tough time for them,

because we've all had to cope with the pandemic.

But I ask them all to think of the children of Ukraine,

two thirds of whom have been driven from their homes, two thirds,

and who have seen nearly a fifth of their schools destroyed or damaged.

And yet working by candlelight or in makeshift classrooms, 7,500 of them have achieved the highest possible grades.

And it is our collective mission to ensure those brilliant students grow up to use their qualifications to achieve their dreams in a peaceful, prosperous and independent Ukraine.

And I believe they will, because out of the ashes of your towns and cities, out of the monstrous scars left by Putin's missiles, something beautiful is

blooming, a flower that the whole world can see and admire and that is the unconquerable will of the Ukrainians to resist.

And that was what Putin failed to understand.

He simply had no idea how much Ukrainians love this extraordinary country with its rich black soil and magical golden domes,

how much they treasure the life, the bustle and the freedom and the Eurovision song contest winning cultural dynamism of Ukraine.

And just as he fatally underestimated Ukraine, he also underestimated the price the whole world was willing to pay to support Ukraine.

We have and we well and even though we must accept after six months of war the price is indeed a high price.

And I have come from a United Kingdom where we are battling inflation that is being driven by the spike in energy prices that is caused by Putin's war.

And we face strikes being driven by trade union's bosses who have the ruinous belief that the best way to tackle soaring energy prices is with ever higher wages when that is simply to pour petrol on the flames

and of course we are doing everything we can to deal with the pressures people face on their cost of living and to help people through the difficult months ahead.

And that is why it is so important for you to know now that we in Britain have the strength and the patience to get through these economic difficulties that have been so recklessly driven and exacerbated by the folly and malevolence of one man, Vladimir Putin.

And like every other European country we are of course working to end our dependence on Russian hydrocarbons and we are building those new nuclear power stations, one a year rather than one every ten years, tens of gigawatts of new wind farms and I can tell you that we in the UK will not for one second give in to Putin's economic blackmail because the people of my country can see with complete clarity what is at stake in Ukraine today.

Yes of course, it is about you and your right to live in peace and freedom and frankly that on its own is enough,

but it is also about all of us, all of us who believe in the principles of freedom and democracy and here today now in Ukraine I believe that history is at a turning point and after decades in which democracy has been on the defensive, on the back foot, we have an opportunity to join you in saying no to tyranny, saying no to those who would stifle Ukrainian liberty and independence and we will. And that is why Ukraine will win.

And we also know that if we are paying in our energy bills for the evils of Vladimir Putin, the people of Ukraine are paying for it in their blood and that is why we know that we must stay the course because if Putin were to

succeed, then no country on Russia's perimeter would be safe and if Putin succeeds it would be a green light to every autocrat in the world, a signal that that borders can be changed by force and that is why the British House of Commons, all parties, stood as one, to applaud Volodymyr Zelenskyy and to support the military, diplomatic and economic support that we are giving to Ukraine.

And I'm proud that we have already supplied more arms than any other European country, including 6,900 anti tank missiles, 5000 of the NLAWs, 120 armoured vehicles, Starstreak anti aircraft missiles, anti-ship missiles and now the MLRS

And today I can tell you that more artillery and more ammunition is on its way and 2000 UAVs

and we are training 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers, alongside our allies, and only the other day I was at Catterick in Yorkshire and I met 400 of your recruits that we are helping to train

and these were people from all walks of life, people who weren't soldiers, who had never been to battle before. But the grim reality was that in just a few weeks from now they are heading to that frontline.

And when I listened to their cheerfulness and their courage, I knew Ukraine will win.

And in offering this kind of training and equipment,

I also want to applaud our friends around the world, in the EU, the Poles, the Baltic countries, the Dutch, the Czechs, the French, the Germans, the Italians, they've been steadfast.

But at this juncture it would be right to pay a special tribute to the outstanding global leadership of the United States of America,

And let me be clear, I believe this commitment by the United States of \$40 billion in military support, I think \$59 billion all told, has been indispensable to Ukrainian success

and I thank Joe Biden and his team for what he is doing and to all our friends I simply say this: we must keep going. WE must show that we have the same strategic endurance as the people of Ukraine.

We know that the coming winter will be tough, and that Putin will manipulate Russian energy supplies to try to torment households across Europe

and our first test as friends of Ukraine will be to face down and endure that pressure – to help consumers but also to build up our own supplies

and I believe that as we come through this winter, our position will strengthen and with every week that goes by Putin's position will weaken. And that's why now we must continue and intensify our support for Ukraine. The HIMARs the MLRS and all the systems that are proving so effective in

Ukrainian hands.

We cannot afford for one moment to relax the sanctions on Putin, and we must keep up the financial and economic support for Ukraine

and every day around the world we must fight Putin's lies – because it is his war that is pushing up the price of food and oil and gas, not western sanctions

and we must fight any creeping attempt to normalise relations with Putin because it is becoming ever clearer that thanks to the sacrifices of the people of Ukraine, the vaunted Russian offensive in Donbas is failing and therefore this is exactly the moment for your friends to help you strike the Russians just as they begin to wobble.

We know that Putin's troops are tiring, that his losses are colossal, that his supply lines are vulnerable.

We can see how tiny his recent advances have become, and how huge the cost in Russian blood and treasure and tragically in the tears of Russian mothers.

And we also know that this is not the time to advance some flimsy plan for negotiation with someone who is simply not interested.

You can't negotiate with a bear while it's eating your leg, you can't negotiate with a street robber who has you pinned to the floor and we don't need to worry about humiliating Putin any more than we would need to worry about humiliating the bear or the robber.

All that matters today is restoring and preserving the sovereign integrity of Ukraine.

And on this anniversary, let us remember that glorious day 31 years ago when on an 84 per cent turnout 92 per cent supported independence.

And this is now a war for that independence and history teaches us that when a country has a language, an identity, a pride, a love of its traditions, a patriotic feeling that simply grows with every month and year that passes,

and when a country of that kind is engaged in a war for its very existence, my friends, that war is only going to end one way.

Ukraine will win,

and Britain will be by your side.

You have reminded us of values that the world thought it had forgotten,

you have reminded us that freedom and democracy are worth fighting for.

I'm proud to count myself a friend of Ukraine, I thank you for the honour that you've done me today,

and you can count on me and my country in the years ahead.