

[Ofsted statement on new Ofqual board committee](#)

News story

Amanda Spielman will chair a new board committee at Ofqual until the end of 2020.



It has been [announced](#) that Amanda Spielman is to chair a new board committee at Ofqual that will oversee much of the work of the exam regulator to the end of the year.

These arrangements are part of a package of measures to ensure that Ofqual has the extra capacity, support and oversight it needs both to tackle the remaining issues from this year's awarding process and to ensure that next year's arrangements command public confidence.

Amanda will remain in her role as HMCI at Ofsted during this period. At this time, Ofsted's routine inspection work remains suspended, but inspectors will be visiting schools and colleges through the autumn to gauge how the education system is getting back up to speed after the lockdown. Inspectors will also continue to regulate social care and early years providers.

Published 25 August 2020

[Ofqual announces interim leadership arrangements](#)

News story

The Ofqual Board has agreed interim leadership arrangements with Ofsted to support the ongoing work on this summer's GCSE, A level and vocational qualifications.



The Ofqual Board has agreed temporary support arrangements with Ofsted to support the ongoing work on this summer's GCSE, A level and vocational qualifications, including appeals and autumn exams, and preparations for next year's exam season.

The Chief Regulator, Sally Collier, has decided that the next stage of the awarding process would be better overseen by new leadership. The Ofqual Board supports Sally in this decision, and thanks her for her leadership and service over the past 4 years, which has included overseeing the successful introduction of an entirely new set of GCSEs and A levels, and a new grading system.

As a result, the Ofqual Board has asked Dame Glenys Stacey to assume a temporary leadership role as acting Chief Regulator until December 2020, having previously served as Chief Regulator between 2011 and 2016. She will be supported by a new committee of the Ofqual Board, which will include one or more of the current Ofsted Board members. This new committee will be chaired by Amanda Spielman and will oversee the work of Ofqual to the end of the year. Roger Taylor remains Ofqual Chair.

If required, Ofsted will also provide additional staff to support Ofqual during the autumn, as they have been supporting other government departments through the summer.

Taken together these arrangements will ensure that Ofqual has the extra capacity, support and oversight it needs both to tackle the remaining issues from this year's awarding process and to ensure that next year's arrangements command public confidence.

Published 25 August 2020

Appointment to the Supreme Court: 25 August 2020

Press release

The Queen has approved the appointment of Lord Justice Stephens to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom as a Justice.



Lord Justice Stephens will join the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom as a Justice on 1 October 2020, it was announced today.

Her Majesty The Queen made the appointment on the advice of the Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor, following the recommendations of an independent selection commission.

Lord Reed, President of the Supreme Court, today welcomed the appointments saying:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the announcement of Lord Justice Stephens's appointment as a Justice of the UK Supreme Court. We look forward to his making a significant contribution to the work of the Court and the development of the law, drawing on the extensive experience which he has gained from a distinguished judicial career.

This appointment will follow the retirement of Lord Kerr, on 30 September 2020.

Lord Justice Stephens

Sir Ben Stephens was educated at Manchester University. He was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 1977, the Bar of England and Wales in July 1978 and to the Bar of Ireland in 1996. He took Silk in 1996. He was a senior member of the Government Civil Panel of Counsel from 2004 to January 2007.

He held a number of positions at the Bar including Vice Chairman of the

Executive Council of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland and Vice Chairman of the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland. He was appointed as a High Court Judge in Northern Ireland in 2007. He was assigned to the Family Division from 2008 and to the Queen's Bench Division from 2014. He was Hague Convention Liaison judge for international cases involving child abduction between 2008 and 2014. He was a judge of the Tax and Chancery Chamber of the Upper Tribunal 2013 to 2017 and he is Chairman of the Council of Law Reporting for Northern Ireland.

Since June 2013 to date he has been a Commissioner in the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission first as a High Court Judge and then as a Lord Justice of Appeal. He was appointed Senior Lord Justice of Appeal in September 2017.

A detailed description of the appointments process for Justices is available on the Supreme Court website via the following link:

Published 25 August 2020

[Fisheries Minister meets fishing and seafood community in Tenby](#)

Fisheries Minister Victoria Prentis today (Tuesday 25 August) visited Tenby, where she met representatives from the fisheries and seafood sector to learn first-hand about the experiences of this resilient coastal community.

The visit, which took place ahead of the second reading of the landmark [Fisheries Bill](#) in September, provided the opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion on important sectors of the Welsh fishing industry, such as aquaculture and inshore fisheries, with key stakeholders including Jon Parker, Chair of the Seafish Processing and Importers Panel, and Chair of the [Seafish Wales Advisory Committee](#); and Emma Wootton, [Seafish](#) Manager for Wales.

Minister Prentis met with Harbour Master, Chris Salisbury, and local fishermen to discuss safety at sea – an important issue for all UK fishing communities – and was shown some of the most vital species to the industry, including lobster, crab, whelk, sea bass, scallops and locally-grown oysters.

The Minister also met Dr. Andy Woolmer, Director of the newly established trade body Aquaculture Industry Wales; and heard from Jim Evans from the [Welsh Fishermen's Association](#), who led a discussion on the Welsh catching sector, which employs about 1,200 people and has recently faced challenges posed by the global coronavirus pandemic.

The Fisheries Minister reaffirmed her commitment to supporting all parts of the UK in overcoming the hardship brought by the pandemic, and to taking full advantage of the opportunities available to the seafood and fisheries sectors as we leave the outdated Common Fisheries Policy.

Through the flagship Fisheries Bill, Wales and the other Devolved Administrations will see a significant increase in their decision-making powers in fisheries, and for protecting the precious marine environment. This includes new powers for Welsh Ministers to bring forward regulations to manage fishing activity across Welsh waters.

Fisheries Minister Victoria Prentis said:

Wales has an extraordinary wealth of seafood species and fisheries expertise, and I am thankful for witnessing first-hand the resilience of the fishing community in Tenby.

The Fisheries Bill will give us the powers to protect our precious fish stocks while enabling our seafood sector to thrive, and as we establish new relationships with the EU and other coastal States I am confident that there is a thriving future for fishermen and women in this country.

Jon Parker, Seafish Panel and Wales Committee Chair, said:

We hope that the Minister's visit to Wales has been both valuable and insightful discussing the range of activity we have progressing within the sector.

From seafood culture to maritime tradition, our coastal community has so much to offer to Wales and the UK, and as Britain approaches a new turning point, we look forward to collaborating more closely with the UK Government to share our local knowledge and expertise, and play our part in building a prosperous future for the seafood, aquaculture and fisheries industries.

Jim Evans, Welsh Fishermen's Association – Cymdeithas Pysgotwyr Cymru, said:

As the UK rapidly approaches the end of Transition Period, I was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the key priorities of the catching sector in Wales.

Welsh fishermen would welcome a Fisheries Bill that provides a

thriving and sustainable future for Welsh fishing, aquaculture and seafood businesses, which in turn would support coastal communities throughout Wales.

The UK Government is working closely with the Welsh Government, as well as the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, to develop a new UK Framework that delivers for the whole of the UK and respects the devolution settlements.

[The Fisheries Bill](#) passed through the House of Lords in July, with second reading in the House of Commons scheduled for 1 September 2020.

£8m programme to boost pupil and teacher wellbeing

Schools and colleges will benefit from a new multi-million training programme run by mental health experts, to help improve how they respond to the emotional impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their students and staff.

Ahead of pupils returning to school and college in September, the Government has announced the scheme will be backed by £8 million to launch the programme, which will provide schools and colleges all over England with the knowledge and access to resources they need to support children and young people, teachers and parents.

The autumn term will be the first time many pupils have been with their classmates or colleagues since schools closed to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Wellbeing for Education Return programme starting in September – will support staff working in schools and colleges to respond to the additional pressures some children and young people may be feeling as a direct result of the pandemic, as well as to any emotional response they or their teachers may still be experiencing from bereavement, stress, trauma or anxiety over the past months.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

It is a national priority to ensure all children are back in their classrooms in September, because that is the best place for them to be for their education, development and wellbeing. Young people are looking forward to getting back to school or college and being reunited with their friends and teachers, and there is a growing confidence among parents about their children returning.

But this pandemic has impacted people in different ways, particularly young people dealing with the disruption of the last few months but also on our dedicated teachers and education staff, who have responded heroically to the challenges.

By investing in this tailored training programme, we can help schools and colleges to support their pupils effectively, enabling them to have sensitive and open conversations with pupils.

Wellbeing for Education Return has been created with input from health partners, mental health experts, local authorities, and schools and colleges. Part of the funding will be used to recruit local experts to deliver the training programme to nominated staff in schools and colleges, and provide advice to school leaders through to March 2021.

Children's Minister Vicky Ford said:

It is only natural that some children and young people – just like many adults – may still be feeling anxious or sad as a result of coronavirus, especially those who have been away from the classroom for so long.

We've provided webinars, online resources and training modules for teachers ahead of the new term to help them address mental health and wellbeing issues among children and young people as they return to school in September. Now, on top of this unprecedented package of support we are going further by launching this new scheme, backed by £8 million, to bring in additional expert advice to schools and colleges from trained professionals.

There is no one simple solution to solving mental ill health, but by providing this wide range of support we are adding to the wealth of resources available – building on millions the Government has already invested in mental health charities to support adults and children affected by the pandemic.

Mental Health Minister Nadine Dorries said:

This pandemic has had huge consequences for us all. Children, parents, teachers and school staff have had their lives turned upside down and it's important we recognise the effect this can have on mental wellbeing.

That is exactly why we are ensuring the right support is in place for when school returns this September.

This scheme will help empower staff and parents to spot the signs when children are struggling and enable them to offer emotional support, whether they are dealing with bereavement, stress, trauma

or other anxieties triggered by recent events.

The training will be offered to every school and college in England to help support pupil and student wellbeing, resilience and recovery in the context of Covid-19 and to prevent longer-term mental health problems developing, as well as helping to manage and support those who have pre-existing difficulties that may have been exacerbated by coronavirus. Nominated staff will receive the training through interactive webinars, which can then be shared more widely within their school or college. All training materials will also be made available directly to staff to use,

The nationally-developed training programme recognises that teachers and other school and college staff may need additional support to be able to understand the range of reactions young people may have as they return to the classroom and get back on track. It will help give them the confidence to support pupils, their parents, carers and their own colleagues, and know how and where to access appropriate specialist support where needed.

In the weeks leading up to the summer holidays up to 1.6 million children returned to school. The Government is clear that being in the classroom is the best place for every young person's education and wellbeing and decisions are being guided at every stage by the scientific and medical advice. Detailed guidance sets out the protective measures schools and colleges should put in place ahead of the new term.

The new programme follows extensive support from the Government, not just over the pandemic but since the publication of the Green Paper on children and young people's mental health services. It follows a 'virtual visit' on Thursday 13 August by Minister Ford to one of the pilot sites involved in extending mental health trials for children entering care, to discuss the work they are doing as a result of the Green Paper measures and the improvements they have seen in mental health assessments for children entering care.

It builds on a series of online resources published by the Department for Education in June, designed by health and education experts for schools and colleges to boost mental health support for staff and pupils. In partnership with various charities, videos, webinars and teaching materials, these are designed to help foster conversations about mental health and reassure many young people who are worried about the impact of the virus on their lives. They also focus on helping hundreds of schools and colleges to support their pupils to build relationships, boost resilience, and continue to tackle bullying both in person and online.

It adds to the £9.2 million of Government funding for mental health charities to help families and children during the pandemic, helping them expand and reach those most in need.

Paul Whiteman, General Secretary of the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT), said:

NAHT welcomes this investment in training to support mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges. School leaders are deeply concerned about the impact the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown may have had on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. We want to ensure that that all pupils and staff are supported as they return in September, including those for whom the impact of the coronavirus pandemic has created more serious levels of concern.

Professor Peter Fonagy, Chief Executive of the Anna Freud Centre, said:

This new school year may be the toughest that teachers and pupils will have ever faced. Deprived and marginalised children and young people with pre-existing conditions are likely to be the worst affected by the fallout of the pandemic. Bringing together expertise from mental health and education in this programme is both necessary and welcome.

Ensuring that every teacher and school and college leader has the support they need to respond to their pupils' mental health and wellbeing needs is the single most important task we have on our hands in education. At the Anna Freud Centre we are proud to be playing a key role in contributing to this support.

Notes to editor

- The Department of Health and Social Care announced £5 million of additional funding for MIND and the Mental Health Consortia Alliance to be allocated to national and local mental health organisations. This will enable them to fund services for people struggling with their mental wellbeing during this time.
- The Government is also providing a further £4.2 million to support mental health charities, including charities like Young Minds and Place 2 Be, which specifically support the mental health of children and young people. This is part of the Government's UK-wide £750 million package of support for the voluntary sector announced in April.
- NHS mental health services have remained open, and our community, talking therapies and children and young people's services have deployed digital tools to connect with people and provide ongoing support. Mental health services are expected to liaise with local partners to ensure referral routes are understood, particularly where children and young people are not at school.
- Public Health England have published [guidance](#) for parents and carers on

supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people during the Covid-19 outbreak.

- This Government remains committed to longer term plans to improve mental health support, which we have adjusted in light of the pandemic, including adapting existing Mental Health Support Teams and plans for establishing more teams. Government is continuing to invest in specialist NHS services, and will take forward training for senior mental health leads in schools and colleges, after reviewing the best way to train those leads building on this new initiative.
- Wellbeing for Education Return is a joint initiative from the Department for Education, Department of Health and Social Care, Health Education England, NHS England and Public Health England. It is being developed by MindEd, the e-learning platform, and delivered by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families with input from mental health and education experts, local authorities, the voluntary sector and school and college leaders. The funding will be used to appoint and train local experts to adapt and provide training and resources to nominated staff in all state-funded schools and further education settings in England; and provide advice and support through to March 2021.