

New recruitment campaign for Windrush independent adviser

News story

Search is on for independent person to advise on Windrush Compensation Scheme.



A new recruitment campaign has been launched for an independent adviser to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The Home Office has committed to right the wrongs experienced by members of the Windrush generation who faced difficulties establishing their lawful status in the UK.

The government has put in place a series of measures to support members of the Windrush generation and their families, including the Windrush Compensation Scheme. The Scheme, launched in April 2019, is intended to compensate individuals for the losses and impacts they suffered because they were unable to demonstrate their lawful status in the UK.

The department is now seeking to appoint a permanent independent person to provide oversight and reassurance on the Windrush Compensation Scheme, and report to the Home Secretary on its operation, policy and effectiveness.

The independent person will:

- lead and participate in a range of outreach work and engagement sessions as part of the Home Office's work with stakeholders and community groups
- ensure that the Home Office is proactive in seeking and encouraging individuals to apply to the Windrush Compensation Scheme
- play an integral role in the governance structure of the Windrush Compensation Scheme, including sitting on the Windrush Cross-Government

Working Group and Windrush Compensation Scheme Oversight Board

- provide independent reports on delivery of the Scheme, scrutinising its performance, measuring how well it is achieving its objectives and providing recommendations. These reports will go directly to the Home Secretary.

The government response to the Windrush Compensation consultation, published in 2019, included a commitment to appoint a permanent independent person to advise the Home Secretary.

The recruitment has been launched today (August 25) and will close September 21. The appointment will initially run to April 2023.

Details of the of the post and how to apply can be found on [HM Government Public Appointments](#).

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[Veterans UK looking for new ways to help ease the pressure on the National Health Service and continue processing claims safely](#)

News story

Pilot Scheme launched to change the way Veterans UK gather medical evidence for War Pensions Scheme claims and reviews.



The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, has brought about many changes to how we

work, particularly to how we gather evidence from organisations who have also had to adapt to new ways of working. We have had to think about how best we can still obtain all the relevant medical information with the least added pressure for the NHS, and how to overcome the suspension of face to face compensation scheme medical board examinations.

Veterans UK won't be issuing requests for medical board examinations or Hospital Case notes. Instead, we will be issuing a Primary Care Factual report and supplementary self-assessment form directly to the claimant. A letter will explain everything and provide instructions for the claimant to follow, it will include information on how to get help completing the Self-Assessment Form, if needed.

The Primary Care Factual Report has been slightly redesigned for completion by either the General Practitioner or surgery practice manager. They should be able to complete the relevant sections using treatment notes held on their records, although in a small number of cases the GP may ask the claimant to attend the surgery prior to completion of the form. We are asking claimants to return this form to Veterans UK along with the Self-Assessment Form and any other documents related to their condition(s).

The Self-Assessment Form completed by the claimant, will provide our Medical Adviser with information that will inform their view on the entitlement and level of assessment under the scheme.

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[Charity regulator disqualifies individual as trustee over death threats and incitements to murder](#)

A former trustee of [Muslim Foundation UK](#) has been banned from serving as a charity trustee or holding a senior function in any charity in England and Wales for 10 years. Pir Afzal Qadri praised the murder of a Pakistani politician, called for violent uprisings against the Pakistani government, and issued 'edicts of death' against judges in the country.

The Charity Commission, the regulator of charities in England and Wales, issued a disqualification order against the former trustee last August, as part of a regulatory case involving the charity, finding that his comments were contrary to fundamental British values, including the rule of law and Article 2 (right to life) of the Human Rights Act 1998. Following the disqualification, the Commission conducted a compliance visit which identified serious regulatory concerns regarding the governance and

administration of the charity. The statutory inquiry was opened on 28 January 2020.

The charity runs a place of worship with educational facilities for Muslims and non-Muslims in Nottingham.

In an [inquiry report published today](#), the regulator is highly critical of the management, governance and administration of the charity, finding its trustees failed to comply with their legal duties and responsibilities in a range of areas.

The report sets out that the trustees, many of whom had personal links to the former trustee, failed to recognise the seriousness of the comments, and did not take appropriate action. Some of the trustees' failings amount, the Commission concludes, to mismanagement and/or misconduct in the administration of the charity.

Safeguarding failures

The charity also failed to put adequate policies in place to protect children attending supplementary educational classes (Madrassah) operated by the charity. The report finds that the charity's child protection policy was generic and out of date and that the trustees were unable to provide evidence that the policy was applied appropriately in practice. The Commission has concluded that these failings also amount to misconduct and/or mismanagement by the charity's trustees.

Financial mismanagement and lack of accountability

During the Commission's investigations, it found that the charity owed over £100k to individuals in its community through undocumented, unsecured interest-free loans. If all or a majority were called in, the Commission found, the charity's property would be at risk.

The charity was unable to provide sufficient documentation related to thousands of pounds expended overseas, and transferred funds using methods outside of the regulated banking sector, which is strongly discouraged. The Inquiry found the trustees were not able to demonstrate they had complied with their legal duties with regard to accounting for and protecting the charity's assets which is also misconduct and/or mismanagement in the administration of the charity.

Action by the Commission

The Commission is critical of the trustees' engagement with its inquiry, finding that they failed to comply with repeated requests for evidence and documentation.

In March, it ordered the trustees to take action in a number of areas to address these failings and to ensure compliance with their legal duties and responsibilities, including by conducting a governance review, reviewing the charity's child protection policy, and agreeing and implementing new policies

around finances, conflicts of interest and the monitoring of application of funds.

The charity will remain under statutory supervision until the Commission is satisfied that the Order has been complied with in full.

Tim Hopkins, Assistant Director for Investigations and Inquiries, says:

This charity has been mismanaged by its trustees over a number of years. They failed to take seriously the reprehensible public statements made by one of their fellow trustees, and have since been unable to provide evidence of having complied with some of their most basic legal duties and responsibilities. The trustees must now enact significant improvements to their systems, policies and processes. We will be monitoring their compliance with these actions and they are required to report to us on their progress”.

The Commission’s statutory inquiry opened on 28 January 2020 and concluded with the publication of the report. The full inquiry report is available on GOV.UK.

Ends

Notes to editors

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.

[RAIB report 07/2020: Freight train derailment at Willesden High Level Junction](#)

Press release

RAIB has today released its report into a freight train derailment at Willesden High Level Junction, north-west London, 6 May 2019.



The derailment marks on the approach to Willesden High Level Junction (after track restoration)

PDF, 14.1MB, 63 pages

If you use assistive technology (such as a screen reader) and need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email enquiries@raib.gov.uk. Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.

Summary

At around 21:30 hrs on 6 May 2019 a single wagon in a freight train derailed on a curve approaching Willesden High Level Junction in north-west London. The wagon re-railed as it passed over the junction. Although no-one was injured, a derailment like this has the potential to foul lines that are open to passenger traffic or strike structures.

The track was supported by an earth embankment that Network Rail had been monitoring since October 2016, and which was showing signs of progressive seasonal movement. The empty two-axle wagon derailed where the track cross-level had been changing. Derailment occurred because the wagon encountered a significant track twist and had an uneven wheel load distribution. This combination resulted in there being insufficient load at the leading left-hand wheel to prevent the wheel flange climbing over the railhead. A check rail would have prevented the derailment. Network Rail had completed a risk assessment that had concluded this safeguard was not necessary on the small-radius curve.

The track twist had developed rapidly. This was because of the poor condition of the earth embankment and the loss of ballast support from under the sleepers. The measures that Network Rail had in place for inspection, maintenance and mitigation were not effective in detecting this risk and protecting the safe running of trains.

The wagon had a diagonal wheel load imbalance. This arose because the suspension adjustment arrangement was susceptible to introducing an imbalance of this type and routine maintenance had not detected that it was present.

Within Network Rail, separate teams are responsible for track maintenance and earthwork management. RAIB has identified the lack of sharing of information between these teams as a possible underlying factor.

Recommendations

RAIB has made four recommendations:

- Three are directed to Network Rail and concern:
 - the use, and limitations, of information from its track geometry measurement trains for understanding the condition of the track and problems with the track bed and/or supporting earthwork structures, and how this may affect the safe running of trains
 - measures to mitigate the risks arising from known defects in supporting earthwork structures.
- 1. One is directed at DB Cargo, the owner and maintainer of the derailed wagon, relating to the maintenance of this and similar two-axle wagons.

RAIB has additionally identified learning points concerned with indications of poor track bed condition, the importance of good liaison between track maintenance and earthwork management teams and the management of wagon diagonal wheel load imbalance.

Notes to editors

1. The sole purpose of RAIB investigations is to prevent future accidents and incidents and improve railway safety. RAIB does not establish blame, liability or carry out prosecutions.
2. RAIB operates, as far as possible, in an open and transparent manner. While our investigations are completely independent of the railway industry, we do maintain close liaison with railway companies and if we discover matters that may affect the safety of the railway, we make sure that information about them is circulated to the right people as soon as possible, and certainly long before publication of our final report.
3. For media enquiries, please call 01932 440015.

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[Rohingya crisis: Three years on](#)

World news story

The UK remains committed to sustained efforts in responding to the Rohingya crisis.



Picture: Russell Watkins

Today, we pay tribute to the extraordinary generosity of the people and Government of Bangladesh in hosting Rohingya refugees, especially over the last three years. We also acknowledge the incredible resilience, courage and tenacity of Rohingya people in the face of adversity. We will continue advocating for accountability on the part of Myanmar for crimes committed against the Rohingya population, and push for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of the Rohingya people to their homes in Rakhine state.

Since the beginning of the current crisis in 2017, the UK has been supporting Rohingya refugees with emergency lifesaving and life sustaining support and prioritising our assistance to reduce pressure on the host community.

Over the last three years, the UK has contributed more than £256 million in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis. We will continue to work together with the Government of Bangladesh, the UN, international partners and host communities to assess evolving needs and respond promptly

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