

[Invitation to tender: analysis of the digital access landscape in Brazil](#)

World news story

The Digital Access Programme (DAP) of the Prosperity Fund seeks a supplier to deliver an analysis of the digital access landscape in Brazil.



The Digital Access Programme (DAP) of the Prosperity Fund in Brazil seeks to appoint a Service Supplier to deliver an analysis of the digital access landscape in Brazil. The successful Supplier will deliver the assignment outlined in the attached Terms of Reference under the supervision of the Digital Access Head of Programme at the UK Embassy in Brazil.

The parties interested to apply for this work should submit their proposals to beatriz.sannuti@fco.gov.uk by 20:00 (Brasilia time, 8pm) 12 August 2020. For any queries during the application time, please forward an email to beatriz.sannuti@fco.gov.uk.

Further information on [Invitation to tender: Digital Access Programme Brazil](#) (ODT, 86.8KB)

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[Department for Work and Pensions appoints new Lead Non-Executive Director](#)

Press release

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has appointed Nick Markham as Lead Non-Executive Director.



He has been appointed for three years to lead the departmental non-executives and provide independent advice, support and scrutiny on the department's work.

The new Lead Non-Executive will work with civil servants and ministers across all areas of policy, helping on the Government's priorities including the response to COVID-19, reactivating the labour market and delivering a modern, fair and affordable welfare system.

He will join the existing Non-Executive Board Members, David Holt, Hayley Tatum, Ashley Machin, Eleanor Shawcross and Rachel Wolf.

Nick Markham

Nick has extensive experience across the public, private and voluntary sectors. He currently chairs London & Continental Railways, which is owned by the Department for Transport, and performs large scale regeneration around stations such as Kings Cross and the Stratford Olympic site. Previously he was the Lead NED for MHCLG and Deputy Leader of Westminster Council.

Nick is also a founder of Safe Haven, a social enterprise charity that provides 200 homes for the homeless in London after raising £33 million through a funding model which effectively "securitises housing benefit" thereby requiring no government grants or donations.

Nick has extensive private sector experience, with roles including ITV Strategy Director, where he developed the concept of Freeview with the BBC and was in charge of the Carlton and Granada merger. Previously he was CFO of Laura Ashley and CEO of Top Up TV. Recently he has founded a Covid-screening business which allows the PGA golf, Scottish Premier League football, Netflix and BBC TV production companies to all safely restart their activities following the lockdown.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 3267 5144

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[Equine owners urged to microchip horses ahead of 1st October deadline](#)

The Chief Veterinary Officer, Christine Middlemiss, has today called on all horse, pony and donkey owners in England to get their animals microchipped ahead of 1 October 2020 as part of a move to tackle horse theft, improve equine traceability and improve animal welfare.

From this date it will be mandatory in England for all equine owners to microchip their animals. The Central Equine Database will mean local authorities and the police can track down owners who abandon their horses, donkeys and ponies, helping to improve animal welfare standards, while also helping prevent horse theft.

Compulsory microchipping will also mean lost or stolen horses can be reunited with their owners more easily. In 2019, the RSPCA received more than 21,000 reports to its cruelty hotline and took 875 horses into care. Around 70% of these were not microchipped, making it difficult for the organisation to trace owners and to hold anyone responsible for the cruelty the animals had faced.

Chief Veterinary Officer, Christine Middlemiss said:

As we have seen with cats and dogs, mandatory microchipping is a hugely important step forward in the speedy identification of abandoned or stolen animals.

Microchipping will not only help the police and local authorities, but also support the UK's efforts to improve traceability and ensure we have better control over any disease outbreaks. This new legislation will also ensure that irresponsible owners are rightly held accountable for any low standards of welfare.

RSPCA equine expert Dr Mark Kennedy said:

We're delighted that it will soon be compulsory for horses of all ages in England to be microchipped, linking each horse directly to an owner. We believe this will go some way towards helping to identify irresponsible owners who abandon or neglect their horses;

as well as helping to reunite owners with missing or stolen equines.

All too frequently our officers encounter abandoned and neglected horses who are often sick, dying or even dead. Equine welfare charities collectively estimate there are 7,000 horses at risk of poor welfare in England and Wales alone and, with the economic fallout of Covid-19, we're extremely concerned that many more will fall into situations of neglect, abandonment and suffering this winter.

Owners are legally required to make sure that their animals' details are up-to-date on the Central Equine Database. This can be accessed online via the [Digital Stable](#) and holds information on all horses in England (as well as other parts of the UK) so owners can be reunited if their animal were to ever go missing.

If equine owners do not microchip their animals by October 2020 they could face sanctions from their local authority including a fine.

Funding is now open for first investment under Transforming West Cumbria

Our social impact programme SiX, social impact, multiplied was launched last week and the first investment was Transforming West Cumbria.

Transforming West Cumbria, has been developed by Cumbria Community Foundation, and focuses on promoting thriving communities by supporting sustainable activities that create self-reliance and independence.

Part of that programme, is the Family Wellbeing Scheme which will give cash grants of up to £50,000 a year for 3 years to projects that improve the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families in West Cumbria by:

- encouraging a whole-family approach, supporting parents and families to engage and actively support their children's development
- supporting children to build emotional resilience, particularly at critical transition points in their lives
- acknowledging the importance of early years (0-5 years) interventions and the need for intensive family centred support

Charitable groups and partnerships supporting vulnerable children and young families in West Cumbria are being encouraged to apply for funding.

The scheme is part of wider £2.2 million investment that Sellafield Ltd and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) will be injecting into local communities over the next 3 years.

Gary McKeating, Sellafield Ltd's head of community and development, said:

I am delighted that we are able to make quick progress on delivering Transforming West Cumbria.

The fact that we can award grants so quickly is a testament to Cumbria Community Foundation's commitment to the programme.

There are many amazing charities that are doing vital work with some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

I'd encourage them all to look at how the Family Wellbeing might be able to help them support even more people, or make their work more sustainable, and get their grant applications in as quickly as possible.

Annalee Holliday, grants and donor services officer at Cumbria Community Foundation, said:

We recognise that to really transform children's life chances, they need sustained interventions that meet the diversity of their needs and that participation and co-production must be a key component of any service.

Children and families in West Cumbria are supported by many charities to improve their lives so that they reach their full potential. These groups are part of the community, trusted by families and can make a real difference, providing help and hope.

Family Wellbeing will address a need for more support to work with parents and families to establish stability in the lives of children and achieve lasting positive outcomes.

[Government to cut red tape for farmers](#)

as they plan for 2021

Farmers in England are set to benefit from a reduced administrative burden next year, as the government plans to end the need to comply with the EU-delivered so-called greening requirements and begin the move towards our new Environmental Land Management scheme, which will deliver greater benefits for the environment.

The European Commission's so-called greening requirements for Direct Payments have required farmers to carry out specified practices in order to qualify for additional payments. These requirements have historically delivered little for the environment, as was documented in [the European Court of Auditors 2017 Special Report on greening](#).

Under government plans to simplify the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and cut red tape faced by farmers during the agricultural transition period, farmers will have a reduced administrative burden and will no longer have to comply with the so called greening requirements with effect from the 2021 scheme year.

These changes will not affect the overall payment received by each farmer as the money will instead be added to farmers' entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme.

The agricultural transition period will last for seven years and see Direct Payments to farmers in England phased out and replaced with a new system that rewards farmers for delivering public goods, such as tree or hedge planting, river management to mitigate flooding, and creating or restoring habitats for wildlife. The new Environmental Land Management scheme, expected to be rolled out in late 2024, will introduce new ways of working together with farmers to deliver better environmental outcomes and reverse the decline of some of our most cherished species.

Environment Secretary, George Eustice, said:

The so-called greening requirements have added little to our environmental efforts. We believe that farmers will benefit from this reduced bureaucratic burden next year as we begin the move towards our new Environmental Land Management scheme which will deliver greater benefits for the environment.

We will be setting out more detail in the autumn on how we will ensure a smooth transition for our farmers, as they move towards our new, fairer agricultural system, which will reward them for the hard work that they do to protect our environment.

The planned phasing out of Direct Payments will take place gradually to give farmers the time to adapt to the changes. In the majority of cases, the gradual reduction in these payments will be offset by alternative support being made available to help farmers improve their productivity and aid their

transition into the new Environmental Land Management scheme.

Farmers will also continue to be able to apply to Countryside Stewardship schemes until the future scheme is rolled out.

The national conversation around the future Environmental Land Management scheme is open until July 31, with farmers warmly invited to share their views on [a policy discussion document](#) available on CitizenSpace.

Further details on plans for the agricultural transition period will be set out in Autumn 2020.