

[UN Human Rights Council 44: Interactive Dialogue with the COI on Burundi](#)

Madam President,

The United Kingdom reaffirms its full support for the Commission of Inquiry and welcomes this presentation.

We commend President Ndayishimiye's commitment to tackling COVID19. The UK is contributing \$665 million to global efforts to develop vaccines, treatments and testing for COVID19, and to the IMF fund in support of vulnerable economies.

We also welcome the emphasis President Ndayishimiye placed in his inauguration speech on the rights of all Burundians, the need to tackle corruption, and his invitation to opposition parties to participate in the country's development. We look forward to seeing progress on these crucial agendas. In particular, the increased volume of human rights violations in recent years underscores the importance of restoring the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Government must put an end to the violations committed by state agents and the Imbonerakure.

We hope President Ndayishimiye's leadership will herald a new chapter in which our governments can work together for shared prosperity, and respect for human rights.

Madam President,

We would welcome the Commissioners' views on what steps the new Government should take in the next six months to demonstrate its commitment to human rights.

Thank you.

[Lynne Owens reappointed as NCA Director General](#)

News story

The Home Secretary has today (14 July 2020) announced the reappointment of Lynne Owens as Director General of the National Crime Agency.



Lynne Owens will remain in the post for a further two years from January 2021.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Lynne is an outstanding Director General and I am pleased to confirm her reappointment.

The NCA has a critical role to play in the fight against serious and organised crime.

Lynne's reappointment means the organisation will continue to benefit from her leadership at a crucial time in our collective mission to protect the public.

Lynne Owens said:

I'm delighted to have been asked by the Home Secretary to continue to lead the National Crime Agency and the UK's fight against serious and organised crime.

It has been a true honour to lead this incredible agency for the past four and a half years, and I am immensely proud of our officers who do such a vital job in protecting the public.

We have delivered some truly ground-breaking operations and successes against serious and organised crime ensuring the public are better protected as a result.

Of course there is always more to do across the system which is why I am pleased to be asked to continue in my role.

I look forward to continuing to lead and enhance the system response, ensuring we have the right tools and resources to keep people safe.

Lynne Owens took up her post as Director General of the NCA in January 2016.

During a career in law enforcement over 30 years, she has held a number of

policing roles including Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Chief Constable of Surrey.

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[GAD helps with modelling and analysis in 'test and trace'](#)

News story

Experts from GAD have been using their analytical skills to support the NHS's 'test and trace' programme.



The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) continues to use its skills to support clients during the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the government's Civil Service COVID redeployment programme, two people from GAD are using their analytical expertise to support the new [NHS test and trace service](#). This ensures quick testing and helps facilitate fast identification of close recent contacts of people who've tested positive.

Modelling and analysis

Effective modelling and analysis will be vital to the success of all areas of the programme. Modelling can be used to assess operational needs such as future demand for tests and contact tracers. It can also be used to ensure early detection of local outbreaks and support policy decisions.

The data and analytics team is responsible for maintaining a single source for data across the programme and providing system-level modelling and analysis.

Data science

Reflecting on his contribution to the project, actuary Rich Haines said: “We provide modelling on policy questions and the work is incredibly fast paced. Everyone’s drive to ensure the success of the programme is palpable as the scheme gets into its stride. There’s further hard work ahead, but I can’t wait to see what the coming months will hold!”

Trainee actuary Comfort Ajoku added: “The NHS test and trace team consists of a varied mix of individuals from both within government and outside, including analysts, data scientists and data engineers. I’m working in the data and analytics team where we model the need for test kits, contact tracers and people in isolation.

“Working in NHS test and trace is a great opportunity for me to use my skills in the fight against coronavirus and to help any way I could.”

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[Appointment of 3 Commissioners and the reappointment of 5 Commissioners to the Judicial Appointments Commission](#)

The appointment of the three Commissioners and reappointment of five Commissioners to the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC), are each for a term of 3 years. Details of the appointees and their start dates are below.

Appointments:

- Judge Greg Sinfield as a Senior Judicial Commissioner whose appointment commenced on 9 June 2020;
- Rt. Rev. Dr Barry Morgan as the Lay Commissioner with responsibility for Welsh matters; and
- Christa Christensen as the Judicial (Tribunal Judge) Commissioner.

Both Dr Morgan and Judge Christensen commenced their roles on 6 July 2020

The following Commissioners have been reappointment whose tenures will commence on 1 September 2020:

- Mathangi Asokan (District Judge), Judicial Commissioner;
- Emir Feisal (non-legal judicial), Judicial Commissioner;
- Jane Furniss, Lay Commissioner;
- Andrew Kennon, Lay Commissioner; and

- Sir Simon Wessely, Lay Commissioner.

JAC is an independent body that selects candidates for judicial office in courts and tribunals in England and Wales, and for some tribunals with UK-wide jurisdiction. Candidates are selected on merit, through fair and open competition.

JAC Commissioners are appointed, under Schedule 12(1) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, by Her Majesty the Queen on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor.

Commissioner appointments and re-appointments to the JAC comply with the Governance Code on Public Appointments and are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Senior Judicial Commissioners are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments in accordance with Regulation 10 and 11 of the Judicial Appointments Regulations 2013.

Biographies

New Appointments

Greg Sinfield – Senior Judicial Commissioner:

Greg was appointed as President of the First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber) in October 2017.

Greg was called to the Bar in 1981. Between 1983 and 1987, Greg worked in the Solicitor's Office of HM Customs and Excise. He returned to private practice in 1988 with a firm of solicitors now known as Hogan Lovells International. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1989 and became a partner in the tax group of the firm in 1993.

Greg was appointed as a salaried Judge of the Upper Tribunal, assigned to the Tax and Chancery Chamber, in February 2012 and regularly sat in the First-tier Tribunal as well.

Christa Christensen – Judicial (Tribunal Judge) Commissioner:

Christa was appointed as a fee paid Employment Judge in 1995. She became a salaried Employment Judge in 2003, assigned to sit in the Employment Tribunal in Exeter and then Bristol. She was Director of Training for Tribunals for the Judicial College, Editor of the Tribunals Journal between 2016 and 2020 and Deputy Director of Training for the Employment Tribunals (E&W) between 2009 and 2016.

Christa continues to sit as an Employment Judge and was also assigned to sit in the Mental Health Tribunal in the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber in 2020.

Christa qualified as a solicitor in 1984 and specialised in company and commercial work. She combined work in private practice and as a lecturer at

the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England until her appointment as a salaried judge in 2003.

Rt. Rev. Dr Barry Morgan – Lay Commissioner with responsibility for Welsh matters:

Barry is a Welsh Anglican Bishop and academic from Neath in Wales. He held both parish and university posts before becoming Bishop of Bangor in 1993, Llandaff in 1999 and was Archbishop of Wales from 2003 – 2017. During his time in office it became possible for women to be ordained as priests and bishops, and for prayers to be offered for same sex couples in public services in the Church in Wales

As well as being Pro Chancellor of the University of Wales, Barry is a Fellow of five Welsh Universities, a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales and a Knight of the Order of St. John. He has published a number of articles in books and journals, as well as a book on the poetry of R S Thomas. Barry also chaired a Commission on Homelessness in Wales in 2007 on behalf of Shelter Cymru.

Reappointments

Mathangi Asokan – Judicial (District Judge) Commissioner:

Mathu started her career as a solicitor, progressing quickly to partner and to head the defendant insurance department at her firm. She was appointed a Deputy District Judge in 1999 and combined sitting days with a busy practice until her appointment to the Bench in 2002. Mathu sits full-time at Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and deals with children and Court of Protection cases. Her roles have included Diversity and Community Relations Judge for the West Midlands area and Family and Children Tutor Judge for the Judicial College. Mathu was also a committee member of the UK Association of Women Judges since its inception and remained so for a period of 12 years.

Emir Khan Feisal – Judicial (non-legal) Commissioner:

Emir is a chartered accountant, specialising in transformational change and has been a magistrate since 2005. Most of his career was spent at The Sunday Times as Associate Managing Editor, where he was responsible for the organisation's finances.

Emir is a board member of the Serious Fraud Office, Audit Chair of the Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group, the Honours Committee, The Queen's Award for Voluntary Services, and is a Trustee of The Henry Smith Charity. He sits on appeals at the Crown Court, and was previously a lay member of the Council of the Inns of Court and of the Bar Tribunal Adjudication Service.

Jane Furniss CBE – Lay Commissioner:

Jane is a Trustee of the leadership college, Cumberland Lodge, and provides mentoring support and advice to chairs and senior executives through Critical Eye. Jane also chairs the Capital Appeal Board for Overgate Hospice in West Yorkshire. She was a non-executive director on the Board of the National

Crime Agency until March 2019, and was Senior Independent Director of the Solicitors Regulation Authority until December 2017.

Until 2013, Jane was Chief Executive of the Independent Police Complaints Commission. She was Deputy Chair of homelessness charity Crisis from 2005 to 2016. Earlier in her career, she held senior roles in HM Inspectorate of Probation and the probation service and as a Director-General at the Home Office where she led a strategic change programme to reform the way the criminal justice system works.

Andrew Kennon – Lay Commissioner:

Andrew worked for 39 years as a Clerk in the House of Commons, retiring in 2017 after five years as Clerk of Committees. He has advised on governance and constitutional law, and has written and lectured on parliamentary and constitutional issues throughout his career. He has worked on all aspects of parliamentary reform and was closely involved in the internal governance of the House of Commons.

Sir Simon Wessely – Lay Commissioner:

Sir Simon is Regius Professor of Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at King's College London. He is an honorary consultant Psychiatrist at King's College Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital, a civilian consultant advisor in psychiatry to the British Army and Director of the King's Centre for Military Health Research. He is President of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Simon is also a Trustee of Combat Stress and has campaigned to improve the understanding and image of mental health. He was awarded a knighthood for services to military healthcare and to psychological medicine.

[The Secretary of State has reappointed Mel Young as the Scotland Member of UK Sport.](#)

News story

Mel Young has been reappointed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as the Scottish Member of UK Sport for three years from 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2023.



Mel Young is the president and co-founder of the Homeless World Cup, an organisation established to use sport as a mechanism to create change. He is a globally recognised social entrepreneur who co-founded The Big Issue in Scotland in 1993, the International Network of Street Papers (INSP) in 1995 and Social Entrepreneurs Network Scotland (Senscot) in 1999.

This role is remunerated at £218 per day. This reappointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#), the process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Mr Young has not declared any activity.

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