

Meet RWM's Chief Scientific Adviser

News story

In her own words: a blog by Prof Cherry Tweed



Professor Cherry Tweed

In RWM's latest blog, Chief Scientific Adviser Cherry Tweed reflects on her career, how ways of working have changed, and on our progress towards delivering a safe, long-term solution for higher activity radioactive waste.

In her blog, Cherry says:

Being involved in a project that's going to make a difference has been really important to me. Nuclear waste exists, and we need to manage it for ourselves and for future generations. It's a complex problem, which involves thinking about things on the microscopic scale and understanding how entire geological regions will change over hundreds of thousands of years. That's what makes the job so interesting.

Dr Cherry Tweed on a technical visit to Cigar Lake, Saskatchewan, May 1991

You can read the blog in full [here](#).

Published 29 May 2020

£5 million funding given to mental health community projects

- Community projects nationwide set to receive share of £5 million government investment to expand mental health support
- Cash boost will help existing services respond to global pandemic and protect nation's wellbeing
- Funding to be delivered by mental health charity Mind

Community projects supporting people with their mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic are set to benefit from their share of £5 million of additional funding, Mental Health Minister Nadine Dorries has announced today.

Voluntary organisations from across the country – such as local Mind organisations, Ambitious about Autism, Support After Rape and Sexual Violence, LGBT Foundation and Campaign Against Living Miserably – will receive a financial boost to expand their existing support services.

This fund is administered by Mind as part of the Mental Health Consortia, made up of Mind, the Association of Mental Health Providers, Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, the National Survivor User Network and Rethink Mental Illness.

Mental Health Minister Nadine Dorries said:

“This epidemic has had huge consequences for us all, but for some it has been especially difficult, leading to loneliness, anxiety and other mental health challenges.

“I believe we must pull together as a nation during these trying times and I am absolutely determined that no one should have to cope with mental illness alone.

“While our NHS remains open for business and has adapted its care to continue to provide vital mental health care throughout the crisis, this investment will only strengthen what's on offer and ensure emotional support sits at the heart of the community.”

The local charities benefiting include a wide range of support services including:

- a Leicester-based women's centre supporting vulnerable women from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities who may be elderly, at risk of domestic violence or living in poverty
- a national charity offering online peer sessions to young autistic people to protect their emotional wellbeing throughout the outbreak
- a Coventry-based support service offering therapy to the families of children affected by cancer across Warwickshire
- a LGBT Talking Therapies Programme in the Greater Manchester area, which

is providing counselling services to people from their own homes during the lockdown period and beyond

This marks the first round of funding to be allocated to the sector, with a second wave of projects to receive funding shortly.

This funding package follows the [£4.2 million investment](#) announced by the Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock for mental health charities – such as Samaritans, YoungMinds and Bipolar UK – during Mental Health Awareness Week, so they can continue to support people experiencing mental health challenges.

Chief Executive of Mind Paul Farmer said:

“It’s important that Mind, working closely with our colleagues in the Mental Health Consortia, have been able to quickly promote, assess and award much-needed funds to charities providing frontline mental health support in the midst of the coronavirus crisis. We were inundated with applications for the fund, showing just how much the support is needed.

“The coronavirus pandemic is impacting all of us, but is especially hard on those of us living with a mental health problem. The recipients of this much-needed fund are doing incredible work to support those who need them most, both on a national scale and in the community, and the money granted will help them continue to work in innovative ways.

“There’s still far more to be done, and we look forward to continuing to work together to help combat the mental health emergency we find ourselves in as we fund more organisations across England.”

- Bath Mind

- Changing Faces

- Islington Mind

- Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)

- Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours

- YoungMinds

- Take Off

- Shama Women’s Centre

- Mind in Tower Hamlets and Newham
- Support After Rape and Sexual Violence (SARSVL)
- The What? Centre
- Daisy Chain Project Teesside
- Suffolk Rape Crisis
- Rugby League Cares
- Bluebell Care Trust
- Ambitious about Autism
- Illuminate Charity
- Oakleaf Enterprise
- Cambridge Acorn Project
- London Friend
- North Kent Mind
- African Health Policy Network (AHPN)
- MindOut LGBTQ Mental Health Service
- Eating Matters
- Speakup Self Advocacy Limited
- Maidstone and Mid Kent Mind
- Solace Surviving Exile and Persecution

- Dementia Forward
 - LGBT Foundation
 - The Hugs Foundation
 - St Helen's Mind
 - Shine A Light Support Service
 - The Counselling Centre
 - One Place East
 - The CLD Trust
 - Share Community Ltd
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[New plans to boost security of consumer smart devices](#)

- Pot of £400k to support market of industry-led assurance schemes for rapidly growing Internet of Things sector
- Comes as smart device owners urged to change default passwords and regularly update apps and software

The government has launched a £400,000 funding pot for innovators to design schemes to boost the security of internet-connected products, Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman announced today.

The [programme](#) aims to support the development of the market of assurance schemes for consumer smart products, known as the Internet of Things (IoT).

Assurance schemes demonstrate that a device has undergone independent testing or a robust and accredited self-assessment process. These schemes are vital in enabling consumers to make security-conscious purchasing decisions.

The move will mean manufacturers can choose from a variety of schemes to demonstrate their product has undergone independent testing or a robust self-assessment process in line with the government's [Code of Practice](#) for Consumer IoT Security. It will also allow retailers to ensure they are stocking secure internet-connected devices, and could enable shoppers to make better informed decisions when buying new smart products.

The sale of connected devices is on the rise. Research suggests there will be 75 billion internet connected devices, such as televisions, cameras, home assistants and their associated services, in homes around the world by the end of 2025.

Digital Minister Matt Warman said:

We are committed to making the UK the safest place to be online and are developing laws to make sure robust security standards for consumer internet-connected products are built in from the start.

This new funding will allow shoppers to be sure the products they are buying have better cyber security and help retailers be confident they are stocking secure smart products.

People should continue to change default passwords on their smart devices and regularly update software to help protect themselves from cyber criminals.

The move, led by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), comes as the government is progressing legislation to bring into law minimum security requirements for smart devices.

The laws announced earlier this year will make sure all consumer smart devices sold in the UK adhere to the three rigorous security requirements. These are:

- Device passwords must be unique and not resettable to any universal factory setting
- Manufacturers must provide a public point of contact so anyone can report a vulnerability
- Manufacturers must state the minimum length of time for which the device will receive security updates.

In a further move to boost the country's cyber resilience at a time when the public increasingly relies on technology to stay connected, the government last month launched the new ['Cyber Aware'](#) campaign which offers advice for people to protect passwords, accounts and devices.

The government continues to work in partnership with other governments and global standards bodies, such as ETSI, to drive a consistent, global approach to the cybersecurity of smart devices.

Owners of smart products are still encouraged to follow the National Cyber

Security Centre [guidance](#) and change default passwords and regularly update apps and software to help protect their devices from cyber criminals.

[NCSC Guidance on 'Smart Devices: Using them safely in your home' is available here](#)

[Spain travel during coronavirus: commercial flights between Spain and the UK](#)

World news story

Summary of flights to the UK from Spain and Gibraltar currently available due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



This table is intended as a guide to help travellers, not a definitive statement of availability

There remain commercial flights from Spain and Gibraltar to the UK. At the

current time these are limited and you may have to be flexible about your departure and arrival airport. Flights are subject to cancellation at short notice.

Please check airline websites (eg British Airways and Iberia) and flight comparison websites, such as [skyscanner.net](https://www.skyscanner.net) for exact times and the latest information. If you need to catch a train to get to another city in order to get your flight, visit [renfe.com](https://www.renfe.com) for timetables and booking.

	Saturday 30 May	Sunday 31 May	Monday 1 June	Tuesday 2 June	Wednesday 3 June
Alicante	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
Asturias	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
Barcelona	1 BA to LHR 1 BA to GLA (1 stop)	1 BA to LHR 1 BA to GLA (1 stop)	1 BA to LHR	1 BA to LHR	
Bilbao	1 BA to LHR (1 stop)		1 BA to LHR (1 stop)		
Fuerteventura	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
Gibraltar		1 BA to LHR	1 BA to LHR		1 BA flight to LHR
Gran Canaria				1 IB to LHR (2 stops)	
Ibiza	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
La Palma	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
Lanzarote				1 IB to LHR (1 stop) 1 IB to LHR (2 stops)	
Madrid	1 IB to LHR 1 BA to LHR 1 IB to GLA (1 stop)	1 BA to LHR	1 IB to LHR 1 BA to LHR		1 IB to LHR 1 BA to LHR
Malaga	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
Menorca	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
Palma			1 IB to LHR (1 stop)		1 IB/BA to LHR (2 stops)

	Saturday 30 May	Sunday 31 May	Monday 1 June	Tuesday 2 June	Wednesday 3 June
Santander	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
Seville	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				
Tenerife N				1 IB/BA to LHR (1 stop)	
Tenerife S	1 Wizz Air to LTN			1 Wizz Air to LTN	
Valencia	NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE				

Published 13 May 2020

Last updated 29 May 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 29 May 2020

Summary of flights to the UK from Spain and Gibraltar currently available due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

2. 13 May 2020

First published.

[Government to publish code of practice with commercial sector in boost to high street](#)

- The government is working with leading businesses and trade associations to publish a code of practice to support high street businesses through coronavirus
- Code will help guide and encourage all parties to work together to protect viable businesses and ensure a swift recovery
- UK Finance confirms lenders continue to show flexibility to commercial borrowers

High street businesses and landlords are set to benefit from a new code of practice, which is in development to provide them with clarity and reassurance over rent payments.

A working group has been established by the government with the commercial rental sector to develop a code which encourages fair and transparent discussions between landlords and tenants over rental payments during the

coronavirus pandemic and guidance on rent arrear payments and treatment of sub-letting and suppliers. This will enable collaboration and cooperation within the sector and help ensure no one part of the chain shoulders the full burden of payment.

The group will also seek to involve wider business input through its sector members to ensure a greater number are consulted and able to share their views.

Communities Secretary, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

We are developing a new code of practice, working alongside the industry's leading bodies, to provide that clarity and reassurance to both commercial tenants and their landlords in recognition of the challenges they are facing as a result of coronavirus.

We expect all parties to come to the table so our high streets and town centres are in the best possible position to come back from these challenges

We are giving clarity to landlords and tenants who are both facing equal pressures on their finances so they are all able to stabilise their finances and bounce back.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP said:

The government is committed to supporting the commercial rental sector as it deals with the disruption caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

We continue to work with lenders to ensure flexible support is provided to commercial landlords, including payment holidays and restructuring facilities, and it is right that where landlords receive support, they extend this to their tenants.

Helen Dickinson, Chief Executive of the British Retail Consortium said:

The Coronavirus pandemic has accelerated longer-term trends in retail property. Rent demands are increasingly out of kilter with current property values and many retailers are being forced to pay rent on closed stores.

We welcome the government's Code as a positive first step and are working constructively with it and landlords to ensure that otherwise viable businesses are not forced into administration. However, all sides must be prepared to do more if necessary, given that the commercial lettings market is in need of wider reform.

Melanie Leech, Chief Executive, British Property Federation said:

Coronavirus is placing an unprecedented strain on property owners and the businesses who occupy their buildings, and we need a united approach in response.

The majority of property owners and tenants are already working well together, effectively engaging and agreeing sustainable plans, and we welcome the opportunity to work with government and others to codify this good practice.

Fair collaboration among lenders, property owners and tenants is vital to the UK's recovery and it will ensure that viable businesses in distress as a result of coronavirus are supported, to protect both people's jobs and the local authorities, savers and pensioners who own the majority of our town centres.

Kate Nicholls, CEO, UKHospitality said:

A code of conduct is a significant step in unlocking the current impasse in the commercial property market. Now is the time for all stakeholders to come to the table and broker an agreement.

Hospitality businesses have seen revenues all but dry up since March, so government intervention is desperately needed – with a sustainable financial plan in place.

Our sector needs enforceable measures in place, so that the burden currently borne by operators is shared more equitably. This code could be pivotal in protecting communities and high streets from mass closures and job losses.

The code will be temporary in nature and the government will explore options to make it mandatory if necessary. We will engage with Devolved Administrations to ensure the code applies across the UK and are working to publish it prior to the next quarterly rent payment date.

Today's announcement comes as UK Finance [confirms](#) its members' continued support for commercial landlord customers including amendments to facilities and capital payment holidays.

Ahead of the June payment day, all the main commercial lenders will be in contact with their major commercial landlord borrowers to identify concerns they have and provide support where appropriate.

The government's package of measures for the commercial sector also includes;

- Measures, including in the Coronavirus Act, to prevent any business being forced out of their premises if they miss a payment until 30 June.

The government has an option to extend this if needed.

- Temporarily banning the use of statutory demands (between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020) and winding up petitions presented from Monday 27 April, through to 30 June, where a company cannot pay its bills due to coronavirus. This is included in the government's Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill.
- Laying secondary legislation to provide tenants with more breathing space to pay rent by preventing landlords using Commercial Rent Arrears Recovery unless they are owed 90 days of unpaid rent.

These measures do not account to a rental holiday but allows breathing space for tenants facing significantly reduced income due to the closures measures and current economic circumstances. Rent is still owed, and those tenants who are able to pay some or all of their rent are expected to do so.

The government is also reminding the sector of the existing measures in place that affect the sector's landlords, this includes:

- Flexibility for Real Estate Investment Trusts when distributing income
- A Practice Direction issued by the Master of Rolls with the agreement of the Lord Chancellors which stays possession proceedings for 90 days from 27 March. This applies to commercial premises.

Further detail on support for commercial landlords and tenants can be found on the [UK Finance website](#).

Membership of the working group will currently include

- British Chambers of Commerce
- British Property Federation
- British Retail Consortium
- Commercial Real Estate Finance Council
- Revo
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- UKHospitality