

## British Ambassador visits the Adjacency Zone



He met with communities and reaffirmed his commitment towards environmental protection and the creation of economic opportunities.

During his visit on 20th February, Ambassador Whittingham hosted meetings with civil society organisations in southern Petén, including the Inter-Sectorial Board of Land and Environment (MITA). Local authorities also participated in discussions about the use of multisector coordination mechanisms to address challenges in the Adjacency Zone and to verify the impact of financial assistance from the British embassy in the territory.

The Ambassador also visited the community of Monte Los Olivos to learn about the projects under implementation. Monte de Los Olivos is one of the 17 priority communities within the Adjacency Zone with projects that benefit more than 1,200 families. Among these initiatives are the diversification of agricultural crops, the establishment of agroforestry systems and the management and commercialisation of xate, among others.

The British Embassy has supported the promotion of integral rural development through projects that focus on health, education and nutrition within these communities. The United Kingdom has encouraged collaboration between the governments of Guatemala-Belize by supporting the operation of a “Technical Roundtable” that addresses the main environmental, social and economic challenges in the territory, with the aim of maintaining that dialogue.

In Guatemala, the United Kingdom works closely with partner organisations such as Asociación Balam, the Coordinator of Peasant Agricultural Associations (COACAP), and the Association for Integral Rural Development of the Adjacency Zone (ADRIZA). The Mayor’s Offices of San Luis, Poptún, Dolores, El Chal, Melchor de Mencos have participated in and supported this process; the Vice Ministry of Agriculture for Petén Affairs, CONAP, INAB, MINECO and other government entities were included in the dialogue.

On 21st February, the Ambassador paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the Adjacency Zone. Then he moved to the community of El Arenal, shared by Melchor de Mencos – in Guatemala – and Benque Viejo – in Belize – to participate in a football match with students

from both countries who share the mutual desire to promote peace and prosperity.

Published 21 February 2020

Last updated 21 February 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 21 February 2020

The image quality dropped after resizing the picture to 960×640

2. 21 February 2020

Added translation

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## [Applications invited for the role of Chair of the MHRA](#)



Medicines &  
Healthcare products  
Regulatory Agency

Ministers are seeking to appoint a Chair of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The closing date for applications is 20 May 2020.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regulates medicines, medical devices and blood components for transfusion in the UK. It is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care. The Agency employs more than 1,300 people and has facilities in London, York and South Mimms in Hertfordshire.

Recognised globally as an authority in its field, the agency plays a leading role in protecting and improving public health and supports innovation through scientific research and development.

### **Role and Responsibilities**

As Chair of the MHRA you will be accountable to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and will:

- provide strong leadership, challenge and direction to the organisation, encouraging and enabling the MHRA to be a first-class regulator of medicines and medical devices, building on its international status and leading the Agency through the changes to come now we have left the European Union.
- in partnership with the Executive Team and Board members, ensure that the MHRA drives a major multi-year operational transformation programme, within the agreed financial envelope, delivering significant changes to fundamentally reshape the way the Agency operates, including driving efficiencies throughout the business.
- ensure high standards of governance and effectiveness, encourage and enabling non-executive directors to make a full contribution to the Board's affairs, making best use of their varied skills and diverse backgrounds, and advising the Department of Health and Social Care on their performance.
- in partnership with the Chief Executive, set the tone for excellent working relationships between the three centres that comprise the MHRA, as well as between the MHRA and key stakeholders. Ensure that policy and operational decisions reflect the needs and views of stakeholders, including patients, the public, NHS and industry to deliver confidence in the work of the Agency during challenging times.
- progress the Agency's innovation agenda creatively and effectively, seeking new opportunities and delivering on the Agency's commitments to support the Government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences.

For more information on this role, including the qualities required, you are invited to read the [full appointment details on the Centre for Public Appointments website](#).

Published 21 February 2020

Last updated 11 May 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 11 May 2020

Applications for the Chair have reopened, with a closing date of 20 May 2020.

2. 3 April 2020

Update to closing date for applications

3. 17 March 2020

Amended the closing date for applications

4. 21 February 2020

First published.

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## [Scottish Sea Rescue Heroes receive £125k UK Government funding](#)



Scottish sea rescue lifeboat

Inshore rescue services in Port William, Moray, Loch Lomond, Nith and East Sutherland will receive awards totalling £125k to support their life-saving work.

UK Government Minister for Scotland Douglas Ross said:

This UK Government cash boost will help Moray Inshore Rescue Organisation in their unstinting efforts to keep the waters around Findhorn Bay safe. Run entirely by a group of selfless and brave volunteers, these funds will be a real help to them in their life-saving work.

The £1m grant pot is the latest round of the UK Government's Department for Transport Rescue Boat Grant Fund. Since launching in 2014, the Rescue Grant Boat Fund has provided £5.7 million to 104 charities around the UK.

Moray Inshore Rescue will use their funding to purchase much-needed dry suits and a launch tractor to improve their response to calls for help. The volunteer teams from Port William, Loch Lomond, East Sutherland and Nith will use the funding to repair and replace equipment, ensuring the rescue teams can respond to situations quicker and more safely.

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# January 2020 Transaction Data



Image credit: Nico ElNino/Shutterstock.com

In January:

- HM Land Registry completed more than 1,838,830 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 424,390

HM Land Registry completed 1,838,833 applications in January compared with 1,375,682 in December and 1,797,037 last January, of which:

- 378,672 were applications for register updates compared with 310,299 in December
- 961,842 were applications for an official copy of a register compared with 652,772 in December
- 217,323 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 207,679 in December
- 21,940 were postal applications from non-account holders compared with 17,402 in December

## **Applications by region and country**

| <b>Region/country</b>           | <b>November applications</b> | <b>December applications</b> | <b>January applications</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>South East</b>               | 404,786                      | 313,823                      | 424,390                     |
| <b>Greater London</b>           | 345,170                      | 256,620                      | 349,183                     |
| <b>North West</b>               | 206,020                      | 156,919                      | 212,480                     |
| <b>South West</b>               | 168,039                      | 133,325                      | 172,851                     |
| <b>West Midlands</b>            | 149,859                      | 120,093                      | 156,965                     |
| <b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b> | 138,165                      | 110,777                      | 143,650                     |
| <b>East Midlands</b>            | 124,538                      | 100,028                      | 132,390                     |
| <b>North</b>                    | 81,318                       | 64,881                       | 88,245                      |

| Region/country                   | November applications | December applications | January applications |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| East Anglia                      | 72,626                | 56,073                | 75,804               |
| Isles of Scilly                  | 52                    | 97                    | 39                   |
| Wales                            | 81,224                | 62,968                | 82,752               |
| England and Wales (not assigned) | 87                    | 78                    | 84                   |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1,771,884</b>      | <b>1,375,682</b>      | <b>1,838,833</b>     |

## Top 5 local authority areas

| Top 5 local authority areas | November applications | Top 5 local authority areas | December applications | Top 5 local authority areas | January applications |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Birmingham                  | 26,875                | Birmingham                  | 20,979                | Birmingham                  | 27,664               |
| City of Westminster         | 23,596                | City of Westminster         | 18,088                | City of Westminster         | 24,777               |
| Leeds                       | 21,303                | Leeds                       | 16,802                | Leeds                       | 21,771               |
| Cornwall                    | 17,648                | Cornwall                    | 14,106                | Manchester                  | 19,006               |
| Manchester                  | 16,777                | Manchester                  | 13,030                | Cornwall                    | 18,243               |

## Top 5 customers

| Top 5 customers             | November applications | Top 5 customers       | December applications | Top 5 customers       | January applications |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Infotrack Limited           | 56,765                | Enact                 | 43,278                | Infotrack Limited     | 60,745               |
| Enact                       | 54,094                | Infotrack Limited     | 42,603                | Enact                 | 57,323               |
| O'Neill Patient             | 31,687                | O'Neill Patient       | 28,990                | O'Neill Patient       | 37,864               |
| WSP Management Services Ltd | 23,169                | Optima Legal Services | 20,178                | Optima Legal Services | 24,113               |
| Optima Legal Services       | 21,467                | HBOS PLC Bank         | 16,755                | My Home Move Limited  | 21,498               |

## Download the data

You can download the:

[Access the full dataset on data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk)

## Next publication

Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The February data will be published at 11am on Friday 20 March 2020.

## [Diverting customer payments lands restaurateur with 11-year ban](#)

Syed Shabbi Ahmed's disqualification undertaking means that he is banned for 11 years from acting as a director or directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

The investigation into the 43-year-old's conduct began after the company he was the sole director of, Blue Mango Tree Ltd, went into liquidation in September 2018.

Incorporated in May 2009, the company traded as the 'Jewel in the Crown' restaurant in Aberdeen and for 5 years made full tax returns to the tax authorities.

For more than three years, however, between February 2014 and November 2017, Blue Mango operated a second bank account which hadn't been declared to the tax authorities.

Investigators from the Insolvency Service unearthed that when customers used the restaurant's credit card machine to settle their bill, payments were diverted to the undeclared account.

£800,000 worth of payments made by customers was sent to the second account and investigators uncovered that Syed Ahmed transferred £123,000 to himself and withdrew a further £535,000 as cash.

This resulted in the tax authorities being owed just under £570,000 in the liquidation of the company.

On 8 November 2019, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Syed Shabbi Ahmed, after he admitted not declaring £797,587 of payments received to the tax authorities. His ban is effective from 29 November 2019.

Robert Clarke, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

Syed Ahmed knew exactly what he was doing when he diverted funds for his own purposes, in an attempt to avoid paying the tax authorities what they were rightfully owed.

This ban should serve as a warning to other directors tempted to help themselves first, you have a duty to your creditors and if you

neglect this duty you could be investigated by the Insolvency Service, with the possibility of losing the privilege of limited liability trading.

Syed Shabbi Ahmed is from Aberdeen and his date of birth is December 1976

Blue Mango Tree Ltd (Company number: SC359080)

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. [Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a range of restrictions.](#)

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct.](#)

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: