

Inspirational Dstl leader recognised as tech trailblazer

Linda said:

I am humbled and delighted to be included in the top fifty inspirational women and honoured to work alongside so many other trailblazers in Dstl who will undoubtedly be contending for a place on this list in the future.

Dstl has undertaken talent management for some time, and rather like a football scout spotting talent of the future, I was one of those people who was spotted 10 years ago as a future leader.

I think it is important for women to have a role model within their senior leadership, and I take my responsibility of being that role model for our female staff in Dstl very seriously.

Senior roles in any organisation should represent society at large. I like to think I can be my true self at work at a senior level, and I hope that it inspires women to have confidence in being themselves too.

Linda has been working in defence, science and technology for 28 years.

After gaining a MSc in analytic chemistry she started her career at the Royal Navy Scientific Service as a forensic chemist in the organisation's aircraft material lab.

Linda then went on to work for the Defence Research Agency which later became the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency – a predecessor to the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

More recently she was capability leader in Dstl's Platform Systems Division – a role in which she led about 1,000 scientists and engineers.

She was also responsible for developing key strategic relationships and providing thought leadership in science and technology.

Since her senior leadership potential was identified she has undertaken Dstl leadership development courses and been involved in mentoring and coaching.

Last year Linda was promoted to her current role in which she oversees innovation in 'over the horizon' ideas and generation after next technology.

This latest award comes after she was, last year, recognised in the top 50 female tech leaders in the UK for her work in transforming the industry.

Former US Secretary of State – one-time First Lady and later presidential candidate – Hillary Clinton was among the speakers at this event.

Dstl Chief Executive Paul Hollinshead said:

We are all extremely proud of Linda and delighted that her talents and achievements are being recognised at an international level.

She is an inspirational leader who has made a huge contribution to the world of science and technology and continues to do so.

Our people are world class and with Linda as a role model I hope more women will look at STEM and Dstl as a promising and rewarding career option.

Linda receives the award this evening (13 June 2022) at a ceremony in Westminster Abbey to mark the start of London Tech Week.

[Ofsted and CQC launch consultation for new inspection provision framework for children and young people with SEND](#)

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have today launched a consultation on proposals for a new joint framework for inspecting provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) within a local area. The new inspections will be introduced in early 2023.

The new framework will focus on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.

The proposals broaden the focus of inspection to look not only at whether local area partnerships are identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND, but also to assess the impact on their lives and outcomes.

The new framework will build on and strengthen accountability for local areas by:

- introducing an ongoing cycle of inspections and 3 distinct inspection outcomes.
- carrying out engagement meetings in all areas.
- strengthening Ofsted's response where there are concerns through monitoring inspections and/or early re-inspections.

- promoting continuous improvement for all by requesting visible action plans following full inspections

To further support these aims, inspection teams will include inspectors from education, health and care so that there can be a deeper understanding of how effective joint working is in a specific area.

Inspections will also focus on children in alternative provision, the majority of whom have SEND, by evaluating how local authorities commission, use and oversee it.

And there will be a greater push to gather evidence from children and young people with SEND and their families directly, as well as from area leaders, practitioners, and settings, so that inspectors understand what it is like to be a child or young person with SEND in any local area in England.

The consultation, which runs from today to September 11, is part of a range of engagement activities Ofsted and CQC will be doing with the sector, children and young people, parents, and carers.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, said:

The past two years have been challenging for all of us, but the pandemic was particularly hard for the most vulnerable in society.

In that time Ofsted has continued to engage closely with the SEND sector, including bodies representing children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers. That has allowed us to develop and refine the proposals for a new framework.

I welcome responses from the sector whether that be parents, carers or children and young people themselves to help us shape our plans further. Working together, we can ensure that every child gets the best start in life, whatever their background or needs.

[HMCI commentary: consulting on Ofsted's new area SEND framework](#)

Today Ofsted and the CQC are launching a consultation on proposals for our new joint area special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) inspection framework, which we aim to introduce in early 2023. Our aim in developing a new approach to area SEND inspection has been to put the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND at the centre of the inspection framework, strengthen the accountability of local area partnerships and place more focus on alternative provision.

We know from [our previous area SEND inspections that the SEND system has significant weaknesses](#). There are inconsistencies in the identification of needs, weaknesses in joint working across education, health and care partners, and a lack of clarity on local agencies' accountability within the system. This frequently leads to negative experiences and outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

[These issues have intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), as have their effects on children and young people with SEND. There is a clear and urgent need for reform. In this context, it is the right time to refine our approach to area SEND inspections, so that they are a force for improvement in the sector to the greatest extent possible.

We have sought to align our new area SEND inspection framework with the direction set out in the [Department for Education's \(DfE\) SEND and alternative provision green paper](#) to help prepare areas for future reforms. However, it would not be right to wait until reforms are implemented to introduce our new inspection framework. We hope that our proposals will promote improvement at pace within the existing system, while helping areas to prepare for future reform.

SEND review: the right time for reform

Given the need for systemic reform, I am very pleased that the DfE has set out its vision for the SEND system in the SEND and alternative provision green paper.

I welcome the DfE's efforts to address the inconsistent and often frustrating experiences that children, young people and their families face when trying to access the help and support that they need and are entitled to.

I am pleased that the green paper devotes significant attention to the role of alternative provision, given that around 80% of children who attend alternative provision have some form of SEND. Too often, we see alternative provision used inappropriately to supplement a failing SEND system, rather than placements and interventions that are in children and young people's best interests.

The green paper provides an opportunity to rethink our approach to SEND provision and I welcome the DfE's recognition that effective mainstream provision is an integral part of an effective SEND system. I want to see a system that recognises the fundamental importance of a high-quality curriculum and teaching in preventing children and young people's needs from developing or worsening. And we must acknowledge the crucial role that early education plays in this system, to give children [the best possible start in life](#). While there will always be some children who have severe, profound or multiple needs identified early in their lives, many others are identified as having SEND during key stage 2 or 3. This can often be traced back to a poor curriculum and poor teaching in the early years and key stage 1.

And parents, carers, families, children and young people should not need a diagnosis to access the support they are entitled to. Settings should put

support in place as a matter of course where they identify a need, rather than waiting for a formal diagnosis. Of course, some children and young people have complex or profound needs that require quick diagnoses and access to specialist support. But at times, being too quick to move to diagnosis can risk stigmatising children and lowering adults' expectations of them.

Finally, the DfE needs to devote significant attention both to the detail of the proposed reforms – especially the proposed national standards – and to how they will be implemented. The 2014 SEND reforms had the right aspirations, but did not have the intended impact because insufficient attention was given to their implementation. It is encouraging that the SEND review acknowledges this, and I hope that the DfE will maintain this focus on implementation so as to deliver on its good intentions.

Area SEND: a new inspection framework to raise standards

Our proposed area SEND inspection framework aligns with the direction set out in the SEND review, and will support local area partnerships to focus their attention on the government's future priorities. However, although our new inspection framework has been designed with future reforms in mind, the local systems in which we conduct our inspections have not yet changed. We will update our inspection frameworks and handbooks to reflect any future changes in arrangements.

In 2016, Ofsted and the CQC were commissioned to carry out a one-off cycle of inspections of local area SEND services, to evaluate how well local areas had implemented the 2014 SEND reforms.

Our new joint inspection framework aims to promote further improvement in the lives of children and young people with SEND, by broadening the focus of inspections and strengthening accountability. Our inspections will complement other Ofsted inspections that involve local area partners.

We want to broaden the focus of inspections to look at both the implementation of the 2014 reforms, and the impact that local areas' arrangements have on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. To achieve this, we want to gather more evidence directly from children and young people, so that we can fully understand and report on what it is like to be a child or young person with SEND in any given local area in England. We will also consider how local leaders assess the impact of SEND arrangements for children and young people through their own evaluations, so that they can continually improve the ways in which they work and the services they offer.

We plan to strengthen accountability through introducing a continuous cycle of inspections. Previously, we have seen some examples of short-term approaches that do not meet the needs of children and young people. We believe that a continuous inspection cycle will encourage better long-term strategic planning.

We are also introducing 3 distinct inspection outcomes, and reporting that makes it clear where responsibility for improvement lies. In our reports, we will focus on the impact that local arrangements are having on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people. We will set out clear priorities for the local area partnership and identify who is responsible for delivering these. We will also give clear information about subsequent inspection activity. We believe this approach will promote improvement by enabling earlier reinspection and monitoring. It will also help other partners, such as the DfE, NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care, understand where improvement is needed and tailor any interventions accordingly.

And we are increasing our focus on alternative provision. Around 80% of children in alternative provision are identified as having SEND, and we are concerned that alternative provision is sometimes inappropriately used to supplement the SEND system. By increasing our focus on alternative provision, we will be better able to identify and report on these practices. Inspectors will evaluate a local authority's strategy and commissioning arrangements for all children in alternative provision.

We want to play our part in promoting urgent improvement in the SEND system, with the help of everyone who has a stake in that system. We want to hear your views on our proposals. Our consultation is open until September 11, and there are many ways to learn more and get involved.

Your help and involvement will help us to deliver inspections that have a tangible impact on the lives of children and young people with SEND. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lunar Pathfinder

Lunar Pathfinder is a single spacecraft designed by [Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd](#) (SSTL) that will offer commercial communication services to lunar orbiters and surface assets such as rovers and instruments, as well as a lunar navigation services demonstrator and scientific experiments.

The Lunar Pathfinder mission will support the booming demand from Lunar missions and serve the scientific community's detailed study and analysis of the far side of the Moon, thus laying the foundation to support future sustainable science and exploration.

Polar Surface Data Relay

For polar surface assets, potentially with limited direct to Earth visibility, the use of Lunar Pathfinder's data-relay service provides the assurance of a communication link, whatever obstacle the terrain may put

between the asset and the Earth. Rovers, constrained to remain within line of sight of the lander to relay their communication, will find a new independence, both in how far they can go from the lander and how long they can survive beyond the lander's limited lifetime.

For all lunar missions, including orbiters and near side surface assets, which could manage with direct to Earth communication, there is an additional economical and technical benefit to using the proximity data-relay service. Due to the proximity of the Lunar Pathfinder spacecraft, user assets could achieve higher data-rates with a lower performance, lower mass and lower cost communication module on-board.

Far side Lunar Exploration

The far side of the Moon, particularly the South Pole Aitkin Basin, is a key area for future robotic and human exploration due to its chemical and mineral composition. For surface assets on the far side of the Moon which operate without line of sight to Earth, Lunar Pathfinder's communications relay service will be a mission enabler, providing the vital bridge between Earth and the lunar surface. The stable elliptical orbit of Lunar Pathfinder will allow for long duration visibility of the Southern Lunar Hemisphere each day, with maximum opportunities for the transmission and reception of data between Earth and the lunar surface.

Lunar Pathfinder Customers

Enabled by the UK subscription to the European Space Agency's (ESA) exploration programme, ESA announced in December 2021 that it will be the anchor customer for services from Lunar Pathfinder. The agreement establishes ESA's first commercial lunar services contract to deliver new opportunities for lower cost lunar science, technology demonstration and exploration missions. In addition, ESA is working with NASA on an agreement by which NASA would launch and deliver the Lunar Pathfinder spacecraft into its operational lunar orbit in exchange for data-relay services for their own missions, making NASA one of the first users of Lunar Pathfinder services.

Additional customers for services from Lunar Pathfinder are invited to calculate the service they could receive via [SSTL's Lunar Mission Builder App](#).

Lunar Pathfinder Experimental Payloads

As well as offering communication services to orbiters and lunar surface assets, Lunar Pathfinder will host a number of navigation and scientific experiments including:

- an ESA GNSS receiver capable of detecting weak signals coming from the Earth GNSS infrastructure (GPS and Galileo), demonstrating its potential role into Lunar navigation services
- a NASA retro-reflector to demonstrate laser ranging capabilities
- an ESA radiation monitor to study orbital radiation conditions

Key facts

Some key facts about the mission include:

- Lunar Pathfinder spacecraft is being built by SSTL and is due for launch in 2024. It will be operated by SSTL from its Spacecraft Operations Centre in Guildford.
- Lunar Pathfinder will operate in an Elliptical Lunar Frozen Orbit (ELFO) for an operational lifetime of 8 years.
- Lunar Pathfinder will operate two simultaneous channels of communication with lunar assets, one in S-band and one in UHF: communications are relayed back to Earth ground stations in X-band.
- Phase A/B1 Moonlight study is being delivered by a consortium of experienced European space companies led by SSTL. The consortium includes SES Techcom, Airbus, GMV-NSL, Kongsberg Satellite Services and Goonhilly Earth Station.

How is the UK involved?

Lunar Pathfinder is supported by UK Space Agency funding via the European Space Agency.

The Lunar Pathfinder spacecraft is being built by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd at the company's facility in Guildford, as well as a number of sub-systems including an in-house S-band antenna.

UK company QinetiQ is using its heritage experience of Mars communication to design and build the Moon-link payload for the Lunar Pathfinder spacecraft. QinetiQ is working on the development of user terminals specifically designed units for compatibility to the Lunar Pathfinder service, for future users to plug and play.

On the ground segment side, Lunar Pathfinder will use the services of Goonhilly Earth Station deep space antenna in Cornwall, refurbished since the Apollo years and at the heart of the sustainable return to the Moon.

The Moonlight Phase A/B1 study is supported by the UK Space Agency across two competitive consortia, including UK companies SSTL, Airbus, Goonhilly Earth Station, GMV-NSL, KBR, Inmarsat and MDA UK. The implementation phase will be subject to future ESA subscriptions and competitive tender following ESA processes.

[Rutherford Group of companies:](#)

information for patients, employees and creditors

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On 13 June 2022 winding up orders were made against 8 companies in the Rutherford Group of companies. The court appointed the Official Receiver as the Liquidator.

The Official Receiver is Catherine Hudson. Her priority is to wind-down the Rutherford Group of companies, for the benefit of the companies' creditors. The Official Receiver has a duty to enquire into the conduct of current and former directors.

Companies in liquidation

Rutherford Diagnostics Limited (Company number 10844984)

Rutherford Health plc (Company number 09420705)

Rutherford Estates Management Limited (Company number 13166007)

Proton Partners International Limited (Company number 12084009)

Rutherford Infrastructures Limited (Company number 11749069)

Rutherford Innovations Limited (Company number 10676791)

Rutherford Estates Limited (Company number 10676819)

Rutherford Cancer Care Limited (Company number 10680302)

Information for patients

The Rutherford Group of companies is in liquidation and all treatment and diagnostic services on the Northumbria, Liverpool, Reading and Newport sites have now ceased to operate.

If you are a patient receiving health services from the Rutherford Group of companies, at one of these four sites, you are advised to contact your consultant or appropriate contact in the NHS, or your insurance company if privately funded, should you have any concerns.

If you are a patient accessing diagnostic services at the Taunton site these services are continuing and patients should continue to attend their appointments unless you are contacted.

Information for employees

You can apply to the Insolvency Service for redundancy and other payments if:

You cannot apply to the Insolvency Service if you live in Northern Ireland. Find out about your [rights in Northern Ireland if your employer is insolvent](#).

We have guidance to help explain [what to do if you are made redundant](#). This includes information on:

- who is eligible to receive redundancy payments
- what redundancy payments you can apply for

How to apply for redundancy payments

We have information explaining [how we calculate and make payments to you](#).

You also have information about [helping you find work and claim benefits](#).

Information for creditors

You will need to [register as a creditor](#) in the liquidation if:

- you have not been paid for goods or services you've supplied to Rutherford Health PLC or its subsidiaries (in liquidation)
- you have paid Rutherford Health PLC or its subsidiaries (in liquidation) for goods or services that you have not received
- you are a [worker](#) or [self-employed contractor](#) who provided services to Rutherford Health PLC or its subsidiaries (in liquidation)

To register as a creditor you will need to complete a [Proof of Debt form](#) which you should then email: rutherfordhealth@insolvency.gov.uk.

Once you have registered and the Official Receiver receives your [Proof of Debt form](#), we will keep you informed about any updates on the case.

Information for shareholders

Rutherford Health PLC was listed with AQSE and the company's shares have been suspended since January 2022.

You cannot trade the company's shares and due to the Official Receiver being appointed as Liquidator, there is no prospect of a return to shareholders.

Shareholders should be aware of third parties offering to dispose of your shares for a fee. The [FCA website](#) has information to help you avoid and report share scams.