

New building to modernise London's tribunals

Press release

HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) has purchased a central London building to develop a new, modern and flexible Tribunal Centre.



- purchase of property to house new 21st century tribunal in the heart of London
- redevelopment to transform the building into a modern and specially designed space
- tribunals will start at the end of 2023

Located next to the Old Bailey and a stone's throw from St Paul's Cathedral, the property at 7 Newgate Street will house around 30 hearing rooms. An environmentally friendly and sustainable refurbishment is already underway and the tribunal will be completed with modern facilities.

Tribunals cover a wide range of areas affecting day-to-day life like employment, social security and child support. The flexibly designed space will accommodate these different case types, with a variety of room sizes and layouts, maximising the number that can be heard.

Justice Minister James Cartlidge said:

The new Tribunal Centre will be developed into a modern space in the heart of London, with tribunal users at the forefront of its design.

We are investing significantly in court rooms and tribunal buildings across the country to meet the demands of our justice system.

The building's fit-out is part of HMCTS's £1.3 billion investment to

transform courts and tribunals, ensuring they continue to deliver swift justice for years to come.

Rupert Morgan, HMCTS property director said:

I am delighted to confirm the purchase of 7 Newgate Street, securing tribunal hearing capability within the heart of London for years to come.

Optimising energy use and carbon emissions, the building will deliver the modern and efficient facilities which our users expect.

The Central London Tribunal Centre is expected to open its doors by the end of 2023.

Note to editors

The development of 7 Newgate Street is being managed by LS Estates and is subject to “change of use” approval by the local authority.

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Kent man has sentence increased for knife attack

News story

A Kent man who attacked a drug dealer with a knife has had his sentence increased under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.



A Kent man who attacked a drug dealer with a knife has had his sentence increased after the Solicitor General Alex Chalk QC MP referred his sentence

to the Court of Appeal.

On 30 March 2019, George Stemp, then 23, approached the victim who was in his vehicle on the pretext of purchasing cocaine. Before the exchange took place, Stemp opened the car door and stabbed the victim three times using a kitchen knife. The victim ran from the vehicle in fear for his life. Stemp chased him and threatened to stab the victim again unless he handed over more wraps of cocaine before fleeing the scene.

The victim suffered significant injuries in the incident. One of his lungs now has reduced capacity after being penetrated by the knife and medics have told him he may never regain full use of his left hand.

On 4 March 2022, Stemp was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months' imprisonment at Maidstone Crown Court for wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The Solicitor General referred the original sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme because he believed it was too low.

On 25 May the Court of Appeal found Stemp's sentence to be unduly lenient and increased it to 5 years' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General Alex Chalk QC MP said:

George Stemp inflicted life-changing injuries in order to obtain class A drugs. I did not believe that the original sentence accurately reflected the fact that Stemp attacked the victim with the intent of doing him serious harm, so I welcome the Court's decision to increase the sentence today.

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[Learning and Development award for Deputy Official Receiver](#)

Kevan Glaysher, a Deputy Official Receiver based in our Manchester office, has won a special achievement award at the Operational Delivery Profession Awards 2022 after he was nominated by colleagues for delivering excellent learning and development and improving the skills of others.

The prestigious awards ceremony took place on 24 May 2022 at Lancaster House, London, and Kevan attended the event to collect his prize.

Following 25 years in the banking industry, Kevan joined the Insolvency

Service in 2009 as a trainee examiner dealing with bankruptcies, liquidations, Bankruptcy Restriction Orders and director disqualifications.

Kevan soon went on to mentor new trainee examiners and remains heavily involved in mentoring his colleagues in the Manchester Official Receiver office, while carrying out his duties as a Deputy Official Receiver.

Colleagues nominated Kevan because they wanted to celebrate his achievements in training and developing his colleagues.

Kevan's nomination said that he creates a safe space where colleagues can bring any questions or problems they might have about the work, and Kevan happily talks through the problem to find a solution. He has also hosted regular surgeries for colleagues to help train them up.

Deputy Official Receiver, Kevan Glaysheer, said:

This has been a total yet welcome surprise to win a special achievement award at the Operational Delivery Profession Awards.

Working for Official Receiver Services is challenging as the work is not only complex but the things you do have a real impact on people's lives. That's why I take learning and development so seriously, as I want to ensure my colleagues not only improve their skills but also deliver excellent customer service.

Robin Dury, Official Receiver for the Manchester office, said:

I am really happy for Kevan being nominated for the award which recognises his considerable commitment to not only his own role but developing those around him and promoting a positive and supportive culture within the office.

UK Government acts on Identity and Language legislation for Northern Ireland

- The Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill will deliver measures to promote and respect Northern Ireland's diverse national, cultural and linguistic identities.
- It will provide for the recognition and protection of the Irish language and the development of the Ulster Scots and Ulster British tradition.

- It will create two Commissioners and an Office of Identity and Cultural Expression, which will benefit everyone in Northern Ireland.

The Bill will amend the Northern Ireland Act to allow for the establishment of three new public authorities in Northern Ireland, including an Office of Identity and Cultural Expression to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, alongside Commissioners on the Irish language and the Ulster Scots/Ulster British tradition.

The Irish language, which will be granted official status in Northern Ireland, will be protected by a new Commissioner, tasked with developing best practice standards for public authorities to follow.

These standards, which will be subject to approval, will help to facilitate interaction between Irish-speaking service users and public bodies.

A further commissioner will work to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots and Ulster British tradition, and will promote Ulster Scots services provided by public authorities.

Following Executive failure to progress the legislation through the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland committed to bringing the legislation through Parliament, which will be delivered today.

In addition to the legislation, the UK Government has also announced the delivery of two of its own New Decade, New Approach commitments.

The Government is officially giving recognition to Ulster Scots as a National Minority under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, a status already accorded to Irish, Welsh and Scots, and since 2014, Cornish, among others.

The Government will also provide £4 million to An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge, the Irish Language Investment Fund.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis said:

“The introduction of this Bill represents a significant milestone, not just in the continued delivery of New Decade, New Approach, but in laying down a new cultural framework for the people of Northern Ireland.

“This legislation is carefully balanced, as negotiated by all parties, to ensure everyone in Northern Ireland benefits.

“Not only will the legislation faithfully deliver on the measures within New Decade, New Approach, it will also, importantly, ensure the principles of respect and tolerance, as stated in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, continue to be realised.”

Re-appointment of non-executive directors at DBS

Mary Cunneen and Samantha Durrant have both been re-appointed as non-executive directors of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) board. Mary has been re-appointed for a second term of two and a half years, and Samantha has been re-appointed for a second term of three years.

Mary Cunneen

Mary Cunneen's re-appointment commenced on 1 April 2022, and was made in accordance with the governance code on public appointments.

Career

Mary Cunneen has been a non-executive director of the DBS board since April 2019. She is chair of the Remuneration Committee and a member of people and change management committees. Mary is also board equality champion.

A lawyer by profession, Mary has worked across the private sector, non-government organisations, and government. She started her career as a criminal defence lawyer before becoming director of law and policy at Liberty, director of Anti-Slavery International, human rights advisor to the Foreign Office, and senior lawyer at the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Most recently, Mary was a commissioner at the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), overseeing substantial change and expansion. A board member and responsible for public confidence in the police complaints process, she led high-profile investigations into police conduct, including deaths in custody, corruption, and serious sexual assaults. She was the IPCC board lead for child sexual abuse, and oversaw development of IPCC strategy and procedures, and numerous investigations into police handling of child sexual abuse cases.

As well as her role at DBS, Mary is also a chair of the National Referral Mechanism multi-agency panels, reviewing Home Office decisions on the status of trafficking and slavery victims.

Samantha Durrant

Samantha Durrant's re-appointment commenced on 1 April 2022, and was made in accordance with the governance code on public appointments.

Career

Samantha Durrant has been a non-executive director of the DBS board since April 2019. Samantha is a member of the Quality, Finance and Performance

Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee and she chairs the Change Management Committee.

Samantha has worked as a senior leader in a broad range of organisations across the public and private sectors. Her executive responsibilities included business change, IT, customer management, legal, governance, and operations. Samantha is also a non-executive director for NHS Sussex Commissioners and the Insolvency Service.

Board members at DBS

Board members are senior figures from outside DBS who bring a mix of expertise and skills from across the public and private sector. They:

- oversee performance
- set the strategic direction for DBS
- support and challenge management on implementing DBS' strategic direction
- make sure that statutory duties are carried out

DBS board members are appointed following open and fair competition and in line with the governance code on public appointments. The appointments are for an initial period of 3 years, with the possibility of re-appointment.