

# Scottish Secretary responds to May Labour Market Statistics

News story

The latest ONS employment figures show an increasing number of Scottish people on the payroll, while unemployment is at a joint-historic low last seen in 2019.



**Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:**

It is good news that even more Scots are back in paid employment, while unemployment has fallen further.

The economic aftershocks of covid and the war in Ukraine mean real pressures in the cost of living right around the world. The way to tackle this in the longer term is to grow our economy and create high-skilled, high-paid jobs, and we are helping by also providing a £22 billion support package, including boosting the wages of the lowest paid and helping people with energy costs.

Throughout these challenging times, the UK Government stands ready to do what is needed to support people right across the UK.

## **Background**

Figures from the ONS show Scotland's unemployment rate has decreased by 1.2 p.p. over the past year to 3.2 per cent. The employment rate robustly increased by 1.4 p.p. between January and March 2022.

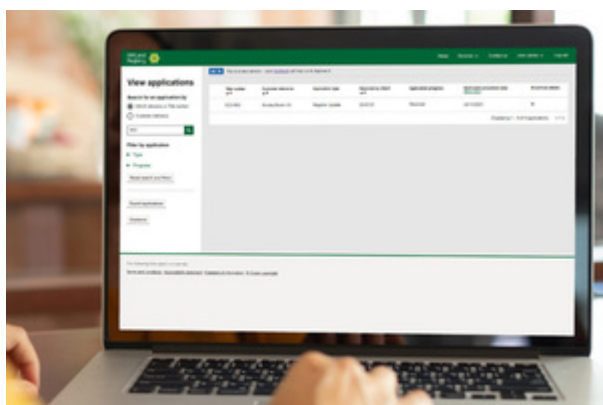
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# Service enhancements help organisations manage their applications

News story

Users can now view their colleagues' applications via the HM Land Registry customer portal.



Staff working at law firms and other organisations who handle multiple land registration applications will now be able to access and review their colleagues' applications for the first time as a direct response to customer feedback.

Although users could access their own applications prior to this update, the ability to manage applications made by other users from within their organisation was the improvement mentioned the most by users of the service when providing feedback.

Users can now search for any applications submitted from their entire business unit via the portal by the following criteria:

- title numbers
- Application Barcode Reference (ABR)
- their own customer reference

Further enhancements, including the ability to search by customer name, are on course to be delivered during the summer. This service is currently only available via the HM Land Registry customer portal, and we're investigating how this can be made available for our direct to API (Business Gateway) customers.

For more information on this updated digital service, read our [guidance page](#).

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## Prime Minister's opening remarks at Cabinet: 17 May 2022

Good morning, everybody.

Thank you very much.

The crucial duty of our Government is to make our communities safer, which is what we are doing.

That's why we put, of the 20,000 police that we promised at the 2019 election, we've already put 13,576 on the streets.

They are bringing down neighbourhood crime and that's a great thing to see. But we've got more to do.

We want to make sure our streets are safer and we will round up those county lines drugs gangs with Project ADDER, taking the criminals off the streets, stopping the deaths of young people from knife crime and gun crime.

But what we're also doing is making sure that we give everybody the confidence that we are on their side when it comes to the law and their experiences of crimes – particularly crimes of sexual and domestic violence – and we want to see more prosecutions for those who engage in such crimes.

We want to see more rapists brought to justice.

I'm pleased to see the facts. Several of you across the table have been working very, very hard and we are starting to see progress.

This matters deeply to me. It matters to our government.

It's vital to every person, it's vital to every woman and every girl in the country that we get this right and I want to see more progress on that.

But there's another reason why it's so vital to bring down crime by making sure that our streets are safe, which is integral for our project for uniting and levelling up.

It is only when you have safe streets and you have safe communities, that you get the confidence of business to invest and drive jobs and growth and that it is absolutely critical now as we deal with the aftermaths of COVID and we help people with their current costs and we take the economy through a difficult patch.

That is why cutting crime is integral to our economic mission as well.

Making our streets safer is absolutely vital.

May I just say – on that point – that today I am very pleased to see that unemployment is now at the lowest level it has been since 1974 and to borrow a phrase from the Chancellor of the Exchequer...our plan for jobs is working.

Crime crime crime is what we want to focus on.

Making our streets safer.

Thank you very much.

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## Transport Manager scams

Press release

In a worrying recent case in the West Midlands, Traffic Commissioner Nick Denton revoked the licence of CCS Waste Ltd.



The Traffic Commissioner found that the company was essentially acting as a front for the disqualified operator Jones Waste Services Ltd, with a similar disregard for safe and legal operating practices.

The commissioner disqualified CCS Waste Ltd's previous transport manager, Christopher Staples, indefinitely, after he had found that Mr Staples had "failed to exercise continuous and effective management to the extent that he did not realise that operations had commenced. When he did, he brazenly offered himself as a flag of convenience transport manager, a name on the licence to give the outward (but false) impression that a transport manager was in charge."

The commissioner criticised as particularly "damning" an email exchange between Shaun McCarron and Christopher Staples in which Mr Staples said that he charged "£500 per month for my name to be on [the licence]."

Denton also heard that Staples' successor as transport manager, Lori Wheeldon, had in effect been prevented by the operator from taking up her responsibilities, although she should have tried harder to do so. This was of

particular concern because he had made it quite clear in his decision on Jones Waste Services Ltd that if Shaun McCarron was involved with any future application he must engage the services of a competent transport manager. Mr McCarron had in effect ignored this stipulation by the device of “employing” two successive transport managers who were given absolutely no responsibilities in the business and who were virtually never physically present. Mr. Denton concluded: “He clearly treated the post of transport manager as an inconvenience which I (and the law) had imposed upon the company and which was not to be taken seriously. The result was, unsurprisingly, a simple continuation of all the shortcomings of the previous, revoked, Jones Waste licence.”

The commissioner disqualified both CCS Waste Ltd and Shaun McCarron from holding an operator’s licence for three years.

Further details can be found [here](#).

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## [Environment Agency launches consultation on facility in Horsham](#)

Press release

The Environment Agency issues a permit variation to add mechanical sorting and an energy recovery facility to an existing site in Horsham.



An Environment Agency officer on site

After reviewing more than 130 comments and scrutinising evidence, the Environment Agency is ‘minded to’ issue a permit variation to add mechanical sorting and an energy recovery facility to an existing site off Langhurstwood Road, Horsham, which is operated by Britaniacrest Recycling Limited.

Michael Turner, Area Environment Manager for the Environment Agency, said:

We have carefully considered all of the documents provided by Britaniacrest Recycling Limited as well as relevant matters raised by members of the public. The Environment Agency is satisfied that the appropriate measures are in place to operate the energy recovery facility without causing harm to the environment or human health.

Before we make a final decision, we would like to invite members of the public to read our draft decision document and permit variation and let us know of any further information relating to any potential impact on the environment or public health you would like us to consider.

Two online documents have been produced which can be commented on as part of the consultation: the draft decision document and the draft permit variation. The [draft decision document](#) explains the Environment Agency's thought process and how it has taken on board the comments received in the first consultation. The draft permit variation outlines the conditions the operator would have to meet.

Only issues covered by the environmental permit can be considered in this consultation. All relevant comments will be reviewed before a final decision is made whether to issue an environmental permit variation.

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