

## 194 new Jobcentres open

Minister for Employment, Mims Davies MP, and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Lords Minister, Baroness Stedman-Scott, visited a new Jobcentre in Brighton to officially open the site and mark the completion of the programme to open almost 200 new temporary Jobcentres across Great Britain.

With all 194 sites now open, jobseekers from Aberdeen to Plymouth can access DWP's services in a welcoming, modern environment, where they can meet local employers and be matched to record vacancies in a wide range of sectors.

Work Coaches at the new site in Brighton have joined thousands of colleagues up and down the country at the forefront of the Government's drive to get 500,000 people currently out of work into jobs by the end of the summer as part of the 'Way to Work' campaign.

They are also supporting claimants move to Universal Credit by the end of 2024 as part of the DWP's careful and phased process to contact those still claiming legacy benefits, as it was revealed earlier this week that around 1.4 million people would be an average of around £220 a month better off on Universal Credit.

The Ministers spoke to some of the 45 Work Coaches at the new Brighton Jobcentre and heard about how they are supporting a wide range of customers with one-on-one tailored support to find their next role.

Mims Davies MP, Minister for Employment, said:

We know how much value people get from being in work, both financially and in boosting their confidence and wellbeing, which is why we've increased our local DWP Jobcentre support across all communities.

I was delighted to officially open the additional new JCP site in Brighton Queens Square today alongside my DWP colleague, Baroness Stedman-Scott. It was great meeting our Work Coaches and colleagues from Instant who have been integral in getting our new sites up and running and fitting out these new modern environments to make a positive difference to the lives of so many people.

This opening marks the completion of our expansion programme with 194 additional Jobcentres now open across Great Britain to support the impact of the pandemic and help people progress. We are getting jobseekers into the record number of vacancies while also supporting those in low paid work to be able to increase their hours, to earn more and move forward in their career.

DWP Minister Baroness Stedman-Scott said:

Our work coaches go above and beyond to help jobseekers no matter their circumstances, unlocking employment barriers, guiding them towards new work and upskilling opportunities to have brighter futures.

Jobcentres like this one provide the ideal environment for jobseekers to meet employers, be supported to find work in sectors they may not ordinarily consider and for Universal Credit customers to secure their next role or promotion.

The Jobcentre Plus expansion is among the largest and rapid of its kind in the UK. It has enabled Work Coaches to provide vital support to help people back to work following the Covid-19 Pandemic and has been shortlisted for a [Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors \(RICS\) Award](#) in 2022 in the Public Sector category. The awards showcase the most inspirational initiatives and developments in land, real estate, construction and infrastructure.

Janet White is one of the new recruits based at Brighton Jobcentre Plus.

DWP Work Coach Janet White said:

I love being a Work Coach. Getting to know people and supporting them along the way is very rewarding. Helping people to move forward, gain skills, confidence and an engaging job is so worthwhile.

Piers Harrison is the Customer Service Leader overseeing the new site, bringing with him four years of DWP experience.

Customer Service Leader Piers Harrison said:

I'm really excited for this opportunity to bring our work coach services to the heart of the city located in a fantastic building right in the heart of Brighton. This is a fantastic opportunity for our colleagues to support thousands of customers into training and employment using a tailored approach, in a new, modern, vibrant environment.

- All 194 new temporary jobcentre sites have now opened. A full list of [temporary jobcentre](#) sites can be found on GOV UK
- Brighton JCP can be found at 15 Queen Square, Brighton BN1 3FD
- If you want to find out what your entitlement on Universal Credit might be, visit the [benefit calculator](#) page on GOV UK

- If someone thinks they will be better off they can then make a claim to Universal Credit online easily by visiting the [Apply for Universal Credit](#) page
- Claimants must be aware that, once a claim to Universal Credit is made, they cannot go back to their legacy benefits

Media enquiries for this press release – 0115 965 8781

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## **[Draft legislation: The Motor Fuel \(Composition and Content\) \(Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2022](#)**

I have today (12 May 2022) published the [draft statutory instrument The Motor Fuel \(Composition and Content \(Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2022](#) and accompanying explanatory memorandum.

These regulations amend [The Motor Fuel \(Composition and Content\) Regulations 1999](#) to require the introduction of E10 petrol (petrol with up to 10% ethanol) at filling stations in Northern Ireland.

Following the successful introduction of E10 in Great Britain in September 2021, this subsequent amendment will bring the ethanol content of standard grade petrol in Northern Ireland in line with rest of the UK. The regulations also ensure the ongoing availability of E5 petrol (petrol with 5% or less ethanol) for those with vehicles and equipment unsuitable for use with E10.

At present, standard grade petrol in Northern Ireland contains up to 5% renewable ethanol (referred to as E5). Increasing the renewable ethanol content to up to 10% (E10) can reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a petrol vehicle by the equivalent of around 2% per mile travelled. This, combined with increases to overall renewable fuel targets could cut overall transport CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a further 750,000 tonnes a year, the equivalent of taking around 350,000 cars off the road.

Transport is one of the biggest contributing sectors to carbon emissions in Northern Ireland, where 59% of new cars registered in 2019 were petrol powered – the reductions achieved through the introduction of E10 will help decarbonise the existing vehicle fleet and help meet climate change targets.

Introducing E10 will also help support UK farmers and the domestic ethanol industry, reducing reliance on imported oil in accordance with the aims of

the [UK energy security strategy](#) and the [Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution](#). Producing ethanol also creates the valuable byproducts of high-protein animal feed and stored CO2, reducing reliance on imported products, in line with the government's bioeconomy strategy.

The regulations are published in accordance with the procedure required by schedule 8 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and agreed with Parliament. The draft regulations will be available for review for 28 days before they are laid and debates scheduled.

These regulations were subject to open consultation. The [policy detail, government response and impact assessment](#) are available.

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## [Steve Barclay meets the next generation of female UK Cyber experts](#)

Lead Minister for Cyber and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Steve Barclay, visited St Joseph's RC High School (SJHS) in Newport to learn more about how young people are being taught vital cyber skills.

St Joseph's RC High school was the first state secondary school in Wales to be awarded the Silver Award for the NCSC's CyberFirst school's program. Over the past 5 years they have developed a challenging, engaging and rewarding curriculum that is centred on computer science, applied digital skills and cyber security.

CyberFirst activities are intended to inspire and encourage students from all backgrounds to consider a career in cyber security and apply for a CyberFirst bursary.

The Government is ensuring that all students are taught basic cyber skills as early as possible so that they are more likely to take up further education in this field. Encouraging more young people into cyber careers, and creating a more diverse cyber-security profession is key to the Government's mission to make the UK a world leader in cyber skills and the global cyber industry in the coming years.

Significant steps have already been taken to make this possible – with £2.6 billion of investment in cyber and IT committed in the Autumn statement – which will both make the UK safer from cyber attacks but also to help boost innovation in the cyber security sector.

In addition to all of this, the UK has already seen over £10 billion of investment the last financial year, a 14 per cent increase on the year before that, leading to the creation of 6,000 new jobs to take the sector's employment levels above 50,000.

The visit follows Barclay's keynote address to the Cyber UK Conference in Newport, where he warned of the evolving threat of cyber attacks following Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, and committed to boost cyber defence skills across the UK.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Lead Cyber Minister, Steve Barclay said:

It was great to spend time talking to pupils at St Joseph's School in Newport and to hear about their aspirations of working in the cyber industry and the valuable skills they are learning to help them achieve that ambition.

These skills are crucial in helping to boost our individual and collective cyber defences from the threats that we face, so I was delighted to see the enthusiasm and passion of both children and teaching staff at the school.

Rhys Driscoll, Digital Lead at St Joseph's RC High School said:

The NCSC's Cyber girl's competition has enabled us to provide further opportunities for our school community and to inspire us to achieve more in the cyber world.

The NCSC have been fantastic in giving us guidance, a link to real industry experts and professional learning opportunities. The NDEC team, led by Holly Lidbury, have been particularly supportive and encouraging with our journey as a CyberFirst school.

It was great to have Steve Barclay here today to show off what we've managed to achieve so far, and we look forward to some of our students helping shape the UK's cyber future.

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## **Reappointment of 7 Commissioners of the Criminal Cases Review Commission**

The 7 Commissioners have been reappointed for five-year terms:

- Ian Comfort and Johanna Higgins from 7 May 2022
- David Brown from 16 May 2022
- Rachel Ellis, Jill Gramann and Rob Ward from 29 September 2022
- Linda Lee from 20 November 2022

The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) was established by the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 (“the Act”) and commenced operation in 1997. The CCRC considers – on application – cases in England, Wales and Northern Ireland where a miscarriage of justice is alleged or suspected. The CCRC decides if there is any new evidence or new argument which raises a real possibility that an appeal court would quash a conviction or reduce a sentence.

The appointment of CCRC Commissioners are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and recruitment processes comply with the Cabinet Office Governance Code on Public Appointments, as do the proposed reappointments.

Appointments to CCRC are made by Her Majesty the Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister who receives advice from the Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State.

## **Biographies**

David Brown is an Associate Inspector with HM Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services. David spent 32 years in the London Fire Brigade and in 2016 he was awarded the Queen’s Fire Service Medal. David is a Lay Panel member on the investigating committee for the Nursing and Midwifery Council and is supporting the Boundary Commission for England in reviewing Parliamentary constituencies. He currently serves as a magistrate in the adult criminal court.

Ian Comfort is a barrister of the Inner Temple and chartered legal executive. He is a legally qualified chair for the Medical Practitioners Tribunal and the Taxation Disciplinary Board and chairs panels for the Health and Care Professions Tribunal. He was appointed as a magistrate in 1984 and is a presiding justice in West London sitting in both adult and youth courts.

Rachel Ellis is an Ombudsman with the Financial Ombudsman Service. Alongside this, she chairs Fitness to Practise Committees for the Nursing and Midwifery Council, is an Independent Panel Member on police misconduct committees and is also a Panel Member for the Independent Betting Adjudication Service. Rachel previously practised as a criminal barrister acting for both the prosecution and defence.

Jill Gramann served on the Sentencing Council as the lay judicial member for three years, with specific responsibility for the development of sentencing guidelines for domestic abuse, and theft. Until 2017, Jill was also a Non-Executive Director of Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and has held board positions on both SCOPE and BILD. Previously she founded and led an attitudinal research consultancy for 30 years. She was a magistrate from 1990 until 2017 and has held a number of posts within the magistracy including three years as a bench chairman and chair of the Judicial Issues Group for West Mercia.

Johanna Higgins is a barrister and Bencher of the Inner Temple, London, who has also been called to the Bar in Northern Ireland and the Bar in Dublin. Johanna gained criminal practice experience as a Senior Public Prosecutor in Northern Ireland. She now sits as a member of the Legal Aid Appeal Board NI

and is a member of the Independent Expert Panel, appointed by the House of Commons.

Linda Lee is a solicitor specialising in regulatory and disciplinary law at national law firm Radcliffes Le Brasseur. She is a Past President of the Law Society of England and Wales and has held various key roles at the Law Society. She is currently Chair of the Law Society's Professional Indemnity Insurance Committee and is a longstanding member of the Access to Justice Committee. A former President of the Medico-Legal Society, she remains an active member of its Council. She lectures and writes on legal and regulatory issues and is a director of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting. Linda holds a number of quasi-judicial roles, predominantly for regulators, and also sits as a Deputy District Judge (Civil).

Rob Ward QC (Hon) is a barrister who has had an extensive career as a Government lawyer specialising in national security law, including counter-terrorism. Rob led the legal branch at the Ministry of Defence during a period of substantial change and expansion. He is the co-author of leading textbooks on sexual offences law and national security law.

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## [Chancellor appoints Dr. Swati Dhingra to the Monetary Policy Committee](#)

News story

The Chancellor has today (12 May) announced that he has appointed Dr. Swati Dhingra as an external member of the MPC of the Bank of England.



- Dr. Swati Dhingra has been appointed as an external member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)
- Swati Dhingra is an economics Professor at the London School of Economics and will succeed Michael Saunders when his second term ends

- Her 3-year term will start on 9 August 2022

She will join the MPC on 9 August for a 3-year term, replacing current external member Michael Saunders who has been on the MPC since August 2016.

Swati Dhingra is an Associate Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics, specialising in international economics and applied microeconomics.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak said:

“Dr Swati Dhingra’s experience in international economics will bring valuable new expertise to the MPC. I am delighted to appoint her to this role and look forward to seeing her contribution to policymaking in the coming years.

“I would also like to thank Michael Saunders for all his work since he joined the Bank of England, and wish him the best in the next stage of his career.”

Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England, said:

“I am very pleased to be welcoming Dr Swati Dhingra to the MPC later this year. Her insights and perspective will be hugely beneficial to all of our discussions and we will benefit from her extensive research in international economics.

“Michael Saunders has been a great asset to the MPC and I would like to thank him for all his work on the committee. I wish him all the best for the future.”

Dr. Swati Dhingra said:

“I am very pleased that the Chancellor has appointed me to join the Monetary Policy Committee. The work of the Committee is of great importance as the UK faces an exceptional cost of living crisis amid the global challenges of the pandemic and the war. “It will be an honour to learn from the Bank’s vast expertise and regional visits, [“to listen and to explain”](#), and to bring evidence to bear on the crucial policy decisions of the Committee.

## **Further information**

### **About. Dr Swati Dhingra**

- Dr Swati Dhingra is an Associate Professor at the London School of Economics. She is an elected member of the Council of the Royal Economic Society. She is on the Editorial Board of the Review of Economic Studies, and is an Associate Editor for the Journal of International Economics.
- Swati is a Research Associate on the Trade Programme at Centre for Economic Performance, and a Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research.



- Swati received her undergraduate degree from the University of Delhi, her MA from the Delhi School of Economics, and her MS and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Swati was a member of the UK's Trade Modelling Review Expert Panel and LSE's Economic Diplomacy Commission. She is currently a Director of The Royal Mint Museum and a member of the Steering Group for The Economy 2030 Inquiry.

## **About the MPC**

- The independent Monetary Policy Committee makes decisions about the operation of monetary policy. It comprises of the Governor of the Bank of England, the three Deputy Governors, one member of the Bank with responsibility for monetary policy and four external members who are appointed by the Chancellor.
- External members may serve up to two three-year terms on the MPC.
- The appointment of external members to the MPC is designed to ensure that the Committee benefits from thinking and expertise in addition to that gained inside the Bank. Each member of the MPC has expertise in the field of economics and monetary policy. They are independent and do not represent particular groups or areas.

## **About the appointment process**

- Dr. Swati Dhingra has been appointed following an open recruitment process run by HM Treasury. A panel comprising of Clare Lombardelli (Director General and Chief Economic Advisor, HM Treasury), Tom Josephs (Director of Fiscal, HM Treasury), Dame Colette Bowe (external member of the Financial Policy Committee) and Dame Kate Barker (external member of the MPC from 2001 to 2010) interviewed a number of candidates and made recommendations to the Chancellor, which informed his decision.
- The Treasury is committed to appointing a diverse range of people to public appointments, including at the Bank of England. The Treasury continues to take active steps to attract the broadest range of suitable applicants for posts.