

# [News story: MOD to attend Who Do You Think You Are Live 2017](#)

Experts from DBS within the MOD are to attend the Who Do You Think You Are Live event at the NEC, Birmingham, between the 6 and 8 April. The show, a spin off from the popular BBC1 TV series, "Who Do You Think You Are?", attracts over 12,000 visitors during the 3 days as it focuses on genealogy. The stand, supported by TNT UK Ltd, will be staffed by a DBS team from the Medals and Records Offices and will offer.

## **Displays of medals and service records**

Medals and records advice, including identification of medals, entitlements, applying for medals and how to find out more, what records the MOD holds and how to access them.

Live post 1921 service record search facility.

The MOD continues to hold all service records where the individual had a discharge date of post 1921, these total around 10 million records, with about 500,000 having seen service in World War 1. Using a sophisticated database that supports the MOD's main archive, an assisted search facility will in many cases enable confirmation of whether or not the MOD holds a record for an individual. This information can then be used to apply for the record using the forms on gov.uk. To assist the search some or all of the following information is required: surname, initials, date of birth and service number.

## **Interpretation of service records**

If you already have a service record, but are unsure what it says or how to interpret it, then DBS experts will be on hand to assist you.

- John Reynolds from the MOD's record office; a keen army historian and serving reserves officer, John has conducted battlefield tours across the world
- Stuart Hadaway from the air historical branch; Stuart has previously worked at the RAF Museum, Hendon, and is the author of military books, including "Missing believed killed: casualty policy and the missing research and enquiry service 1939 – 1952"
- Sue Pass and Clive Clarke from TNT's navy search service; Sue and Clive have a combined 17 years of experience working in the TNT's navy search service, responding to more than 6000 enquiries a year

## **Issue of veterans badges**

If you are ex-forces and haven't yet got a veterans badge, then you can ask for one on the stand. Following confirmation of a service record identification and a check of the veterans badge database, the veterans badge

will be issued. The following information will be required, surname, initials, date of birth and service number.

The DBS team look forward to seeing you!

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## [News story: PM call with Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia: 23 February 2017](#)

From:

First published:

23 February 2017

Part of:

Theresa May spoke to Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull about stability in the Middle East, Brexit and a free trade agreement.

A Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia this morning.

They discussed our co-operation in the campaign to defeat Daesh, and agreed on the importance of creating the conditions for long-term stability in Iraq. Prime Minister May was clear we need to see a political transition in Syria, away from President Assad.

They agreed on the need to tackle Iran's destabilising influence in the Middle East, and the importance of the nuclear deal and ensuring it is rigorously policed and enforced.

On Brexit, Prime Minister Turnbull reiterated Australia's commitment to maintaining a close partnership with the UK as we leave the EU. Both Prime Ministers said they looked forward to holding preliminary conversations on a comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement in due course.

They ended the call by looking forward to seeing each other at the [G20 meeting in Hamburg](#) in July.

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## Press release: Rare Georgian barometer at risk of leaving the UK

A rare Georgian barometer is at risk of being exported from the UK unless a buyer can be found to match the asking price of £160,000.

Culture Minister Matt Hancock has placed a temporary export bar on the George III mahogany wheel barometer to provide an opportunity to keep it in the country.

The piece is one of a small number of its design known to have been made by the renowned Whitehurst family of clockmakers, from Derby. It is one of only nine of this type known to exist, none of which are known to be in a UK public collection.

During the reign of King George III natural philosophy had become increasingly popular, with scientific instruments finding their way into the homes of the elite classes. The ornate decoration of this instrument indicates that it was intended for this purpose.

The possible association of the barometer with John Whitehurst makes this item of particular interest. As a clockmaker, instrument maker and natural philosopher he was a member of the Lunar Society, became Stamper of Money Weights at the Mint, was painted by Joseph Wright and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Minister of State for Digital and Culture Matt Hancock said:

This beautiful barometer is more than just an instrument – it also gives us a glimpse into the 18th century home and the increased interest in natural philosophy at the time.

As a rare and important item associated with a significant regional workshop, this fine piece offers an intriguing possibility for further study. I very much hope that we can keep it in the UK for this purpose.

The decision to defer the export licence follows a recommendation by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA), administered by [The Arts Council](#).

RCEWA member Christopher Rowell said:

The scientifically sophisticated design of this rare Whitehurst barometer is matched by the high quality of the carved mahogany

case.

No other Whitehurst barometer of this model is in a British public collection and its retention in this country is therefore highly desirable.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the barometer's outstanding significance to the study of the Whitehurst family's work.

The decision on the export licence application for the barometer will be deferred until 22 April 2017. This may be extended until 22 July 2017 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £160,000 (plus VAT of £2,000).

Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the barometer should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.

Images of the barometer can be downloaded via our [Flickr page](#)

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## Notes to editors

1.Details of the barometer are as follows: Wheel barometer. Dial, silvered, signed 'Whitehurst Derby' with 3-inch scale for 29-31 inches of mercury subdivided into hundredths and inscribed for changeable, rain, fair. Case: mahogany, carved with leaves, column (housing the tube) with acanthus leaves at base, and urn finial. Made by Whitehurst of Derby, c. 1770-1780 H 43", W 14", D 2.25"

2.The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council, which advises the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.

3.The Arts Council champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk).

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## [News story: Mrs Justice Whipple appointed a Commissioner of the Judicial Appointments Commission](#)

From:

First published:

23 February 2017

The Lord Chancellor has appointed Mrs Justice Whipple as a Commissioner of JAC, following selection by the Judges' Council.

The appointment is for an initial term of 3 years from 22 December 2016.

Mrs Justice Whipple has been a judge of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, since 2015. She sat as a Recorder from 2009 and as a deputy High Court judge from 2013.

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## [Press release: £191 million cash boost for the South West to help create local jobs and growth](#)

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid today (23 February 2017) announced a government cash boost of £191 million for the South West to help create jobs, support businesses and encourage growth.

Some of the locally-chosen projects likely to benefit over the next few years include:

- a new roundabout and access road on the A40 in Gloucester
- new space for low-carbon energy businesses to grow at Huntspill Energy Park in Bridgwater
- the Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems in Bath which will help deliver future generations of clean and energy efficient vehicles

These, alongside other projects, will improve skills, create jobs, build homes and improve infrastructure. This latest award of [Local Growth Funding](#) is on top of £780 million of growth funding already awarded to the 6 Local Enterprise Partnerships in the region – an investment which will see jobs

created, homes built and extra investment.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said:

The South West is home to some of Britain's top businesses, and they know the best way to create jobs and boost growth in their local area.

That's why we're backing their ideas with almost £1 billion for business and infrastructure projects across the region, so the South West can reach its full potential, and we create a country that works for everyone.

## Creating an economy that works for everyone

The [£12 billion Local Growth Fund](#) provides local leaders with the cash they need to support locally determined projects. Under the fund, England's 38 local enterprise partnerships – made up of council leaders and business representatives – bid for investments based on local priorities.

Bids are highly competitive and to be successful, local enterprise partnerships need to work with partners to agree strong and accountable governance and put forward proposals that boost growth and bring in private sector funding.

Over £9 billion of the Local Growth Fund has now been awarded to local enterprise partnerships through 3 rounds of Growth Deals, helping more than 1,000 projects get started across England already – this is supporting vital infrastructure, improving skills and creating thousands of jobs.

Together with money for unlocking housing sites to support home building and investment in very large transport schemes – both announced in 2016 – we have fulfilled our commitment to a £12 billion Local Growth Fund.

In the South West this has already:

- enabled the major rebuild of the A338, a £22 million project – delivered on time and on budget – helping to unlock growth around Bournemouth
- provided significant funding to Bristol Robotics Institute of Technology, helping to link industry and academia in high-tech robotics
- created a Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Engineering and Nuclear Skills Centre (GREEN) to provide the next generation of low-carbon and engineering experts
- created 60 new jobs in Penzance at the Train Care Centre

Now this latest award will help do even more to benefit the lives of local people across the country. New projects include:

- a new roundabout and access road on the A40 to release land for housing at Longford and mitigate traffic impacts
- over £4 million for Enterprise Zone infrastructure to unlock a 91

- hectare site at Huntspill Energy Park at Bridgwater
- support for space, aerospace and marine renewable energy activity at Cornwall's Enterprise Zones

## Further Information

Today the government has announced the [Local Growth Fund 3 allocations](#).

The 6 Local Enterprise Partnerships in the South West have received:

### **Local Enterprise Partnership Funding awarded**

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | £18.03 million |
| Dorset                       | £19.46 million |
| GFirst                       | £29.13 million |
| Heart of the South West      | £43.57 million |
| Swindon and Wiltshire        | £28.09 million |
| West of England              | £52.80 million |