

Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Azerbaijan: Fergus Auld

Press release

Mr Fergus Auld OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan.



Mr Fergus Auld OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan in succession to Mr James Lyall Sharp. Mr Auld will take up his appointment during August 2022.

Full name: Fergus Stephen Auld

Married to: Amy Louise Auld

Children: Three

2021 to present Full-time language training, Azerbaijani
2017 to 2021 FCDO, Head, South Asia Department and India Coordinator
2015 to 2017 FC0, Head, Talent, Diversity and Learning and Development Unit
2014 to 2015 FC0, Head, International Extremism Unit
2011 to 2014 Moscow, Political Counsellor
2011 Full-time language training, Russian
2008 to 2011 New Delhi, Head, Climate Change and Energy Unit later First Secretary (Climate Change)
2006 to 2008 FC0, Team Leader, Climate Change and Energy Group
2002 to 2005 Bangkok, Second Secretary (Press and Public Affairs)
2000 to 2002 Full-time language training, Thai
1999 to 2000 FC0, Desk Officer, Nuclear Non-Proliferation
1999 Joined FC0

Published 25 April 2022

[UK Export Finance appoints new head of Business Group](#)

Tim joins UK Export Finance (UKEF) from HSBC, where he spent 34 years in a variety of roles. He will bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the role, in what is an exciting new chapter for UKEF.

Tim has an international outlook and proven track record helping customers expand their business internationally. At HSBC, he managed businesses across Europe, the Americas and the Middle East and North Africa, and was most recently the Global Head of Transaction Banking for the bank's Global Banking division.

In his new role, Tim will lead UKEF's Business Group, which is central to UKEF's mission to support viable UK exports when private sector finance or insurance is unavailable. The Business Group is responsible for working with customers to orchestrate and execute transactions that stimulate exports.

Tim will ensure that UKEF continues to deliver on its ambitious [2020-24 Business Plan](#), helping more UK companies to export and continuing to finance business as global economies transition to net-zero.

Louis Taylor, Chief Executive for UKEF said:

I am delighted to welcome Tim to UK Export Finance and look forward to working with him as we expand our support for UK exporters.

Tim will bring a wealth of experience from a distinguished career at HSBC and will bring a unique sense of direction to the role.

Tim Reid, Business Group Director for UKEF said:

I am delighted to have started in my new role, supporting deals that will enable businesses to grow and expand internationally.

For over 100 years, UK Export Finance has been at the heart of the government's support for exporters, and I am very pleased to be joining the team to help expand the UK's export economy.

UK Export Finance is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, working along-side the Department for International Trade as an integral part of its strategy and operations.

Established in 1919, it exists to ensure that no viable UK export should fail

for a lack of finance from the private market. It provides finance and insurance to help exporters win, fulfil and get paid for export contracts.

March 2022 Transaction Data

News story

This data provides information about the number and types of applications that HM Land Registry completed in March 2022.



Image credit: NicoElNino/Shutterstock.com

Please note this data shows what HM Land Registry has been able to process during the time period covered and is not necessarily a reflection of market activity.

In March

- HM Land Registry completed more than 2,125,500 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 490,963

HM Land Registry completed 2,125,508 applications in March compared with 1,870,826 in February and 2,081,283 last March 2021, of which:

- 390,596 were applications for register updates compared with 352,901 in February
- 1,141,724 were applications for an official copy of a register compared

with 1,022,285 in February

- 265,590 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 213,926 in February
- 19,507 were postal applications from non-account holders compared with 17,463 in February

Applications by region and country

Region/country	January applications	February applications	March applications
South East	417,879	440,118	490,963
Greater London	322,350	339,757	386,977
North West	199,888	216,620	244,964
South West	172,166	178,861	209,168
West Midlands	149,113	156,319	177,003
Yorkshire and the Humber	137,147	149,242	166,917
East Midlands	128,132	136,288	156,855
North	86,516	90,326	107,426
East Anglia	78,782	79,717	89,455
Isles of Scilly	50	42	100
Wales	79,621	83,412	95,565
England and Wales (not assigned)	50	124	115
Total	1,771,694	1,870,826	2,125,508

Top 5 local authority areas

March 2022 applications

Top 5 local authority areas March applications

Birmingham	29,962
City of Westminster	25,617
Leeds	24,294
Cornwall	22,554
Buckinghamshire	22,058

February 2022 applications

Top 5 local authority areas February applications

Birmingham	26,640
City of Westminster	24,482
Leeds	21,533

Top 5 local authority areas February applications

Cornwall	18,862
Buckinghamshire	18,808

Top 5 customers

March 2022 applications

Top 5 customers	March applications
Infotrack Limited	151,371
Enact	65,731
O'Neill Patient	31,569
Optima Legal Services	31,077
TM Group (UK) Ltd (Search Choice)	28,064

February 2022 applications

Top 5 customers	February applications
Infotrack Limited	121,736
Enact	48,172
O'Neill Patient	28,227
TM Group (UK) Ltd (Search Choice)	22,048
Land Technologies Ltd	21,750

[Access the full dataset on our Use land and property data service.](#)

Next publication

Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The April data will be published at 11am on Monday 23 May 2022.

Published 25 April 2022

[Tech transfer leader Dr Alison Campbell OBE appointed as CEO of government's new technology transfer unit](#)

- UK government hires Dr Alison Campbell OBE, former Director of Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI), as CEO of the Government Office for Tech

Transfer (GOTT)

- GOTT will support the way government manages and commercialises its estimated £104 billion worth of knowledge assets
- Dr Campbell will oversee later stages of GOTT's development ahead of formal launch later this year

Dr Alison Campbell OBE has been appointed as CEO of the newly formed Government Office for Tech Transfer (GOTT), the government announced today (25 April 2022).

Technology transfer is the broad term applied to the transfer of assets, such as intellectual property rights, technology or new knowledge, from one organisation to another, with the objective of stimulating the development and adoption of new products, processes and services that benefit society.

An experienced leader from within the Knowledge Transfer industry, Dr Campbell joins GOTT from a previous position as Director of Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI), Ireland's national office helping businesses to benefit from access to public sector research expertise and technology.

The new government unit will sit within the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and is being developed to ensure that the public sector is maximising the value of its knowledge and innovation assets estimated to be worth £104 billion – including intellectual property, software, processes and data – leading in the long term to new productivity-driving innovations that will serve business and public services, and result in benefits to the economy.

She brings over 20 years of experience to the role, having started her career in the biotech industry, holding positions including interim CEO of the Medical Research Council's technology transfer company (MRCT), and leading technology transfer and research support at King's College London. Dr Campbell was also Chair of the Board at AUTM (the US based international association for technology transfer).

She was awarded an OBE in 2010 in recognition of her contribution to Knowledge Transfer.

Incoming GOTT CEO Dr Alison Campbell OBE said:

I am delighted to take up this new role, helping to support the management of knowledge assets from across the public sector to deliver societal and economic impact.

Here in the Government Office for Tech Transfer we will have a strong platform to build from thanks to the significant work and delivery from the existing Knowledge Assets Team and the engagement and support from key public sector stakeholders.

Science Minister George Freeman said:

Home to some of the greatest institutions and scientists in the world, the UK is an exceptional research, knowledge, and innovation base.

For too long however, we have let British discoveries slip through our fingers and be brought to market elsewhere: often commercialised in the US, taking the expertise and financial benefits from UK research to foreign shores.

This is why I am so pleased that Dr Alison Campbell, a formidable leader in the field of Knowledge Transfer, is joining us to lead our excellent new Government Office for Technology Transfer, a body that will be critical to maximising UK government's outstanding home-grown knowledge assets to benefit the country's economy, society, and position as a global science superpower.

The unit will launch later this year, providing specialist skills to support the way government manages its knowledge assets. Alongside this are 2 public sector funding schemes:

- a grant fund, investing in pre-commercial proposals
- a managed fund focused on providing pre-seed and seed capital to public sector knowledge assets

The Grant Fund has already awarded one round of funding, via which GOTT is funding several exciting scientific projects, including technology for earlier and more effective diagnosis of breast cancer.

Further details on the government's strategy for knowledge and innovation assets in the public sector can be found in the [Mackintosh Report](#), in which the plan to develop GOTT was set out.

[Call for cash and in-kind sponsorship for the Platinum Jubilee and Queen's Birthday Party 2022 in Japan](#)

World news story

The British Embassy Tokyo is looking for cash and in-kind sponsorship to help mark the Platinum Jubilee and deliver the annual event to mark the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is in 2022, and the British Embassy in Tokyo will hold the Queen's Birthday Party on Thursday 16 June. Any company wishing to register an expression of interest to provide sponsorship should make contact with the Embassy as below by 17:00 JST on Friday 06 May 2022.

Cash sponsorship: Japan.PlatinumJubilee@fco.gov.uk for the attention of Paul Ellis

In-kind sponsorship: Japan.PlatinumJubilee@fco.gov.uk for the attention of Takako Nakano

Published 25 April 2022