

Next steps on future oversight of Open Banking announced

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has today published its recommendations for the future oversight and governance of Open Banking. The CMA's recommendations will be taken into consideration in the design of a future entity to succeed the Open Banking Implementation Entity (OBIE). The future entity would build on the significant progress made to date by the OBIE to encourage innovation and support competition in retail banking.

The CMA, HM Treasury, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and Payment Systems Regulator (PSR) have today also published a [joint statement outlining their plans for oversight of the future entity](#), building on the CMA's recommendations, including the establishment of a Joint Regulatory Oversight Committee.

The UK has been a global leader in this area and, as of January 2022, there were over 5 million users of services powered by Open Banking technology. It has been estimated that by September 2023, 60% of the UK population will be using Open Banking payments.

The CMA launched a [public consultation on the future oversight of Open Banking](#) in March 2021. The consultation sought views on what arrangements should be put in place to ensure effective oversight and governance following the implementation of the remaining measures in the Roadmap required under the CMA's Order for Open Banking; and how the CMA should manage the transition process towards this new governance model. The CMA has carefully considered the responses to the consultation ahead of publishing its response.

The CMA's recommendations are that the future entity should:

- have effective regulatory oversight, with a new Joint Regulatory Oversight Committee to agree and implement the next steps led jointly by the FCA and PSR;
- have independent and accountable leadership, with a majority of independent directors on its Board;
- have a clear purpose articulated by the Board;
- be adequately resourced to carry out its functions through a more broadly-based and sustainable funding model;
- effectively serve the interests of consumers and small and medium sized businesses, including consideration for how these groups will be represented in the governance of the entity;
- be sustainable and adaptable to the future needs of the sector;
- have a system to effectively support the monitoring and enforcement of the Retail Banking Market Investigation Order 2017.

The joint statement published today outlines that the Joint Regulatory Oversight Committee will draw up proposals for the design of the future

entity by the end of 2022.

Andrea Coscelli, Chief Executive of the CMA, said:

Open Banking has been a major success in the UK, bringing innovative new services to retail banking and benefiting consumers, businesses and the UK economy.

The CMA has carefully considered the appropriate future arrangements to boost Open Banking so that its significant benefits can be realised even more widely. We have today outlined the core principles that will ensure the new entity successfully picks up the reins.

In 2017, Open Banking was launched in the UK as part of a package of remedies following the CMA's market investigation into retail banking. The CMA ordered the 9 largest retail banks in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to pay for and set up an independent Open Banking Implementation Entity.

Open Banking enables consumers and businesses to share their bank and credit card transaction data securely with trusted third parties who are then able to provide them with applications and services which save them time and money. In a market where larger, established banks have accounted for over 80% of the current account market for many years, Open Banking encourages account switching and drives down costs for small and medium businesses, boosting competition and innovation.

1. The CMA's response to the consultation on the future oversight of Open Banking, published today, also takes into account the findings of the report by Alison White into a number of allegations relating to OBIE; to the then Implementation Trustee; and to certain current and former senior staff members of OBIE. The investigation concluded that [OBIE had not been properly managed](#) and a lack of appropriate corporate governance was a direct contributor.
2. As part of the CMA response to Alison White's review, on 23 November 2021, the CMA appointed Kirstin Baker, an independent non-executive Director of the CMA, to lead a [review to identify the lessons for the CMA in its approach to designing, implementing and monitoring remedies in its market investigations](#). The review is expected to be completed within six months of launch and its findings reported to the CMA Board and published. The CMA will consider the implications of the findings of the review for the future governance of Open Banking once the findings are published later this year.
3. In [TrueLayer's 2021 report](#), "The Future of ecommerce payments", it was estimated that on its current growth trajectory, 60% of the UK population will be open banking users by September 2023.
4. All media enquiries should be directed to the CMA press office by email on press@cma.gov.uk, or by phone on 020 3738 6460.

Angela Kauffman paintings worth £1.5 million at risk of leaving UK

Press release

A temporary export bar has been placed on A Pair of Group Portraits of Mr and Mrs Joseph May and their Children by Angelica Kauffman



The paintings are worth £1.5 million and are by one of the major painters of the neoclassical period

- Export bar is to allow time for a UK gallery or institution to acquire the painting
- The paintings are worth £1.5 million and are by one of the major painters of the neoclassical period

A Pair of Group Portraits of Mr and Mrs Joseph May and their Children, dating to 1780, is at risk of leaving the UK unless a buyer can be found.

Worth £1.5 million, the two paintings portray a family separated by gender – making them unprecedented in Kauffman’s work, in which families are normally depicted together. Her known collection of 800 pieces shows no other evidence of this format, which is an exceptional phenomenon both in Kauffman’s work and European art of the late eighteenth century.

Arts Minister Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay said:

Angelica Kauffman was one of just two female founding members of the Royal Academy. These fascinating portraits are highly unusual for the period, depicting an eighteenth-century family separated by gender. I hope that a buyer comes forward so that they can remain in the UK, and so that we can continue to learn more about these exceptional works of art.

The minister's decision follows the advice of the [Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest] (<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/supporting-collections-and-cultural-property/reviewing-committee#section-1>). The committee agreed that the paintings had an unusual and purposeful composition, and noted that the female group and its allusion to the Virgin Mary was especially beautiful.

Committee Member Professor Mark Hallett said:

Angelica Kauffman was one of the most important painters working in late eighteenth-century Britain and this is an especially interesting example of her output. Though the artist is justly celebrated for her subject pictures, Kauffman's portraits are equivalently complex and ambitious in character. This double portrait of the May family, in which Mary May is pictured with her daughters, and Joseph May with his sons, is extremely unusual in splitting up its male and female subjects in such a direct way. At the same time, Kauffman's adept handling of composition ensures that the two pictures elegantly complement each other. As well as having a powerful aesthetic appeal, the paintings offer a sensitive pictorial meditation on parental and sibling relationships, and on the different stages of childhood. For all these reasons, they make a powerful contribution to our understanding of Georgian portraiture.

The committee made its recommendation on the grounds that the departure of this pair of paintings from the UK would be a misfortune because of their outstanding significance for the study of eighteenth-century portraiture.

The decision on the export licence application for the paintings will be deferred for a period ending on 24 July 2022 inclusive. At the end of the first deferral period owners will have a consideration period of 15 Business Days to consider any offer(s) to purchase the pair of paintings at the recommended price of £1.5 million (plus VAT of £300,000 which can be reclaimed by an eligible institution). The second deferral period will commence following the signing of an Option Agreement and will last for four months.

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the pair of paintings should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.
2. Details of the paintings are as follows: Angelica Kauffman (1741–1807) Mary May (1745–1824) with her daughters Maria Emilia, Louisa and Sophia Margaret and Joseph May (1730–1796) with his sons Joseph (born 1767), Thomas Charles (1772–1837) and John (1775–1856), 1780 Oil on canvas Framed: 144.5 x 176.5 cm
3. Provenance: Commissioned by Joseph May (1730-1796), for Hale Park,

Hampshire; By descent through his daughter Elizabeth by his second marriage, who married Robert Maxwell of Islandmore, Croom, Co. Limerick in 1842; By descent to their daughter-in-law, Mrs. E. Maxwell, Dublin; G.B. Smith; His sale (probably on behalf of Mrs. Maxwell), Christie's, London, 15 May 1886, lots 87 and 88; Purchased by McLean for £173.5s and £63 respectively; By descent to Mr. and Mrs. Keld Fenwick, Sudbury, Suffolk; Mr. John Lecky, London, 1995; Thence by descent to the present owner.

4. The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by Arts Council England (ACE), which advises the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.
5. [Arts Council England](#) is the national development agency for creativity and culture. Its strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) is that, by 2030, England should be a country in which the creativity of everyone is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. ACE invests public money from the government and the National Lottery to support the sector and deliver the vision. Following the [Covid-19 crisis](#), ACE developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90 per cent coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. It is also one of the bodies administering the government's unprecedented £1.96 billion Culture Recovery Fund.

Published 25 March 2022

Major funding boost for victim services as local criminal justice scorecards published

- £440 million package for victim support services in England and Wales
- Pre-recorded evidence to be rolled out to Crown Courts across the North East
- Local criminal justice scorecards published for the first time

The government announced the multi-year funding package as it publishes local criminal justice scorecards for the first time – shining a light on the work of agencies such as the police and Crown Prosecution Service at a regional level.

At present, funding for victim support services is confirmed annually. The move to a long-term model – with at least £147m per year up to 2025 – will

allow charities and service providers to plan for the future, build capacity and strengthen their resilience to help even more victims. It comes as Police and Crime Commissioners report that the number of victims accessing support increased by 15% between 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The money will fund emotional, practical and therapeutic support for victims of crime such as women and girls affected by domestic abuse. This includes helping fund more specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs). The investment will provide greater consistency for people accessing these services and ensure help is always there when needed.

Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Dominic Raab said:

We want more victims to have the confidence to come forward, so that more criminals can be prosecuted and victims can get the justice they deserve.

We're increasing transparency through local scorecards, rolling out pre-recorded cross-examination for rape victims to more Crown Courts, and boosting funding for vital support services to £440 million over the next three years so that victims get the support they need.

The local criminal justice scorecards include information on the time taken for cases to be investigated by the police, for someone to be charged and for the case to be completed at court. The data can be broken down by local police forces, CPS area as well as Local Criminal Justice Boards. The scorecards also include information on victim engagement. Ministers are determined to increase confidence in the criminal justice system so that more victims stick with the process to ensure justice is served. This data will be published alongside scorecards detailing the national picture.

Both the local and national datasets spotlight, specifically, the response to rape and sexual violence – delivering on a key pledge in the government's Rape Review. The aim is to use this data to help drive a major increase in the number of prosecutions reaching court.

In addition to this, it was also confirmed today that measures which spare victims of rape and modern slavery the trauma of giving evidence in the full glare of a courtroom will be rolled out to the North East of England. Known as Section 28, the measure allows victims – subject to a successful application to the court – to have their cross-examination pre-recorded earlier in the process and outside of the live trial. It can help to reduce stress to ensure they give their best evidence.

The provision will be introduced to Crown Courts in York, Grimsby, Hull, Bradford and Teesside in the coming weeks as part of a phased national roll out. It is already available at Liverpool, Leeds, Kingston-Upon-Thames,

Harrow, Isleworth, Wood Green and Durham Crown Courts.

Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, said:

I very much welcome the announcement by the Ministry of Justice about multi-year funding. It's essential that domestic abuse victims and survivors can rely on getting the long term support they need and deserve.

For too long domestic abuse services have been forced to lurch from one short term financial settlement to another and I delighted to see the Ministry of Justice is addressing this issue.

The Victims' Commissioner for England & Wales, Dame Vera Baird QC, said:

For many victims of crime, seeking justice can be an unacceptably slow and frustrating experience. But there are marked differences across the country and some areas notably outperform others. These new scorecards will allow us to reveal regional discrepancies, identify best practice and expose weak links.

But scorecards are not a panacea and numerical snapshots do not tell the whole story. They will need to be complemented by the victims' voice to provide a more rounded picture.

The rollout of section 28 to more courts is a positive move that will help to reduce unnecessary stress and trauma for more victims, and I'm pleased to see this work gather momentum.

Today's announcement builds on recent government action to increase confidence in the justice system including bringing forward a new Victims' Bill, ensuring violent and sexual offenders spend longer in prison and investing nearly half a billion pounds to deliver swifter justice through the courts.

It comes as the government relaunches its #ItStillMatters campaign – to help raise awareness of sexual abuse support services so that victims can get the help they need.

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), Criminal Justice Lead, David Lloyd PCC said:

Police and Crime Commissioners bring Criminal Justice partners together to improve performance on behalf of victims and our local communities.

Using local scorecards we will gain a greater understanding of the

criminal justice system's performance and we will be able to address issues in a more targeted way.

Fay Maxted OBE, Chief Executive of The Survivors Trust said:

I know from Survivors Trust Members Agencies, who are all specialist voluntary sector rape and sexual abuse support services, that the additional, long-term funding announced is really welcome and will help them to meet the increasing demand for therapy and advocacy that we've seen over the past few years.

Alongside this, the wider roll out of Section 28 pre-recorded evidence will make such a difference for rape victims who often tell us that giving evidence in court feels like re-traumatisation instead of the chance to say what happened to them.

Joe Shalam, Policy Director at the Centre for Social Justice, said:

It is welcome to see the government continue to raise the ambitions for victims of crime in the justice system. The CSJ Commission on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation exposed alarming shortfalls in the support available to those affected by heinous criminal acts.

The measures set out today, including local victim scorecards and the wider rollout of pre-recorded evidence, will drive further progress on the protections in place for the most vulnerable victims of crime.

National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Rape and Serious Sexual Assault, Chief Constable Sarah Crew said:

As the national lead on rape and serious sexual assault I welcome this funding for services that provide such a vital role in helping victims. Policing performs an important role, especially in the pursuit of perpetrators, but it's vital that the correct funding of services across the criminal justice system is there to support victims of these horrific crimes.

We're working harder than ever with the Crown Prosecution Service in our joint commitment to increase charging and conviction rates for rape, which remain too low. Operation Soteria, a new and research based approach to rape cases, is being trialled across five forces and the feedback from that is encouraging. Our Joint National Action Plan is already seeing improvement and progress across the board, recognising the importance of our relationship in

helping those most in need.

The publication of local scorecards provide an opportunity for greater openness and transparency with victims and the public. The availability of this data across all partners in one place, for the first time, is central to developing a more accessible and understandable system. We will now focus on looking at the data and work on improving our response where needed.

Notes to editors:

- £147m per year over the next three years is the minimum funding that services will receive including those commissioned via Police and Crime Commissioners through core funding. It forms part of last year's Spending Review commitment to bolster support for victims to £185m by 2024/25. This additional money will go towards increasing the number of ISVAs and IDVAs from 700 to 1000 by 2024/25, establishing a 24/7 service for victims of rape and sexual violence, and ensuring there is flexibility and capacity to respond to emerging support needs and demand for victims of crime.
- The Victims' Bill consultation closed on 3 February 2022. The government will respond in due course.
- If you've ever experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse, you can get confidential support from specialists who will listen to you, believe you and understand how hard it is to talk about. Visit [gov.uk/SexualAbuseSupport](https://www.gov.uk/SexualAbuseSupport) to see the support on offer.

On Section 28:

- Both the defence and prosecution lawyers will be present in court during the pre-recording as will the judge and the defendant.
- The independent judiciary will be responsible to overseeing the use of s.28 and will have discretion to ensure that the interests of justice are served.
- Pre-recording cross-examination preserves a defendant's right to a fair trial.
- In 2021 more than 1,800 witnesses used the S.28 provision to pre-record their evidence. It is already available at Liverpool, Leeds, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Harrow, Isleworth, Wood Green and Durham Crown Courts and we are working with the judiciary, police and CPS to phase it in across all Crown Courts as soon as practicable.
- Vulnerable witnesses and victims are defined as all child witnesses under 18 and any witness whose quality of evidence is likely to be diminished because they are suffering from a mental disorder or physical disability or has significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning.
- Intimidated witnesses and victims for the purposes of this pilot are defined as complainants or witnesses of sexual offences and modern slavery offences.

Driving down roadside litter levels in national spring clean

The government-owned company has once again joined Keep Britain Tidy's national litter-picking effort, which runs from today (25 March) to 10 April, in a push to clear rubbish from the roads.

Litter takes a devastating toll on the environment and costs around £1 billion every year to clean up. It also poses a serious safety risk as road verges and barriers form corridors where litter and debris build up at an alarming rate, creating a hazardous environment for road users, wildlife and the maintenance crews who clean it up.

Freda Rashdi, Head of Customer and Operational Requirements for National Highways, said:

We've taken up Keep Britain Tidy's 'Big Bag Challenge' and pledged to pick at least 8,000 bags of litter for this year's Great British Spring Clean. Over the course of the last six campaigns we've collected 60,000 bags, and we're proud to be joining this vital cause for its seventh year.

Our priority is to keep our roads safe and well maintained, and litter is a huge issue that we're tackling daily. We value Keep Britain Tidy's commitment to eliminating litter, as well as their partnership in our efforts to keep litter off our roads.

The simple fact is that if litter wasn't dropped in the first place it wouldn't need to be picked up. So, this is an opportunity to remind people that they too can make a difference simply by saving litter for the bin.

Ahead of today's launch, National Highways has been working closely with local authorities, who are responsible for collecting litter on most A-roads in England. In February, Stoke-on-Trent council joined forces with National Highways, utilising existing road closures to clear over 15 tonnes of litter and debris from the A50. This collaborative effort saved the council around £40,000 while minimising disruption for road users.

Cllr Carl Edwards, cabinet member for housing and the environment, said:

Thanks to our partners at National Highways for once again highlighting the problem of litter on our country's roads. Litter dropped along roads is dangerous to pick up and a hazard to car drivers and cyclists.

We have a strong sense of civic pride in our city, and the last thing we want to be doing is fining people for dropping litter. But it is a strong deterrent, and we will do so if we need to. The message is simple, leave your litter in your car and pop it in your bin when you get home to keep our roads clean.

National Highways itself is responsible for collecting litter from England's motorways and a small number of A-roads.

A 'day of action' near Manchester at the start of April will see National Highways maintenance teams joined by Keep Britain Tidy for a targeted litter collection on the M56.

And around Sheffield, teams are doing a spring clean of culverts and roadside drainage systems, clearing items dumped by fly tippers to reduce flood risks for local communities.

In the South East, GoPro cameras are being used to monitor litter 'hot spots'. This technology helps maintenance teams highlight problem areas, and analyse how quickly they fill up again with rubbish after cleaning. The M25 is one of the routes currently being monitored.

Meanwhile National Highways colleagues will also be taking matters into their own hands – quite literally – by litter picking in their local communities.

Allison Ogden-Newton, CEO of Keep Britain Tidy, said:

We're delighted that National Highways are once again supporting the Great British Spring Clean by performing dedicated clean-ups of litter hotspots on the road network.

This is often risky work, and we reiterate our message to the public not to be tempted to litter-pick on fast-moving roads because it's extremely dangerous.

We encourage everybody to respect the fact that highway workers face grave danger when having to collect litter thoughtlessly thrown from vehicles, and to keep their rubbish in their vehicle until they can dispose of it correctly.

While this annual campaign runs for a matter of weeks, National Highways picks litter throughout the year and carries out regular inspections to make sure England's motorways and major A-roads are in good condition. The company wants to hear from you if you spot something wrong on the road. This could be anything from a broken sign or barrier, to litter, overgrown vegetation or potholes.

You can [report a maintenance issue to National Highways online](#) or by calling 0300 123 5000.

Get more information on the [Great British Spring Clean](#).

Members of the public should contact the National Highways customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Journalists should contact the National Highways press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever case identified in England, following travel to Central Asia](#)

Latest

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) can confirm that the monitoring periods, for contacts of the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever case who required active monitoring, have now been completed.

No further cases have been identified. We would like to thank our partners in the NHS for their prompt action and all of the contacts for their cooperation.

Previous

Friday 25 March 2022

UKHSA can confirm that a case of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) has been confirmed in England. The woman had recently travelled to Central Asia.

CCHF is a viral disease usually transmitted by ticks and livestock animals in countries where the disease is endemic.

The patient was diagnosed at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and is receiving specialist care at the Royal Free Hospital in London.

Dr Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Advisor at UKHSA said:

It's important to be aware that CCHF is usually spread by tick bites in countries where the disease is endemic, it does not spread easily between people and the overall risk to the public is very low.

We are working with NHS EI to contact the individuals who have had close contact with the case prior to confirmation of their

infection, to assess them as necessary and provide advice.

UKHSA and the NHS have well established and robust infection control procedures for dealing with cases of imported infectious disease and these will be strictly followed.

Dr Sir Michael Jacobs, consultant in infectious diseases at the Royal Free London, said:

The Royal Free Hospital is a specialist centre for treating patients with viral infections such as CCHF. Our high level isolation unit is run by an expert team of doctors, nurses, therapists and laboratory staff and is designed to ensure we can safely treat patients with these kind of infections.

Prior to this case, there have been 2 cases of CCHF imported to the UK, in 2012 and one in 2014. There was no evidence of onward transmission from either of these cases.

The principal carriers of CCHF are Hyalomma ticks, these are not established in the UK and the virus has never been detected here in a tick.

People living in or visiting endemic areas should use personal protective measures to avoid contact with ticks, including:

- avoiding areas where ticks are abundant at times when they are active
- using tick repellents
- checking clothing and skin carefully for ticks