

International Women's Day 2022

Officers and civilian staff from across the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) have been sharing their pledges to #BreakTheBias, the theme for this year's International Women's Day (8 March), as we reflect on our collective commitment to help level the playing field and continue to build an environment where women can thrive at work and within the communities we serve and protect.

MDP officers and staff sharing their #BreakTheBias pledges. Crown copyright.

Improving the representation of women in firearms roles across UK policing continues to be a challenge nationally. In the MDP, 11% of our Authorised Firearms Officers and 64% of our civilian staff are women, working in a range of roles and specialisms throughout the force. We have female representation in almost all ranks and grades across our organisation, up to Assistant Chief Constable and Civil Service Grade 6.

The representation of women in the MDP shows how we are "breaking the bias", given the stereotypical perception that being an armed police officer is a "job for the boys" only. There is, however, still much more to be done and we're working to encourage more women to join us and to ensure equitable and fair treatment and support for all serving female officers and civilian staff.

We recognise the importance of a working environment free from prejudice and where everyone feels valued. As a police force, we're committed to promoting inclusivity and tackling any unacceptable behaviour, within and around the sites and communities we serve and protect, providing a policing service that is inclusive, professional, and ethical, working together with stakeholders and partners to provide support and keep women safe.

Chief Inspector McGlinchey with her #BreakTheBias pledge. Crown copyright.

We all have a role to play in driving forward positive change, calling out unacceptable conduct, breaking gender biases, questioning stereotypes and celebrating the achievements of women in the MDP and more widely in society.

New Assistant Chief Constable Melanie Dales said:

During my short time with the MDP so far, I have met some great female MDP role models and seen evidence of positive ongoing work to continue building a truly inclusive working environment and culture, within which women are valued and can progress to their full potential.

I am also very pleased to see the work that the MDP are developing as part of the national Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, both within our own Force and more widely in support of the national Enough campaign. Nobody should be bystanders. We can all do our bit to keep women and girls safe, and as police officers we must call out, challenge, report and act against any behaviour that betrays our professional standards or that concerns us.

As the new MDP Gender Champion, I look forward to working with our dedicated staff and teams across the organisation and within the wider MOD, to further progress activity to remove barriers and identify initiatives to improve the lived experience for women in the MDP and Defence.

Here's just some of the things we're doing to "break the bias" and support continuous growth and development of an inclusive culture in the MDP:

- The MDP Gender Network aims to improve the lived experience – including engagement, development, and promotion opportunities – for women in the force and those who support them. The Network provides input on policies and processes, and contact points, as a safe space for members to raise any issues or share ideas and thoughts.
- Collaborative working with other networks and associations within Defence, the Civil Service and policing, including the Defence Gender Network and the British Association of Women in Policing (BAWP)
- provision of a dedicated Force Maternity Coordinator, on a voluntary basis, providing guidance, advice and support to female officers going on or returning from maternity leave, as well as support and guidance in relation to paternity, adoption, and shared parental leave
- engaging our staff networks, including the Gender Network, in an independent assessment of current MDP shift patterns, to develop options to improve efficiency and effectiveness and support flexible working
- developing our mentoring processes and positive action activity, to support recruitment and staff development in the coming year and beyond

Further information

During Women's History Month throughout March, on Facebook and Twitter, we'll be...

- reflecting further on what we're doing to help #BreakTheBias
- supporting and promoting the national [Enough Campaign](#)
- and MDP women will be answering some quick questions on themselves and life in the force, as they share their #MyMDPMinute

Find out more about our commitment to diversity and inclusion in the MDP: [we value difference in our force with a difference](#)

[Organisation offering alternative cancer therapies to wind up after charity regulator questioned its public benefit](#)

[Gerson Support Group](#) was registered as a charity in 1997 to relieve sickness and to preserve and promote good health by providing support to cancer patients. The charity also aimed to advance public education in the "Gerson nutritional therapy", based on a specific organic vegetarian diet, nutritional supplements and enemas.

In September 2019, the regulator opened a case to examine how the organisation fulfilled these purposes in practice, including seeking information from its trustees, and reviewing publicly available information about Gerson nutritional therapy.

This case was conducted and concluded in the period after the [Commission's 2018 review](#), which updated the regulator's approach to assessing the charitable status of organisations offering complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapies. [The review concluded](#) that to satisfy the 'public benefit' requirement and qualify for charitable status, organisations must provide evidence that the therapy being offered is capable of delivering the claimed benefits. CAM organisations that claim a therapy can cure a particular condition therefore need to provide objective scientific evidence for their claims. This contrasts with those focussing on offering comfort and relief to patients, which may be able to rely on other types of evidence, such as patient reported outcomes, to demonstrate their public benefit.

In assessing Gerson Support Group, the regulator identified concerns about the extent to which it was providing public benefit. In response to the Commission's concerns, the organisation's trustees acknowledged that the

evidence around Gerson nutritional therapy, and its claims to treat cancer and its symptoms, would not now meet the Commission's criteria for registration as a charity.

The trustees are now in the process of winding the charity up and have applied its outstanding funds to other charitable organisations.

Helen Earner, Director of Regulatory Services for the Commission, said:

I welcome the decision by the trustees of Gerson Support Group to wind it up, having recognised our concerns regarding its claims to cure people from life-threatening diseases.

Charitable status is a special status that comes with clear expectations and responsibilities. The law is clear that all organisations which wish to hold that status must demonstrate public benefit.

It is right that, following the Commission's intervention, the organisation has been removed from the register of charities.

Gerson Support Group has now been removed from the register of charities.

In a [blog published today Helen Earner](#) explains the Charity Commission's wider approach to regulating organisations offering complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapies.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.

[Crime news: update to CA1 form for court appointee claims](#)

News story

New digital CA1 form should now be used for court appointed advocacy claims after review of hourly rates.



A new CA1 form (v5) is now available following a review of hourly rates for court appointed cross-examination advocacy work on behalf of unrepresented defendants.

Why is this happening now?

We amended the form after increases to the guideline hourly rates under sections 36 and 38 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. This followed a request from the Law Society.

The rates will apply to claims made with the CA1 form, along with full travel and waiting rates where appropriate.

Providers will still be expected to justify their claims. These will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Timescales for new rates

You must use the new form to claim the increased rates, which apply to court appointments made on or after 1 October 2021. For all other claims, you must use the new form from 1 April 2022.

Providers who have had eligible claims reduced based on the hourly rate can request a redetermination from the Criminal Case Unit, which assesses the claims – see below.

Further information

[Court appointee: magistrates' court and crown court claims \(CA1\)](#) – to download new CA1 form

courtappointee@justice.gov.uk – mailbox to request redetermination from Criminal Cases Unit

[Claims paid out of central funds](#) – claims dealt with by the Criminal Cases Unit

Published 8 March 2022

More than 7,000 shrubs planted to combat climate change in Essex

Press release

Over 2,000 metres of hedgerow has been planted in Seawick and Leewick near Clacton to help store carbon.



Carbon catching hedges planted in Seawick and Leewick.

The hedges consist of more than 7,000 individual shrubs and have been planted at 3 separate locations. North and south of Beach Road in Seawick, north from Leewick Sewage Works and alongside the southern side of Leewick Depot.

Plants store carbon in the form of carbohydrates, for immediate and long-term growth. These are produced by photosynthesis, whereby they take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It is then turned into sugars that go on to become leaves, stems, roots, and woody trunks.

The shrub planting forms part of the Environment Agency's £1.1 million Seawick Sea Defence project.

Sarah Long, Senior Landscape Architect at the Environment Agency, said: > > The newly planted hedgerows provide numerous environmental and practical benefits. They will improve air quality, provide food and shelter to local wildlife and reinforce the character of the local landscape. > > We've deliberately used biodegradable plant guards to minimise the Seawick and Leewick project's carbon impact, fully committed to carbon capture and habitat enhancement. > > These hedges are a fantastic example of a nature-based solution that helps to combat climate change.

The work forms part of the Environment Agency's £1.1 million Seawick Sea Defence project, to improve the resilience of the sea defences in the area.

This will better protect from sea flooding and the severe impact that it can have on people, properties and the local economy, which relies heavily on tourism.

Additional information

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Peter Wilson appointed Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

Press release

The Cabinet Secretary, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has today announced Peter Wilson as the new Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.



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Mr Wilson, who is currently Her Majesty's Ambassador to Brazil, will begin his role at Number 10 on Monday. He replaces Martin Reynolds, who will return to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Notes to Editors

- Mr Wilson has been HM Ambassador to Brazil since January 2021.
- His career in government has included roles as HM Ambassador to the Netherlands and as Second Ambassador to the United Nations in New York.
- He also spent over a decade working on Asia policy in Beijing, Islamabad

and London earlier in his career.

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