

# New data shows 148 severe antibiotic-resistant infections a day in 2021

[The latest data published by the UK Health Security Agency](#) (UKHSA) reveals that the estimated total number of serious antibiotic resistant infections in England rose by 2.2% in 2021 compared to 2020 (53,985 compared to 52,842). This is the equivalent of 148 severe antibiotic resistant infections a day in 2021.

Antibiotic resistance occurs naturally, but inappropriate usage and overuse of antibiotics can accelerate this process. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are less likely to respond to treatment, causing serious complications, including bloodstream infections, sepsis and hospitalisation. This is why it is important to take antibiotics only when they are prescribed and necessary for the condition.

The number of severe antibiotic-resistant infections remains below pre-pandemic levels (62,422 in 2019), driven by a number of factors including changes in how NHS services were delivered and how much people contacted the NHS, as well as social behaviour (reduced social mixing and enhanced hand hygiene) during the pandemic.

In England, total antibiotic use fell by 15.1% between 2017 to 2021, from 18.8 Daily Defined Doses (DDD) per 1,000 inhabitants per day to 15.9. This means that England has exceeded the government's National Action Plan goal to reduce prescribing by 15% by 2024 from a 2014 baseline. However, this downward trend may not be sustained unless we continue to use antibiotics appropriately and continue to drive down infections overall.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Advisor at UKHSA, said:

We are already seeing resistance emerge to our very newest antibiotics – innovation to find new treatments will only succeed if we use what we have responsibly. Overuse of antibiotics will mean they stop working against life threatening conditions such as sepsis.

Antibiotics won't help the symptoms of cold, flu or coronavirus (COVID-19) – please trust your healthcare professional, take antibiotics only as prescribed, never share with others and don't save for later. Taking antibiotics when you don't need them puts you and your loved ones at risk of having an untreatable infection in future.

Professor Dame Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of UKHSA, said:

Antibiotic resistance is not a distant problem that we can ignore –

infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria are killing thousands of people every year in this country and globally, as well as having a huge economic impact. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a pivotal moment to maintain focus on the 'silent pandemic' of antibiotic resistance through our extensive surveillance and antibiotic stewardship activities.

While the number of severe antibiotic resistant infections has reduced during the pandemic compared to 2019, resistance to some key antibiotics remains high. Over two-fifths of E. coli bloodstream infections are resistant to co-amoxiclav, a key antibiotic used in the treatment of serious infections in hospital. UKHSA is also monitoring newer antibiotic therapies such as cefiderocol to identify resistance.

An initial assessment of cefiderocol susceptibility in E. coli and Pseudomonas spp. bloodstream isolates in England has already identified resistance. Investigating and understanding resistance to newer antibiotics is an important area of development.

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## [Change of His Majesty's Ambassador to Romania: Giles Portman](#)

Press release

Mr Giles Portman has been appointed His Majesty's Ambassador to Romania.



Mr Giles Portman has been appointed His Majesty's Ambassador to Romania in succession to Mr Andrew Noble LVO. Mr Portman will take up his appointment during October 2023.

# Curriculum vitae

Full name: Giles Matthew Portman

Married to: Lucie Portman

Children: 2

Dates	Role
2021 to 2022	FCD0, Director Europe, Europe Directorate
2020 to 2021	FCD0, Director EU Exit, Europe Directorate
2019 to 2020	FCO, Deputy Director EU Foreign and Security Policy, Europe Directorate
2015 to 2019	European External Action Service, Brussels, Head of East Stratcom Task Force
2011 to 2015	European External Action Service, Brussels, Adviser to the High Representative/Vice President
2007 to 2011	Ankara, Deputy Head of Mission
2003 to 2006	United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the European Union, Brussels, First Secretary
2002 to 2003	FCO, Head, EU Public Diplomacy, Europe Directorate
1998 to 2001	Prague, Second Secretary
1996 to 1997	United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the United Nations, New York, Adviser
1995 to 1996	FCO, New Entrant, European Union Department (Fast Stream)
1994 to 1995	Department of Transport, New Entrant, British Rail Privatisation (Fast Stream)

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## [Statement on planned Northern Trust consultation](#)

The Department of Health has been advised by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust of its planned public consultation on the future of acute maternity services in its area.

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## [Disability on the Record – Exhibition to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The Department for Communities is hosting a two-week exhibition to celebrate the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

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## [Seven new Social Mobility Commissioners appointed](#)



### Social Mobility Commission

- Minister for Women and Equalities, Liz Truss, appoints 7 new commissioners to Social Mobility Commission board
- The appointments will support Katharine Birbalsingh in her role as Chair of the SMC
- The new board members will advance the independent work of the SMC following this year's State of the Nation report

Dr Raghiv Ali, Resham Kotecha, Matthew Goodwin, Ryan Henson, Rob Henderson\*, Parminder Kohli and Rob Wilson have been appointed to the Board for a period of 4 years. They will make up a new panel of advisers from diverse ethnic backgrounds, with expertise stretching from academia to education and business.

Following the announcement of Katharine Birbalsingh and Alun Francis as the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Social Mobility Commission (SMC), the organisation released its [State of the Nation report](#) in June. The report, and accompanying [speech by the Chair](#), have set a new direction for the work of the SMC, which the newly appointed Commissioners will help to advance.

Minister for Women and Equalities, Liz Truss, said:

Everyone in the UK should have the freedom to reach their full potential. These appointments are a positive step forward for equality in this country as we strive to improve social mobility and ensure everyone has the chance to succeed.

The combined expertise and experience of the new Commissioners will help the SMC to carry out its important work to ensure a person's circumstances of birth do not determine outcomes in life.

Further Information:

These appointments were conducted in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

The Social Mobility Commission is an independent statutory body (an organisation created by an Act of Parliament), established by The Life Chances Act 2010.

\*Note: Rob Henderson has since stepped down from the Commission for personal reasons.

Published 1 September 2022

Last updated 21 November 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 21 November 2022

Rob Henderson has stepped down from the Commission so I have noted this at the bottom of the press release

2. 1 September 2022

First published.