

# Transparency data: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs commercial pipeline data: 2019

Commercial pipelines providing a forward look of potential commercial activity within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

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## Second Polish-British Science Forum to take place in London

The second edition of the Polish-British Science Forum will take place on 20 September in London. It will bring top scientists and innovators from the UK and Poland to showcase scientific collaboration between the countries and discuss the challenges and opportunities for Women in STEM.

The event will consist of thematic workshops and blocks, led by high-level representatives of research and innovation institutions. Among others, participants will discuss the issue of gender equality in STEM, and whether AI and new technologies will improve gender inclusion in the field.

The Science Forum provides a platform for researchers, scientists and universities from the UK and from Poland to connect with each other, learn about new opportunities, discuss the issues of the day and share experience of doing research in Poland and the UK. Selected edtech companies from both countries will also display their innovative solutions.

The Forum is a joint initiative of the British Embassy Warsaw, the Polish Embassy UK, the UK Science and Innovation Network and the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The [first edition of the Forum](#), which took place in September 2018 in Warsaw, brought together over 200 participants to discuss Polish-British cooperation in science and innovation.

Registration to the Science Forum is now open – registration is free but places are limited.

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## Dye project to identify fish migration on the Alne

The 2 year, £30,000 project, which is part of a fish improvement programme, is being funded by the Environment Agency and the Severn Rivers Trust. The Banister Charitable Trust has also provided an additional £9,000.

The project sees Environment Agency fisheries officers using different coloured dye markings on fish for different stretches of the river above Alcester. Anglers are being asked to record catching fish with their dye colour, so data can be compiled by the Environment Agency showing where fish are migrating to on the river. Local angling clubs have been given LED flashlights to help with the identification process.

In addition, to improve water quality and geomorphology, new fencing and stiles are being put up along parts of the river to prevent cattle entering the water, 1,000 trees are being planted along embankments, and there are plans for removing a weir.

Environment Agency Fisheries Officer, Darin Alberry, who is leading the project, said:

We've responded to concerns of anglers about declining fish stocks and plan to run this project over a few years so that we've got really good data to monitor fish populations.

The project will help anglers to increase their knowledge of fish populations in the river and just how far up and downstream they migrate.

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## Dye project to identify fish migration on the Alne

Anglers in Warwickshire are being encouraged to get involved in an Environment Agency survey to identify how fish migrate along the River Alne.

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# Defra chief scientist departs after seven years in post

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers has today thanked Professor Sir Ian Boyd on his last day as Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Sir Ian, who has been in the post for seven years, has been responsible for ensuring the department's policies – on everything from air quality to plant health – have been underpinned by sound, scientific advice.

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers said:

Sir Ian Boyd's work for the department over the last seven years has been crucial to ensuring we continue to protect the environment with the very best science available.

I am immensely thankful for his service and wish him all the best in future endeavours.

Some of Sir Ian's key accomplishments while in post include leading the scientific input into key government strategies like the [25 Year Environment Plan](#), [Resources and Waste Strategy](#) and the [Clean Air Strategy](#).

Sir Ian also dealt directly with the threat of [ash dieback](#), driving the use of underpinning research into operational practice, and chaired the Decontamination Science Assurance Group in response to the Salisbury nerve agent attack in 2018.

Commenting on his time in post, Sir Ian Boyd said:

I'm very grateful for the opportunity and privilege to have served as Defra CSA. The role is immensely varied, but ultimately it involves putting science at the heart of all decision making at the department, whether responding to an unexpected event, or long term policy decisions to improve the environment.

I've had the pleasure to serve under several Secretaries at State with different priorities, but I'm proud to say we have ensured science remains top of the agenda.

In terms of science, he has championed innovation in the department, leading to the use of satellite Earth Observation and the creation of the [Defra Earth Observation Centre of Excellence](#). Most recently, he was responsible for establishing the [Systems Research Programme](#), an initiative putting Defra in the lead in using systems approaches to inform policy decisions

Tamara Finkelstein, Permanent Secretary at Defra said:

I'd like to thank Sir Ian for his dedication and contributions to Defra during his time as CSA, and his commitment to bringing the best scientific advice to bear on the department's decision making.

We are indebted to him as the longest serving CSA, and look forward to seeing his ongoing influence in the scientific community.

Sir Ian has BSc and DSc degrees for the University of Aberdeen, a PhD from Cambridge University and has received prizes for his research including the Scientific Medal of the Zoological Society of London, the Bruce Medal for Polar Science from the Royal Society of Edinburgh and The Polar Medal awarded by Her Majesty The Queen. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

He is expected to continue in his role as Professor in Biology at the University of St Andrews. He is also Chair of the UK Research Integrity Office and will also be pursuing research extending from his experiences as CSA at Defra.

Sir Patrick Vallance, Government Chief Scientific Adviser said:

Ian has been a champion of the use of science to improve government, not just in Defra, but more broadly.

His broad knowledge and fearless challenging has been an example of how a CSA can really make a difference.

The CSA sits on Defra's Board and is responsible for overseeing the quality of evidence that the department relies on for policy decisions. They also provide Ministers with scientific advice and sets the priorities for scientific research and evidence-gathering.

Professor Gideon Henderson is [due to take over the post in October](#).