

[News story: DASA Download: Innovation – it's all about the benefit](#)

Seeking Innovations

I represent DASA in Central Southern England. I cover from Chippenham in the West to Slough in the East, and from Oxford in the North, down to Southampton and Portsmouth on the coast. It's an area that is flourishing with innovation, particularly among small businesses and academia. This is one of our busiest regions, with nearly £8m of innovative projects funded in the last two years. Two-thirds of this money has gone to SMEs, many of whom have never previously worked with us before.

Essentially, I am an innovation scout, seeking ideas that have relevance and benefit in the Defence and Security sectors. It's that relevance and benefit that's important here; I need to see that a technology or innovation could offer a real-world benefit before it will be considered for funding. In essence, it is not sufficient to be a ground-breaking idea, it's the potential benefit that really sells it. However, that benefit isn't always obvious on first discovery. For example, I came across a company that develop condition monitoring systems for industrial machines, that provide, for example, advance notice of when a component is about to fail or how many products have been completed. I took time to understand the technology and the company, and together we discovered that the same innovative idea can be adapted to detect illicit devices in buildings. DASA funded this company, under the [Open Call competition](#), to trial the technology and one day soon, we could see a new novel surveillance capability for both Defence and Security use.

Bringing innovation alive

It is this sort of thinking that brings innovation alive for DASA. I work as part of a team of 12 Innovation Partners covering the length and breadth of the UK. We work together to support UK innovators, helping them engage with Government to devise and deliver real world innovation that not only benefits UK Defence and Security, but boosts UK prosperity as well. We are empowered to reach out to harness the most innovative ideas from all sectors of society. The potential is now there to integrate the latest thinking onto our Armed Forces as those technologies emerge – a feat that was not possible or perhaps a laborious and lengthy task only a few years ago.

Boots on the ground matter

To be able to positively contribute to my local economy gives me a deep sense of pride and is something that drives me to establish these innovation links. I also get to meet the most fascinating companies and academics with a broad range of technical expertise. A great example is Oxford Space Systems (OSS) who I first met after giving a talk to raise awareness of DASA. Our conversation led us to establish potential links between their pioneering

satellite antenna work and the Defence space research programme, which is managed by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). I arranged for OSS and Dstl to establish a dialogue and within a matter of months, the 'wrapped rib' antenna project received development funding of £1m and could soon become a key technology in future satellites.

Championing Themes

We run two types of competitions; ['themed competitions'](#) where our defence and security stakeholders in Government, like the Home Office or MOD, have identified specific challenges, and we then help them to find and fund novel ideas or technologies to provide potential solutions. The second type is the [Open Call for Innovation](#) which accepts proposals for any innovation of potential benefit for Defence, and proposals for specific [focused areas](#) for Security. This is open year round.

For our themed competitions we have prior knowledge of what's coming up, but likewise for the Open Call, I know what 'interesting' looks like! I will look to share that information with innovators in my patch, letting them know what the latest themes are, and encourage engagement. A recent themed competition, Take Cover, which looks for innovations in deployable battlefield fortifications, resulted in two successful funding allocations for motorsport companies in my region, including [Williams Advanced Engineering](#).

Open to ideas

DASA has invested £53.1m since December 2016 in cross government projects to develop and trial new capabilities for defence and security. And we want to invest more this year! I will be out and about in the next few weeks talking to existing and new contacts in my region about current and upcoming themed competitions in: countering drones, underwater autonomous vehicles, and bank note security; to name a few. We've also got a 'Space' competition, for which we're looking to fund advances in novel sensors, free-space optical communications, satellite protection systems and techniques for understanding the capability and intent of other satellites. I shall also be briefing on the focus areas for the Open Call, in particular, we're looking for innovations that could potentially benefit transport security.

So, if you think you have a great idea, get in touch and DASA will match you up with me if you're in my region or the Innovation Partner in your area accelerator@dstl.gov.uk

About Ben

Ben joined DASA as an Innovation Partner in April 2017. He has a Masters in Engineering Science from the University of Oxford and 14 years' experience working across Defence, having worked for the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) and central MOD. When not working, he's invariably either riding or tinkering with mountain bikes.

[News story: Crime news: further drive to boost accurate electronic Crown Court claims](#)

We are pleased to announce that further workshops have been planned to take place in Birmingham, Leeds, London and Newcastle.

Where will they be held?

- LAA office Birmingham, 16 and 17 May, 11am to 1.45pm, 1st floor Cannon House, 18 The Priory Queensway, B4 6BS
- Newcastle Upon Tyne Combined Court Centre, 29 May 2019, 5pm to 7.30pm, The Law Courts, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3LA
- LAA office Leeds, 11 and 12 June 2019, 11am to 1.45pm, Ground Floor, 5 Welling Place, Leeds, LS1 4AP
- Canary Wharf, 1, 9 and 10 July 2019, 11am to 1.45pm, Auditorium 3.30, North Zone, 3rd Floor, 10 South Colonnade, E14 4QQ

What are the workshops for?

A number of claims are being submitted without the correct information. This is leading to unnecessary rejections and fee reductions.

The workshops will cover:

- supporting information for electronic evidence
- assessment process
- LAA reports
- special preparation

How do I apply?

If you are interested in attending email jennifer.johnson@justice.gov.uk

Places are limited so you will need to apply early.

Further information

[Criminal legal aid processing: applications and digital systems](#) – for information on digital systems for criminal legal aid

News story: Police granted funding boost for action on serious violence

The Home Secretary has allocated police forces the final part of a dedicated £100 million fund to tackle serious violence.

Sajid Javid announced that £12.4 million will be distributed to 18 forces dealing with high levels of violent crime. It comes after £51 million was announced for the forces ahead of Easter for additional officer deployments, improved intelligence, and short-term operational actions such as targeting habitual knife carriers.

The announcement comes ahead of the first meeting of a new ministerial taskforce on serious youth violence, chaired by the Prime Minister, in Downing Street today.

Home Secretary, Sajid Javid said:

I've been doing everything in my power to ensure we have the strongest possible response to tackle violent crime – and law enforcement plays a key role in this.

This money means forces can take urgent action, including more officers on duty in the worst affected areas.

It takes a collective effort to tackle violent crime and I'll continue to work closely with police and partners to end this senseless bloodshed.

The ministerial meetings, starting today, will focus specifically on improving the coordination of the government's response and are designed to complement the existing Serious Violence Taskforce. The taskforce is chaired by the Home Secretary to bring together politicians from across parties, law enforcement and other agencies, regularly on this issue.

The taskforce will be supported by a new serious violence reduction team that will drive forward work to make sure every part of the government system intervenes earlier to protect young lives from violence.

The 18 forces in the worst affected areas of violent crime will now benefit from a larger share of the £100 million funding, including the Metropolitan Police, West Midlands and Greater Manchester.

The £100 million Serious Violence Fund was announced by the government in the March Spring Statement.

Around a third of the funding – £35 million – will support the setting up of violence reduction units (VRUs) and other preventative activity across the

country. VRUs are a multi-agency approach bringing together police, health agencies, local government, and community representatives to tackle violent crime and its underlying causes.

Another £1.6 million is being spent on ensuring forces collect better data to help their planning and ensure targeted action.

The funding comes after new figures showing that stabbings of under-25s have reduced by 15% in London, which the Metropolitan Police attributes to an increase in the use of stop and search and a “massive law enforcement effort”.

The Home Secretary last week chaired his latest Chief Constable roundtable to discuss how forces are using additional government funding to tackle serious violence.

The roundtables will continue and the Home Office will work closely with the police to monitor and assess the impact of the funding, including improving the quality of data returns on serious violence and knife crime in particular.

The police forces receiving the funding are:

Police force	Serious Violence Fund allocation
Metropolitan Police	£20,840,000
West Midlands	£7,620,000
Greater Manchester	£4,800,000
Merseyside	£4,200,000
West Yorkshire	£4,020,000
South Yorkshire	£2,580,000
Northumbria	£2,320,000
Thames Valley	£1,940,000
Lancashire	£1,820,000
Essex	£1,760,000
Avon and Somerset	£1,720,000
Kent	£1,660,000
Nottinghamshire	£1,540,000
Leicestershire	£1,400,000
Bedfordshire	£1,380,000
Sussex	£1,340,000
Hampshire	£1,260,000
South Wales	£1,200,000

Read our latest [serious violence factsheet](#)

Speech: Global Trade Review 2019

Conference keynote address, Secretary of State for International Trade

Introduction

I'd like to start with an exercise. Who here has an iPhone with them?

Take it out, turn it over and tell me what it says on the back. The writing's minute so you're going to need pretty good eyesight, but I can assure you that I'm not here to give you an eye test.

It reads: "Designed by Apple in California. Assembled in China."

iPhones are just one example of the complex and integrated supply chains across the global economy, where design and build can take place across a range of countries, with each step along the way adding value to the final product.

If you measure trade merely in gross terms as a single transaction based on the final price you are missing the point. If you do not understand the complexity and importance of global value chains you will fail to set the appropriate policy frameworks. It is part of the challenge we face in a rapidly changing world of trade.

For example, we are in the middle of a revolution in e-commerce, and the digital economy is now a major part of global trade.

This has changed the game for everyone, from the largest corporations, to the thousands of small companies who have never before been able to trade internationally.

Services are now a larger part of the world economy than ever before. And regulation has not kept pace. The WTO estimates that while services comprise around two-thirds of global GDP and almost half of employment – and nearly half of world trade on a value-added basis – the barriers to trade in services are around as large as those in goods half a century ago.

For the UK, as a services-orientated economy – and the world's second largest services exporter – this clearly needs to change if we are to realise our potential as a truly Global Britain.

If we are make the most of the opportunities for future global prosperity in front of us, it's essential that we draw up a new set of rules governing key areas such as e-commerce and cross-border data flows, and tackle head-on the obstacles to digital trade such as data localisation. We need to redouble our efforts to promote an open, efficient and transparent trading environment.

The dangers of protectionism

Somewhat alarmingly, we appear to be moving in precisely the wrong direction.

For the first time in decades, the system of free, fair, rules-based international trade which underpins our global prosperity is under attack.

Ever since the financial crisis of 2008, G20 countries have been taking steps which limit market access.

Tariff and non-tariff barriers have been thrown up as countries try to defend or support domestic industries. Economists rarely agree on anything, but there is a near-universal conclusion that protectionism of this nature only ever leads to a dead-weight loss.

The consensus is clear: open and competitive markets are the most efficient vehicle for delivering the prosperity we all want.

Tariffs are a nice euphemism, but in truth are simply a tax on imports – an impediment to that prosperity, with far-reaching consequences. Tariffs are taxes. You can't like tariffs but hate taxes.

Tariffs mean people at home pay more for the things they use every day, and the businesses that we rely on to drive our economy will pay more to manufacture products with components from overseas.

Tariffs hold back growth, hitting the poorest among us hardest.

And what is worse, broad-based protectionism provokes retaliation driving up costs further.

Drawing on data from more than 150 countries, the IMF recently concluded that tariff increases had an overall negative impact, reducing productivity, income and welfare.

This has led to higher unemployment, higher inequality, and, incidentally, negligible effects on the trade balance. These barriers have the potential to dampen export orders and reduce manufacturing output, causing lost growth and kindling inflation.

Protectionism in history

Throughout history, attempts to protect domestic industries through tariff barriers – such as the Long Depression of the 1870s and the Great Depression of the 1930s – failed and failed miserably.

In contrast, the reversal of these policies after the Second World War had the opposite effect.

People talk about the moon landings or the climbing of Everest as the pinnacle of human achievement, but when you look at the broader benefit both pale in significance compared to the liberalisation of trade.

For the impact this can have goes way beyond any story that GDP data can tell; it's about something far, far more precious than that.

A study by the IMF found that a change in the real income of the bottom 20% of the population in developing countries was strongly linked with a change in trade openness.

In the past 25 years, trade has helped lift one billion of our fellow human beings out of abject poverty by creating jobs and raising incomes.

As Francis Fukuyama put it in his latest book "Identity", the percentage of children dying before their fifth birthday declined from 22% in 1960 to less than 5% by 2016.

This unprecedented transformation in living standards has been made possible by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the World Trade Organisation, and our acceptance of a global rules based system driving one of the greatest of mankind's achievements to date.

Of course there are those who do not share this interpretation of events, who cannot channel their inner Adam Smith and who argue for intervention and protection.

The infant industries fallacy

It is certainly the case that some countries have historically developed their industries while simultaneously having high tariff barriers.

Some have argued that this is the way forward for industries which require protection from more established competitors.

However, this is not the case. As the OECD has laid out, there is a clear link between Global Value Chain integration and economic transformation for developing economies.

The boom in international trade since the Berlin Wall fell – growing at 8% a year – has seen developing economies as some of its biggest beneficiaries.

Whereas in the past some nations may have used tariffs to protect infant industries in a world where production and value chains were principally within that country, this model no longer works.

As we have seen with my iPhone example earlier, we now live in a world where complex global value chains that cut across national boundaries are an ever more important part of how we do business.

The use of imported intermediate goods and services has become dramatically more important for global exports.

It is estimated that such trade has doubled, with the value added of imports as a share of exports rising from 10% in 1990 to around 20% in 2015.

Imposing tariffs and non-tariff barriers in this globalised world threatens

to fragment these supply chains, often damaging the very industries they seek to protect.

Trade statistics

A failure to understand the complexity of these global supply chains is also causing other problems.

All too often, we hear about how a reduction of our trade deficit is an improvement and an increase a worsening. This is only half the story.

The way the statistics are currently calculated does not capture the value added by each stage of the production process, nor the role of subsidiaries abroad.

This has led several economists to argue that some notional trade balances – most notably between China and the United States – are very misleading.

So, returning for the last time to the iPhone example: US import data will show an iPhone purchased in the US as an import at the retail cost, which is recorded as a trade deficit for the US, and a trade surplus for China.

This does not reflect the fact that only a fraction of its value is added in China. Most of its value was added in California.

And of course, Apple is a US company meaning much of the profit will ultimately end up there.

The deficiencies in measurement tend to make the trade deficit of industrialised economies like the UK and the US – which excel at things like design and software coding, activities that not reflected in most trade metrics – appear larger than they are.

Hal Varian, Google's chief economist, has argued that the value of software in worldwide smartphone sales alone cuts the US trade deficit in half.

WTO reform

But a free and open system also has to be a fair one. Free trade does not have to mean a 'free for all'. Despite its many successes, the international trading system is clearly not perfect and we must do everything we can to ensure that rules are applied fairly, universally and transparently.

We cannot tolerate illegal dumping or subsidy or the inability to determine whether a business is in the state or private sector.

In any dispute, our first port of call has to be the World Trade Organisation – the home of the rules-based international trading system that underpins our prosperity. For all its faults, it represents the best hope of retaining a global consensus on how we operate our trading system.

The United Kingdom will soon take its seat around the table as an independent member for the first time in over 40 years. It is an opportunity for us to

help shape the global debate.

Working alongside our allies, we are making the case to update the WTO rulebook to tackle underlying trade tensions, which include industrial subsidies, state-owned enterprises and forced technology transfer.

We must encourage trust and transparency in the WTO by updating the dispute settlement system and improving members' compliance with notification requirements.

And we need to ensure that the system of special and differential treatment for developing countries is fit for purpose.

Levelling the playing field involves carefully considering poorer countries' individual needs, and ensuring that every country from the poorest developing nation to the world's richest economies reap the benefits of a liberal but rules based system.

Conclusion

Britain is a great and historic trading nation, but we have never seen this trade simply as an end in itself. Trade is a means by which we are able to spread prosperity.

That prosperity underpins social cohesion and that social cohesion, in turn, underpins political stability, which is the building block of our collective security.

It is a win-win system.

But this system cannot be taken for granted and those of us who genuinely believe in free trade and competition have a duty to recommit ourselves to the multilateral system with the WTO at its centre.

Yes let us recognise its faults and weaknesses but let us act collectively to make it work for all members – large and small, rich and poor, for today and for tomorrow. As we prepare to leave the EU, the United Kingdom has a Department of state for International Trade, dedicated to helping businesses like the ones in this room export, driving inward and outward investment, negotiating market access and trade agreements, and championing the concept and benefits of free trade.

It is why we have a network of Her Majesty's Trade Commissioners, with the experience and autonomy to drive our trading performance in specific markets, from China to North America to Africa. You will hear from some of them later.

However, this is not a mission Government can ever fulfil alone.

Businesses – like the ones represented here today – have a crucial role to play.

We want everyone who understands the vast opportunities that free trade represents, and the prosperity it brings, to help make this case.

To be a voice, promoting the benefits of the global multilateral trading system – and making that case throughout the UK and internationally.

We want you to make the case for international trade in practical terms – how it benefits your businesses, your communities and makes a real difference to people's lives.

It is this case that will win the battle against the siren voices of protectionism. We should not be by-standers in our future. We should set a firm course to shape the coming era. For Britain and the world.

And we must success for the price of failure would be too high.

Thank you.

Press release: 34,000 fish reintroduced into River Witham in Lincolnshire

The restocking is part of ongoing work to help the river recover after a serious pollution incident last year