

## Press release: OTS Board changes taking place in the next few months

Today, due to unanticipated changes in his personal and family circumstances, Paul Morton, who has been Tax Director of the OTS since March 2017, has announced his decision to step down from his role, once a successor is in place.

Paul Morton said:

It has been a great privilege to serve as Tax Director of the OTS, and to see so much energy and professionalism focused on improving the taxpayer experience. I am grateful to stakeholders for their unwavering support and to HM Treasury and HMRC colleagues for their outstanding spirit of collaboration.

I very much regret that unanticipated changes in my personal and family circumstances mean that I am no longer able to devote sufficient time to the OTS to fulfill this role. I look forward to following the progress of the important contribution made by the OTS.

Angela Knight CBE had decided over the summer break to step down due to other commitments, having chaired the OTS since January 2016. She will be continuing in the role until her successor and the new Tax Director are fully in place.

Angela Knight CBE said:

I would like to pay tribute to the fresh thinking Paul Morton has brought to the organisation. Paul will be missed and we all wish him well for the future.

Chairing the OTS for three years has been hugely enjoyable and it has been a privilege to work with its dedicated team. Other commitments mean that I will be handing over the role of Chair in due course, once the new Tax Director and my successor are in post. I do so in the knowledge that the OTS has been revitalised, its role strengthened and its impact increasing.

Teresa Graham, Senior Independent Director of the OTS, said:

I am very saddened that Angela and Paul are each having to step down. They have together provided energy and leadership which has made a noticeable difference to the work and reputation of the OTS,

and they will be greatly missed.

The roles of OTS Chair and Tax Director are each Chancellor Appointments, as provided for in Schedule 25 to Finance Act 2016. Each of these roles will be advertised in the usual way.

### **Notes for editors**

The OTS is the independent adviser to government on simplifying the UK tax system, to make it easier for the taxpayer; it does not implement changes – these are a matter for government and for Parliament.

The OTS works to improve the experience of all who interact with the tax system. It aims to reduce the administrative burden – which is what people encounter in practice – as well as looking to simplify the rules, as simplification of the technical and administrative aspects of tax are each important, both to taxpayers and to HMRC.

Press enquiries only please contact Graham Dickson, OTS Press Officer Phone: 03000 585028

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## **Press release: Environment Agency prosecutes Great Chart Golf & Leisure**

Grant and John Kay of Great Chart Golf & Leisure in Ashford along with Mark Luck and Robert Body were fined for waste offences.

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## **News story: Collision between a tram and a pedestrian, Edinburgh**

At about 12:10 hrs on 11 September 2018, a pedestrian who was using a footpath crossing located between Balgreen and Saughton tram stops, was struck and fatally injured by an outbound tram travelling from Edinburgh city centre towards Edinburgh Airport. The crossing, over two tram tracks, provides a pathway between Stenhouse Drive and Saughton Mains Street.

Our investigation will seek to identify the sequence of events which led to the accident and consider any relevant operation or underlying management factors.

Our investigation is independent of any investigation by Edinburgh Tram, the [Office of Rail and Road](#), [Police Scotland](#), or the [Procurator Fiscal](#).

We will publish our findings, including any safety recommendations, at the conclusion of our investigation; these will be available on our RAIB website.

You can [subscribe](#) to automated emails notifying you when we publish our reports.

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## **[Notice: Royal Wedding of Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank: river restriction notice](#)**

River Thames restriction information for Friday 12 October 2018.

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## **[Open consultation: Draft noise action plans \(2018\)](#)**

This consultation is seeking views on the third round of noise action plans which will replace those [previously adopted](#). There are three draft noise action plans covering roads, railways and agglomerations (large urban areas).

The action plans have been prepared in line with the terms of the Environmental Noise Directive (END), which requires Member States to produce noise maps every five years. They chart the level of noise from industry and transport sources, and the number of people exposed to it. The action plans provide guidance for those responsible for managing the noise on how best to do so.