

News story: Updated Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

The [Fire and Rescue National Framework](#) sets priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) across England.

The changes coming into effect will include:

- new guidance on how fire and rescue authorities should work with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
- changes in guidance to reflect recent legislative changes to allow mayors and police and crime commissioners to exercise the functions of an FRA
- provisions supporting the development and delivery of professional standards for FRAs, addressing the current lack of co-ordination of standards across England's fire services
- a workforce section which outlines how FRAs should support and develop their workforce
- changes to encourage commercial transformation by FRAs, leading to further collaboration, innovative thinking and sharing of best practice

The revised Fire and Rescue National Framework follows a [consultation on proposed changes](#) earlier this year, required by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. 71 responses were received overall, with contributions from: the NFCC; the majority of FRAs; the Local Government Association and the Fire Brigades Union among others.

Minister for Policing and the Fire Service Nick Hurd said:

The national framework provides the basis for how fire and rescue services in England should operate. The revised version we have published today should support them becoming more accountable, effective and professional than ever before and embed the government's reform programme.

The order giving effect to the revised framework has been laid before Parliament today (8 May) with the framework coming into force on 1 June 2018.

The Hackitt Review and Grenfell Inquiry may make recommendations which need to be reflected in further revisions to the national framework. We will update as required to ensure any recommendations are captured.

[News story: Immersive audience experiences: apply for funding](#)

Innovate UK has up to £17 million to invest in projects to test and generate new ideas for immersive experiences for audiences and transform the creative industries.

There are 2 parts to this competition. Up to £16 million is available for 4 demonstrator projects for immersive experiences with audiences of more than 100,000 people.

A further £1 million is available for early-stage projects that seek to understand customer needs for immersive experiences and the tools needed to deliver them.

Designing for the future audience

The funding is part of the [audience of the future programme](#) within the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

Immersive experiences such as virtual, augmented and mixed reality have the potential to revolutionise the way we interact with the world. Industries that could benefit include advertising and marketing, architecture, fashion, film and television, gaming, publishing, museums, and music and performing arts.

The UK has world-class creative industries and expertise to apply new immersive experiences and make the most of this market opportunity.

This competition is part of a wider £33 million investment that includes demonstration projects, research and development and an industry centre of excellence.

Demonstrator projects

Demonstration projects must explore new ways of communication with mass audiences using new immersive technologies and experiences that are a significant advance on the state of the art in the chosen area. They should:

- reach a public audience of more than 100,000
- show a high level of innovation and scale that could transform the sector

- generate audience and consumer information that could be used to test the viability of new business models
- show that they could be replicated across the creative industries

Areas with strong potential could include moving images, access to live sporting events, visitor experiences in museums and galleries, and music and theatre performance. You must be able to access or use globally-recognised intellectual property (IP).

Competition information

- the competition opens on 21 May 2018, and the deadline for applications is at midday on 1 August 2018
- projects must be led by a business working with other businesses or researchers and include at least one SME
- we expect total project costs to be between £5 million and £10 million and for projects to last up to 2 years
- you must start your project by 1 November 2018 and end by 31 December 2020
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their project costs
- a briefing event will take place on 21 May 2018

Design foundations

Early-stage projects should use human-centred design and look at audience behaviour to develop ideas for new products and services. Particular areas could include:

- advancing the state-of-the-art with immersive experiences that are desirable and fit-for-purpose
- producing high-quality immersive content cheaper, faster and in a way that is more accessible
- improving physical devices such as eyewear and controllers, or haptic feedback
- new digital platforms and services to deliver immersive content

Successful projects will have an opportunity to apply for funding in 2019 to further develop their ideas.

Competition information

- the competition opens on 21 May 2018, and the deadline for applications is at midday on 4 July 2018
- projects must be led by a business working alone or in collaboration with other businesses, researchers or cultural institutions and must include at least one SME
- we expect total project costs to be between £20,000 and £60,000 and to last between 2 and 6 months
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their costs
- a briefing event will take place on 21 May 2018

[News story: Master and vessel owner fined for fishing in Bass Nursery Area during closed period](#)

William Paul Chapman, master and owner of unlicensed vessels Spirt and Last Minute, was sentenced at Bodmin Magistrates Court on 12 April 2018 in a prosecution brought by the MMO.

The court heard about a joint patrol that was conducted on 15 September 2016 by MMO and Environment Agency (EA) officers around the Camel Estuary in Cornwall, a Bass Nursery Area (BNA) where fishing is prohibited between 1 May and 30 November in any year. The officers observed one vessel fishing within the BNA and two men transferring items to a second vessel.

When that vessel returned to shore officers identified themselves to one of the men, Chapman, who subsequently left the scene. The fish box left behind was found to contain 10 bass, two of which were below the minimum conservation size. Three nets and anchors used in the fishing operation were also found on the vessel.

Chapman pleaded guilty to three offences relating to the catching of the bass and was ordered to pay total of £1,000 fine and £1,000 costs.

A spokesperson for the MMO said:

Bass conservation is very important and this case highlights the benefits of joint patrols between MMO and EA.

In cases like these MMO will always take proportionate and appropriate action, including prosecution, to ensure offenders do not profit from such illegal activity and to protect fish stocks for the wider fishing industry and future generations.

Chris Hitchings, EA Fisheries Enforcement Officer said:

We regularly work with the MMO and pool our resources enabling us to better protect sea fish and migratory fish from illegal capture. We hope that this result will serve as a deterrent to others seeking to fish illegally.

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Press release: PM appoints new Deputy Chair of Security Vetting Appeals Panel

PM appoints new Deputy Chair of Security Vetting Appeals Panel – GOV.UK

Prime Minister Theresa May has approved the appointment of the new Deputy Chair of the Security Vetting Appeals Panel.



The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Sir Antony Edwards-Stuart as the new Deputy Chair of the Security Vetting Appeals Panel, with effect from 1 April 2018. He will replace Sir Stephen Silber who is retiring from the Panel after several years of service.

Sir Antony Edwards-Stuart was called to the Bar (G) in 1976, took Silk in 1991 and elected a Bencher in 2009. He was appointed an Assistant Recorder in 1991, a Recorder in 1997, a Deputy High Court Judge in 2003 and a Judge of the High Court (Queen's Bench) in 2009. He was appointed a Judge by Request of the Upper Tribunal (Administrative Appeals and Immigration and Asylum Chambers) in 2011. He was appointed a Legal Member of the Special Immigration and Appeals Commission and a Judge in Charge, Technology and Construction Court, in 2013. Sir Antony retired from the High Court in November 2016 and has, since, taken up appointments as party appointed arbitrator or chairman in several international arbitrations.

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Thank you for your feedback