

Press release: Fundraising training programme for small charities now open

Charities can sign up for a range of free and low cost training opportunities through our small charities fundraising training programme.

Following a competitive tender process, we have selected the [Foundation for Social Improvement \(FSI\)](#) to run the programme in partnership with the [Small Charities Coalition](#), [Localgiving](#) and the [Charities Finance Group](#).

They will provide training opportunities for small charities, from face-to-face training, to intensive one-to-one advice sessions, skilled volunteering matches and webinars. These will cover topics including:

- developing a fundraising strategy
- fundraising from trusts and foundations
- developing corporate relationships
- crowdfunding and online fundraising

The first year's training programme has been announced, comprising of the following opportunities:

- face-to-face training
- face-to-face workshops
- telephone advice sessions
- 30 minute and 1.5 hour webinars
- a Small Charity Fundraising Conference in Leeds
- a skilled volunteering mentoring programme
- bursaries to the FSI's Fundraising Award Qualification which will be running throughout the year

Providers will also develop and share fundraising training resources and toolkits to support small charities who might not be able to attend training.

[Find out more and sign up](#)

News story: Ensure that recladding work meets building regulations advises expert panel

The Department for Communities and Local Government has written to all

building control bodies in England highlighting key Building Regulations requirements when cladding work on high rise buildings over 18 metres tall is undertaken.

This followed advice from the Independent Expert Advisory Panel whose members were particularly concerned that further risks are not created in any new works undertaken by building owners.

At their third meeting the Independent Expert Advisory Panel recommended that it would be wise to draw attention to the need to ensure that any recladding work complies with all relevant Building Regulations' requirements. In particular requirements on structural safety, resistance to moisture penetration and build up, and energy efficiency need to be considered – as well as ensuring that the fire safety requirements are met.

Building control bodies are responsible for checking that work complies with Building Regulations' requirements. It is the responsibility of those carrying out the work to ensure that the provisions of the regulations are fully met.

The advice from the Department has been sent to all building control bodies in England including local authorities building control departments and private sector Approved Inspectors. It sets out the Department's view that if building owners consider that they need to re-clad their building, for example following the results of recent screening for identification of the type of ACM cladding in use, this should be considered as building work and therefore subject to Building Regulations' requirements.

The letter particularly draws the attention of building control bodies to the following:

- Approaches to demonstrating compliance with fire safety requirements, for example ensuring that cladding and insulation used are of limited combustibility or that a whole wall cladding system BS 8414 test is undertaken. The British Standard 8414 requires that a wall with a complete cladding system – including panels and insulation – fixed to it, is then subject it to a fire that replicates a severe fire in a flat breaking out of a window and whether it then spread up the outside wall.
- Where panels are removed for inspection or testing purposes, the integrity of the whole cladding system needs to be maintained.
- The structural design of any replacement cladding needs to be checked – it should not be assumed that existing fixings and systems are suitable for replacement systems.
- The need to ensure that replacement cladding systems or components protect the building adequately from rain and condensation.

- Guidance on how to meet energy efficiency requirements when recladding.

Read the [letter to building control bodies on recladding of tall buildings](#)

Press release: Justice minister praises staff at Foston Hall near Sudbury

- Justice Minister Dr Phillip Lee thanks staff at Foston Hall prison for their ‘vital work’ in helping to deliver major prison reforms
- Part of the commitment to make prisons places of self-discipline, hard work and reform to reduce reoffending and keep the public safe
- Foston Hall has recently recruited 4 new officers, with 4 more currently in training
- The visit follows £100m investment in 2,500 extra officers across the prison estate

Justice Minister Dr Phillip Lee today visited Foston Hall women’s prison in Derbyshire, where he met frontline staff to hear first-hand about the support they provide to vulnerable women in their care.

The minister sat down with governor Andrea Black and spoke to staff from various roles, to hear about the daily challenges they face supporting prisoners and how the wholesale reforms to the prison system will help to reduce reoffending and improve outcomes for women in custody.

Foston Hall has recently recruited 4 new officers with 4 more currently in training and due to begin work in the coming months. The prison continues to look for ambitious applicants from all backgrounds.

The visit comes as part of a tour of prisons, with the minister hearing from dedicated healthcare staff, who provide specialist support for some of the most vulnerable women, many of whom have suffered abuse and have mental health problems.

As a local resettlement prison, Foston Hall offers vocational training for prisoners in areas such as textiles, retail and horticultural studies – helping prepare them to lead a life without crime by providing the relevant skills for a career on release. Many of the staff at the prison are from the local area and have close links to the community and work hard to reintegrate released prisoners into the area by working closely with local support services.

Foston Hall also has a dedicated unit for vulnerable women, and staff at the

prison have benefited from specialist trauma-informed training. This helps them develop a greater understanding of the behaviours that lead to offending – enhancing safety and security across the estate. Staff are also committed to maintaining family engagement and improving family ties for prisoners.

The government has been clear in its commitment to building on the essential reforms to the prison system which are already under way, including providing specialist training for prison officers and supporting both offenders and ex-offenders in finding sustained employment and housing on release.

Justice Minister Dr Phillip Lee said:

Prison officers at Foston Hall do a challenging job and work with a range of vulnerable women who need intensive help and support.

I came here today to express my gratitude to the governor and her team for the vital work they are doing to support prisoners, which will help reduce reoffending, cut crime and lead to fewer victims.

We will continue to listen to them and all prison staff as we develop our strategy on female offenders and deliver on our important reforms to make prisons safe and cut reoffending.

The positive work from staff at Foston Hall represents the wholesale changes that are taking place across the prison system, following on from the launch of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) earlier this year, which will give governors more control and flexibility in reforming offenders and supporting them on release.

The launch of HMPPS follows last year's White Paper on safety and reform, which announced 2,500 new prison officers and an additional £100 million investment across the estate, with new measures to get offenders off drugs and provide them with the education and skills they need to turn their backs on crime.

In addition to these wide-ranging reforms, we will be announcing our strategy for the way we manage female offenders later this year.

Notes to editors:

- This last year saw the highest level of new joiners (band 3-5 officers) since March 2010 and prison officer numbers have increased for the first time since March 2016.

The Ministry of Justice has:

- started targeted local recruitment initiatives at 30 sites so that governors can more easily recruit the people they need
- developed a new graduate scheme 'Unlocked' that will encourage people from a broader range of backgrounds to join the Service
- launched an armed forces to officers scheme that will support people to

- join the Prison Service after leaving the military
- introduced a pay increase for Band 3 Officers on Fair and Sustainable (F&S) terms at 31 difficult-to-recruit prisons
- prison officers have the opportunity to earn over £30,000 depending on location of prison and hours contract. Plus public sector pension and other benefits
- substantial investment in marketing and targeted recruitment to generate even more interest in these valuable roles

Visit <https://www.prisonandprobationjobs.gov.uk/> to find out more.

Research and analysis: Marine plans iteration 1 engagement summary

The engagement summary highlights the feedback from our Spring engagement for the development of marine plans for the North West, North East, South West and South East areas.

It summarises how the engagement was received by stakeholders and the results of their views on user stories, issues, common policies to address them and the digital format of marine plans.

Notice: LN4 3QB, Faccenda Foods Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Faccenda Foods Limited
- Installation name: Dorrington Fen Farm
- Permit number: EPR/XP3634DX/A001