

[Corporate report: The Marine Management Organisation annual report and accounts 2016 to 2017](#)

Annual Report and Accounts covers the financial year 2016/17. This paper was laid before Parliament in response to a legislative requirement or as a Return to an Address and was ordered to be printed by the House of Commons.

[Speech: Matt Hancock's speech to Parliament at the Urgency of Representation in the Media reception](#)

I'd like to thank Act for Change, the Campaign for Broadcasting Equality & the TV collective for inviting me to speak here today. Each of you plays an important role in driving change, and I thank you for your work. It feels daunting to be the opening act for Sir Lenny Henry. So I'm not even going to try a joke.

But that's appropriate too because the need to see greater diversity on and off our screens is dead serious. Last August I was delighted to launch Project Diamond. It's a hugely ambitious attempt to collect very detailed data about who is employed in front of and behind the camera.

I look forward to seeing its first report later this year. Then we will see the real truth of how representative broadcasting is of the country.

I'm glad there's been some progress. Diversity is becoming integral among our major broadcasters. Diversity is now enshrined in the new BBC Charter. Channel 4 takes its diversity very seriously and both these have amazing apprenticeship schemes which drive diversity too.

I hope the new data from Project Diamond will force others to act. Because there is still much more to do. And there's particularly more to do in broadcasting. Only 1.5% of British TV programmes were made by a BAME Director, and only 14% of TV drama by a woman. Yet 14% of the population are from BAME backgrounds, and half the population are women.

And more than this, Broadcasting is special. You aren't only major and growing employers – important as that is. What we put on our screens represents the nation. It represents us overseas. It represents us to ourselves. It represents who we are, and who we hope to be.

So broadcasting must represent the whole nation. Broadcasting has a special responsibility to ensure every diverse voice from every part and every community of our great nation is represented, literally and figuratively. Broadcasting can and should celebrate the bonds that tie us together.

These bonds are strong, but need nurturing.

For it is a strong foundation of the bonds that tie us together that can then allow us with confidence to celebrate our diversity as a nation how each individual is beautifully unique, and how we are at our finest when we take joy from our differences and are strong, and open, and looking out to the whole world.

That is the vision that we have: of a dynamic, diverse, creative society, finding the best in everyone one of us and looking out confident to the world.

So let us join together, and make that vision a reality.

[Press release: Lord Gardiner visits the Carnaby Street pollinator paradise](#)

A West End shopping haven transformed into an insect super-highway has been hailed as an example of actions businesses and communities are taking across the country to help pollinators at the start of [Bees' Needs Week](#).

London's Carnaby Street now has more than 700 hanging baskets, window box displays and planters to make the fashion hot spot as attractive to bees as it is to fashionistas.

Part of the Wild West End project, the move by property firm Shaftesbury to bedeck the iconic London landmark with thousands of nectar-rich flowers was championed by Pollinators Minister Lord Gardiner today to mark the start of Bees' Needs Week.

Bees' Needs Week – an annual event to promote the actions people can take to protect pollinating insects which this year takes place 17-23 June – will see a hive of activity across the country including a Pollination Day held by Kew Gardens and a series of bees and butterflies walks hosted by the Wildlife Trusts.

Minister for Pollinators and Biosecurity, Lord Gardiner, said:

Bees and other pollinators are not just a well-loved part of our cities, towns, villages and countryside – they are vital workers, driving our economy and boosting biodiversity.

Each of us can do our bit to help them flourish. Bees' Needs Week is all about celebrating those across the nation who work throughout the year to help our pollinators, and encouraging more people of all ages to join in by taking simple actions such as planting bee-friendly flowers in a window box, letting your garden grow wild or not disturbing insect nests.

Our Bees' Needs champions from Shaftesbury have done an excellent job turning Carnaby Street in to a paradise for pollinators. The project is a fine example of businesses working together and shows how landowners across the country can do their bit to help our bees.

Penny Thomas, Shaftesbury's Company Secretary and lead on its biodiversity projects, said:

Pollinators, such as bees, are vital to the ecosystem and green features in the urban landscape – from sedum pods on roofs to window boxes with pollinator-friendly plants – encourage biodiversity and give residents, visitors and workers a chance to enjoy nature and improve health and well-being.

Bees, butterflies and other insects play a crucial role in our environment and our economy, with 1,500 species of insects pollinating crops in the UK, contributing an estimated £600m to our economy.

But many struggle to find the habitats and food they need. By thinking about Bees' Needs and taking simple actions to meet them, people across the UK can help give bees and pollinators the food and shelter they need to survive.

Supporting the project for a third year, the Wildlife Trusts' Director for England Steve Trotter said:

The Wildlife Trusts believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the joy of wildlife in their daily lives and bees are a fantastic way to make a start!

By understanding more about what bees need to survive we can help our precious bees to thrive.

Tim Lovett, Director of Communications at the British Beekeepers Association, said:

People need to do three things to help honeybees and pollinators –

Plant! Plant! Plant! They need simple flowers that will provide a good source of nectar and pollen throughout the summer.

Bees' Needs Week runs from 17-23 July in partnership with organisations including Friends of the Earth, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

Bees' Needs Week forms a key part of Defra's wider National Pollinator Strategy, launched in 2014 in partnership with charities, businesses and academic institutions. It encourages people to take five simple actions to help pollinators:

- grow more flowers, shrubs and trees
- let your garden grow wild
- cut grass less often
- don't disturb insect nests and hibernation spots
- think carefully about whether to use pesticides

Get involved

- for more information on Bees' Needs Week, events, and how you can get involved, click [here](#)
- follow #BeesNeeds on twitter to find out more about the campaign and tweet your pollinator questions to charities, businesses and bee experts
- build a bee hotel for your garden

[How to build a bee hotel](#)

Pollinators in numbers

- 1,500 species of insects pollinate plants in the UK, including bumble bees, honey bees, solitary bees, hoverflies, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths
- 25 species of bumble bee, 260 species of solitary bee, 1 honey bee species and hundreds of types of hoverflies, butterflies and moths live in the UK
- 70 of the 100 crop species that provide 90% of food worldwide are pollinated by bees.
- £600m is the estimated value of insect pollination to crops due to increases in yield and quality of seeds and fruit
- 46 hanging baskets, 49 planters, 660 window boxes, 6 green walls and 9 green roofs in Carnaby Street, as part of the Wild West End Project
- 5 simple actions the UK public can take to protect our vital

pollinators: grow more flowers, shrubs and trees; leave patches of land to grow wild; cut grass less often; don't disturb insect nests and hibernation spots; and think carefully about using pesticides

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[News story: Crown Commercial Service](#)

Annual Report and Accounts Published

The [report](#) shows £12.4 billion of common goods and services are now being procured through CCS, whose aim is to become the 'go to' provider for the procurement of common goods and services across the entire public sector.

During the year, CCS – an executive agency of the Cabinet Office – has delivered £430 million in commercial benefits including savings for central government, and £295 million for the wider public sector – helping to deliver more efficient, effective public services that meet the needs of citizens.

Thousands more small and medium-sized businesses are successfully bidding to become government suppliers, and 32 of the government's largest suppliers have now signed the Prompt Payment Code – pledging to back small businesses by paying invoices on time.

Tony van Kralingen, Chair of CCS, said:

This is a very encouraging performance, led by Malcolm Harrison and his new team. We have exceeded our target for the delivery of commercial benefits to our customers in Central Government and the Wider Public Sector. We continue to build capability and deliver improvements to the quality of service that we offer.

Malcolm Harrison, Chief Executive Officer of CCS, said:

We have made encouraging progress in the past financial year, building on the solid foundations we laid during a thorough operational review which has seen us focus on where we can add greatest value for our customers.

By drawing on our deep commercial expertise and leveraging the purchasing power of our customers across the entire public sector, we have been able to deliver value for money for them, as well as for the nation, in meeting their business needs.

Looking forward, we intend to maintain our sharp focus on meeting our customers' expectations, not least through continuing to improve customer service levels and making it easier for a broad spectrum of public sector bodies to access our deals.

Performance highlights for 2016/17 include:

- £12.4bn of public sector procurement spend channeled through our commercial arrangements including frameworks – £6bn from central government, £6.4bn from the wider public sector. This is an increase of £1.1bn compared to £11.3bn in 2015/16 on a like-for-like basis

- £430m commercial benefits including savings achieved for central government
- £295m commercial benefits including savings achieved for the wider public sector
- All 32 of the Government's Strategic Suppliers have now signed the Prompt Payment Code
- Money spent directly with SMEs across the country via CCS frameworks has increased from £702m (2015/16) to £879m (2016/17)

To read the full report and accounts, visit [the annual report and accounts web pages](#)