

Research and analysis: Public dialogue on geological disposal and working with communities

The department commissioned a public dialogue to inform the open policy making process in the area of community involvement in the siting of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The project was jointly funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and Sciencewise as a mechanism for exploring the views of small groups of members of the public on key policy issues relating to the geological disposal of radioactive waste.

The public dialogue project was run by 3KQ and the evaluation report was prepared by URSUS Consulting Ltd.

News story: New innovation scorecard platform launched

The improved platform aims to make it easier to see uptake of pharmaceutical products and medical innovations within the NHS.

On 12 April 2017, NHS Digital [launched a new web platform for the Innovation Scorecard](#).

The scorecard reports on the use of medicines and medical technologies in the NHS in England, specifically those which have been positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) since 2012.

The site now provides greater transparency and is easier to use.

Users can now:

- compare commissioning organisations' uptake of medicines
- view information without having to download data
- share results more easily and securely
- look at overall levels of prescribing by medicine

The Innovation Scorecard is part of the government's broader goal of supporting open data and transparency.

The next scorecard is scheduled to be published in July 2017.

News story: Imran Gulamhuseinwala appointed Open Banking Implementation Trustee

Mr Gulamhuseinwala, who was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list for his contribution to the financial services sector, is a London-based Partner for EY and leads its Global FinTech practice. He will be seconded from EY to Open Banking.

He will head Open Banking, the organisation that the major banks were ordered to create and fund by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to develop the common technical standards underpinning open banking.

Mr Gulamhuseinwala, who was nominated for the role by the CMA, replaces Andrew Pinder who sadly passed away earlier this week after stepping down from the role.

Alasdair Smith, who chaired the CMA's market investigation into retail banking that led to the Open Banking remedy, paid tribute to Andrew Pinder's achievements and welcomed Imran Gulamhuseinwala on board. He said:

It is very sad news to hear about Andrew, who had done a great job in successfully steering the project through its very challenging first phase and getting it off to a strong start.

We now wish Imran well as he leads the project into the next phase, which will transform retail banking in Britain and bring substantial benefits to consumers and the economy.

Notes for editors

Imran has worked in financial services for 18 years. He joined EY in 2014 and now leads its dedicated FinTech practice globally. He spent 8 years investing in the sector, and is also the co-founder of CommuterClub, a FinTech 50 start-up which helps commuters to access savings for annual travel season tickets. At EY, Imran has worked closely with government, regulators and industry bodies to drive the FinTech agenda, leading studies for both [UK Trade & Investment](#) and [HM Treasury](#) to measure the size and growth of the FinTech sector in the UK and develop a strategy for future growth. Imran has a Masters in Engineering from Cambridge University and is a CFA charter holder.

News story: Providing our services in Welsh

Update on our work to provide services in the Welsh language.

We take the obligations of our [Welsh Language Scheme](#) seriously and want our Welsh speaking customers to be able access our services in Welsh. As we develop our online services we are making sure that Welsh speakers can access these services in Welsh and recently conducted focus groups with them to better understand what, in their opinion, makes a great Welsh digital service.

HMCTS has already developed new services which are available in Welsh. Our users can get [help with fees](#), [enter a plea in Welsh](#) or [pay a court fine](#) in Welsh. A [full list of Welsh services on GOV.UK](#) is available.

We are also in the process of reviewing our Welsh Language Scheme in order to ensure that it more adequately reflects the needs of Welsh speakers. We will also look at ways of raising awareness that Welsh speakers have an absolute legal right to speak Welsh in any court or tribunal hearing in Wales.

Customer comment:

Thank you very much you have been brilliant in helping me to complete in Welsh as I find it much easier in my own language than having to think of the English words!

Customer comment:

Going to court is stressful enough, but being able to discuss my case with you in Welsh made the experience a lot better and made me feel at ease.

Hywel Hughes, Head of Welsh Language Services at HMCTS discussed the development of services in Welsh in his [Inside HMCTS blog post](#).

Press release: GNPC Operating Services Company (“GOSCO”) and Lloyd’s Register to deliver services to Ghana

Lloyd’s Register has signed an agreement with GOSCO, to form a joint venture dedicated to providing well project management, well engineering and associated site survey, geotechnical and rig inspection services, in the territorial waters of the Republic of Ghana.

The aim of the joint venture company, known as ‘Lloyd’s Register Wells Ghana Limited’, is to make available world-class engineering and operations, risk management and performance solutions to support operators deliver safe, cost-effective and compliant E&P activity.

Matt Rothnie, Vice-President for the Wells business at Lloyd’s Register, says: “We have joined forces with GOSCO to set up this joint venture as a response to growing industry interest in Ghana’s oil and gas potential along with the requirement to build capability in the Ghanaian E&P sector. This move is another example of Lloyd’s Register’s strategy to work in partnership with local oil and gas players to benefit from their local experience whilst providing the benefit of Lloyd’s Register’s global knowledge and technical expertise.” The new joint venture will be an indigenous Ghanaian company and based in Accra.

The potential impact of new discoveries on the Ghanaian economy has led to phenomenal interest in Ghana’s petroleum sector both locally and internationally. Amidst the excitement, the key development objective of the government of Ghana remains focused on the growth of the economy to accelerate development and industrialization; the oil and gas industry is proven to contribute significantly to strong growth in producing countries.

However, the discovery of oil in commercial quantities poses a number of challenges that must be addressed. Key of which is the need to establish a robust regulatory framework and institutional capacity in key areas of governance for effective management and oversight of the sector. This is because prudent management and policing of the sector has a significant impact on socio-economic development.

Rothnie highlights: “We believe this joint venture will create good long-term opportunities for Ghana’s E&P industry as we look to collectively achieve the highest levels of safety and performance providing the very latest ‘know-how’ and application of technology for well operations.”

Michael Amoah, CFO of GOSCO says: “We are very pleased to have formed our joint venture with Lloyds Register; we see real opportunities in key aspects of the upstream value chain for joint ventures which bring together the operational experience of Ghanaian companies with the niche high quality skills of an international partner.”

Scottish Development International, the Scottish government's international arm, helped Lloyd's Register in the joint venture development.

Gary Soper, Africa Regional Manager for Scottish Development International says: "Working from our West Africa hub in Accra, Ghana, we are well placed to introduce West African companies to Scotland's oil and gas supply chain to access collaborative opportunities in the region. We are very pleased to see Lloyd's Register forge this relationship with GOSCO in Ghana and help to develop their plans for current and future African oil and gas fields. Lloyd's Register has a long tradition and experience in resolving and sharing solutions to complex commercial situations that can only help to bring benefits to the emerging oil and gas markets across the continent, especially at this critical time of low oil prices and the need for quality, independent cost-effective safety and performance solutions.

About Lloyd's Register

Lloyd's Register (LR) is a global engineering, technical and business services organisation wholly owned by the Lloyd's Register Foundation, a UK charity dedicated to research and education in science and engineering. Founded in 1760 as a marine classification society, LR now operates across many industry sectors, with over 9000 employees in 78 countries.

Lloyd's Register has a long-standing reputation for integrity, impartiality and technical excellence. Its compliance, risk and technical consultancy services give clients confidence that their assets and businesses are safe, sustainable and dependable. Through its global technology centres and research network, Lloyd's Register is at the forefront of understanding the application of new science and technology to future-proof its clients' businesses.

About GOSCO

GOSCO (www.gosco.com.gh) is an independent Ghanaian E&P services company. We provide services to participants engaged in oil and gas exploration, development and production activities (located onshore and offshore Ghana), including acting as operator in relation to such activities. A key tenet of GOSCO's business strategy involves partnership arrangements with key international upstream service providers to provide services in areas that local capacity may be lacking within Ghana. These services may include but are not limited to: Seismic Acquisition, Sub-Surface Data Analysis and Interpretation, Drilling, Floating Production, Storage and Offloading Vessels, Environment, Health and Safety.

About Scottish Development International

Scottish Development International (SDI) works to attract inward investment and knowledge to Scotland to help the economy grow. It also helps Scottish based companies to trade overseas and promotes Scotland as a good place to live, work and do business. It is a partnership between the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise and its

work is guided by the Scottish Government's strategy for economic development in Scotland.

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