

News story: Census test happening now

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is currently carrying out a test in preparation for the next census in 2021. The 2017 Test will give ONS the chance to test systems, services and proposed questions.

ONS has invited 100,000 households across 7 local authorities to take part. Randomly-selected households across the rest of England and Wales are also involved.

Most of these households received an ONS letter in late March asking them to complete an online questionnaire. Anyone invited can visit www.census.gov.uk and use the unique access code in the letter to take part.

ONS has also sent paper versions of the questionnaire to a small number of the households nationwide. People who get one of those can either use the paper copy or go online to fill it in.

Census test day itself is 9 April, but households can complete the questionnaire as soon as they receive their invite. By taking part, they'll help to shape the 2021 Census.

People invited to take part in the test can visit www.census.gov.uk to fill in the online questionnaire or get more information. ONS also has a census helpline available to offer support – the number is 0300 068 3001 (Welsh language helpline: 0300 123 4591).

News story: Ofsted launches new good and outstanding logos

Education and children's care providers can now download and use a 'Good provider' or 'Outstanding provider' logo.

On 6 April 2017, Ofsted is launching a new logo specifically for use by education and children's social care providers that have been rated good.

All providers judged by Ofsted to be good can now download and display an official '[Good provider' logo](#). We have also redesigned our 'Outstanding provider' logo for use across all the areas we inspect. We created these new designs following feedback from some of the organisations we inspect, and after a review of our existing policy and guidance on the use of Ofsted's logo.

We have also updated the system through which good and outstanding providers can obtain their copy of the logo. Providers can now use their unique reference number to download the relevant logo in a variety of formats for use on their own websites, stationery and other materials. Organisations without a unique reference number should contact us for further advice.

We are conscious that parents and learners rely on Ofsted as a mark of quality. Therefore, only providers currently holding a good or outstanding grade for overall effectiveness can apply the relevant logo to their branding materials. And we do not allow the use of our main Ofsted logo by any third parties, other than in specific circumstances we have agreed to. [Guidance on how the logos can be used](#) should be checked first.

News story: Low Carbon Contracts and Electricity Settlements Company reappointments

The Energy Secretary has reappointed Dr Martin Read as Chair of the Low Carbon Contracts Company and the Electricity Settlements Company.

The Energy Secretary Greg Clark has reappointed Dr Martin Read CBE as Chair of the Low Carbon Contracts Company and the Electricity Settlements Company.

He will continue to be supported in these roles by Jim Keohane, who has been reappointed as Senior Independent Director of both companies.

The Low Carbon Contracts Company and Electricity Settlements Company are Government companies established in 2014 to help deliver Contracts for Difference and the Capacity Market. These schemes are designed to incentivise the investment required in our electricity infrastructure to deliver clean and reliable electricity supplies, whilst minimising costs to customers.

These reappointments have been made in accordance with guidance issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Research and analysis: Water

situation: area monthly reports for England 2018

Updated: September reports uploaded.

These reports collect information from the Environment Agency, the Met Office and water companies that measure and monitor:

- the amount of rain that falls
- how dry the soils are and how much rain they can soak up
- the amount of water flowing in rivers
- the amount of water stored below ground in aquifers and above ground in reservoirs

They also present the outlook for river flow and groundwater.

News story: Showcasing science, technology and innovation at DPRTE

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and the Defence and Security Accelerator (Accelerator) exhibited at the Defence Procurement, Research, Technology and Exportability (DPRTE) event on 28 March 2017 showcasing science, technology and innovation.

Defence and Security Accelerator: Driving Innovation

Rob Solly, who has been Acting Head of the Accelerator since December, gave a keynote speech at the event, explaining how the Accelerator is driving innovation for UK defence and security. The Accelerator is already engaging and funding innovators to solve defence and security challenges with backing from the £800 million Innovation Fund.

Explaining why Dstl and the Accelerator were at the event, Rob said:

DPRTE is a key event in the defence exhibition calendar and gave us the opportunity to talk to customers, suppliers, academics and government agencies in one place.

We want to hear from innovators about their ideas, from small niche companies to large organisations. We're particularly keen to hear

from organisations who haven't been involved in defence or security before. We believe there is a wealth of knowledge and ideas in parallel markets which can be, with some adjustments, used to provide game-changing support to our armed forces.

Some organisations are put off getting involved due to perceived long, complicated Government processes. However, the Accelerator team has developed a simple application process to make it easier for innovators and businesses to work with us and develop their ideas, from initial concepts to mature applications. Our Innovation Partners can also guide suppliers through the process.

At DPRTE we were keen to highlight that unlike other schemes, the Accelerator allows businesses to retain their intellectual property. Our return on investment is providing our Armed Forces and Security teams the best kit and services to do their jobs and keep our country safe.

[View the slides from Rob Solly's keynote speech, Driving Innovation.](#)

Defence in Innovation: Medical Sciences

Neal Smith, Dstl's Capability Adviser for Medical Sciences, presented Innovation in Defence: Medical Sciences, in the Research and Technology Zone. Neal's presentation demonstrated how rapid responses to evolving threats and changing scenarios can be generated to enhance military medical responses.

Reflecting on the event, Neal said:

From my point of view, a very interesting and useful event, certainly great for getting our message across, in terms of investment in innovation and exploitation. I was pleased that Professor Ian Pallister of Trauma Simulation Ltd, could join us and many participants enjoyed hearing about the trauma model and Ian's experiences of working with Dstl and the Accelerator.

[View the slides from Neal Smith's presentation at DPRTE Defence in Innovation: Medical Sciences.](#)

Dstl and the Accelerator had a presence in the Innovation Hub, where they demonstrated the breadth of work within Dstl and how suppliers can get involved.

Dstl and Accelerator representatives were busy all day talking to a wide range of suppliers, from SMEs, academia and primes enquiring about opportunities to get involved. With many positive discussions with suppliers, Dstl and the Accelerator have a number of leads to follow up from the event. The most popular exhibit was the graphic and realistic trauma surgeons model.

Trauma surgeon's model

Recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq exposed troops to traumatic injury, particularly from improvised explosive devices. As part of its multifaceted response, MOD wanted to ensure that medical teams had, and continue to have, the training and resources required to address traumatic injury.

Part of this programme was to support Professor Ian Pallister, a civilian trauma surgeon and his colleagues at Trauma Simulation Ltd, in the creation of extremely realistic life-size training models to assist in the training of combat medics and surgical teams. This was funded by Dstl through the Centre for Defence Enterprise (now Defence and Security Accelerator).

For more information on [how to work with or sell to Dstl](#) visit our website.