

[Press release: Highways England throws open its doors for budding engineers](#)

That is why, on Saturday 30 June 2018, the company will be throwing open the doors of its North East Regional Control Centre in Wakefield to give people an insight into what really goes on behind the scenes.

Parents are being encouraged to bring their children along to find out how a motorway is run from the control room, meet the traffic officers, some who may be a familiar face from the BBC documentary A1: Britain's Longest Road, meet some of the project teams who carry out the engineering schemes and find out what initiatives are being planned to improve safety.

There will be a chance to look round one of the traffic officer vehicles, see the impact protection vehicles that protect the workforce and get a closer look of some of the portable signs.

The tyre scanners will be available to view, along with the new leaver driver's app and online hub.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to talk to some of our road safety partners and look around cars and motorbikes which are involved in road safety work.

There will be a guided tour and people on hand to answer any questions people may have.

Highways England operations manager Kim Taylor said:

As part of our involvement in the [Year of Engineering](#) campaign we wanted to open the doors of the regional control centre and give people a real insight into the type of work we are involved in and what goes on behind the scenes to keep our roads running.

This is the perfect opportunity for anyone who is interested in applying for a job with us to find out more about how they can get involved, and for any future budding engineers to find out more. There really is something for everyone so I would encourage people to book on to one of the two sessions we are planning using the link below.

Unfortunately we are limited by numbers so I would encourage people to book soon to avoid being disappointed.

Two sessions will be held between 10am and 12.30pm and between 1pm and 3.30pm. There will be spaces for 100 people on each session. A waiting list will be set up if any further tickets become available.

To book a slot visit the [event page](#).

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[News story: UK and Egypt welcome progress on trade talks](#)

On Tuesday 29 May 2018, Graham Stuart, the Minister for Investment for the UK, met with the Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry, HE Eng Tarek Kabil in Cairo. They discussed, among other things, the Egyptian economy, UK investment and finance in Egypt and the future growth of trade and investment links between the UK and Egypt after the UK leaves the EU.

As the UK is in the process of exiting the EU, the Trade and Industry Minister welcomed the UK's intention to avoid any disruption to trade. In particular, both parties welcomed the significant progress made so far in discussions to ensure continuity of the EU-Egyptian Association Agreement, which facilitates almost £3 billion in trade between the 2 countries.

Both the Minister for Trade and Industry and the Minister for Investment welcomed the agreement reached between the EU and UK at the March European Council that the UK is to be treated as a member state for the purposes of international agreements during the EU-UK Implementation Period (1 April 2019 to 31 December 2020). This provides further certainty to both British and Egyptian traders that there will be no disruption to the existing trading relationship during the Implementation Period.

The Minister for Investment, Graham Stuart, said:

I was delighted to meet with Trade and Investment Minister Tarek Kabil on my visit to Cairo and to discuss the economic partnership between the UK and Egypt. The UK and Egyptian trade relationship continues to go from strength to strength, with the total trade between our 2 countries growing by nearly 6% between 2015 and 2016.

That's why it's important to ensure continuity and certainty in our current trade arrangements as we leave the EU, and UK and Egyptian

officials have made excellent progress in this. I'd like to thank Egyptian officials for their cooperation and hard work.

As we leave the EU and create a new independent UK trade policy, we will build further on our £3 billion of annual trade with Egypt, and continue to work closely together to champion free trade.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Tarek Kabil, said:

Trade and investment between Egypt and the UK were always core pillars of our relationship. My meeting with Minister Graham Stuart confirms that this shall continue to be the case after the UK leaves the EU. I very much appreciate Minister Graham Stuart's initiative in this regard.

We appreciate the efforts and co-operation of UK officials with their Egyptian counterparts, to ensure not only continuity and certainty on current Egypt-UK trade agreements, but that those principles form the basis of future bilateral Egypt-UK economic relationship under a new, independent UK trade policy. Egypt will thrive for a tighter relationship with the UK while maintaining its excellent relations with the EU and its member states.

[News story: Andy King and Bronwyn Curtis OBE appointed to the OBR](#)

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, today (Friday 8 June) announced his nomination of Andy King for appointment as a member of the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) Budget Responsibility Committee (BRC) and the appointment of Bronwyn Curtis OBE as the new non-executive member of the OBR board.

Pending the consent of the Treasury Committee, Mr King will take up his role at the start of September 2018 when Graham Parker steps down. Ms Curtis will take up her role immediately.

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond said:

I am very pleased to nominate Andy King for appointment to the OBR's Budget Responsibility Committee. He has considerable experience and expertise in fiscal forecasting and a deep

understanding of the UK economy and public finances.

I am also delighted to appoint Bronwyn Curtis as a non-executive member of the OBR, where her extensive management experience across the public and private sectors will be a valuable asset.

I would like to thank Graham Parker and Lord Burns for their significant contributions to the world-class work of the OBR over the last several years, and wish them all the best for the future.

The Chairman of the OBR, Robert Chote said:

I warmly welcome the Chancellor's decision to nominate Andy King to the BRC and to appoint Bronwyn Curtis as one of our two non-executive members.

Andy has made an enormous contribution to the OBR already as Chief of Staff and his wide and deep knowledge of the public finances marks him out as a worthy successor to Graham Parker.

Bronwyn brings many years of experience as a private sector economist and executive and she will be a fantastic source of support and challenge, ensuring that we maintain and build on our reputation for independence, rigour and transparency.

Andy King said:

I am delighted that the Chancellor has nominated me for appointment to the OBR's Budget Responsibility Committee. It has been a privilege to support the work of Graham Parker and the rest of the BRC over the past five years. It would be an honour to continue that work as a member of the BRC, should the Treasury Committee wish me to do so.

Bronwyn Curtis said:

I am delighted to be appointed by the Chancellor as a non-executive director at the Office for Budget Responsibility. Lord Burns and the other past non-executives have done excellent work overseeing the work and reputation of the OBR, and I am honoured to take up the post.

About the OBR

The OBR was created in 2010 to provide independent analysis of the UK's public finances. The OBR is led by the three members of the BRC who have executive responsibility for carrying out the core functions of the OBR,

including any judgements made in the preparation of the economic and fiscal forecasts. The current members of the BRC are:

- Robert Chote (Chair)
- Professor Sir Charlie Bean
- Graham Parker CBE

The OBR's oversight board consists of two non-executive members and the three BRC members and ensures there is effective risk management, governance and internal control of the organisation.

[Find out more about the OBR](#)

About the appointees

Andy King has been Chief of Staff at the OBR since 2013. Andy has worked in a range of macroeconomic policy roles at the Treasury, including in fiscal policy, macroeconomic policy, monetary policy and relations with international organisations. Andy also worked as a macro-fiscal advisor in the Liberian Finance Ministry. He was appointed to the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department's panel of technical experts in 2014, and has since advised several Finance Ministries in Africa and Asia on approaches to fiscal governance, reporting and forecasting.

Bronwyn Curtis OBE is a global financial economist who has served in senior executive positions in both the financial and media sectors. She has served as Chairman of the Society of Business (now Professional) Economists and a Council/Board Member of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. She has also held a number of roles on boards of academic institutions and is a patron of ProBono Economics. Bronwyn has worked as a consultant to the World Bank and UNCTAD on commodity projects in West Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

About the appointment process

The appointments have been made following an open recruitment process. Appointments to the BRC are conducted by the Treasury, appointments of non-executives are conducted by the OBR.

The interview panel for the BRC position was chaired by Clare Lombardelli (Chief Economic Advisor) and also included Robert Chote (the Chairman of the OBR), and an HR representative. The interview panel then made a recommendation to the Chancellor which informed his decision. Appointments to the BRC are subject to the consent of the Treasury Committee.

The interview panel for the non-executive position was chaired by Sir Christopher Kelly (Non-executive member of the OBR) and also included Robert Chote (the Chairman of the OBR), and Vanessa MacDougall (Director of Economics Group at the Treasury). The interview panel then made a recommendation to the Chancellor which informed his decision.

We are committed to appointing a diverse range of people to public appointments, including at the OBR. The gender breakdown for each appointment is below:

	Application stage	Shortlisted for interview	Appointee
BRC member	0 women, 6 men	0 women, 4 men	1 man
Non-executive director	1 woman, 5 men	1 woman, 2 men	1 woman

[Press release: UK to lead international hunt for life-changing innovations](#)

- British businesses and innovators to get £10 million boost to bring their ideas to global market
- calls for Britain to 'double down' on innovation to make our way in the world after leaving the European Union

Science Minister Sam Gyimah last night launched the UK chairmanship of the international innovation network EUREKA, addressing the global challenge to hunt for world-changing products and services needing support to reach the market.

He attended the event celebrating the UK taking on the chairmanship of EUREKA – a global network which has invested nearly £35 billion in projects in 40 countries worldwide- for the third time. EUREKA, brings together more than 40 nations to collaborate on research and development and supports the ambitions of the government's modern [Industrial Strategy](#).

During the one-year chairmanship, the UK aims to expand the global reach of EUREKA and will invest an extra £10 million to support UK businesses and innovators bring new products to market.

Speaking at the launch Science Minister Sam Gyimah said:

Here in the UK, as we prepare for leaving the European Union, we face an important question: how will we as a country make our way in the world? What sort of country do we choose to be? My answer to this is clear: we will only thrive if we embrace ideas and openness, and double down on an innovative economy. Our Industrial Strategy will be key to this.

And we are backing this engagement with investment. Already, we have announced the biggest increase in public R&D investment for over 40 years, including the establishment of a £4.7 billion Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to back business-focused

research. And we are going further. As part of our industrial strategy, we have set out our ambition to increase the UK's R&D spend to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

EUREKA is a platform to support those partnerships in research and innovation, enabling businesses to collaborate across borders, accessing new knowledge, capabilities and markets. Today, I am delighted to announce that the UK will inject an additional £10 million for UK companies to collaborate with global businesses on innovation projects through the EUREKA platform, helping to create new products and services and drive business growth.

It is with great pride that I launch the UK's EUREKA chairmanship, beginning on 1 July, here among so many partners from around the world. I look forward to seeing all you achieve in the coming year.

Since its creation in 1985, EUREKA has supported a range of companies and organisations.

Developing a simple, effective and highly accurate blood test to detect transplant diseases has been led through a UK and Belgium EUREKA project. Its impact has reduced transplant costs by better targeting resources and is helping to improve patient's recovery from transplants.

Cambridge based Intelligent Fingerprinting received a boost through a EUREKA project, led by the UK, Norway and France, that focused on speeding up police investigations by using new computing techniques to help scan seized storage devices. The programme has been used by major law enforcement agencies around the world.

During the event, it was also confirmed that an additional £10 million of funding is being provided to UK EUREKA participants that will open up global R&D and innovation collaboration opportunities for UK companies to help drive growth. This will help to create new products and services by providing access to specialist knowledge, people and capability supporting UK companies to take advantage of global market opportunities.

Key facts:

- EUREKA has been in existence for over thirty years
- involves 45 countries
- supports nearly 7,000 projects
- has worked with over 17,000 companies
- nearly £35 billion already invested

EUREKA is a unique network which brings together the largest grouping of national ministries and innovation agencies, including UKRI, to support global business-focussed research and development. It aims to help businesses grow and encourages greater collaboration across borders.

Since EUREKA was founded in 1985, businesses involved have shown an additional annual turnover growth of 15% better than non-participants one

year after the project finishing and companies in EUREKA showed an additional annual employment growth of 7% compared to non-participating firms.

Notes to editors:

- EUREKA is supported by a Secretariat based in Brussels, who are a non-profit organisation
- the current UK budget for EUREKA programmes is €4.5 million annually
- [further information available](#)

News story: Delivering analysis with impact – opportunities and challenges

This year the professional analysts in government are combining their expertise to launch a shared vision for the [Analysis Function](#) in government. This follows the clear agreement at the first senior leaders Analysis Function conference that together the analytical professions across government can make more of their successes, challenges, and opportunities.

Despite being a small professional group, the [Government Actuary's Department \(GAD\)](#) has a big role to play in supporting the vision to deliver better outcomes through analysis. This was shown at the [conference](#) when Evie Calcutt and I presented GAD's work to support developing countries make informed decisions on [climate risk management](#).

A shared challenge

Actuaries, like other professional analysts, need to communicate analytical concepts clearly to non-analysts. The climate change risk management work highlights the challenges of clear communication of technical concepts and understanding of those concepts. To integrate analysis and critical thinking into government we need everyone to think about concepts like:

- Variability and extremes: Presenting and considering the implications of more than just the most likely or average scenario.
- Dealing with and presenting uncertainty: Providing meaningful analysis even if it's very sensitive to uncertain assumptions with limited data.
- Non-linearity: Appreciating underlying drivers might have "cliff" effects. For example, a 0.1 degree difference in climate potentially resulting in catastrophic differences like certain species becoming extinct.
- Timeframes: Balancing the impact of outcomes predicted by long-term analysis vs. the shorter term political priorities.
- Interdependencies and correlation: Commissioners of analysis can focus on one risk at a time, assuming that risks are independent which can be a simplification.

Communication, communication, communication to build analytical capability

From the discussions I have had with other analytical professionals, it is clear that these challenges apply more broadly across many areas of analysis in government. So how do we actually solve them? I suspect there isn't a magic solution. However, actuaries recognise the magnitude of the challenge and dedicate significant effort towards addressing it – as a department and a profession. By collaborating with the other analytical professions, hopefully we can communicate more effectively than the sum of our parts.

The actuarial profession focuses on communication as one of the key skills of an actuary. It features prominently in the actuarial exam program, the ongoing requirements for continuing professional development, and our professional standards. At GAD, actuaries access a variety of internal training on communication and other soft skills and the emphasis on communication starts right at entry level. Can our analytical colleagues learn from us, and can we learn from them? The more effective we are in communicating our analysis the greater analytical capability we will build outside of our Function.

Common challenges, different insights – opportunities to collaborate

We have a lot in common across the Analysis Function, and each profession can bring useful insights such that we all clearly benefit from working together.

Each profession, including GAD, is committing a range of representatives to support the Analysis Function. We are working to support better decision making, share professional standards, manage talent, and build exciting and varied careers. With each initiative, the conversations generate more discussions of how our common goal for analysis to deliver better outcomes we identify provides more opportunities to collaborate. Personally, I am excited at the potential for learning from other professions as well as the work on loans/secondments within the Function.

Anna Edwards, Actuary, Government Actuary's Department