

News story: Ian Wilson joins BPDTS Ltd's Board Of Directors

Ian Wilson has been appointed as a BPDTS Ltd non-executive director for a 5-year term.

He is also currently chair of EDS UK Pension Funds, and a non-executive director with the Ministry of Defence's Defence Business Services Risk and Assurance Committee.

Ian is a Chartered Accountant and was previously the Director of Business Services at Network Rail where he was responsible for the delivery of shared services across the organisation. Prior to joining Network Rail in 2013, Ian worked in the global IT industry for over 20 years in a number of senior finance and business services roles.

Welcoming the appointment, chair of the BPDTS Ltd Board, Claire Johnston, said:

Ian brings a wealth of senior financial and digital experience. I know he is really looking forward to sharing his professional knowledge as a member of our Board and Audit and Risk Committee.

Ian's appointment reflects that we've moved onto the next chapter of our evolution. I'm sure as an independent director that he'll help hugely in guiding and supporting our organisation as we continue to grow.

Ian Wilson, talking about his new role, said:

I'm excited to be joining the Board at a point of huge growth and opportunity for the company. It is already well-positioned as a partner to DWP Digital; working to transform, develop and deliver new digital services that are used by millions of UK citizens.

News story: Ideas mean business: winning young innovators announced

Innovate UK has announced the 24 winners of its Ideas mean business awards, which were open to applicants aged 18 to 30-years-old who were not in full-

time education or employment.

The Ideas mean business campaign is a partnership between Innovate UK and [The Prince's Trust](#), designed to support young people to make their ideas a reality, regardless of their background.

Introducing the young innovators

Winners' ideas range from sustainable product design to online businesses and apps.

27-year-old Adam Root from Felstead in Essex will receive support to develop his sustainability-focussed product design company, Inheriting Earth.

Inspired by his love of the ocean, Adam is developing a filter system to help reduce the flow of microfibres – tiny plastic particles that enter the water system when we wash our clothes.



27-year-old Adam Root will receive support for his sustainable product design.

Laura Niehorster from Sketty in Wales will receive support for her company Proud Pads.

The 27-year-old has developed a sanitary product that can be washed and reused for up to 5 years. The pads could help to reduce sanitary waste: in the UK we throw away up to 200,000 tonnes every year [according to the Women's Environmental Network](#).



Laura Niehorster, from Wales, has designed a sustainable, reusable sanitary pad.

Watch videos about some of the other young innovators we're supporting

Stephanie Rolando, 23, on her business, Room for Help

[The Young Innovators – Stephanie Rolando](#)

Joshua Akorah, 22, on innovating in game design

[The Young Innovators – Joshua Akorah](#)

Leah Bertram, 27, on creative inspiration and innovation

[The Young Innovators – Leah Bertram](#)

[Meet all of the winning young innovators in our brochure.](#)

[Go to the full playlist of videos featuring our young innovators.](#)

Encouraging diversity in innovation

The campaign was launched following research commissioned by Innovate UK and The Prince's Trust.

Carried out by [YouGov](#), the report explored how disadvantaged young people felt about innovation and entrepreneurship. It revealed that, while this group is interested in entrepreneurship, there are significant barriers preventing them from starting their own businesses.

Ideas mean business was devised to encourage and empower young people from any background to innovate and be successful.

Each of the winners will receive a package of support to help them develop their innovative business or idea. The package includes:

- one-on-one coaching from an innovation champion
- funding to support the development of their business
- an allowance to cover living costs

[Views of young, disadvantaged adults: read the report.](#)

Supporting the next generation of disrupters and entrepreneurs

Sam Gyimah, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation said:

We are a nation of innovators and inventors and these Innovate UK awards showcase some of the greatest young talent we have in this country.

We have committed a big increase in the amount we as a country invest in R&D – from 1.7% today to 2.4% by 2027. This could see an additional £80 billion spent on developing the ideas of tomorrow and supporting the next generation of disrupters and entrepreneurs.

Ian Campbell, Executive Chair, of Innovate UK, which is part of [UK Research and Innovation](#), commented:

Innovation is the lifeblood of the UK, driving economic growth and creating a positive social impact.

The government's modern Industrial Strategy aims to break down the barriers that prevent talent from growing and potential being realised, engaging young people in business innovation is a crucial part of that.

I'm incredibly proud to announce the inspiring winners of our Ideas mean business awards today. In telling their stories, we now hope to demonstrate to other young people from all backgrounds right across the UK that they too could transform an idea into a viable business.

[Find out how Innovate UK supports diversity and inclusion.](#)

[Search for other innovation funding opportunities.](#)

News story: Cross-government plan launched to support unpaid carers

The [action plan](#) sets out a 2-year programme of work to support unpaid carers, ahead of the forthcoming social care green paper which will set out long-term sustainable solutions for the social care system.

The measures include:

- a new scheme to improve employment support for carers, promoting best practice for flexible working, to enable carers to continue to work alongside their caring role
- a new £500,000 Carer Innovations Fund to promote creative and innovative ways to support carers
- funding for a review of best practice in identification of young carers and access to support

One in 10 adults in the UK provides unpaid care for a family member or friend who cannot cope without their help because of illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction.

The ageing population means that the number of people in need of care is growing fast, but many carers face barriers because they lack time and energy or because of a lack of understanding from others.

Minister for Care Caroline Dinenage said:

It's a sad fact that carers too often feel ignored, isolated or taken for granted, and given any one of us could become a carer at some point in our lives, government and society must do more to support them.

We recognise the invaluable contribution of carers, selflessly

caring for those they love, and these measures will mean they are supported in all facets of their lives. Together these measures are a step-change in the way we support carers so they can gain employment, learn the skills they need to succeed and feel supported by the communities they live in.

Our review to identify young carers will ensure they don't slip through the net, and that they receive practical and emotional support to allow them to stay healthy, happy and make the most of their education.

Ministers from the Government Equalities Office, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education have contributed to and are investing in this action plan, which they have signed up to along with the Department of Health and Social Care.

To inform this plan, the government heard [views from over 6,800 people](#), including from individuals with first-hand experience.

News story: NDA's HR Director joins new ECITB Board

The new Board will work under the leadership of Lynda Armstrong OBE, who was appointed as Chair by the Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills, Anne Milton MP in January.

Lynda Armstrong, Chair of the ECITB Board, said:

I am pleased to be joined by such a high-calibre and diverse group of professionals on the ECITB Board. Collectively they represent the wide range of sectors and regions in which the engineering construction industry operates, and include SMEs as well as several excellent independent experts. I am in no doubt that these appointments will serve the ECITB and the industry well over the coming years.

Anne Milton MP, Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills, said:

I am pleased to appoint new Board Members to the ECITB. The industry experience these Board Members bring will be of great value to the engineering construction industry.

David Vineall said:

Ensuring that we have the right skills and capability within engineering and construction roles to deliver the nuclear decommissioning mission is a priority for the NDA. My appointment to the ECITB Board reflects this priority and will give us the opportunity to support the engineering and construction industry in developing the required skilled and talented individuals to support our mission and the nuclear sector.

[Press release: Highways England geared up for motorway lessons](#)

Any motorway lessons learner drivers take are voluntary, but they must be with an approved driving instructor in a car with dual-controls displaying L plates. However, motorway driving is not being added to the driving test as part of this change.

Driving instructors will only take learner drivers on the motorway when they have the right skills and experience to drive in a high-speed environment.

Highways England has recorded film footage about the law change to allow learner drivers to gain experience on motorway driving.

[Highways England and learner drivers on motorways](#)

Highways England has also supported the creation of a website, [The Driving Hub](#), which features a series of free instructional learning modules to help instructors prepare learners for motorway driving. There is also lots of driving and safety advice for all road users.

Highways England Executive Director for Safety, Engineering and Standards, Mike Wilson said:

This change in the law will develop a smarter generation of road users because, for the first time, approved driving instructors will be able to teach their students the skills associated with using motorways safely in a practical situation. That will ultimately help all motorway drivers.

We look forward to supporting learner drivers as they develop these new skills and get invaluable practical knowledge and experience of using motorways.

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) emphasises that motorway lessons will give learner drivers the confidence, skills and experience they need to use motorways safely. During lessons, learner drivers will get training on:

- how to join and leave the motorway, overtake and use lanes correctly
- using smart motorways correctly
- driving at high speed in motorway conditions
- motorway-specific traffic signs
- what to do if a vehicle breaks down on a motorway

DVSA Chief Driving Examiner, Mark Winn, said:

DVSA's priority is to help you through a lifetime of safe driving.

Allowing learner drivers to have motorway lessons was supported by 80% of people who gave their feedback on this change, with the public recognising the importance of developing these skills in a controlled environment.

I'm delighted that a new generation of drivers can now drive on the motorway to gain valuable experience, including overtaking safely and lane discipline.

DVSA is also reminding all drivers about the basic rules for motorway driving. As with any vehicle on the motorway, motorists should keep a safe distance from a learner driver in front.

On the motorway, motorists should also drive in the left-hand lane when the road ahead is clear. If overtaking slower-moving vehicles, drivers should return to the left-hand lane as soon as it is safe to do so.

When overtaking, the lane should be sufficiently clear ahead and behind. Do not cut in on the vehicle once overtaken when you move back over.

Since 2013, the police have had the power to issue fixed penalty notices for careless motorway driving, such as tailgating and middle-lane hogging. The fixed penalty is £100 with 3 points on the driver's licence.

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.