

News story: Help improve Companies House

We need your help to improve our online services.

If you want to help shape the future of our services [join the Companies House user panel](#).

You'll need to answer a few questions about yourself and what you do. You don't need to be good with computers or the internet to join.

When you're on the user panel you could be asked to:

- take part in research session
- answer email questionnaires
- take part in telephone interviews

You can say no to any invitation and can leave the user panel at any time.

How your information will be used

We'll use the information you provide during the user panel research sessions to:

- improve our existing services
- develop new services

The information you give will be fully confidential and stored securely under our [personal information charter](#).

News story: Supplementary protection certificates: call for views

The European Commission is proposing a new exception from infringement of supplementary protection certificates (SPC), which protect medicines. SPCs are national IP rights provided for by EU regulations. A draft [proposal for a Regulation](#) was published on 28 May 2018. This Regulation aims to amend [Regulation \(EC\) No 469/2009](#) concerning the supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products.

The proposed waiver introduces a limited exception to the current system. It

applies to SPC medicinal products manufactured in the EU. It allows their manufacture for export outside of the EU. Such activities would currently infringe an SPC. The draft Regulation also introduces measures intended to promote transparency and reduce the risk of diversion of IP-infringing products onto the EU market.

The European Commission has issued a [press release](#) outlining why there is a need for an SPC waiver.

The IPO welcomes views on the draft legislative proposal. For example, evidence on the possible impact of the legislation for the UK, views on the draft legal text and comments on the [Commission's impact assessment](#).

Evidence should be clear and verifiable in line with our [Guide to Evidence for Policy](#).

It would be helpful to receive views before the end of June 2018 to help inform working group discussions on the proposal between EU member states which may take place midsummer. Initial views can be followed with more substantive detail at a later date.

Please send your views to patentspolicy@ipo.gov.uk.

[Press release: Reappointments to the Review Body on Senior Salaries](#)

Dr Martin Read, Sir Adrian Johns and Dr Peter Westaway have been reappointed to the [Senior Salaries Review Body \(SSRB\)](#), with Dr Read continuing in his role as Chair. The SSRB provides independent advice to the Prime Minister and senior ministers on the pay of many of the nation's top public servants. The appointments are all for a further term of approximately 3 years with immediate effect.

Biographies

Dr Martin Read, CBE, MA, DPhil, FIET

Martin Read is Chairman of Laird plc, of the two government companies which manage contracts and payments under the electricity market reform programme (the Low Carbon Contracts Company and the Electricity Settlements Company) and of the Remuneration Consultants Group. He is also a non-executive director of Lloyd's of London. Martin was chief executive of international IT services company Logica from 1993 to 2007 and has served as a non-executive director on the boards of invensys, Aegis Group, British Airways, Siemens Holdings, Boots, ASDA and the UK Government Efficiency and Reform Board. He was chairman of the Remuneration Committees at Invensys,

British Airways and Boots. He has been a senior adviser to private equity firms Candover and Actis and to Indian technology companies HCL and Zensar. He led UK government reviews on back office operations and IT across the public sector (2008/9) and management information (2012).

Sir Adrian Johns, KCB, CBE, DL

Adrian Johns served for 35 years in the Royal Navy specialising as a helicopter pilot and flying instructor but also commanding 5 times at sea in ships ranging from a minesweeper to HMS OCEAN, Britain's largest warship at the time. He was Head of the Fleet Air Arm for 5 years and retired from the Navy in the rank of Vice-Admiral as Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command in 2008. In his final appointment he was responsible for all aspects of HR, remuneration, recruiting, training, and career management for the naval service. Following retirement from active service he was Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar from 2009 to 2013. He has a variety of charitable interests, is patron of a number of Veterans' Associations, and is a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.

Dr Peter Westaway, DPhil

Dr Peter Westaway is chief economist and head of investment strategy for Vanguard Asset Management, Europe. He meets with clients and writes articles to provide Vanguard's perspective on economic issues and longerterm investment strategy implications. Dr. Westaway was previously chief economist, Europe, for Nomura International and a senior official at the Bank of England where he conducted analysis on the economy and financial markets and the economy for the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England. He also provided analysis and input to HM Treasury's "Five Tests Assessment" in 2002-2003 of whether the UK should adopt the euro.

Dr. Westaway earned a Ph.D. in economics and a Master of Philosophy in control engineering and operational research from the University of Cambridge, and a B.Sc in mathematics and economics from the University of York.

Further information

Further details of the roles are available on the [Centre for Public Appointments website](#).

The appointment process for these roles was in full accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. The SSRB provides independent advice to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for Health and the Home Secretary on the pay of: the judiciary; senior civil servants; senior officers of the armed forces; certain senior managers in the NHS; Police and Crime Commissioners; chief police officers; and other such public appointments as may from time to time be specified.

Press release: Grading under review for Inclusion Housing Community Interest Company

The Regulator of Social Housing reports that Inclusion Housing Community Interest Company has been placed on its Grading under review list.

The regulator is currently investigating a matter regarding Inclusion's compliance with the Governance and Financial Viability Standard. The outcome of the investigation will be confirmed in a regulatory judgement, once completed.

The [GUR list](#) is available on the website.

Further information

1. The GUR list includes providers being investigated for an issue that may result in non-compliant grades for the Governance and/or Financial Viability Standard.
2. The [regulatory framework](#) can also be found on the website.
3. Inclusion does not currently have a regulatory judgement as it previously held less than 1,000 homes. The regulatory judgement to be published at the end of the investigation will be its first regulatory judgement.

The regulation of social housing is the responsibility of the Regulation Committee, a statutory committee of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The organisation refers to itself as the Regulator of Social Housing in undertaking the functions of the Regulation Committee. Homes England is the trading name of the HCA's non-regulation functions.

The regulator's purpose is to promote a viable, efficient and well-governed social housing sector able to deliver homes that meet a range of needs. It does this by undertaking robust economic regulation focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money that maintains lender confidence and protects the taxpayer. It also sets consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants.

For more information visit the [RSH website](#).

Our [About the Regulator of Social Housing page](#) has contact details for media enquiries.

For general queries to RSH, please email enquiries@rsh.gov.uk or call 0300 124 5225.

News story: New T Levels mark a revolution in technical education

The first 52 colleges and post-16 providers to teach new T Levels were named today (27 May) as Education Secretary Damian Hinds set out his vision for a world-class technical education system.

T Levels are courses, which will be on a par with A levels and will provide young people with a choice between technical and academic education post 16.

Courses in construction, digital and education & childcare will be first taught from September 2020. A further 22 courses will be rolled out in stages from 2021, which will cover sectors such as finance & accounting, engineering & manufacturing, and creative & design.

In his response to the T Level consultation, also published today, the Education Secretary committed to working with businesses and learning from our international competitors to ensure these new qualifications lead to a generational shift in technical education.

As the new colleges and other post-16 providers were named today, the Prime Minister said:

Everyone should be able to have access to an education that suits them, but we know that for those that don't choose to go to university, the routes into further technical and vocational training can be hard to navigate.

That's why we're making the most significant reform to advanced technical education in 70 years to ensure young people have gold standard qualifications open to them whichever route they choose.

T Levels provide a high-quality, technical alternative to A levels ensuring thousands of people across the country have the skills we need to compete globally – a vital part of our modern industrial strategy.

Education Secretary Damian Hinds said:

T Levels represent a once in a lifetime opportunity to reform technical education in this country so we can rival the world's best performing systems.

For too long young people have not had a genuine choice about their future aged 16. Whilst A levels provide a world class academic qualification, many technical education courses are undervalued by employers and don't always provide students with the skills they need to secure a good job – that has to change.

Naming the first 52 colleges and providers where young people will be able to study the first T Levels is an important step forward, and we will continue the work with business and the education sector so everyone can benefit from these vital reforms.

Technology and the world economy are fast-changing, and we need to make sure our young people have the skills they need to get the jobs of tomorrow. This is at the heart of our modern Industrial Strategy.

The consultation response confirms the high-quality nature of these new qualifications – with:

- course content created by expert panels of employers to make sure young people have the knowledge and skills needed;
- 3 month compulsory industry placements that will give young people the experience and wider skills they need to be ready for the world of work;
- standards assured by Ofqual and the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) so that T Levels remain high-quality and are valued by employers

Lord David Sainsbury, Chairman of the Independent Panel on Technical Education, whose 2016 report led to the current reforms said:

I am delighted with the excellent progress being made with the implementation of T Levels. For too long the only educational opportunity that many young people have had is to take technical qualifications that fail to equip them with the knowledge and skills that employers value, and that are needed to progress to higher technical education.

We now face a major communication challenge, and all of us, who understand how valuable and important these reforms will be to the lives of young people, must now reach out to young people, their parents and carers, and employers, to let them know these changes are coming, and the exciting opportunities they will bring.

The wide-ranging T Levels consultation sought views from across the world of business and education, as well as young people themselves. Leading employers including Lloyds, IBM and Skanska all responded to the consultation underlining their strong support for new T Levels.

Content for the first three T Levels – co-created with employers to make sure young people get the right knowledge and skills needed to get a skilled job – has also been published by the IfA this week.

T Levels are just one part of a wider programme of work to transform technical education in this country to give people genuine world class choices when they are deciding on an academic or technical route.

Alongside T Levels and the introduction of more high-quality apprenticeships, the Government is creating a network of prestigious Institutes of Technology (IoTs) across the country. IoTs will offer top-quality training and apprenticeships in higher-level technical skills – A level equivalent up to degree level and above – helping to bridge a vital skills gap in our economy in areas like advanced manufacturing, infrastructure and digital.

The Government took another step towards establishing IoTs this week by announcing the [16 proposals](#) that will now move on to the final stage of the Government's competition.

Find out [more](#) about T Levels and view the full list of colleges to teach them.

Supportive statements:

Mark Dawe, Chief Executive, Association of Employment and Learning Providers said:

We strongly support T Levels – it is clear that high quality work placements are fundamental to the success of the T Levels and apprenticeship training providers are ready to use their capacity and established relationships with employers to give young people a great opportunity to start developing the skills they need in the workplace

Sir Gerry Berragan, Chief executive, Institute for Apprenticeships said:

T levels signal real change in the qualifications landscape – offering school leavers an alternative to a purely academic route.

In support and anticipation of the introduction, we have been consulting on the occupational maps which we have published today. The maps will support the Institute and ensure that both T level and apprenticeships are of the highest quality.

Mark Lawton, Construction T level Panel member at Skanska said:

We continue to support efforts which increase the accessibility of opportunities to people from all backgrounds – helping to develop a more diverse and inclusive industry.

Jane Gratton, Head of Skills Policy, British Chambers of Commerce said:

Business communities across the country tell us that improved technical education and stronger workplace experience are needed to help them fill the skills gaps they face.

T-levels will be an important part of the solution, giving young people a high quality route to gaining the employability and technical skills they will need to succeed in their chosen career. Ensuring that businesses of all sizes, and in all regions, have an input into the design and content of the new system will be crucial to its success.

Business, educational institutions and government need to work together over the coming years to ensure that parity of esteem between academic and technical education is achieved.

David Hughes, Chief Executive, Association of Colleges said:

The introduction of T Levels as part of a wider reform of technical and professional education is vital for a more inclusive and successful economy. The implementation plan sets out a good package of reforms that should help to improve the prestige and the take-up of technical professional education. The plan recognises the need for real clarity of purpose, strong alignment with employers and the labour market, better understanding amongst schools and investment in colleges to be able to deliver.

We have worked closely with DfE and it is clear from the tone of the document, the pledges to work with colleges and employers through the implementation and the changes that have been made that this is a thoughtful and sensible change programme. That bodes well because this is a complex and long term change which will need agile leadership to steer through the complexities and the difficulties to come. Colleges are ready and planning to meet the challenges and AoC is happy to be a partner in the implementation.