

# New interim Chief Executive of Maritime and Coastguard Agency announced

Press release

Damien Oliver has been appointed as the interim Chief Executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).



Damien Oliver

Damien will begin his new role on Monday 17 October, which follows the current MCA Chief Executive Brian Johnson's retirement.

Chairman and board member Christopher Rodrigues said:

Damien has had a number of high-profile roles within the MCA since joining in 2001 and he will bring a wealth of maritime experience and knowledge.

Damien has been responsible for major projects and programmes, procurement, commercial management and innovation, maritime business development which includes the UK Shipping Register and Shipping Concierge within the MCA.

More recently, he has led on the programme to replace the current Coastguard aviation arrangements with the second-generation search and rescue aviation contract (UKSAR2G). And also been in charge of the project to replace the radio network infrastructure for HM Coastguard".

I am delighted that Damien Oliver will be fulfilling the role of interim Chief Executive, he will help us to maintain the momentum achieved under Brian's leadership.

I wish Damien every success in this vital role.

Damien Oliver said:

It is a great privilege to be appointed as interim CEO of the MCA. I am very much looking forward to leading the Agency through the coming months.

Transport Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

Damien has achieved great things during his impressive career with the agency to date, and I look forward to seeing the direction he gives to the organisation as interim Chief Exec.

The UK's maritime industry is among the most advanced in the world, but growth is still so important. We'll continue working together to build a more environmentally-friendly sector, support job creation, and promote the UK flag around the globe.

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## [Joint targeted area inspections to focus on early help for children and families](#)

Press release

Ofsted, CQC and HMICFRS have published guidance for the thematic focus on early help for families, as part of their programme of joint targeted area inspections (JTAs).



Local areas' multi-agency arrangements for helping children and families early will be the focus of upcoming thematic JTAIs carried out by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), starting in November 2022.

These JTAIs will consider how different agencies across children's social care, education, health, and the police, work together to reduce risks to children and families, and meet their needs early.

The JTAIs follow research commissioned by Ofsted in early 2022 '[Early help: concepts, policy directions and multi-agency perspectives](#)'. The independent study, produced by Research in Practice, discussed current early help provision in England, government policy, and how agencies work together to prevent longer-term intervention. Today's guidance refers to this report and the independent review of children's social care's recommendation that government combines targeted early help and help for children in need.

Yvette Stanley, Ofsted National Director for Regulation and Social Care:

Getting the right response at the right time is critical for children and families. All agencies have their part to play in helping children and families early.

Working with CQC and HMICFRS, our JTAIs will help establish a shared understanding of how multi-agency partners work effectively together to help families before significant harm happens, and take timely action to protect children.

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**[UKHSA and ONS release estimates of](#)**

# excess deaths during summer of 2022

[Initial analysis](#) by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that across the 5-heat periods in the summer of 2022, the estimated total excess mortality (excluding coronavirus (COVID-19)) in England was 2,803 for those aged 65 and over. This is the highest excess mortality figure during heat-periods observed since the introduction of the Heatwave plan for England in 2004.

In July, some places in England recorded temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius for the first time in recorded history and UKHSA issued its first ever Level 4 Heat Health Alert. From 17 to 20 July, when temperatures were at their highest, there were an estimated 1,012 excess deaths in those aged over 65.

The heat-period in the summer of 2022 with the highest excess mortality overall was from 8 to 17 August, which saw an estimated 1,458 excess deaths (excluding COVID-19) in those over the age of 65.

These figures demonstrate the possible impact that hot weather can have on the elderly and how quickly such temperatures can lead to adverse health effects in at-risk groups.

Similarly, ONS analysis from the same timeframe – June to August 2022 – for all age groups and for England and Wales, shows a recorded 3,271 deaths above the 5-year average. This represents a 6.2% increase. This is slightly higher than the UKHSA figure as it does not exclude deaths from COVID-19, those under the age of 65 and does include data for Wales.

Isabel Oliver, Chief Scientific Officer at UKHSA, said:

These estimates show clearly that high temperatures can lead to premature death for those who are vulnerable. Higher excess deaths occurred during the hottest days this year and a warming climate means we must adapt to living safely with hotter summers in the future.

Prolonged periods of hot weather are a particular risk for elderly people, those with heart and lung conditions or people who are unable to keep themselves cool such as people with learning disabilities and Alzheimer's disease.

Sarah Caul, Head of Mortality Analysis at the ONS, said:

During the UK summer of record-breaking temperatures, there was an increase in deaths. However, these spikes around the hottest days were followed by periods of below average mortality. This is likely to be a result of short-term mortality displacement, especially

among older age groups, where people died a few days or weeks earlier than expected. This trend is consistent with what we have seen in previous summers with heatwave periods.

It is also the case that despite peaks in mortality during heatwaves, the majority of days in the winter period (December to March) show a higher number of deaths than we see during summer.

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## Remembrance Service Sunday 13 November 2022 – Bangkok



# UK Government

The annual Remembrance Day Service organised by the British Embassy in Bangkok will be held at The British Club commencing at 10:50am on Sunday 13 November 2022. The event will not only commemorate British, Commonwealth, and allied personnel, but all those who have been affected in all conflicts. It serves as a reminder that nations who fought so bitterly against each other can come together to promote peace and stability in the modern world.

Wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial by Ambassadors or their representatives, by War Veterans' organisations and by representatives from associations and societies in Bangkok. Those attending the service are asked

to gather from 10:20am.

We would be grateful if you would reply either via this [link](#) or via the email [remembrance.bangkok@fco.gov.uk](mailto:remembrance.bangkok@fco.gov.uk) **no later than 1 November 2022** if you would like to attend. If you wish to lay a wreath, they are available from the British Embassy for a donation of 1500 THB each; requests for wreaths and details for payment are included in the attendance response form. All funds raised will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. There will be an opportunity for personal wreaths to be laid following the service.

There is no public parking on site. Travel by public transport is recommended. Public Address The British Club Bangkok, Silom Road Soi 18, Bangrak. Following the service, light refreshments will be served on the back lawn.

Please be aware that attendance may result in your image being captured during official event photography. Should you not wish your image to appear in any official photographs on government or other media outlets please inform the British Embassy in writing accordingly.

If you wish to join the live stream for Remembrance Day Service 2022 from 10:30am, kindly click [here](#)

Or please enter the below code on Zoom application

Meeting ID: 885 6777 5849 Passcode: 887929

[Remembrance Service 2022 : Schedule](#) (PDF, 248 KB, 1 page) [Remembrance Service 2022 : Order of Service](#) (PDF, 876 KB, 4 pages)

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1. 8 November 2022

adding the order of service

2. 7 November 2022

Adding the schedule for Remembrance Service 2022

3. 11 October 2022

Added livestream link

4. 7 October 2022

First published.

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# Avanti West Coast placed on short-term contract to drastically improve services

## News story

The Department for Transport has placed Avanti West Coast on a short-term contract and challenged it to deliver the urgent increase in services required.



- Avanti West Coast placed on short-term contract to stabilise its operational challenges
- government has only approved a limited extension of 6 months to 1 April 2023
- Avanti must roll out its recovery plan and deliver long-overdue reliability for passengers

The Department for Transport has placed Avanti West Coast on a short-term contract and challenged it to deliver the urgent increase in services required.

Over the past few months, Avanti has seen major operational issues primarily caused by a shortage of available drivers. Nearly 100 additional drivers will have entered formal service this year between April and December. This has meant the company has begun to add more services as new drivers and those who need re-training become available to work. They have also added extra trains on its key London-Manchester and London-Birmingham routes, bringing service levels closer to normal running.

With Avanti's previous contract coming to an end, the short-term extension will see it continue to run services on the route until 1 April 2023. This window is designed to provide Avanti with the opportunity to improve their services. The government will then consider Avanti's performance while finalising a National Rail Contract that will have a renewed focus on resilience of train services and continuity for passengers.

Alongside rolling ahead with training new drivers, Avanti's service improvement plans include:

- the successful delivery of its timetable recovery plan and a significant, sustained and reliable increase from about 180 trains per day to 264 trains per day on weekdays as new and retrained drivers become available
- continuing to deliver on its traincrew recruitment and plans to reduce reliance on rest day working to operate services
- extending booking options for passengers, making the full range of tickets available as early as possible

Transport Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

We need train services which are reliable and resilient to modern day life. Services on Avanti have been unacceptable and while the company has taken positive steps to get more trains moving, it must do more to deliver certainty of service to its passengers.

We have agreed a 6-month extension to Avanti to assess whether it is capable of running this crucial route to a standard passengers deserve and expect.

The problems facing Avanti over recent weeks stem from old working practices that mean shifts are often covered by existing drivers volunteering to work above their 35 contracted hours. This antiquated practice shows just how urgent it is for us to modernise our railways, so passengers benefit from reliable services that don't rely on the goodwill of drivers volunteering to work overtime.

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