

First containers sealed into Dounreay low level waste vaults

News story

Dounreay's waste team is carrying out the first in a series of campaigns to seal the waste into place in the low level waste vaults.



As part of the waste disposal process, the spaces between the containers in the low level waste vault are being filled with grout.

The team undertook a series of trials to confirm that the grout would readily flow between the containers and also tested the membranes that will be used to seal the grout shutters.

A first campaign of grouting has now been completed within the vault and 16 waste packages have been sealed into their final positions. Further grouting campaigns of increasing size are planned.

In parallel with this work, the external space around the outside of the walls of the vault has been backfill filled with aggregate. In the first phase of this work, enough aggregate to fill an Olympic sized swimming pool has been used to fill up to 2.5m high around the structure. This is only 2% of the total volume of material that will be needed to backfill, cap and close the 2 vaults once they are full.

Project Manager Graeme Morgan said:

This work is a strategically important demonstration that we can carry out this crucial part of the disposal process, which will eventually enable us to close the vault.

Senior Engineer Angus Mackay added:

We've had a fantastic level of support from so many people across

the site and the quality of the workmanship has been superb. It's great to see the disposal process moving forward.

The work has been completed by a team from Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd along with local contractors Arch Henderson, John Gunn & Sons, JGC Engineering and Hugh Simpson Contractors.

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Teenagers could be missing out on a stash of cash

Tens of thousands of teenagers in the UK who have not yet claimed their matured Child Trust Funds savings could have thousands of pounds waiting for them, reminds HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Child Trust Funds are long-term savings accounts set up for every child born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011. To encourage future saving and start the account, the government provided an initial deposit of at least £250.

The savings accounts mature when the child turns 18 years old. Eligible teenagers, who are aged 18 or over and have yet to access their Child Trust Fund account, could have savings waiting for them worth an average of £2,100.

If teenagers or their parents and guardians already know who their Child Trust Fund provider is, they can contact them directly. This might be a bank, building society or other savings provider.

Many eligible teenagers who have yet to claim their savings might be starting university, apprenticeships or their first job. The lump-sum amount could offer a financial boost at a time when they need it most.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Second Permanent Secretary and Deputy Chief Executive, said:

Teenagers could have a pot of money waiting for them worth thousands of pounds and not even realise it. We want to help you access your savings and the money you're entitled to.

To find out more search 'Child Trust Fund' on GOV.UK.

An estimated 6.3 million Child Trust Fund accounts were set up throughout the

duration of the scheme, containing about £9 billion. If a parent or guardian was not able to set up an account for their child, HMRC opened a savings account on the child's behalf.

Teenagers aged 16 or over can take control of their own Child Trust Fund if they wish, although the funds can only be withdrawn once they turn 18 years old.

Where children have a Child Trust Fund, families can still pay in up to £9,000 a year tax-free. The account matures once the child turns 18 years old and no further money can be deposited. They can either withdraw the funds from the matured Child Trust Fund account or reinvest it into another savings account.

Until the child withdraws or transfers the money, it stays in an account that no-one else has access to.

The Child Trust Fund scheme closed in January 2011 and was replaced with [Junior Individual Savings Accounts \(ISA\)](#).

More information about [Child Trust Funds](#).

The government is offering [help for households](#). Check GOV.UK to find out what cost of living support you could be eligible for.

Call for Bids: Australia Network's UK Trade Partnerships Fund FTA Utilisation

World news story

The FTA is an opportunity for the UK to engage with Australian industry, policy makers, implementers and regulators to deliver and fully implement the FTA and identify any future barriers to trade in goods and services.

Background

The UK and Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed in December 2021 and will be critical to strengthening the UK-Australia bilateral trading relationship. It will set new global standards in goods and services and is expected to unlock £10.4 billion of additional trade.

Scope of work

The FTA is an opportunity for the UK to engage with Australian industry, policy makers, implementers and regulators to deliver and fully implement the FTA and identify any future barriers to trade in goods and services. The FTA encapsulates the future trading relationship with Australia to include pioneering chapters in innovation, gender equality and the transition to net zero.

Through a scalable number of activities including (but not limited to) workshops, roundtables, trade missions, business engagement and reporting, we would like to demonstrate the benefits of fully implementing the intentions of the following UK-AU FTA chapters;

Further benefit includes building bilateral business networks and raising the profile of the FTA to ensure its future utilisation.

Timelines

The bidder is required to deliver phased outputs against set timelines (subject to confirmation).

The duration of this project is likely to be around five months (November 2022 to April 2023).

No.	Deliverable	Anticipated activities (not limited to)	Milestone date
1	Accountable Grant signed with chosen bidder and start the implementation	Proposed work plan for the whole programme	Last week of October 2022
2	Programme design report	Detailed list of finalised activities for the programme	2nd week November 2022

No.	Deliverable	Anticipated activities (not limited to)	Milestone date
3	Delivery of activity	Finalise activity events, dates, locations	November 2022 onwards
4	Final report of delivery activity and findings	Summarise delivery activity	April 2022

Selection Criteria

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Project design: Feasibility of activities and outputs including the capacity of the implementing organisation to deliver outcomes.
- Impact: Supporting identifiable, meaningful activities to enhance impact of the project.
- Scalability: The potential for the project to act as a building block for subsequent FTA implementation activity.
- Viability and risks: Clear engagement/buy-in of key stakeholders. Robust analysis of key risks and a plan of action to manage and mitigate those risks.
- Value for money: Comparable and reasonable costs against the scale of achievable outcomes.

We draw your attention to the below key points:

- Proposals should be between £8,000 – £20,000 (\$13,000 – \$34,000 AUD).
- All funding must be activity-based (i.e. not for general support staff costs (admin, finance support), office rental etc.).

Process

1. Project proposals must be received by 23:59 (GMT) on Monday 17th October 2022. Late proposals will not be considered.
2. Proposals must be submitted using the attached forms only.
3. Proposals must be submitted to: Australia.ProgrammeFunding@fcdo.gov.uk

Attachments

[Activity Based Budget Template](#) (ODS, 9.84 KB)

[Project Proposal Form up to £10k](#) (ODT, 54 KB)

[Project Proposal Form above £10k](#) (ODT, 61.3 KB)

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When we challenge discrimination and progress gender equality, everybody benefits: UK statement at UN Third Committee

Thank you Mr Chair,

Multiple and interconnected barriers are preventing women and girls from reaching their full potential. Where women and girls are unable to reach their potential, whole countries suffer. We know that when we challenge discrimination and progress gender equality, everybody benefits.

The UK is committed to protecting and promoting women and girls' rights and freedoms at home and abroad so that they can have their voice, choice and control over all aspects of their lives.

Women's rights are human rights, as enshrined by numerous conventions that the UK supports. Our ambition remains higher than ever, and we cannot be complacent when reviewing our progress.

That is why we have committed to placing women and girls at the heart of our foreign and development policy, prioritising action on 3 areas: Educating girls; Empowering women and girls; and Ending violence.

We know that achieving gender equality is fundamental to building democracies and accelerating progress on securing freedoms, prosperity and trade, as well as strengthening global security and resilience. Women's knowledge and leadership strengthens decision-making, driving better, more sustainable, and fairer policies that benefit whole communities.

Together, over many years, we have made real, hard-won progress on this agenda. There are more girls in school; fewer girls forced into early marriage; more women serving in high political offices and private sector leadership positions; and there have been encouraging legal reforms in many countries to address inequalities.

However, progress has stalled. At the current rate, it will take 135 years to close the gender gap worldwide. Women and girls are, and continue to be, disproportionately impacted by crises, be it the COVID pandemic, conflict, or climate change.

Take COVID as an example. At a global level, we have witnessed women shouldering the unpaid care burden and being hardest hit economically, deepening poverty for women and girls. There has been a global surge in gender-based violence, reduced access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and increases in child marriage and adolescent pregnancy. An estimated 20 million girls will never return to school because of COVID.

Recent months have also shown the deep resilience of the human spirit and of free societies, with women and girls on the frontline of and being affected by multiple brutal conflicts, including most recently due to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Increasing authoritarianism is undermining democratic values, human rights and effective institutions and placing these hard-won gains under threat. Systematic attempts by several actors to roll back and reverse women's and girls' rights have gained momentum at the international and community level.

In Afghanistan, twenty years of progress on women's rights have been reversed. Afghan girls have been largely banned from secondary school for over a year, the only country in the world where this is the case. In Iran, the death of Mahsa Amini is a shocking reminder of the repression faced by women. No one should face violence because of what they wear, how they practice their beliefs or any expression of fundamental rights.

The UK stands steadfast in its commitment to protect and promote women's and girls' rights. In particular, we must respect the bodily autonomy of women and girls throughout their lives by supporting them in exercising their sexual and reproductive rights, preventing all forms of gender-based violence and eliminating harmful practices including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage.

The UK has a long record of leading the charge against gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence. This November, the UK will host a major international conference to promote prevention, justice and support for survivors, and strengthening the global response.

Mr Chair,

We are prepared to do things differently, to think differently, and to work differently to achieve true gender equality. We must act across multiple sectors and disciplines simultaneously and tackle the many forms of disadvantage that women and girls face, spanning age, race, disability, economic status, gender identity, religion/belief and geographical location.

And we cannot do this alone. We will continue to work with our partners, including women's rights organisations who are at the frontlines of this work, to deliver for women and girls everywhere.

I thank you.

Thousands more neighbourhood criminals to be GPS tracked in expansion of

tagging project

News story

The Justice Secretary, Brandon Lewis MP, has today (Tuesday 4 October) announced that more thieves, burglars and robbers will be fitted with GPS electronic tags when they leave prison, helping cut crime and keep the public safe.



Under this expansion of this Government's Acquisitive Crime GPS tagging project, 2,000 more criminals will have their whereabouts monitored on leaving custody – another important step forward in the use of technology to drive down re-offending rates and protect our communities.

Under the current system, only criminals with sentences of a year or more can be monitored via electronic tags on release under the scheme. The changes announced today will see offenders with sentences of 90 days or more eligible to be tagged – dramatically cutting the existing sentence threshold by nine months.

Tags for criminals who carry out theft, burglary, and robbery offences – known as acquisitive crimes – were introduced last year. They work by tracking the physical movements of offenders so police can find out if any tagged offenders were in the vicinity of a crime.

The technology also allows probation staff to keep a much closer eye on the whereabouts of offenders under their supervision – meaning they are better able to prevent ex-criminals from falling back into a life of crime.

The expansion, part of this Government's unprecedented £183 million investment in expanding the use of electronic monitoring technology, means the UK is continuing to lead the world in using tagging to fight crime and keep people safe.

The Justice Secretary has also (today) confirmed his plans to create more oversight of where transgender prisoners are housed and consider options to ensure risk assessments are robust as possible.

The government has been clear on the issue of single sex spaces – whether it be in our prisons, our schools, or our hospitals. That is why we will act to better protect single sex spaces within our prisons and protect women from harm.

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