

Unlocking the power of location: The UK's geospatial strategy

government sets out how the UK will lead the way on location data:

- creation of a national framework to boost economic, social and environmental value
- location data improves people's lives and drives innovation by connecting people, organisations and services

The government has [published a strategy](#) setting out how the UK will unlock the power of location data.

Location data, also known as geospatial data, is used across sectors as diverse as infrastructure, housing and retail.

Cabinet Office Minister, Lord True, today launched Unlocking the Power of Location: the UK's geospatial strategy. He said:

Rapid technological advances over the last 15 years have put sat navs in cars, maps on our phones, wearable sensors around our wrists and smart devices in our homes – all of which are integral to millions of lives. The application of location data is critical for navigating our new digital world, and for making the UK a better place for everyone.

As well as making everyday lives easier, location data has the potential to unite and level up the country – by connecting people, organisations and services. This government will unleash Britain's potential to lead the world in the data revolution, and keep us at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation.

The strategy sets out the first steps that the Geospatial Commission and its partners will carry out across four areas.

This includes the next phase of the National Underground Asset Programme (NUAR), which looks to digital map pipes and cables underground, publishing guidance for the ethical use of location data and technology and the piloting of an International Geospatial Service in 2021 to showcase and export UK geospatial expertise across the world. These activities will drive innovation and boost the economy across the UK over the coming years.

Sir Andrew Dilnot, the Chair of the [Geospatial Commission](#), said:

Location data already has a significant impact on our lives. Better

location data will help us to make more informed decisions on everything from where to build new schools and hospitals, to how to manage precious resources such as land and energy, creating economic, social and environmental value.

It will guide development of future technologies, such as autonomous vehicles and advanced digital representations that will support improved UK competitiveness and quality of life. The Geospatial Commission was set up to take advantage of the significant opportunities that location data and technology offer to the UK.

The National Geospatial Strategy will be launched by Lord True at Digital Leaders on 16 June 2020, an online summit attended by leaders from across the country who are focused on driving forward digital transformation.

For further information contact us at geospatialcommission@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Jonathan Hall appointed to the Financial Policy Committee

Mr Hall has 25 years' experience working in the financial markets, most recently as Portfolio Manager at Eisler Capital. He will serve a three-year term, which will begin on 1 September 2020. His appointment fills the position previously held by Martin Taylor, who stepped down from the Committee at the end of March 2020.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, said:

The role of the FPC in enhancing and protecting the stability of the UK's financial system has never been more important, and having highly qualified people on the committee is key. That's why I'm very pleased to welcome Jonathan to the role. His wide-ranging expertise and experience built up over years working in financial markets will be hugely beneficial as we work to open up the economy following the Coronavirus pandemic, underpinned and supported by our world-leading financial system.

The Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, said:

Jonathan has a wealth of experience and I look forward to welcoming him to the FPC. As a committee, more than ever as we address the economic challenges of the pandemic, we need to protect and enhance the resilience of the UK financial system. I am certain that Jonathan's insights from financial markets will prove invaluable to our financial policymaking decisions.

Further information

Jonathan Hall has previously worked as a Portfolio Manager at Eisler Capital, where he helped establish, launch and grow the organisation. Jonathan has also worked as an Advisory Director at Goldman Sachs where he sat on the Board and Executive Committee of ISDA, the Board of Tradeweb, the Financial Stability Board Market Participants Group on reforming Interest Rate Benchmarks, and the Bank of England Working Group on Risk-Free Reference Rates.

Prior to this, Jonathan spent 10 years at Goldman Sachs in London and New York. He became a Managing Director in 2006 and Partner in 2008. Before that, Jonathan worked at Credit Suisse Financial Products in London, Tokyo, Sydney and Hong Kong. Additionally, Jonathan is a member of the Founders Circle of the Institute for the Future of Work (IFOW) and is in the process of completing a PhD in Philosophy of Mind, focusing on belief formation and reasons-responsiveness.

About the appointment process

Jonathan Hall has been appointed following an open recruitment process. As part of this process, HM Treasury recruited an executive search agency. A panel comprising Charles Roxburgh (Second Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury) and Katharine Braddick (Director General Financial Services, HM Treasury) and Richard Sharp (external member of the FPC from 2013 to 2019) interviewed a number of candidates and made recommendations to the Chancellor, which informed his decision.

There were 62 applications, of which five candidates were shortlisted for interview. The gender breakdown of the applicants for this appointment is below:

Application stage	Shortlisted for interview
FPC External Member 18 women, 43 men, 1 undisclosed	2 women, 3 men

About the Financial Policy Committee

- The FPC is the UK's macroprudential regulator: its objective is to protect and enhance the stability of the UK's financial system by identifying, monitoring and addressing systemic risks
- The FPC has thirteen members. Six of them are Bank of England staff: the Governor, four Deputy Governors and the Executive Director for Financial

Stability Strategy and Risk

- There are also five external members who are selected from outside the Bank for their experience and expertise in financial services
- The Committee also includes the Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority and one non-voting member from HM Treasury

AIA surrenders Ofqual recognition

News story

The Association of International Accountants is no longer an Ofqual-recognised awarding organisation.



The Association of International Accountants (AIA) has surrendered its status as an Ofqual-recognised awarding organisation. AIA has been an inactive awarding organisation for the past few years. AIA notified us in March that it intended to withdraw its existing Ofqual regulated qualifications and would cease to be an Ofqual-recognised awarding organisation.

The surrender took effect from 5 June 2020. From this date, no qualifications offered by AIA are regulated by Ofqual.

When awarding organisations are considering surrendering their recognition, we will work with them to discuss the options for proceeding whilst ensuring learners are protected.

A full list of currently recognised awarding organisations and regulated qualifications can be found on the [Register of Regulated Qualifications](#).

Consultation launched on reservoir emergency on-site flood plans

News story

Government believes that on-site plans should be an essential part of maintaining public safety.



All large raised reservoirs in England could be legally required to have emergency contingency plans in place under measures being [consulted](#) on by the government from today (Tuesday 16 June).

Also known as on-site flood plans, these are needed to ensure that those responsible for the reservoir are ready to manage potential risks from an uncontrolled release of water from a reservoir that may cause flooding to the surrounding area and communities.

England already has some of the toughest safety reservoir regulations in the world with a strong safety track record. However, a survey of reservoir owners in the wake of the 2019 Toddbrook Reservoir incident revealed that while a large proportion of large raised reservoirs do already have on-site plans, those who do not cite the lack of legal requirement as their reason. The survey also identified different practices in how often flood plans are reviewed and updated.

While incidents like the spillway failure at Toddbrook Reservoir are rare, swift action when the incident occurred was aided by the fact that both an on-site flood plan and a local flood evacuation plan were available and quickly activated.

The government believes that on-site plans should be an essential part of maintaining public safety, and set out its intention to consult on making them a legal requirement in its [response](#) to Professor David Balmforth's independent review report on the Toddbrook Reservoir spillway failure.

The government recognises that there are different types of reservoir, and that emergency plans will be unique to each reservoir and how it is operated.

The eight week online consultation seeks views on:

- managing and maintaining a flood plan
- how frequently a flood plan should be tested
- updating guidance about preparing a flood plan
- training that may be needed to support emergency planning and incident response

The consultation will run until 10 August.

On 9 June 2020, the government also published the [Terms of Reference](#) for Part B of the independent Reservoir Review. Part B will examine how the current legislation is applied and ensure it is robust in order to continue to maintain our safety record. It is expected to report to Government by February 2021.

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[New COVID-19 funding to assist the vulnerable elderly in the OPTs](#)

World news story

The British Consulate in Jerusalem has a small amount of programme funding to support an NGO in providing assistance to vulnerable elderly people in the OPTs.



CALL FOR BIDS

New COVID-19 Funding
to Assist the Vulnerable Elderly

Applications due no later than 6 July 2020



The British Consulate in Jerusalem is working closely with the Palestinian authority, International Humanitarian organisations and civil society on the response to the COVID-19 challenge in the OPTs, including support to meet the humanitarian and healthcare needs of the most vulnerable Palestinians as well

as support to boost the PA's economic resilience.

We are keen to ensure that our support continues to reach those who are most vulnerable to the multifaceted impacts of COVID-19. To that end, the British Consulate in Jerusalem has a small amount of programme funding to support an NGO in providing assistance to vulnerable elderly people in the OPTs.

Although all age groups are at risk of contracting COVID-19, older persons run a significantly higher risk of mortality and severe disease following infection, with those over 80 years old dying at five times the average rate.

Proposals should focus on providing targeted support for the most vulnerable elderly people in the Palestinian society. This may include strengthening support systems in elderly care, providing psycho-social support to older persons who have experienced loss or giving assistance to promote and safeguard elderly caregivers, volunteers or community leaders.

NGOs should send their full and detailed proposals for projects worth up to 320,000 ILS to be implemented between August and March 2021. Please complete the [Project Proposal Form](#) (MS Word Document, 85KB) and [Activity Based Budget](#) (MS Excel Spreadsheet, 25.6KB) template and submit by no later than 6 July 2020, to Lucy.Raii@fco.gov.uk, with "Enabling Fund Proposal" in the subject line.

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