

# [Business Secretary confirms 9 new appointments to the CMA panel](#)

Business Secretary Alok Sharma has today (14 May) confirmed 9 appointments to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) panel.

Panel members are tasked with running merger and market inquiries that have been referred for a thorough (phase 2) investigation. Panel members also make decisions on regulatory appeals on price controls or terms of licences.

## **Jo Armstrong**

Jo Armstrong is a business economist and corporate financier having worked in financial services, oil and gas and government, and has also worked extensively with regulatory bodies including Ofgem and the Scottish Housing Regulator. Her appointment as a panel member commenced in May 2020.

## **Margot Daly**

Margot Daly is an executive director of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI), a trustee of GamCare and an independent business consultant. Previously she was a panel member of the Competition Appeal Tribunal. Her appointment as a panel member commenced in May 2020.

## **Ashleye Gunn**

Ashleye Gunn is an independent consumer policy consultant. She is a panel member for Ofgem's RII0 Stakeholder Engagement and Consumer Vulnerability incentive and for UK Power Networks London Customer Engagement Group for RII0-2. She was previously Policy Programme Director at Which? Her appointment as a panel member commenced in April 2020.

## **Jennie Holloway**

Jennie Holloway is co-founder of The Growth Stage and co-founder and Director of Ekta Partners Limited. Prior to launching these businesses, Jennie worked in investment banking for 15 years, latterly as a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs, where she ran Alternative Equity Capital Markets. Her appointment as a panel member commenced in May 2020.

## **Frances McLeman**

Frances McLeman is an experienced corporate and regulatory lawyer. A former Corporate Partner at City law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP (now Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP), she was recently Head of Ring Fencing Legal at Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) delivering a major regulatory reform programme, and before that LBG's Head of Corporate and M&A Legal. Her appointment as a panel member commenced in May 2020.

## **Cyrus Mehta**

Cyrus Mehta was a Partner and Head of the EU and Competition team at law firm CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP. He has over 30 years' experience in the field of UK and EU competition law, state aid, trade law and regulation. His appointment as a panel member commenced in April 2020.

## **Sir Kenneth Parker**

Sir Kenneth Parker was formerly a QC, joint head of Monckton Chambers, a Law Commissioner and Judge of the High Court. He is currently a Judicial Commissioner in the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office, and a legal chair for the Financial Reporting Council. His appointment as a panel member commenced in May 2020.

## **Stephen Rose**

Stephen Rose was a consultant to international law firm, Eversheds-Sutherland (International) LLP, having formally been a senior partner in the firm's Competition, EU and Trade group for over 20 years. His appointment as a panel member commenced in April 2020.

## **Crispin Wright**

Crispin Wright was Director General of the Takeover Panel from 2015-2018. Prior to that he was an investment banker for over 30 years specialising in mergers and acquisitions at Rothschild and Co, Deutsche Bank and Morgan Grenfell. His appointment as a panel member commenced in April 2020.

## **The CMA**

The CMA is a non-ministerial department and the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It has responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries, and enforcing competition and consumer law.

---

# **UK Statement in response to the Director of ODIHR**

Mr Chair – I would like to thank the Director of ODIHR for her presentation to the Permanent Council. The United Kingdom remains a strong supporter of ODIHR in its work to support participating States in implementing their OSCE human dimension commitments.

Let me thank you Director and your team for your hard work throughout 2019. This is clearly documented in the Annual Report, and you have highlighted it

here today.

With such a comprehensive mandate, which is demonstrated by a wide range of activities in many states, I will not attempt to address the full extent of ODIHR's work here.

However, let me mention briefly your work to monitor the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. We were delighted that ODIHR chose the UK as a State for assembly monitoring and that representatives of ODIHR visited London in December 2019 to observe demonstrations there. The right to freedom of peaceful assembly is essential for so many other aspects of democratic life. It is linked to both freedom of expression and freedom of association, and is a core part of electoral processes and of holding governments to account. We welcome the opportunity to share our experience of enabling the right to peaceful assembly and encourage other States to work with ODIHR in this field in the future.

We welcome ODIHR's continuing work on gender equality, and that the pursuit of this is taken forward throughout all departments and all elements of their work, not as a standalone piece of work, or an after-thought. This can be seen throughout the Annual Report, and in the assistance from ODIHR to parliaments in adopting and enacting gender-sensitive legislation.

Looking ahead, this is clearly going to be a challenging year for States and for the OSCE's institutions. In line with the recommendations being made by the World Health Organisation, States are rightly taking exceptional measures as they seek to halt the spread of COVID-19. However, some of these measures have potentially profound effects on individuals and societies, and impact on people's enjoyment of their human rights.

ODIHR, together with the other OSCE institutions, has a clear role to play in supporting participating States uphold their OSCE commitments. You have identified some of the risks: hastily adopted legislation, a lack of parliamentary oversight and scrutiny, a risk of increased intolerance, discrimination and hate crimes; and as we discussed here two weeks ago, an increase in domestic violence and abuse.

We can also see that the elections calendar for 2020 has already been disrupted, with delays to planned elections already in place, and a pause in election observation plans. Let me take this opportunity to restate my and my country's support for ODIHR's independent election observation. This includes ODIHR's election observation methodology.

Finally, a word on the role of civil society. During these unprecedented times, civil society is playing an essential role both in supporting communities and contributing to States' responses. Civil society also provides a challenge function, identifying risks and shortfalls in States' plans, as well as contributing to policy and decision making. It is crucial that space for civil society is respected, both in participating States and in OSCE fora.

To conclude – ODIHR is a vital organisation within the OSCE area – it is

essential in upholding and helping to implement participating States commitments on human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. ODIHR is as essential as ever in 2020 and in the current circumstances we face. We wish all the very best to the Director and her able team and assure her of the UK's full support.

---

## [Charity regulator continues to address concerns at connected Birmingham charities](#)

The Charity Commission has opened a new statutory inquiry and appointed an interim manager at the Al-Hijrah Trust ([charity 1154046](#)), due to serious concerns that charity properties are at risk. This will support the work of an existing inquiry into connected charity, Al-Hijrah Trust ([charity 1018850](#)). It will also examine concerns around governance and safeguarding.

The regulator opened a [statutory inquiry](#) into the Al-Hijrah Trust (1018850) in 2015 over concerns about the charity's finances and particularly how income derived from the Al-Hijrah School's occupation of one of the charity's properties, was held and expended.

In February 2014, soon after the new Al-Hijrah Trust (1154046) was registered, an agreement was drawn up to transfer property and assets of the older charity (1018850), to the new charity, with the intention that the older charity would then dissolve. However, two assets have still not been transferred.

The regulator's inquiries are seeking to address this, including issues surrounding an outstanding charge on one property caused by a loan obtained by former trustees to finance an unsecured investment in a Dubai-based company. The property remains at significant risk due to this arrangement.

In addition, the regulator is concerned by an apparent breakdown in governance at the charity (1154046) and whether individuals listed as trustees of it on the Register of Charities were and are properly appointed as trustees. There are also concerns around private benefit and allegations of safeguarding issues at the charity (1154046).

Due to its serious concerns, the regulator opened an inquiry into the charity (1154046) on 18 March 2020. This will examine:

- the governance and administration of the charity, and whether individuals recorded as trustees were properly appointed;
- the remuneration of an individual whilst a trustee of the charity and whether this was authorised;

- safeguarding at the charity and complaints made by a former employee;
- the protection of property held by or coming to the charity.

Given the complexity of the issues it has appointed Ms Edwina Turner of Anthony Collins LLP as Interim Manager of the new charity to help address the concerns. Ms Turner will act as receiver and manager in respect of the charity's property and affairs. She also takes on day-to-day management and administration of the charity to the exclusion of the trustees. Ms Turner has existing knowledge and experience of the issues as she is already acting as interim manager of Al Hijrah Trust (1018850) where her role is to secure the removal of the charge on the property.

The inquiry into Al Hijrah Trust (charity 1018850) continues. It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. Reports of previous inquiries are available on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

**Ends.**

### **Notes to editors:**

1. The Al-Hijrah School was an exempt charity regulated by the Department for Education as principal regulator. Neither charity is responsible for the running of the school or the funding it received, nor have the school and its operation been the subject of the Commission's inquiries. The Al-Hijrah School ceased to occupy the Al-Hijrah Trust's property (1018850) in August 2019 and ceased to exist on 31 August 2019.
2. Section 76 of the Charities Act gives the Commission the power to appoint an interim manager to a charity. It is a temporary and protective measure that continues until the Commission makes a further order for its variation or discharge.

---

## **[Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire](#)**

Press release

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill CBE DL as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Derbyshire.



The Queen has been pleased to appoint Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill CBE DL as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Derbyshire in succession to Mr William Tucker CVO.

Published 14 May 2020

---

## [UK statement in response to the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan](#)

Thank you Mr Chair. I would like to join other speakers in welcoming back Ambassador Szabo to the Permanent Council and I thank him for his thoughtful and thorough report.

I would like to highlight that Kazakhstan is an important partner country for the UK, with which we look forward to continuing and expanding our bilateral cooperation.

The OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan plays a vital role supporting the government of Kazakhstan in its implementation of OSCE commitments, including in crucially important areas such as domestic violence, gender equality, human rights and fundamental freedoms, transnational threats and environmental issues. My colleagues in the British Embassy in Nur-Sultan are eager to continue collaborating and partnering with the Office, including in delivering common objectives in the third dimension.

The report speaks for itself in terms of the range of activity undertaken by the Programme Office – with around 100 events in all three dimensions reaching out to over 10,000 participants throughout the country.

There are two project examples in the report which I think well-illustrate the significant – and unique – convening power and reach of the Office bringing together the government, other international organisations, and civil society for the benefit of the people of Kazakhstan. The first is the

co-operation with universities, as well as independent platforms for dialogue, co-organising an annual camp for young people to promote youth-oriented policies and reducing the risks of social exclusion among youth. The second is the Office's partnership with the government, the UN agencies and civil society organisations, to bring 'The 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence' into the spotlight through an awareness-raising campaign.

Going forward, the work of Office will require – like all field missions – navigation through the new global threat of COVID-19. In this regard I would like to send my best wishes for the health and safety of all staff in the Office and their families.

Mr Chair – I noted that the Office has developed the second edition of its Gender Action Plan (from 2020 to 2022), which envisions wider involvement of the Office's contribution to gender mainstreaming. I would take this opportunity to ask the Ambassador to expand on this Plan and outline what amendments were made, and what the lessons learned were, from the first edition that will be implemented going forward.

In conclusion, Mr Chair, I would like to thank Ambassador Szabo again and wish him and his able team all the best.