

News story: ESFA welcomes new Management Board Chair

[Irene Lucas](#) CBE, who recently joined the Department of Education Board as a non-executive board member, has been appointed as our Management Board Chair. This completes the ESFA Management Board recruitment process.

Irene has a wealth of experience working in the private sector, as Chair of the Hays Travel group, and across the civil service and local government.

This follows on from the appointment, in September 2018, of Stuart McMinnies, Martin Spencer and Hunada Nouss as non-executive members of the ESFA Management Board. Additionally, Hunada also takes on the role of ESFA Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) Chair, from Friday 1 February 2019, and is joined by John Lakin, who was appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee earlier this year alongside current non-executive members Nigel Johnson and Ian Hickman.

Following the creation of the ESFA in April 2017, an interim Management Board has been in place while we conducted a thorough public appointment process to recruit a new chair and board members, who can bring expertise and challenge to the organisation. These members had been through the public appointments process, as part of their current role on the Audit and Risk Committee of the ESFA or DfE Board.

Eileen Milner, ESFA Chief Executive said:

It is great to have Irene leading the Management Board and having all members now appointed. The role of the Management Board is to provide crucial scrutiny, challenge, advice and oversight, to hold us rightly to account as a public body. I look forward to working with Irene and the rest of the board members.

Details on the board members and all future meeting minutes will be published on [our governance](#) page.

Press release: Alert to users of FreeStyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system regarding skin

reactions to sensor adhesive

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is aware some users of the FreeStyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system are experiencing skin reactions to the sensor adhesive.

Users may have been applying creams, sprays or patches under their sensor to reduce symptoms of skin reactions caused by the sensor adhesive. This is not advised as it may affect the performance of the device.

If you notice redness, itching or blistering, seek guidance from a healthcare professional on continuing the use of the device. They can advise on possible alternative glucose monitoring systems.

The manufacturer, Abbott, has confirmed they have revised the formulation of the adhesive, which will be available to customers in the UK from April 2019.

This problem may not be unique to the Abbott FreeStyle Libre sensor adhesive. The same actions should be taken if users experience similar symptoms with a different brand of continuous glucose monitoring system.

John Wilkinson, MHRA Director of Devices, said:

It is important people can rely on their medical devices.

If you experience skin irritation after applying the sensor of your flash glucose monitoring system you should speak with your doctor, pharmacist or diabetes management team.

We continue to encourage people to report any issues involving medical devices to us via our [Yellow Card Scheme](#).

Libby Dowling, Senior Clinical Advisor at Diabetes UK, said:

People with diabetes who use flash should be aware that, as per recent reports, using barrier creams or sprays could affect the performance of their glucose monitoring sensors. If people are having skin reactions, they should consult with their healthcare professional or pharmacist in order to get advice on the measures they should take for the performance of their device to not be affected.

We're reassured that the manufacturer is currently revising the formulation of the adhesive and is looking to make this available to the public in response.

Notes to editor

1. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe.
 2. All our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits justify any risks. MHRA is a centre of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency which also includes [NIBSC](#) and [CPRD](#). The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is an executive agency of the [Department of Health and Social Care](#).
 3. Anyone who has experienced an adverse incident with a medicine or medical device is encouraged to report any issues to MHRA via our [Yellow Card Scheme](#).
 4. Read the [Medical Device Alert in full on our website](#).
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[Press release: December 2018 Price Paid Data](#)

This month's Price Paid Data includes details of more than 88,700 sales of land and property in England and Wales that HM Land Registry received for registration in December 2018.

In the dataset you can find the date of sale for each property, its full address and sale price, its category (residential or commercial) and type (detached, semi-detached, terraced, flat or maisonette and other), whether it is new build or not and whether it is freehold or leasehold.

The number of sales received for registration by property type and month

Property type	December 2018	November 2018	October 2018
Detached	20,320	23,931	25,066
Semi-detached	23,512	26,797	27,567
Terraced	23,890	26,758	28,352
Flat/maisonette	15,573	19,158	19,352
Other	5,490	6,059	6,553
Total	88,785	102,703	106,883

Of the 88,785 sales received for registration in December 2018:

- 67,741 were freehold, a 21% increase on December 2017
- 10,664 were newly built, an 8% increase on December 2017

There is a time difference between the sale of a property and its registration at HM Land Registry.

Of the 88,785 sales received for registration 24,840 took place in December 2018 of which:

- 451 were of residential properties in England and Wales for £1 million and over
- 270 were of residential properties in Greater London for £1 million and over
- 2 were of residential properties in the West Midlands for more than £1 million
- 6 were of residential properties in Greater Manchester for more than £1 million
- none were of residential properties in Cardiff for more than £1 million

The most expensive residential sale taking place in December 2018 was of a terraced property in Kensington and Chelsea for £11,000,000. The cheapest residential sale in December 2018 was of a terraced property in Peterlee, County Durham for £17,500.

The most expensive commercial sale taking place in December 2018 was in Evesham for £60,172,946. The cheapest commercial sales in December 2018 were in Ilkeston, Haringey and Southampton for £100.

[Access the full dataset](#)

Notes to editors

1. Price Paid Data is published at 11am on the 20th working day of each month. The next dataset will be published on 28 February 2019.
2. [Price Paid Data](#) is property price data for all residential and commercial property sales in England and Wales that are lodged with HM Land Registry for registration in that month, [subject to exclusions](#).
3. The amount of time between the sale of a property and the registration of this information with HM Land Registry varies. It typically ranges between two weeks and two months. Data for the two most recent months is therefore incomplete and does not give an indication of final monthly volumes. Occasionally the interval between sale and registration is longer than 2 months. The small number of sales affected cannot be updated for publication until the sales are lodged for registration.
4. Price Paid Data categories are either Category A (Standard entries) which includes single residential properties sold for full market value or Category B (Additional entries) for example sales to a company, buy-to-lets where they can be identified by a mortgage and repossessions.

5. HM Land Registry has been collecting information on Category A sales from January 1995 and on Category B sales from October 2013.
6. Price Paid Data can be downloaded in text, CSV format and in a machine readable format as [linked data](#) and is released under the [Open Government Licence \(OGL\)](#). Under the OGL, HM Land Registry permits the use of Price Paid Data for commercial or non-commercial purposes. However, the OGL does not cover the use of [third party rights](#), which HM Land Registry is not authorised to license.
7. The [Price Paid Data report builder](#) allows users to build bespoke reports using the data. Reports can be based on location, estate type, price paid or property type over a defined period of time.
8. HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales.
9. HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862. It operates as an executive agency and a trading fund and its running costs are covered by the fees paid by the users of its services. Its ambition is to become the world's leading land registry for speed, simplicity and an open approach to data.
10. HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth in excess of £4 trillion, including around £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land Register contains more than 25 million titles showing evidence of ownership for some 86% of the land mass of England and Wales.
11. For further information about HM Land Registry visit www.gov.uk/land-registry.
12. Follow us on [Twitter](#), our [blog](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

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[News story: World-leading designs for UK aerospace: get funding for projects](#)



The competition is part of a joint £3.9 billion investment in UK aerospace by government and industry.

The UK's aerospace sector is among the best in the world. To maintain this position we need to explore and exploit emerging opportunities and markets.

Organisations are invited to express an interest in a competition worth £150 million a year with their innovative ideas for future aerospace design and manufacture. The best projects will then be invited to apply for grant funding.

The investment is part of the £3.9 billion [UK Aerospace Research and Technology \(UKART\) programme](#) between government and industry.

Innovate UK, the [Aerospace Technology Institute](#) (ATI) and [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#) coordinate and manage the programme.

Leading the aerospace industry

This competition provides funding for industrial research or capital investment projects that align with the [UK Aerospace Technology Strategy](#).

Priority areas include whole aircraft design and integration, aerostructures, advanced systems and propulsion technologies.

Projects must:

- improve UK whole-aircraft design and system integration
- future-proof advanced systems technologies in the UK – specifically,

- smart, connected and more electric aircrafts
- secure the UK's world-leading position in large, complex aviation structures, particularly wings
- develop more efficient propulsion technologies, including large turbofans

Competition information

- the competition will open on 4 February 2019, and the deadline for expressions of interest is at midday on 11 February 2018
- UK-based business, research and technology groups and academic organisations can be the project lead, depending on the project type
- businesses could get up to 70% of their costs for industry-led research projects, or up to 50% of their costs for capital investment projects
- organisations must sign up to the [ATI framework agreement](#)
- an online briefing event will be held on 11 February 2018 where organisations can find out more about the competition and applying

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[Press release: Charity regulator makes robust use of new enforcement powers](#)

The Charity Commission has used new legal powers on over 130 occasions since they were introduced in the Charities Act 2016. The 2016 Act provided a range of new enforcement powers to the regulator, including the power to disqualify individuals from charity trusteeship, and to issue Official Warnings to a charity or an individual trustee.

[A report published today](#) shows that, in total, the Commission has used new powers on 137 occasions; this has included disqualifying 21 and suspending 7 individuals from trusteeship, and removing 12 individuals as a trustee during an inquiry.

The Commission has also issued 6 Official Warnings since the power became available to it in November 2016, and issued 14 notifications of its intention to issue an Official Warning. Among the charities that have been issued with an Official Warning is the [RSPCA](#), which received an OW in August 2018.

On 17 occasions, the Commission issued a direction requiring that charity property be applied in the interests the charity.

The information is included in the latest annual review of the Commission's compliance case work, Dealing with wrongdoing and harm 2017-18. The report

covers the first full financial year during which the Commission has been able to use new legal powers introduced in the Charities Act 2016.

The regulator published a [new strategy](#) in October last year, which sets out a new purpose and five strategic priorities for the regulator, one of which is Dealing with wrongdoing and harm.

In her foreword to the report, the Commission's chief executive Helen Stephenson makes clear that responsibility for the reputation of charity is one the regulator shares with those whom it regulates and urges all trustees to recognise their role as the first line of defence against wrongdoing and harm, and the ambitions of the Commission to do more to support them.

Increased safeguarding case work

The report also reveals that safeguarding issues continue to feature highly in the Commission's compliance case work. The regulator opened 552 new safeguarding cases in 2017-18, compared to 302 in 2016-17 and 163 in the preceding year.

Overall, the regulator opened 2,269 regulatory compliance cases, up from 1,164 in 2016-17. 1,174 cases were opened during the first half of 2018-19.

In October 2018, as part of a [final report of its interim safeguarding taskforce](#), the Commission reported having received a total of 2,114 reports of serious incidents from charities relating to safeguarding incidents or issues between 20 February and 30 September 2018, compared to 1,580 serious incident reports about safeguarding received in the whole of 2017-18, and 1,203 received in 2016-17.

In total, the Commission dealt with 2,819 reports of serious incidents by charities in 2017-18, up from 2181 during the previous year.

Work undertaken by the regulator has also helped address underreporting by auditors of matters of material significance. During 2017-18, the Commission handled 287 reports from auditors and independent examiners of charities, up from 54 the previous year. Most of these reports (82%) related to matters of material significance.

This resulted in part from work the Commission undertook with professional accountancy bodies, in the wake of a review of auditors' compliance with [new rules on reporting matters of material significance](#), which highlighted serious concerns about accountants' awareness and compliance.

Increased exchanges of information with other agencies

Exchanges between the Charity Commission and other agencies increased by 31% year-on year to 2017-18.

In 2017-18, the Commission made 3,579 data exchanges with other agencies, compared to 2,733 exchanges in 2016-17.

Exchanges on safeguarding issues more than doubled from 244 in 2016-17 to 596

last year. These exchanges represented 17% of all exchanges.

The Commission says these figures demonstrate a more proactive approach to exchanging intelligence with partners so as to effectively deal with wrongdoing and harm in charities and secure regulatory outcomes in the public interest.

Among the agencies with which the Commission exchanged information about charities are police bodies, other government departments, other statutory regulators and local government.

Helen Stephenson, CEO of the Charity Commission, says:

This report tells of the Commission's continued effectiveness in dealing with wrongdoing and harm in charities, including through the appropriate and confident use of the new powers we were granted.

Our new five year strategy sets out our purpose: to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society. We cannot achieve that goal by ourselves. The shared benefits of a thriving sector bring with them a shared responsibility to meet popular expectations of behaviour and conduct. It is a responsibility which binds together the regulator and those whom we regulate. Trustees who together oversee more than £70 billion of annual income are the first line of defence in securing the reputation of their own charities and more widely that of the sector as a whole.

That is a huge responsibility and the Commission is here to help, not just to step in when things go wrong. So while we are dealing with more regulatory compliance cases and more reports of serious incidents than ever before as the number of charities on the register continues to grow, it is important to recognise the hard work and dedication of the overwhelming majority of trustees. Nevertheless, where things do go wrong, the potential impact of such cases on public trust and confidence when they do come to light also demonstrates how precious and fragile the good standing of charity can be.

That is why we are working on becoming more preventative in our approach, developing the risk-based element to its work so that it can spot potential problems before they occur.

Other key figures

- 138: new inquiries opened, representing a decrease year-on-year; the figure of 187 in 2016-17 included a class inquiry involving 74 connected charities.

- 415: new monitoring cases opened (2016-17: 503)
- 101: whistleblowing reports received (2016-17: 88)
- 1,135: uses of the Commission's compliance powers – old and new (2016-17: 1,099).
- £33.2m: total charitable funds directly protected by regulatory intervention (2016-17: £81m)

Ends