

News story: Innovate UK: first Council announced

The Innovate UK stand at Innovate 2017 – future, growth, global.

Innovate UK has announced the members of its first Council, who will advise and make decisions on Innovate UK's operations as it becomes part of [UK Research and Innovation](#).

With a specific focus on innovation, they will:

- provide leadership in their field of activity, including prioritising budgets within their delegated remits and developing delivery plans
- ensure a pipeline of skilled specialists and other roles that are essential to the sustainability of the UK's research and innovation capacity
- engage with the innovation and business community to develop ideas, raise awareness and share strategic outputs
- encourage and facilitate collaborative work across the 9 Councils to build strategic relationships

Range of expertise and experience

The members are:

- Sir Harpal Kumar, who will serve as Senior Independent Member through his role as UK Research and Innovation's Innovation Champion and work closely with the board
- Dr Arnab Basu MBE, Chief Executive, [Kromek Group plc](#)
- Baroness Brown of Cambridge DBE FREng FRS (Julia King)
- Professor Juliet Davenport OBE, Chief Executive, [Good Energy](#)
- Dr John Fingleton, Chief Executive, [Fingleton Associates](#)
- Priya Guha, Ecosystem General Manager, [RocketSpace UK](#)
- Dr Elaine Jones, Vice President, [Pfizer Ventures](#)
- Professor John Latham, Vice-Chancellor of [Coventry University](#)
- Sir William Sargent, Chief Executive, [Framestore](#)
- Stephen Welton, Chief Executive, [Business Growth Fund](#)

Innovate UK's funding is awarded to businesses of different sizes across a wide range of industries, and the Council's membership reflects that.

They have a range of expertise and experience in research and innovation across business, entrepreneurship, investment, technology development, economics and business impact evaluation, with different characteristics and professional backgrounds.

Champions of business-led innovation

Chief Executive of Innovate UK, Dr Ruth McKernan said:

As UK Research and Innovation begins its work, the Council of Innovate UK will have a vital role to play. They will champion the vital role that business-led innovation and the commercialisation of research play in driving economic growth and increasing productivity.

The important duties of the Council means that we need people who are up to the task. It's fantastic that the role has attracted people of such high calibre from a diverse range of backgrounds. We look forward to them taking on the task with enthusiasm and passion.

The Council replaces Innovate UK's governing board. Members will serve between one and 3 years.

[Press release: UK's 'first ever' successful prosecution for false company information](#)

Kevin Brewer, a businessman, incorporated John Vincent Cable Services Ltd in 2013, making the former Business Secretary Vince Cable MP a director and shareholder without his knowledge. The company was dissolved and taken off the company register after Companies House took action.

Brewer, 65, then formed another company in 2016, Cleverly Clogs Ltd, making Baroness Neville-Rolfe – the Minister with responsibility for Companies House – James Cleverly MP and an imaginary Israeli national, Ibrahim Aman, all directors and shareholders without their knowledge. Companies House dissolved the company and took it off the company register.

Brewer, from Ullenhall in Warwickshire, was ordered to pay over £12,000 after he pleaded guilty to filing false information on the UK's company register at a hearing in Redditch Magistrates' Court last Thursday 15 March.

This is thought to be the first time a company director has been successfully prosecuted for falsifying company information under laws which came into force in 2009.

A Companies House spokesperson said:

Deliberately filing false information on the register is a serious offence and people who have been found to have knowingly done this can face prosecution.

Business Minister Andrew Griffiths said:

This prosecution – the first of its kind in the UK – shows the Government will come down hard on people who knowingly break the law and file false information on the company register.

Companies House works hard to protect and continually upgrade the company register, identifying potentially criminal activities and working closely with law enforcement bodies to help bring those perpetrators to justice.

The company register is operated by Companies House and contains information about company addresses, accounts, and those who own and run companies. There are nearly 4 million companies on the UK's company register and the vast majority of these companies use the register lawfully.

- Brewer pleaded guilty to breaking section 1112 of the Companies Act 2006, which sets out the criminal offence of providing false information on the company register.
- Brewer was fined £1,602 and ordered to pay costs of £10,462.50 and a Victim Surcharge of £160.

[What has happened since changes to vehicle tax rates were introduced?](#)

This time last year, DVLA and the motor industry were gearing up for the new tax rules that came into force on 1 April 2017.



A lot has happened since, so I thought this would be a great time to update you and tell you about new changes on the horizon.

Tax reminders

Customers who bought a new car registered on or after 1 April 2017 will be getting their tax reminder (V11) through their letterbox from this month onwards.

These tax reminders will show the standard rate, or if the car had a list price of over £40,000, the standard rate plus the additional rate. See our [vehicle tax rates](#) for information.

New first registration service

During the past year, service designers here at DVLA have been working on our new first registration service. We have been working closely with manufacturers and dealers to ensure the service meets their needs as well as ours.

The new service will start the DVLA's [IT transformation](#), using APIs and cloud technology, while improving our internal IT estate.

Changes to tax rates for new diesel cars

In the Chancellor's [November budget](#), further changes to the way vehicle tax is calculated were announced. The change will apply to new diesel cars registered on or after 1 April 2018.

Put simply, new diesel cars registered from this date will have their first year rate calculated in line with the changes.

The rates will not apply to next-generation clean diesels. These are vehicles which are certified as meeting emissions limits in real driving conditions, known as Real Driving Emissions Step 2 (RDE2) standards.

The Chancellor also announced increases to current VED and standard rates in line with Retail Price Index (RPI) from the same date.

Other legislative changes

We have other changes to incorporate into our services. Some of these changes may be familiar to you, and include:

- Clean Air Zones (CAZ)
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP)

There may be some of these that you, as a driver, will never know about or even need to. But we have to factor these into our processes when registering a vehicle for the first time.

No doubt there will be more changes to come and we need to make sure we can introduce these with minimal disruption to our customers and stakeholders.

We will continue to work closely with industry colleagues, trade bodies and motoring associations to keep moving forward. This helps us to improve our services and make them simple to understand and easy to use.

To check when the tax is due for your vehicle, go to gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax.

Follow DVLA on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and subscribe to our [Digital Services Blog](#).

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

[News story: Home Office launches anti-knife crime campaign](#)

The Home Office has today launched a new advertising campaign to reduce knife crime among young people.

By using real-life stories of young people who made the decision not to carry knives, the #knifefree campaign aims to highlight the consequences of carrying a knife and to inspire young people to pursue positive alternatives.

Serious Violence Strategy

The campaign forms part of the government's forthcoming Serious Violence Strategy, which will set out action to tackle serious violence by placing new emphasis on steering young people away from crime whilst continuing to promote the strongest possible law enforcement approach.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

The emotional stories at the heart of the new Knife Free campaign bring home in powerful fashion just what a far-reaching impact it can have on a young person's life if they make the misguided decision to carry a knife.

I hope any young person who is seriously thinking about carrying a knife listens to what the implications can be and realises what options are available if they choose to live knife-free.

Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability Victoria Atkins said:

This powerful new campaign will highlight the tragic consequences of carrying a knife and challenge the idea that young people are safer if they carry one.

The £1.35m campaign will use advertising on social media (Snapchat, Twitter) and digital channels (TV on demand, Spotify) to target 10 to 21 year olds who use these platforms. A poster campaign will also be displayed in English cities where knife crime is more prevalent.

Real-life stories

The adverts feature real-life case studies who have turned their lives around after deciding to go knife-free. They are based on new research commissioned for the campaign which found that showing real-life stories of young people talking about their experiences with knives resonated with the target audience.

The adverts point young people to a dedicated [website](#) which provides advice, signposts support services and highlights activities to empower young people to change their behaviour.

Backing

When developing the campaign, the Home Office worked closely with a range of charities and knife crime victims' families to ensure their insights and expertise were reflected.

John Peyton, chief executive of Redthread, said:

It's incredibly important to make sure young people understand that violence and knife crime should not be normal.

I'm really pleased that the new campaign puts young people and their stories at the forefront of its message, and highlights the positive choices they can make to live knife-free.

We know that policing is only one part of the solution and tackling this issue requires a public health approach and everyone in our

communities working together.

Patrick Green, chief executive of the Ben Kinsella Trust, said:

It is vitally important that we help young people understand the dangers associated with carrying a knife. A knife won't protect you, it doesn't give you status; harming or stabbing someone isn't a trivial act.

We need to do more to help young people understand that carrying a knife doesn't solve anything, in fact all it does is increase the likelihood that you will be imprisoned, seriously injured or murdered.

Introducing young people to the life stories of others who have faced the same challenges but have chosen to live knife free is a powerful way to help them make more positive choices. That is why the Ben Kinsella Trust fully supports the live knife free campaign.

Evan Jones, Head of Community Services at St Giles Trust, said:

St Giles Trust wholeheartedly back this campaign. Our staff see the effects of knife crime every day – from convictions for carrying a knife that can blight a career all the way through to meeting a young person who has suffered life-changing injuries as a result of an assault by a rival gang.

Our staff work tirelessly to persuade young people there are safe alternatives to carrying a knife and that there are positive alternatives to gangs and criminality; they work on the streets, in gangs units, in schools, in regional towns and in hospitals, using their life experience to engage and support young people to make the changes that will keep them safe.

The knife crime media campaign forms part of a wide range of measures underway to tackle knife crime. In February the Home Office announced a new round of the knife crime community fund and increased the money available to charities to £1million.

The government has also consulted on new laws on offensive and dangerous weapons, including banning online stores from delivering knives to residential addresses and making it an offence to possess certain weapons in private.

The advertising campaign is planned to run for six weeks.

Press release: Joint FC0/DfID statement on Eastern Ghouta and White Helmets

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, and International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt, said:

The situation in Eastern Ghouta is heart-breaking. Asad's regime, backed by Russia, is progressively laying waste to opposition-held areas. Tens of thousands of people have fled. And with no independent monitoring or provisions for civilian safety, those fleeing are vulnerable and at risk of mistreatment and abuse by the regime, including being detained, disappeared or separated from their families.

Appallingly we have seen this happen time and time again in the Syria conflict. Humanitarian and health workers, including the heroic White Helmets, report that the regime is deliberately targeting them. Those who support the regime in carrying out these atrocities and vile murders have lost their moral compass entirely.

Evacuations from the hell on earth that is Eastern Ghouta must be safe, voluntary, and independently monitored. Whether civilians choose to stay or leave, they must be protected against attack and have access to basic supplies to survive.

The security, safety and dignity of the population, including humanitarian and medical personnel, must be guaranteed at all stages. And the UN is ready to provide assistance to these people, whether they choose to stay or leave.

The regime and its backers must immediately implement UN Security Council Resolution 2401, allowing humanitarian agencies to provide the help that is so desperately needed and evacuate those who urgently need medical attention.