

Press release: DVLA's Commercial Development team wins Civil Service Award

DVLA's Commercial Development team took home the Skills Award last night (Thursday 23 November 2017) at the prestigious Civil Service Awards held in Lancaster House, London.

The Skills Award is presented for displaying excellence in promoting skills development and making a significant contribution to increasing skills and positive business outcomes. DVLA was recognised for its work in developing leaders within the civil service through the Commercial Leadership and Skills Support programme. The training focused on the development of specialist staff in strengthening the professional commercial skills base and growing a commercially astute team to lead change and implement improvements.

Emma Melrose, DVLA Head of Commercial Development, said:

I am absolutely delighted our team has been rewarded for the hard work they put in to creating and delivering the successful Commercial Leadership and Skills Support Programme. It is thoroughly well deserved and a fitting tribute to the hard work delivered by exceptional civil servants.

Each year the Civil Service Awards celebrate the success and wealth of inspirational individuals and innovative projects within the civil service. The Awards have been running for 12 years and are attended by departments right across the civil service. It helps to spread best practice right across government, sharing innovation, learning and leadership.

DVLA's online medical fitness to drive service was also shortlisted for the Digital Award. While they did not win on the night the service recently won the DigiLeaders100 and NextGen awards.

Notes to editors

- The Civil Service Awards were held on Thursday 23 November in Lancaster House, Stable Yard, St. James's, London SW1A 1BB.
- The [Civil Service Awards](#) are a highly respected and prestigious cross-government programme.

News story: Animal medicines seizure: Mr M Priestly

Details of the seizure notice served on Mr M Priestly, Downpatrick, Northern Ireland.

The following product was seized:

- 1 x 100 mg bottle of Micotil Injection (partly used) .

This product is for use in cattle (treatment of bovine respiratory disease) and sheep (treatment of respiratory tract infections, foot rot and acute ovine mastitis).

The medicine was seized under Regulation 25 (Importation of unauthorised veterinary medicinal products) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

This was during a multi-agency operation, carried out by Police Scotland and Defra Investigation Services, at Cairnyran Port, Stranraer.

News story: Basic disclosure changes

Basic disclosure check changes

From January 2018, if you need a basic disclosure check for a job in England and Wales, you should apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). If you need a basic disclosure check for a job in Scotland, then you should apply to [Disclosure Scotland](#). If you want a check for personal reasons rather than work purposes, you should apply where you live – DBS if you live in England or Wales or Disclosure Scotland if you live in Scotland.

If you are applying to DBS you will be able to use our new online application route that will be available on www.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can use a 'Responsible Organisation' (RO) – a third party registered with DBS – to submit checks on your behalf. A list of Responsible Organisations can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/responsible-organisations>.

Responsible Organisations

Organisations that can demonstrate that they can submit a minimum of 1000

basic checks a year, meet our processing standards and agree to the Terms & Conditions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/basic-check-guidance-and-policies> will be able to apply to become an R0 and build a web service. If you are eligible and thinking about becoming a R0 please email customerservices@dbb.gsi.gov.uk to find out more.

DBS has already increased staffing levels to deal with the additional checks. [Those organisations that have already transferred their basic disclosure checks to DBS](#) are already benefiting from a speedy service, with checks taking on average less than one day to process.

Individuals and R0s should send basic disclosure checks to the right organisation, DBS or Disclosure Scotland, so that the correct Rehabilitation of Offender (ROA) rules are applied. There is a risk of legal action if incorrect ROA rules are applied and impact a recruitment decision.

For any enquiries please contact customerservices@dbb.gsi.gov.uk.

Speech: Lord Chancellor speech at launch of TheCityUK's legal services report 2017

It's a pleasure to be here today at the launch of TheCityUK's Legal Services report for 2017, and can I add my thanks also James to you and Herbert Smith Freehills for hosting this event.

Every year, your report holds a mirror up to our legal services sector. In doing so, it allows us to reflect upon the strengths and successes of this country's formidable and world-leading legal services.

This year I think the findings of the report should serve as a source of great pride and satisfaction for those who work in our legal services. It is also an important reminder to all of us, of the enormous contribution legal services make – not just to London, but to all the nations and regions of the United Kingdom – and I welcome in particular the focus of the report on the wider contribution the sector makes to the country. It's particularly apposite given that the new Lord Mayor in his speech to the Guildhall last week part of his role should be to promote the City.

We can look at the contribution of the sector in a number of ways:

- to jobs: legal services employ over 300,000 people across the country, two thirds of these outside London. James mentioned Belfast but he could just as readily have mentioned Edinburgh, Bristol, Manchester,

Liverpool.

- to the economy: directly contributing around £24 billion last year with a trade surplus of £4 billion, and more broadly, underpinning the wider business and financial sectors.
- but I don't think either we should neglect what I would term the contribution to the UK's soft power, our global reputation: our legal services market is one of the top, most admired and respected anywhere in the world.

Legal services and EU exit

Now for the government, we are committed to protecting and promoting the legal services sector – the benefits that its energy and vibrancy bring to the economy and the country.

The report rightly raises the potential impact of EU exit on our legal services. I understand there is a real appetite from the sector for the government to make more announcements about where we are in the negotiations. I get that from your clients' perspective, one of the biggest deciding factors on whether to use English law to govern their contracts is the enforceability of decisions.

I'll say now what I said when I spoke at TheCityUK Advisory Council earlier this month, the government is committed to securing continuity and certainty for business as part of the exit negotiations. And that includes taking seriously, and giving a high priority to securing, market access for the legal services sector, and ensuring we have ongoing civil judicial co-operation after we leave the European Union – something that I believe is profoundly in the interests of families and individuals in this country but to the corporate sector and tens of thousands of families in the EU too.

I recognise that, as in any negotiation, there is uncertainty about the precise outcome that will be secured, but I want to reiterate the government's commitment to ensuring that we have an outcome that protects and promotes our legal services. In particular, that means seeking an outcome that replicates the existing principles with the European Union, for example by incorporating the Rome I and Rome II regulations into domestic law and by continuing our participation in the Hague and Lugano conventions.

And I am highlighting to my counterparts across the EU27 – and shall do so again at the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in early December – how vital this is for individuals, families and businesses across Europe.

Legal services are built on firm foundations

As we go through these negotiations, we should not lose sight of the fact that our legal services in the United Kingdom are built on strong and deep foundations. They are underpinned by a strong commitment to the Rule of Law, by the certainty and clarity of Common Law in England that has evolved over centuries and by an independent, impartial and incorruptible judiciary that is recognised and respected across the world. These strengths make the United Kingdom a hugely attractive destination for litigants and legal service

providers alike, now and in the future.

‘Legal Services are GREAT’

But in a globally competitive marketplace, where I’m all too conscious that other countries and other jurisdictions are contending for legal business, we must ensure that the United Kingdom’s legal heritage, expertise, innovation and prowess in legal services and the benefits of having disputes settled here is plain for potential clients to see.

That is why, in October, we launched our international ‘Legal Services are GREAT’ campaign. Now the ‘GREAT’ campaign has an interesting history. It was devised by David Cameron to take advantage of the spotlight on this country as a result of the Olympics and Paralympics being held here. It will showcase the expertise of our legal services, the integrity and experience of our judiciary and the benefits of using English Common Law to a global audience that will help us build stronger links with both established but also emerging markets.

The message of the campaign is simple: the United Kingdom is home to the best legal services in the world. Whether that’s London as a global centre for dispute resolution, or Scotland and Northern Ireland as world-leading centres in their own specific areas of distinct legal expertise.

As the 2017 report makes clear, technology and innovation in legal services will be key to ensuring the United Kingdom stands out. That’s why the government, building on the success seen in the Fintech sector, is ensuring that new and innovative legal technologies are embraced and supported. These have the potential to drive down costs, improve quality and fundamentally transform how services are used.

One such example is smart contracts, which are expected to increase trust and certainty, and reduce friction in the performance of business and other contractual agreements. Smart contracts will have a profound impact on the delivery of legal services and the government is exploring how we can use these new technologies to ensure that English law and UK courts remain a competitive choice worldwide.

The data and insights that are included within TheCityUK’s legal services reports are vital tools in our promotion of these messages and in determining our global standing and I’d like to thank TheCityUK for all of the work that has gone into this year’s report.

UK legal services and future trade

The ‘Legal Services are GREAT’ campaign is an important part of our global message about the incredible assets and services that the United Kingdom offers. It’s a message, too, about our future trading ambitions. It’s about ensuring our legal services can both take advantage of and support our future trade arrangements beyond EU exit.

The government is taking a significant step in preparing to leave the

European Union by making arrangements for our future independent trade policy, and legislation will be introduced and debated in Parliament in the next 12 months to ensure the necessary statutory underpinning of that trade policy.

Trade is a key driver of growth and prosperity. International trade is linked to many jobs; it leads to higher wages and contributes to a growing economy.

That's why we are committed to ensuring that our world-class legal services serve as catalyst for future trade, and that the crucial role they play in underpinning the growth of wider business is maintained and understood.

Conclusion

So I welcome TheCityUK's work on this with its own vision for a transformed, world-leading legal services industry.

That vision sees the United Kingdom continuing to offer a clear and consistent system of law, with a sector that is highly digitalised and innovative...one where London continues to be an international hub for finance and legal services, but where there are also regional centres that serve as specialist hubs.

I have no doubt that the strong and deep foundations on which our legal services are built, combined with the innovation and vision within the sector to embrace new opportunities and new technologies, mean that we will see our legal services not just lead the world, but continue to be the envy of the world. Thank you very much.

[News story: Culture Secretary reaffirms UK commitment to strong Italian cultural relationship](#)

Karen Bradley has met senior Italian politicians to celebrate the special cultural relationship between our two countries and commit to building new creative partnerships in the coming years.

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport visited Venice and Rome to support the UK-Italy Partners for Culture 2017 programme, celebrating arts, science, education and creative industries, which was established following the G7 Ministerial meeting on culture in Florence that she attended in March.

During her meeting with Italian Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism Dario Franceschini, the Culture Secretary championed the

commitment of Italy and the UK to the protection of cultural heritage in areas of armed conflict.

The UK recently [ratified the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property](#) in the Event of Armed Conflict and acceded to its two Protocols. These will come into force in the UK on 12 December.

As a result, the Ministry of Defence is establishing an armed forces cultural property protection group and has recently met Italy's dedicated Carabinieri cultural protection unit, which has been deployed to both Iraq and Kosovo.

The UK Armed Forces is set to build on the relationship through joint training, exchanges, and potential joint overseas training missions and disaster relief.

Karen Bradley, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, said:

Italy and the UK are world leaders in international cultural protection and the ongoing cooperation between our two nations in this area is a perfect example of the depth of our ties.

We have a strong connection too through art, culture and sport, all of which is deeply ingrained in both our countries and we are committed to strengthening our relationship further with Italy in the years ahead.

The Culture Secretary visited the Venice Biennale – one of the world's foremost arts festivals – where she viewed the work of British artists at the British and Diaspora Pavilions.

The British Council has managed the UK's participation in the Biennale since 1938, showcasing British artistic talent to the world and building new international creative partnerships.

In Rome she joined Sir Ciarán Devane, Maria Balshaw, director of Tate, and Giovanna Melandri, President of MAXXI Foundation and others in a discussion on women, leadership and the creative industries.