

News story: ICIBI website moves to GOV.UK

From 27 July 2017, content from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) website will be moving to GOV.UK.

The move to GOV.UK means that anyone wishing to access ICIBI inspection reports digitally, or to contact the ICIBI, will do so through a secure government portal. As well as ensuring that the ICIBI's website is better protected against external threats, GOV.UK offers greater resilience than the ICIBI's previous stand-alone arrangement, plus a modern and more appealing look and feel.

Meanwhile, the role and remit of the Independent Chief Inspector, which is set out in the UK Borders Act 2007, is unchanged and the inspectorate will continue to have complete editorial and content control of all of the material published on its website.

The Independent Chief Inspector, David Bolt, hopes that users will find the new website easy to access and use, and welcomes suggestions about further improvements users would like to see.

Press release: Statistical press release: Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2017

Statistical press release to announce the publication of the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) and 3 other publications.

Don't include personal or financial information like your National Insurance number or credit card details.

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Press release: Applications to re-permit Bletchingley oilfield

The Environment Agency has received 2 applications for environmental permits at the Bletchingley oil and gas site in Surrey.

These applications have been submitted by the site operator to bring the site into line with the current regulations for conventional oil and gas sites. This is part of the Environment Agency's review of all oil and gas permits granted prior to October 2013.

In deciding whether or not to issue the permits, the Environment Agency will take into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

You can view and comment on the [applications](#).

An Environment Agency spokesperson said:

An environmental permit sets out stringent conditions to which a site must adhere. We will not issue or vary an environmental permit for a site if we consider that activities taking place will cause significant pollution to the environment or harm to human health.

We are in the process of determining the applications to re-permit this site and we want to hear from the public and understand peoples' views. Everybody has the chance to see what the permit may look like and to raise any additional concerns before we make any final decision.

For all media enquiries please contact 0800 141 2743 or email Southeastpressoffice1@environment-agency.gov.uk.

News story: DVLA gives a shout out on Alexa

From today motorists across the UK can access up-to-the-minute information from the DVLA on their vehicle tax through Amazon's Alexa.

DVLA is trialling an Alexa product, known as a 'skill' which allows customers to check their vehicle tax and MOT status.

Free to download on the Alexa Skill Store, it works by customers reading out the vehicle registration to an Alexa-enabled device such as an Echo. 'Alexa' then reads the information back, letting the customer know when their vehicle tax is due.

This information, which is also available on gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax, helps customers to check the date their vehicle tax is due, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Oliver Morley, DVLA's Chief Executive said,

We're really excited about trialling an innovative skill that gives customers access to information about their vehicles.

Providing choice in how people use our services is important to DVLA and by trialling this skill we are giving customers another way to get information quickly and easily – helping them to keep on top of their vehicle tax.

This is another example of how we are always looking to test new ways of providing digital services to make things simpler and better for the UK's motorists.

The DVLA skill is available to download via amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_2?url=search-alias%3Dalexa-skills&field-keywords=DVLA

Press release: Welsh Secretary meets Welsh Veterans in Cardiff

Commonly known as Passchendaele, the battle is remembered as one of the bloodiest campaigns of the First World War.

Units of the 38th Welsh Division, which had fought bravely in the actions at Mametz Wood a year previously, found themselves on the front line at Passchendaele. The renowned Welsh language poet, Hedd Wyn was also killed in battle here on 31 July 1917 and is buried at the nearby Artillery Wood cemetery, close to Ypres.

Ahead of his visit to Belgium this weekend, the Welsh Secretary has taken the opportunity to meet with veterans at Royal British Legion's Cardiff Pop In to underline the gratitude and respect the people of Wales have for the sacrifices they made

Mr Cairns recognises the importance of honouring Welsh Veterans:

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:

The First World War centenary commemorations are playing a crucial role in educating and connecting current and future generations with the stories of every man or woman whose lives were touched by this significant event in our history.

We are privileged to have a long and proud military history in Wales and it is a huge honour today to meet with Welsh veterans that have lived through a range of conflicts over the years. The sacrifices that they and so many others made to ensure our future security cannot be forgotten and it is crucial that it is understood and appreciated by those growing up today.

The work that the Legion does to improve the lives of the armed forces community cannot be underestimated. It plays such a critical role from awarding grants, offering emotional support and comradeship and ensuring the nation comes together to remember. These veterans truly are an inspiration. They gave so much and for that we owe them a great deal.

Ant Metcalfe, Wales Area Manager, The Royal British Legion said:

We look forward to welcoming the Secretary of State and members of our veteran community to the Pop In today to discuss current veterans issues as well as the importance of remembering the fallen from past conflicts. As the nation's biggest Armed Forces charity and the custodians of Remembrance the Legion work to provide care and support to all members of the British Armed Forces past and present and their families.

Notes to editors

Welsh forces in Passchendaele

- The Third Battle of Ypres is of particular resonance for Wales as it claimed the lives of many Welsh soldiers including the renowned Welsh language poet, Hedd Wyn. Hedd Wyn was killed on 31 July 1917 and is buried at the nearby Artillery Wood cemetery, close to Ypres.
- Units of the 38th Welsh Division, which had fought bravely in the actions at Mametz Wood a year previously, found themselves on the front line at the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). The 38th (Welsh) Division were heavily involved at Pilckem Ridge. Alongside the experienced troops were who had seen action in the Battle of the Somme were new recruits who had been conscripted in early 1917.

- During the action three Welshmen won the Victoria Cross, Sergeant Ivor Rees 11th South Wales Borderers, Corporal James Llewellyn Davies 13th Royal Welsh Fusiliers and Sergeant Robert Bye 1st Welsh Guards. The 38th (Welsh) Division sustained a total of 2,922 casualties during the actions of 31st July and 2nd August.