

# The Secretary of State has reappointed John Wood and Peter Gooderham as Members of the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives

News story

John Wood and Peter Gooderham have been reappointed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as Members of the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives for a four year period from 22 January 2021 to 21 January 2025.



John Wood joined Herbert Smith (now Herbert Smith Freehills LLP), the city and international law firm, in 1972 and was a partner from 1982 to 2007. From 2008 to 2014 he was a legal board member of the Charity Commission for England and Wales and its interim chair in 2012. He continued as a board consultant to the Charity Commission from 2014 to 2017. He was a member of the Advisory Council on Business Appointments from 2015 to 2020. He has a long standing interest in early 20th century literature and journalism.

Peter served as a British diplomat for 30 years, and retired from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in April 2013. His last overseas position was as UK Ambassador to the UN and WTO in Geneva, from 2008-2012. On return from Geneva, he was seconded to the Ministry of Justice as its International Director in 2012. Peter was appointed as a member of the Senior Directing Staff at the Royal College of Defence Studies in October 2013. In April 2014 he left RCDS to take on the position of Director of the International Chamber of Commerce (UK). He returned to RCDS, in the same position, from October 2015-September 2017, and then again from September 2018 – July 2020.

These roles are remunerated at £386 per day. These reappointments have been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#), the process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is

declared. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. John Wood and Peter Gooderham have not declared any activity.

Published 11 March 2021

---

## [The Secretary of State has appointed Derek Wilson as Chair of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority](#)

News story

Derek Wilson has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as Chair of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority for a three year period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024.



Derek has been a specialist sports architect for 30 years, shaped from an early stage by his passion for sport. His career in stadium design and Olympics and Paralympics forged his special interests in safety, accessibility and major events.

Derek's knowledge spans private and public sector roles, having owned and run successful architectural practices, and worked on the board of the FLA/SGSA. He has extensive experience of stadium design spanning 3 decades, including winning several major design awards.

Beyond this he has worked internationally including Australia, Malaysia, Japan, the Middle East, Europe and the USA. He has also worked on 5 Olympic and Paralympic games since Sydney 2000, including helping bring the 2012 Olympics to London, going on to be the Head of Design and Overlay for London 2012. Additionally, he brings operations experience from being part of the team that delivered 9 NFL Super Bowls.

As well as his previous tenure on the SGSA board, Derek has contributed to numerous standards and safety guidance and currently also works for the Premier League as an accessible stadia consultant.

This role is remunerated at £36,260 per annum. This appointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#), the process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Derek Wilson has not declared any activity.

Published 11 March 2021

---

## [The Secretary of State has appointed Professor Steven Gunn as Academic/Research Trustee of the Royal Armouries](#)

News story

Professor Steven Gunn has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as Research/Academic Trustee of the Royal Armouries for a four year period from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2025.



Steven Gunn is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Oxford and Fellow and Tutor in History at Merton College. His books include Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, c1484-1545 (1988), Early Tudor Government, 1485-1558 (1995), War, State and Society in England and the Netherlands, 1477-1559 (2007), Henry VII's New Men and the Making of Tudor England (2016)

and *The English People at War in the Age of Henry VIII* (2018).

He is currently writing a book on everyday life and accidental death in sixteenth-century England. He has made regular contributions to radio and television history programmes, publishes in history magazines and speaks to Historical Association branches and local history societies.

This role is not remunerated. This appointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#), the process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Steven Gunn has not declared any activity.

Published 11 March 2021

---

## [Call for evidence on the Insolvency Rules](#)

Press release

Stakeholders are being asked to share their views on the legal framework that provides the basis for insolvency procedures.



The government has launched a call for evidence seeking stakeholders' views on the Insolvency Rules that set out the detailed requirements for company and individual insolvency procedures in England and Wales.

Stakeholders are being asked to share their views on the Insolvency Rules as they currently stand, including whether they provide an appropriate framework for the UK's insolvency regime and whether any improvements could be made.

The Insolvency Rules were last updated and implemented in 2017 and responses are welcome from insolvency practitioners, the legal profession, company directors, creditors, business and consumer groups and any other interested parties.

Dean Beale, Chief Executive of the Insolvency Service, said:

The Insolvency Rules are an integral part of the UK's insolvency framework, ensuring our insolvency processes operate efficiently and effectively.

We welcome responses from all interested stakeholders on how effective the Insolvency Rules have functioned since their modernisation in 2017, and with suggestions as to how they can be further improved or strengthened.

The Insolvency Rules 2017 set out the detailed procedure for the conduct of company and individual insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency Act 1986.

[Stakeholders can access the call for evidence here](#). Responses must be received by 30 June 2021.

The Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016 set out the detailed procedure for the conduct of the company and individual insolvency proceedings contained in the Insolvency Act 1986. Insolvency law is fully devolved as regards Northern Ireland and part devolved for Scotland. Each of those jurisdictions has its own rules in respect of the devolved elements of the law.

The current Insolvency Rules represent a consolidated and modernised version of the earlier Insolvency Rules 1986 and the accompanying legislation that had developed in the intervening period.

Published 11 March 2021

---

## [Government to modernise product safety laws to ensure they're fit for 21st century](#)

- Government exploring changes to product safety laws that are over 30 years old to ensure they work for emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and 3D printing
- call for evidence to also see how e-commerce can be made safer following

huge increase in online shopping during pandemic

- now the UK has full control over its laws, we can go even further than the EU to make our product safety regime one of the best in the world, exploring better regulation whilst maintaining high standards

Plans to review and strengthen the UK's product safety laws and ensure they are fit for the 21st century have been set out by Business Minister Paul Scully today (Thursday 11 March).

Much of the UK's product safety regime has been underpinned by EU law and some dates back to 1987. Now the UK has full control of its product safety laws and we can set our own rules in the best interests of British businesses and consumers, the UK government is considering how to ensure our product safety regime reflects recent innovations, new consumer products and cutting-edge technologies like AI and 3D printing.

The [Call for evidence](#) will also explore how the growth of online shopping and new technologies such as internet connected devices like smart watches, artificial intelligence and 3D printing, are making responsibility for product safety more complex – for example, if a smart fridge is operated unsafely following a software upgrade.

Exploring and introducing better regulation will be a key part of making the most of opportunities outside of the EU, stimulating growth, innovation and competition in the UK, whilst attracting new investment, enabling businesses to grow dynamically, and maintaining high standards.

Business Minister Paul Scully said:

Now the UK has the freedom to set our own standards, we are determined to power ahead with a new, modern product safety regime which will unleash the creative potential of our businesses while keeping consumers safe.

Much of the product safety system was devised in 1987 when The Terminator was still out on Betamax. Now we want to make sure artificial intelligence and robotics are working for us and not against by making the UK a world-leader for both safety and cutting-edge innovation.

Through software updates and AI techniques like machine learning, these products and their safety implications can continually change over their lifetimes, while modern manufacturing techniques like 3D printing mean products can be built in consumers' homes.

The call for evidence will help to ensure regulations are kept up-to-date with these technological breakthroughs as well as the transition to Net Zero, and what they mean for consumer safety.

The call for evidence will also explore how product safety can be improved to

reflect the needs of everyone in society. Research suggests that some virtual reality headsets can be associated with higher levels of motion sickness in females compared to male users, and there are some examples of voice recognition technologies that do not respond as well to female voices, or facial recognition technologies less able to recognise certain skin tones.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards is the UK government body tasked with ensuring that the public is protected from potentially unsafe products and that businesses understand their obligations.

- The call for evidence opens today and will close in 12 weeks (Thursday 3 June). The government is seeking views from manufacturers, distributors, consumers and the wider public, and intends to publish a summary of responses and evidence paper within 12 weeks of the close of the call for evidence
- the pandemic has accelerated the trend towards online shopping, with the proportion of online sales in August 2020 being 47% higher than February's pre-pandemic levels
- there are expected to be 50 billion devices connected to the internet globally by 2030 – including everything from smartphones to toasters to complex robots – meaning a five-fold increase in such devices in 10 years
- today's announcement is the first step in updating the legal framework for product safety, some of which dates back to the Consumer Protection Act of 1987. The call for evidence explores issues such as the extent to which safety issues arise from new technologies like AI systems and 3D printers and where responsibility for safety should sit.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards, the UK government's product safety body, is seeking views on the longer-term approach to product safety and how to ensure that the framework is fit for the future. Among other issues, it will consider whether our product safety framework:

- takes account of new risks and opportunities, so it delivers both safe outcomes and supports business growth and innovation
- can respond quickly to new and emerging threats and opportunities for product safety, including digital technologies and new ways of supplying products
- supports regulators and business to be open and transparent about product safety so consumers can make informed decisions

[View the UK product safety review: call for evidence](#) and [respond online](#).