

PCA embarking on research to understand tenants' recent MRO experience

News story

The PCA is doing research to better understand the recent experience of tenants requesting MRO



What is the research about?

The research will look at the motivations of tenants who requested the Market Rent Only (MRO) option, how they have used the process (including the impact of the proposed rent and terms and any negotiations with their pub company), and their overall experience.

The PCA wants to capture the recent experience of tenants and the research will be aimed at those who served a MRO notice from April 2019 onwards. The outputs of this research will be published and will help inform the PCA's work in making sure the Code is working effectively.

Why are we doing it?

The PCA has been working with user research company [Hive IT](#) to conduct a [research exercise](#) to understand awareness of and barriers to communication and information sharing with the PCA. During this research, the PCA has identified the need to look further into the MRO process beyond the scope of the original project. Therefore, we are doing further research to understand the recent experience of tied tenants requesting MRO.

The responses will supplement information the PCA receives through MRO questionnaires and other sources of intelligence.

Timings

Hive IT will start contacting tenants over the coming weeks and interviews are planned to take place during March 2021.

How to get involved

Hive IT will be contacting tied tenants who have served a MRO notice from April 2019 to complete a short survey and confirm whether they would be willing to attend an interview.

To help focus the survey effectively when speaking to tenants, the PCA has also invited those with recent experience of representing tenants in arbitrations to provide their views on the principal issues for tenants in the MRO process.

Who is Hive IT?

Hive IT is an independent and impartial design and research agency, with extensive experience carrying out discovery projects. At the end of this project, they will present their findings to the PCA.

You can find out more about them at www.hiveit.co.uk

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[Business Rates Review Update](#)

News story

The final report of the government's fundamental review of business rates will now be published in the Autumn, it was announced today, 19 February.



- government to publish final report on fundamental review of business

rates in Autumn 2021 – when there is more economic certainty

- Review was announced by the Chancellor at last year's Budget and call for evidence closed late last year
- an interim report – which will include a summary of consultation responses – will be published on 23 March

Due to the ongoing and wide-ranging impacts of the pandemic and economic uncertainty, the government said the review's final report would be released later in the year when there is more clarity on the long-term state of the economy and the public finances.

The fundamental review of business rates was announced by the Chancellor at last year's Budget. A call for evidence was published in July 2020 to seek stakeholders' views on key issues including reforming the rates multiplier and looking at alternative ways of taxing non-residential property.

The call for evidence closed last year and the government is currently considering responses.

An interim report which will include a summary of responses to the call for evidence will be now be [published on 23 March](#), along with a number of tax documents, consultations and calls for evidence on a wide-range of tax-related issues.

The government has made available unprecedented levels of support to businesses, to counter the economic impact of the Covid-19 outbreak. As part of its £280 billion package to support jobs affected by coronavirus, the government has provided a business rates holiday for eligible properties in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors, worth over £10 billion to ratepayers. The Spending Review also confirmed that the business rates multiplier would be frozen in 2021-22, saving businesses in England £575 million over the next five years.

The government has also extended grants funding to cover rent and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to cover wages through to April to provide further stability to businesses and people.

At the upcoming Budget the Chancellor will outline the next stages to support businesses and families across the UK. That has been the government's priority throughout the past year and it will be the priority for the year to come.

Further information

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PM Announces 100 Day Target to Create New Vaccines

- Slashing the time to develop vaccines for new diseases to 100 days will save countless lives in future health crises
- UK confirms it will send the majority of any future surplus vaccines to the COVAX scheme to support developing countries

The Prime Minister is setting out his ambition today to cut the time to develop new vaccines by two-thirds to 100 days, as he chairs the first G7 leaders' meeting of the UK's presidency.

He has asked Sir Patrick Vallance to work with international partners, including the WHO and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), as well as industry and scientific experts to advise the G7 on speeding up the process for developing vaccines, treatments and tests for common pathogens.

The development of a coronavirus vaccine in approximately 300 days was a huge and unprecedented global achievement. By reducing the time to develop new vaccines for emerging diseases even further, we may be able to prevent the catastrophic health, economic and social repercussions seen in this crisis. The 100 day ambition was proposed by CEPI earlier this year.

Through international collaboration to intensify research and development, modernise medical trials and create more innovative vaccine manufacturing and supply chains, we can save lives in future health crises and prevent the next pandemic.

The Prime Minister has also confirmed today that the UK will share the majority of any future surplus coronavirus vaccines from our supply with the COVAX procurement pool to support developing countries, in addition to the UK's £548 million funding for the scheme. He will be encouraging G7 leaders to increase their funding for COVAX in support of equitable access to vaccines.

Speaking ahead of today's meeting, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Perhaps more than ever, the hopes of the world rest on the shoulders of scientists and over the last year, like countless times before, they have risen to the challenge.

The development of viable coronavirus vaccines offers the tantalising prospect of a return to normality, but we must not rest on our laurels. As leaders of the G7 we must say today: never again.

By harnessing our collective ingenuity, we can ensure we have the vaccines, treatments and tests to be battle-ready for future health

threats, as we beat Covid-19 and build back better together.

Delivering on the objectives in the Prime Minister's Five Point Plan to Prevent Future Pandemics – first set out at the UN last year – will be a key focus of the UK's G7 presidency this year. The Prime Minister will also call on G7 leaders to support a treaty on pandemic preparedness through the WHO.

Today's meeting will be the first hosted by the PM as part of the UK's G7 Presidency this year and the first gathering of G7 leaders since April 2020.

At the meeting leaders are expected to confirm their support for the UK's G7 health priorities and discuss wider efforts to address global challenges and secure a sustainable, green economic recovery from coronavirus, as well as a number of foreign policy issues.

Cross-Government Apprenticeship Buddy Scheme

Cross-Government Apprenticeship Buddy Scheme – Information pack for candidates and buddies

Introduction to the Buddy Scheme

Our ODP Cross-Government Buddy Scheme is here to help increase Apprenticeship support for those undertaking the ODAS Apprenticeship. We understand that everyone learns differently so we offer this scheme as an option to those who feel they would benefit from further support during their journey.

For those who have completed their Apprenticeship already, this is an exciting opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge, by leading and managing Apprentices, whilst working collaboratively across different government departments. Buddies will offer additional support and guidance to people who are currently undertaking the same Apprenticeship that they have previously completed. It is an informal support network that will be carried out in a way that the buddy and Apprentices agree suits everyone best. In this pack we will outline what you can expect from the Buddy Scheme and explain how you can get involved if you haven't done so already!

Roles and Responsibilities – who is involved?

Buddies

- Provide support and guidance to your apprenticeship
- Answer queries regarding the apprenticeship

- Encourage discussion between yourself and your apprentice
- Lead and manage your apprentice
- Update the ODP central team if a candidate completes their apprenticeship or withdraws
- Progress queries if answers cannot be provided immediately

Candidates

- Engage with your buddy and fellow apprentices
- Be open to suggestions and advice
- Take part in group discussions and share best practices with other apprentices where possible
- Feedback to your buddy on how effective you are finding the support and suggest ideas for improvement where required

ODP Central Team

- Manage any enquiries regarding the scheme
- Be a main point of contact for buddies where support is required

It is important that although you are there to support each other and share best practices you must not plagiarise each other's work – this may be viewed as serious misconduct

LISTR

If you have not yet registered yourself onto the LISTR tool you will need to do this in order to start your buddy/apprentice journey, you can do this by clicking here – [Listr tool – Register](#) and entering your email address and a password and clicking “register my account”

To register as a buddy: If you are interested in registering as a buddy all you need to do is register yourself on LISTR. During the registration process you will be asked if you would like to be a buddy and which ODP qualification you have completed. Once you are registered on LISTR candidates can directly request you as their buddy – you will be given the option to accept or decline any candidates.

To register as an apprentice: If you are interested in matching with a buddy to help you with your qualification, please follow our quick guide below once you have registered on LISTR

1. First, update your profile to specify that you are currently undertaking an Apprenticeship.
2. Next, click apprenticeship buddying which can be found in the 'Community' section.
3. You will then be presented with a directory which lists all users that

have previously completed an apprenticeship identical to yours (as specified in step 1). You can refine the directory further using various other criteria found under the Filter controls located at the top of the page.

4. Once you have found a person you would like to buddy with, you can use the 'Connection Request' button found next to their listing.
5. You can now leave your potential buddy a message to introduce yourself. Once you have submitted your request, Listr will email the person to let them know and you can await their response.

If the person you have selected declines your request you can ask somebody else to potentially buddy you – there are no limits to how many people you can request but we do recommend that you only have one buddy.

Next Steps

Once you have found a suitable match and have contacted them direct, we would advise that you arrange a time/date suitable for you both to review where the apprentice is currently up to with their apprenticeship and how the buddy feels they could support the apprentice best. Before starting this process have a think about what you would like to get from the scheme and make a note of any ideas you might have about how you can contribute and ways you can communicate across government. Buddies should think about how much time you can dedicate and what support you can offer. Consider practical issues, such as how you would prefer the apprentice group to contact you? We would recommend that apprentices remain with the same buddy for the duration of their apprenticeship, as a minimum. Hopefully you will remain in contact with your buddy/apprentice following completion of their qualification however, offering continuous development and support across government as your careers progress.

Hints and Tips

Please remember that the Buddy Scheme is flexible in order to accommodate all and will develop depending on the requirements of the individuals involved. It's up to you to decide how you wish to communicate, how often and what forums you may use.

Apprentices

It is important that you get what you need from your buddy so please come to all meetings arranged by your buddy fully prepared. You may wish to consider pulling together any questions/issues you are having with your apprenticeship and sending them to your buddy prior to these meetings. This would enable your buddy to ensure they are equipped to answer all of your questions.

Buddies

Once you have received contact from your apprentice, we recommend that an initial telekit is arranged by you to introduce yourself, from here you can decide how you both wish to proceed. A suggested agenda for the first chat is:

1. Introductions and ice breaker
2. Where you are on your journey (have you completed any units yet, when did you register for your apprenticeship, how long have you got left to complete)?
3. Aims & objectives – what do you want to get from the scheme, what support would you like, how will you communicate with each other? What part of your apprenticeship are you most worried about?
4. Agreed outcomes – for example will you be having monthly dial-ins, are you going to set up an online forum for discussions? Will you be contacting each other via email?

Both

We've included below a list of things that could be considered by buddies and apprentices when arranging their meetings:

- Monthly telekits
- Online forums for buddies with more than one apprentice
- 1-2-1's – conducted over the phone, face-to-face, email
- Webinars, video conferencing
- Revision sessions
- Proof reading
- Email contact
- Buddy diary – issues log to record FAQ's
- Apprentice diary – recording development, best practice, obstacles faced.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “presenting someone else's work, in whole or in part, as your own. Work means any intellectual output, and typically includes text, data, images, sound or performance”. (University of Leeds, 2017)

It is important that everybody fully understand what plagiarism is and the techniques that can be used to avoid plagiarising. For units with written assignments candidates will be asked to submit a statement of authenticity confirming that the work being submitted is their own. When submitting any work (including exam papers) electronically candidates are also declaring that the work is authentic and is their own.

In cases where plagiarism is identified these will be investigated further by Premier Partnership and City & Guilds and may result in candidates being disqualified from the qualification itself. Plagiarism and malpractice will not be tolerated, any incidents will also be reported to candidates departments and may result in disciplinary action.

We would recommend completing the [You Be the Judge](#) activity and [Recognising Plagiarism](#) to test your understanding. If you anybody is still unsure what constitutes plagiarism, or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact the ODP Central Team learningandaccreditationteam.centralodp@hmrc.gov.uk.

FAQ's

Q: What do I do if I no longer want to take part in the scheme? A: If you're an Apprentice please discuss this with your buddy at the earliest opportunity. Involvement in the scheme is not mandatory, if at any time you wish to withdraw you can. If you are a buddy please contact your Apprentice and tell them of your decision to enable them to contact potential new buddies at their earliest convenience.

Q: As a buddy how much time will I need to dedicate to this? I'm worried that I won't be able to fit this in around my day job... A: How much time you put in is entirely up to you, however the more you put in, the more you will get out of it. As a buddy you'll be facilitating and encouraging your Apprentices. How you chose to support your Apprentices will depend on what you decided between yourselves. For example, you may decide to offer a monthly dial in for an hour or set up an online forum where you can manage and answer queries as they are raised.

For help and support with learning please email learningandaccreditationteam.centralodp@hmrc.gov.uk

For help with LISTR/Account issues please use the "help" button at the top of the [Listr tool – Register](#)

[More than £18 million awarded in final grants from first round of Culture Recovery Fund](#)

- Projects to revive heritage sites boosted with £13.5 million in kickstart grants including UK's oldest surviving synagogue and Georgian outdoor swimming pool
- 33 independent cinemas receive final awards from the first round of support awarded by the British Film Institute
- Awards made as applications being processed for a further £400 million in lifeline grants and loans to support cultural venues into the summer

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden has announced the final awards to be allocated from the first round of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture

Recovery Fund. The latest grants, awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the British Film Institute on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, build on over £1 billion awarded to a huge range of cultural and heritage organisations last year.

Ambitious projects at 22 heritage organisations will benefit from £13.5 million in targeted grants allocated by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to restart regeneration and maintenance projects that were planned before the pandemic and now face delays or increased costs.

33 cinemas across England will benefit from £5 million awarded by the BFI as the final applications for independent cinemas are processed ahead of the second round of the Culture Recovery Fund.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

From restoring Georgian lidos and Roman baths to saving local screens and synagogues, our Culture Recovery Fund is helping to save the places people can't wait to get back to, when it is safe to do so.

All over the country, this funding is protecting the venues that have shaped our history and make us proud of our communities, whilst safeguarding the livelihoods of the people that work in them.

A grant of £497,000 will go to the Bevis Marks Synagogue, the oldest surviving synagogue in the UK, to protect its collection of significant objects and illuminate the history of the site and the community which has worshipped there for 300 years.

More than 90% of the grants allocated by the National Lottery Heritage Fund have been awarded to heritage projects outside of London, ensuring that the future of important projects at historic places are protected in all corners of England.

The Black Country Living Museum is currently operating as a vaccination centre, however prior to the pandemic the museum had been planning the single biggest development in its history which would create a new area on site exploring the history of the region through the 1940s, '50s and '60s. A grant of £3,740,000 will help this ambitious project continue, creating opportunities for work and skills development in the local area.

£290,000 will ensure the plans to restore Cleveland Pools into a vibrant community asset can still go ahead as planned despite the pandemic. The Grade II* listed site is one of the oldest surviving outdoor lidos in Britain and visitors of all ages will be able to swim in the redeveloped crescent pool all year round from 2022.

Ros Kerlake, Chief Executive, National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

These are all ongoing major refurbishment and restoration projects, funded by us, which have been threatened by the pandemic. From the oldest surviving outdoor swimming baths to a Victorian pier, and from a much-loved park to an historic abbey, these are all places that will enrich hundreds of lives when they reopen. We are delighted this extra funding from the Culture Recovery Fund will ensure that these exciting projects will go ahead.

In addition, the BFI has awarded £5 million in grants to 33 cinemas, including two major independent companies operating cinemas across England. These grants to cinemas mean that 207 independent cinemas have been supported by the Culture Recovery Fund, 83% of which are outside London.

Ben Roberts, Chief Executive, BFI said:

Across the country, local independent cinemas are lifelines for communities and often the only form of culture and entertainment. As well as bringing people together to enjoy the magic of the big screen, local cinemas are hubs for educational and film activities and provide thousands of jobs. The pandemic has made clear just how important local communities are and the support of the Culture Recovery Fund means that many cinemas will be able to reopen and play a vital role in local economies and regeneration.

Reel Cinemas has been awarded £1,500,000 to support 13 multiplexes which will be crucial to the economic and cultural recovery of the communities they serve from Wakefield to Fareham.

KC Suri, Head of Reel Cinemas, said:

It has been very important to us to pursue all opportunities to protect the jobs of every staff member at Reel Cinemas, and to enable the cinemas to reopen, when permitted, to continue to serve our communities. This is why we want to thank the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the BFI who have awarded us this grant from the Culture Recovery Fund. This vital funding will enable us to protect job security and to manage our business sustainability at this challenging time.

Light Cinemas will benefit from a grant of £2,928,364 to support 10 cinema sites across the North, Midlands, and South East, ensuring their broad film programming and important community engagement can restart when cinemas can safely reopen.

Keith Pullinger, Deputy Chairman & Founder, The Light Cinemas said:

We want to thank everyone at the BFI and the Department for

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for supporting us through the process to receive a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund. Covid-19 has devastated our finances and this grant is essential to protect our future and ensure our survival. There is still a lot of work to do, but we now have a platform to start rebuilding our business from. Our landlords and suppliers will need to play their part but this will help protect the jobs of the 220 people who are employed at our cinemas. We look forward to delighting our guests once more when we reopen all our sites later this year.

Ten awards totalling £636,887 in essential support to independent cinemas across England brings the total of grants awarded in the first round of funding for the sector to £21,080,662.

The BFI, along with National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England and Arts Council England, are currently assessing applications for the remaining £400 million in funding from the Culture Recovery Fund, which was held back to allow the Government to support organisations through the Spring and Summer.

Recipients from the first round of the Culture Recovery Fund have contributed stunning images to a curated collection of video call backgrounds, released today. The public can choose from famous arts venues and heritage sites from Durham Cathedral and the English National Ballet to local favourites like Heaton Moor's Savoy cinema to use as their background and show their support for the cultural sectors. The backgrounds are free to download.

Notes to Editors

The list of capital grant awards from National Lottery Heritage Fund is:

Museum of Oxford Hidden Histories	£240,000
Bevis Marks Synagogue Heritage Foundation	£497,000
North Yorkshire Moors Historic Railway Trust	£296,000
The Royal Pavilion Estate, Brighton	£1,000,000
Tavistock Guildhall Gateway Centre	£130,900
Museum of the Home (Geffrye Museum Trust)	£692,000
Bath Abbey	£534,000
Tunbridge Wells Cultural & Learning Hub	£675,000
The Archway Centre: Roman Baths Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre	£359,600
Swanage Pier Regeneration Project	£469,800
Cleveland Pools Trust	£290,000
Lincoln Cathedral	£973,600
Chester Farm	£719,700
Wicksteed Park	£302,700
Black Country Living Museum	£3,740,000
The Whitaker	£179,900
The Globe, Stockton-on-Tees	£774,000

The Common Room of the Great North	£228,000
Beamish Museum	£975,500
Carlisle Cathedral	£250,000
Thackray Museum	£174,600
The Hyde Park Picture House	£285,600

The list of cinemas receiving grants in this round from the Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinemas allocated by the British Film Institute is:

Reel Cinemas (13 locations)	£1,500,000
The Light Cinemas (10 locations)	£2,928,364
Archlight Cinema, London	£152,362
East Coast Cinema, Lowestoft	£89,373
The Bonington, Nottingham	£66,695
Piccadilly Cinema, Leicester	£21,220
Tower Cinema, Skegness	£36,026
CineBowl, Uttoxter	£165,448
Regal Cinema, Wadebridge	£5,625
Rex Cinema, Wareham	£52,606
Westlands Entertainment Venue, Yeovil	£33,133
The Wharf Cinema, Tavistock	£14,399

- Reel Cinemas supported are in Borehamwood, Bridgnorth (Majestic), Burnley/Hollywood Park, Chippenham, Chorley, Fareham/Market Quay, Ilkeston (Scala), Kingston Upon Hull, Morecambe, Quinton/Dudley, Rochdale, Wakefield and Widnes.
- Light Cinemas supported are in Addlestone, Bolton, Bradford, Cambridge, New Brighton, Sheffield, Stockport, Thetford, Walsall and Wisbech.