

Recognising our apprentices during National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Last year we blogged about [why apprenticeships matter at DVLA](#) and the importance of supporting our apprentices with their personal development. As one of the largest employers in South Wales, with more than 6,000 people, apprentices can combine working with studying to gain skills in a specific role.



Nicole Powell

If you've ever wondered about a career in DVLA, now is the time to consider an apprenticeship. It's a fantastic opportunity to gain more qualifications or get new skills whilst in employment.

Apprenticeships give you the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications in occupational areas and can help you achieve the job or position you would like in the future.

We currently have 92 apprentices across the agency studying towards a range of qualifications from foundation apprenticeships (level 2), apprenticeships (level 3) and higher apprenticeships (level 4, 5 and 6) in a wide range of professions from finance to administration, IT to communication, to nurses and doctors. All contributing to the long-term future of the agency.

Learn what it's really like to become an apprentice

at DVLA

Hear some first-hand accounts from some of our current apprentices within our Information Technology Services (ITS).

Hallie Rees, recently completed a [level 3 apprentice in IT, software, web and telecoms](#). She applied for an apprenticeship after hearing about the fantastic career opportunities in DVLA:

An apprenticeship is the perfect starting point for someone who, like me, is ready to take that next step and get a full-time job.

The part I have enjoyed most about the apprenticeship, within ITS, was that I was able to move around different areas of DVLA. This allowed me to experience lots of different elements of the organisation to see what I'm good at and discover what I enjoy doing the most.

From my college work and the support from my colleagues and apprenticeship ambassadors, I have managed to secure a permanent full-time job in my current role as [an EUC engineer](#).

Without this apprenticeship, I wouldn't have known where to start. It's allowed me to develop the hands-on skills that are used in the business which has set me up for my future.

We're proud that our apprentices come from all walks of life and at different points in their career. The flexibility of apprenticeships means that it's never too late to change direction and pursue your dream career.

Cristian Vladut began his apprenticeship in L3 Diploma in ICT Professional Competence, after completing a master's degree in construction management.

I was looking for an opportunity to get hands-on experience solving problems involving computers, specifically in the software area. One might think it is unconventional to become an apprentice after finishing a master's degree. However, I put my trust in DVLA and Gower College Swansea and knew that I would be studying modules that would help me achieve my dream career – a software engineer.

The apprenticeship helped me to secure a permanent job, a safe environment and a place where I can grow and socialise with open minded people.

To find out more about apprenticeships visit: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

Roles at DVLA

DVLA will support you in reaching your full potential, offering rewarding and challenging jobs, training plans and ongoing development opportunities.

If you're inspired by Hallie's experience, [we're recruiting for a Technical Infrastructure Engineer](#) to join our team. You'll be a key member of the team who has engineering skills and in-depth product knowledge. The closing date is Sunday 14 February.

If you fancy a career at DVLA make sure you keep an eye on [Civil Service Jobs](#).

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Government to bring an end to unsafe cladding with multi-billion pound intervention

- Housing Secretary announces the government will pay for the removal of unsafe cladding for all leaseholders in high-rise buildings, providing reassurance and protecting them from costs
- New levy and tax on developers to ensure industry contributes
- Measures will boost the housing market and free up homeowners to once again buy and sell their properties

Hundreds of thousands of leaseholders will be protected from the cost of replacing unsafe cladding on their homes, as Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick unveiled a five-point plan which will provide reassurance to homeowners and bring confidence to the housing market.

With an unprecedented £5 billion investment in building safety, including £3.5 billion announced today (10 February 2021), the Housing Secretary confirmed to the House of Commons that the government will fully fund the cost of replacing unsafe cladding for all leaseholders in residential buildings 18 metres (6 storeys) and over in England.

This will ensure funding is targeted at the highest risk buildings in line with longstanding independent expert advice and evidence, with Home Office analysis of fire and rescue service statistics showing buildings between 18 and 30 metres are four times as likely to suffer a fire with fatalities or

serious casualties than apartment buildings in general.

Lower-rise buildings, with a lower risk to safety, will gain new protection from the costs of cladding removal with a generous new scheme offered to buildings between 11 and 18 metres. This will pay for cladding removal – where it is needed – through a long-term, low interest, government-backed financing arrangement.

Under the scheme, no leaseholder will ever pay more than £50 a month towards the removal of unsafe cladding. This will provide reassurance and security to leaseholders, and mortgage providers can be confident that where cladding removal is needed, properties will be worth lending against.

The government is working with industry to reduce the need for EWS1 forms, preventing leaseholders from facing delays and allowing hundreds of thousands of homes to be sold, bought, or re-mortgaged once again.

The Housing Secretary today announced plans to introduce a, 'Gateway 2' developer levy. The proposed levy will be targeted and apply when developers seek permission to develop certain high-rise buildings in England.

In addition, a new tax will be introduced for the UK residential property development sector. This will raise at least £2 billion over a decade to help pay for cladding remediation costs. The tax will ensure that the largest property developers make a fair contribution to the remediation programme, reflecting the benefit they will derive from restoring confidence to the UK housing market. The government will consult on the policy design in due course.

The government will protect future generations from similar mistakes by bringing forward legislation this year to tighten the regulation of building safety and to review the construction products regime to prevent malpractice arising again.

Today's measures will mean people living in homes which they have been prevented from selling, or re-mortgaging, through no fault of their own, will now be able to move on with their lives.

Housing Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

This is a comprehensive plan to remove unsafe cladding, support leaseholders, restore confidence to this part of the housing market and ensure this situation never arises again.

Our unprecedented intervention means the hundreds of thousands of leaseholders who live in higher-rise buildings will now pay nothing towards the cost of removing unsafe cladding.

Remedying the failures of building safety cannot just be a responsibility for taxpayers. That is why we will also be introducing a levy and tax on developers to contribute to righting

the wrongs of the past.

These measures will provide certainty to residents and lenders, boosting the housing market, reinstating the value of properties and getting buying and selling homes back on track. We are working with lenders and surveyors to make this happen.

Our landmark intervention will make homes safer and free those who did the right thing – saving for years to get on the property ladder – to enjoy the homes in which they have invested so much.

Barclays:

Barclays welcomes this announcement as a positive step forward. These changes will bring greater certainty and clarity for homeowners, prospective buyers and surveyors.

We expect that will make it far easier for buyers, sellers and lenders to value properties, aiding this part of the housing market to start moving again.

Barclays remains open to support our customers and prospective buyers with any of their home ownership needs, including in this part of the market.

Joe Garner – CEO Nationwide Building Society said:

Nationwide welcomes the £3.5 billion grant funding the government has announced to ensure the cladding on peoples' home is safe and to protect the people who live in them. This is a decisive step forward which we hope brings some relief to people worried about the safety of their homes.

Supporting people who find themselves living in this difficult position could not be more important. We look forward to working with government, lenders and other interested parties to understand the details and implement the initiative quickly.

The government is aware that securing appropriate professional indemnity insurance to cover the completion of EWS1 forms is a major barrier to qualified professionals undertaking EWS1 forms. The government is therefore committing today to work towards a targeted, state-backed indemnity scheme for qualified professionals unable to obtain professional indemnity insurance for the completion of EWS1 forms.

The government will work closely with industry to design an appropriate scheme. Further details on the scheme, including eligibility and the claims process, will be provided in the coming weeks.

The Grenfell tragedy laid bare failings in the building industry dating back 30 years. Today's announcement is a further step by the government to bring about the biggest changes to building safety in a generation, ensuring people are safe and feel safe in their own homes.

The measures build on steps already taken to support leaseholders, including £1.6 billion of funding to remediate unsafe cladding, the £30 million [Waking Watch fund](#) to help end unfair and excessive costs and new legislation in the Building Safety Bill which will ensure homes are made and kept safer in future.

Five-point plan to bring an end to unsafe cladding

1. Government will pay for the removal of unsafe cladding for leaseholders in all residential buildings 18 metres (6 storeys) and over in England
2. Generous finance scheme to provide reassurance for leaseholders in buildings between 11 and 18 metres (4 to 6 storeys), ensuring they never pay more than £50 a month for cladding removal
3. An industry levy and tax to ensure developers play their part
4. A world-class new safety regime to ensure a tragedy like Grenfell never happens again
5. Providing confidence to this part of the housing market including lenders and surveyors

All buildings 18 metres and over will be covered by the fund. See [further detail on building eligibility](#)

See [Home Office analysis of fires and fatalities statistics](#). Statistics were provided by fire and rescue services via the Incident Recording System and building data from Ordnance Survey.

A new tax will be introduced for the UK residential property development sector in 2022.

Government supports the guidance produced by RICS as an appropriate, risk-based and proportionate basis on which to proceed with valuation assessments, in line with the building safety Consolidated Advice Note published in January 2020.

In addition government will work with industry to ensure consistency between the RICS guidance, the forthcoming BSI Publicly Available Specification 9980 for cladding fire risk assessment, the imminent guidance on conducting Fire Risk Assessments as part of the clarified Fire Safety Order and the regulatory requirements flowing from the forthcoming Building Safety Bill.

The devolved administrations will receive additional funding through the Barnett formula, except where new departmental spending is funded by an England-only levy (where the devolved administrations can instead implement their own levies should they choose to do so).

Magnox supports scheme to tackle food poverty

Bwyd Da Môn is a collaboration between many organisations including Isle of Anglesey County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Ynys Môn Citizens Advice, Coleg Llandrillo Menai and Anglesey Food Bank.

£8,540 has been donated from the Magnox socio-economic fund to purchase commercial fridges and freezers for a new community not-for-profit shop in Llangefni.

Bwyd Da Môn serves the whole of Anglesey, tackling food poverty and reducing food waste. The shop is a membership-based food club which re-distributes excess fresh produce from local supermarkets and food producers that would otherwise go to landfill.

Stuart Law, Wylfa Site Director, said:

Magnox is proud to support this great initiative which provides a valuable service to the whole of Anglesey during these difficult times.

Working alongside our stakeholders in the community, we have helped a number of organisations and charities to achieve their goals by providing funding and support. It is our intention to make sure that our socio-economic activity continues to deliver positive outcomes and make the greatest possible impact.

In December alone, Bwyd Da Môn handed out over 120 parcels, with volunteers giving up more than 150 hours of their time in the run up to Christmas.

Glynne Roberts, Chair of Bwyd Da Môn, added:

Bwyd Da Môn is an invaluable scheme which will enable the residents of Anglesey to access good quality food at an affordable price, and to play their part in eradicating food waste.

But the scheme can only thrive due to the support received from partner organisations in helping us to set up the different elements that are essential to the project. In this respect, the funding provided from Magnox enabled us to purchase high quality

fridges and freezers, which are a core element of the overall project, and will be crucial to our success.

Bwyd Da Môn is now working on building up stock levels and developing ready meals with food waste that needs to be used immediately. In the future it also hopes to introduce a community cooking skills education programme where families will be encouraged to produce fresh home-cooked, nutritious meals.

Magnox is committed to providing and enabling socio-economic support for the communities in which it operates. Our community investment is supported by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

A Bradford man was convicted of working illegally without a licence

Press release

A Bradford man pleaded guilty at Bradford and Keighley Magistrates' Court to working without a licence as a door supervisor at a Bradford nightclub.



On Tuesday, 26 January 2021, a Bradford man pleaded guilty at Bradford and Keighley Magistrates' Court to working without a licence as a door supervisor at a Bradford nightclub. Abbas Ali Shah worked illegally between 11 November 2018 and 18 March 2019 during the busy festive season.

Shah was fined £80 and required to pay £32 as a victim surcharge plus a £670 contribution to court costs. In passing sentence the magistrates took into account Shah's financial situation.

The prosecution, which was brought by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) followed a tip off from West Yorkshire Police. When Shah started working at a venue, he did possess a valid SIA licence. However, it expired in October 2018 and he didn't apply for a new licence until April 2019. During the

period Shah worked illegally 30 times.

Shah called West Yorkshire Police on a number of occasions to report violent incidents at the venue in November 2018. When the police invited him for an interview following an inspection of the club's signing in book by a police officer, Shah failed to attend the interview.

Nathan Salmon, the SIA's criminal investigations team, said:

Clubbers go out to have a good time and feel safe on a night out. Shah's behaviour was inexcusable, especially during the hectic pre-Christmas and New Year period; he put the clubbers in his care at risk. He knew he should be licensed and decided – for a reason only known to himself – not to renew his licence. He now has a criminal record and won't be able to work in the private security industry. There has been a delay in progressing this investigation and prosecution due to the ongoing pandemic. However, we remain steadfast in punishing breaches of security regulations that present any threat to public safety.

Shah's employer – a West Yorkshire security business – his manager and his supervisor entered not guilty pleas at the same hearing and a trial will take place later this year.

Notes to editors:

1. By law, security operatives working under contract must hold and display a valid SIA licence. Information about [SIA enforcement and penalties](#) can be found on our website.
2. The offence relating to the Private Security Industry Act (2001) that is mentioned in the news release is: Section 3 – working without a licence.
3. The Private Security Industry Act 2001 is [available online](#)

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Our main duties are: the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities; and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
- For further information about the Security Industry Authority visit www.gov.uk/sia. The SIA is also on [Facebook](#) (Security Industry Authority) and [Twitter](#) (SIAuk).
- Media enquiries only please contact: 0300 123 9869,

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New UK Government Covid testing site opens in Glasgow Castlemilk

The UK Government has today, Wednesday 10 February, opened a new walk-through coronavirus testing centre at Barlia Sports Complex in Glasgow Castlemilk (G45 9UH).

The test centre is part of the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in British history. In Scotland, this comprises of seven drive through sites, 29 walk-through sites, 35 mobile units, plus the Glasgow Lighthouse Lab which is working round the clock to process samples.

In Scotland, the UK Government is providing all Covid testing and test processing outside of the NHS. Around two thirds of all daily tests are provided by the UK Government, in support of Scotland's health services.

Tests must be booked in advance at [NHS Inform](#) or by calling 0800 028 2816. People should only book a test if they have coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature, a new and continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste).

Health Minister Lord Bethell said:

To respond to the coronavirus, we have built a major testing and tracing system from scratch. We are constantly working to expand and improve it with new technologies and innovations so everyone with symptoms can get a test.

New walk-in sites like this one makes it even easier to get a test no matter where you live. If you have symptoms of coronavirus, I urge you to book a test today and follow the advice of NHS Test and Protect if you are contacted to protect others and stop the spread of the virus.

Baroness Dido Harding, Interim Executive Chair of the National Institute for Health Protection, said:

Walk-through sites offer communities better access to coronavirus testing, so everyone with symptoms can get a test. This new site is

part of our ongoing work to expand our testing network across the UK which now has the capacity to process more than 700,000 tests a day. We will continue to expand capacity to improve test turnaround times and push forward testing innovations to make sure anyone who needs a test can get one.

Please book a test if you have coronavirus symptoms: a new continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss or change in sense of smell or taste, and follow the advice of NHS Test and Protect if you are contacted.

UK Government Minister for Scotland, Iain Stewart said

The UK Government is doing everything it can to support people in all parts of the UK through the pandemic.

Testing continues to play an important role how we manage the virus alongside the roll out of vaccines, helping to identify local outbreaks, slow down the rate of transmission and protect communities. I would like to thank the public for continuing to do the right thing and come forward to be tested when they display symptoms.

The UK Government continues to provide the bulk of testing in Scotland, with this new walk-through centre in Glasgow just the latest in our extensive network. We have also secured and paid for millions of doses of the Pfizer and Oxford vaccines for all parts of the UK.

Hope is on the horizon, but we can't let up on our efforts to contain the virus.

Dr Linda De Caestecker, Director for Public Health at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, said:

We welcome the additional testing facility in Castlemilk which will make it easier for more people to access testing during this crucial period.

Testing, working alongside other control measures will be key to helping control and minimise the spread of the virus in our communities. I would encourage people to get tested with any symptoms suggestive of COVID, no matter how mild they are.

Simon Venn, Mitie Chief Government & Strategy Officer, said:

Our priority during the pandemic is to support the nation's efforts to fight COVID-19 and help keep the country running. Testing is a

critical part of the UK's strategy to combat coronavirus and we're proud to support the UK Government with this vital task. A big thank you to all the NHS staff, Mitie employees and other frontline heroes in Glasgow, who are working tirelessly to keep us all safe.