

David Horncastle appointed as interim Chair of the SIA

Press release

David Horncastle has been appointed by the Home Office as interim Chair of the SIA.



David – who joined the SIA Board in March 2015 as a non-executive director – takes over from Elizabeth France, whose fixed term appointment came to an end on Thursday 14 January 2021. He will serve in the role while the Home Office concludes the open competition which is currently underway to appoint a substantive Chair. It is expected that a substantive Chair will be announced by the Home Office in the spring.

David had a 30-year executive career with BT. From 2009 to 2015 David was Director of Security Professional Services in BT Security, responsible for both the protection of BT and the delivery of security services and solutions to customers.

David is also a non-executive director of the National Crime Agency.

Speaking on his appointment David said:

I am delighted to serve the SIA during this transition period to a new Chair being appointed. I have been a board member since March 2015, and I believe the SIA is a good organisation doing an increasingly effective job in an important industry.

He added:

With the strong executive team, we have in place, the SIA continues to be in good hands during this time.

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).

Published 15 January 2021

£7.5 million to digitally schedule shifts and save NHS staff time

- The investment is part of a £26 million national fund to have all NHS doctors, nurses and other clinical staff on e-rostering systems by 2021, shown to be particularly invaluable during the pandemic
- E-rostering can save time and effort when redeploying staff, digitally matching staff skillset with patient care requirements and geography, while managing working hours and pay to save clinicians time and effort every week

NHS hospitals, clinics and pharmacies across 38 more trusts will be able to save staff time and money by rolling out digital shift planning, known as e-rostering systems, thanks to £7.5 million government funding.

During the pandemic, e-rostering has proven instrumental when redeploying staff, reporting absences and managing working hours and pay information, notably for vaccination centres. NHS trusts have reported an increased appetite across clinicians to implement e-rostering as a result.

E-rostering allows clinicians to select shifts digitally, providing them with more flexibility and more efficient work schedules. Specific skillsets can more easily be matched to the right shifts when redeploying staff using digital staff passports. The passports are currently being piloted and can save staff and HR teams time by providing a verified record of identity, employment and training on their smartphone. These have been used during the COVID-19 response to redeploy staff quickly to support areas in need.

A 2018 study (see [footnote](#)) showed one of the functions of e-rostering – caseload scheduling – could save each NHS clinician 34 minutes a week, which can add up to hundreds of hours per trust. By planning routes between

healthcare settings or to patients' homes for home visits, clinical resource can be geographically matched so NHS staff can spend less time travelling and more time with patients.

Minister of State for Care Helen Whately said:

People are at the heart of the NHS. Our doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers are the greatest asset we have. I'm determined to help NHS trusts get the best out of our talented healthcare workers and give patients the care they deserve.

We're delivering on another commitment in the NHS Long Term Plan to support the use of electronic rosters. E-rostering is a crucial tool to make the most of our dedicated healthcare professionals' time for looking after patients – something which is needed more than ever during this pandemic.

Managing shifts more effectively also makes it easier to work flexibly, giving our hardworking clinicians a better work/life balance. I'm pleased even more trusts will now benefit thanks to this £7.5 million funding boost.

I'm excited to see how this technology can be implemented in the future, not just in hospitals and pharmacies, but in social care too – making sure everyone gets the right care at the right time.

The trusts benefiting from this latest funding include mental health and community, specialist and general acute trusts.

The technology can also cut costs for the NHS by reducing the reliance on staffing agencies.

Five NHS trusts will be using the software to also schedule patient appointments.

The £26 million national rollout to 68 trusts in total is part of the NHS Long Term Plan ambition to equip all shifts for doctors, nurses, Allied Health Professionals, health scientists and pharmacists with e-rostering systems by the end of 2021.

Four NHS trusts which received funding earlier in the rollout have created the North West London Collaborative Staff Bank, a shared pool of available clinicians who can fill shift vacancies to match surges in demand from the pandemic and wider winter pressures.

This is part of a wider strategy by NHS England and Improvement and NHSX to build a collaborative and flexible workforce through the use of technology. The Department of Health and Social Care will continue to work with NHS trusts to improve and upgrade their workforce deployment systems.

Anna Stabler, Executive Chief Nurse at North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS

Foundation Trust said:

We're delighted to have been awarded this funding to help us develop a community workforce deployment system for our nurses and Allied Health Care Professionals working in the community. The funding will be utilised to deliver electronic rostering and case management systems that will in turn benefit our staff and patients alike.

It will mean our staff can support patients in a more timely manner, whilst reducing their travel time and improve their working arrangements. We're very much looking forward to getting this piece of work underway.

| NHS organisation | Bid type | Professional group | Region | Sector | Total award ('000) | Additional trusts involved |
|--|--|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|--|
| Cambridgeshire Community Services | e-Rostering and e-Scheduling Implementation | Nurses and AHPs | East of England | Community | £74 | |
| Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Medic Rostering | Doctors | East of England | Acute | £290 | |
| James Paget University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | Norfolk and Waveney Collaborative Bank | Multi-professional | East of England | Acute | £520 | Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust |
| James Paget University NHS Foundation Trust | Community e-Rostering Project – includes interface with patient information system | Multi-professional | East of England | Community | See above | |
| Sutton Health and Care (SHC) and Surrey Downs Health and Care (SDHC)– hosted by Epsom and St Helier Trust | E-Allocate – SHC and SDHC (ESHT) | Multi-professional | London | Community | £36 | SWL, Surrey Heartlands (for Surrey Downs Health and Care) |

| NHS organisation | Bid type | Professional group | Region | Sector | Total award ('000) | Additional trusts involved |
|---|--|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | Medical e-Rostering Project | Doctors | London | Acute | £336 | |
| University College London Hospital | e-Rostering System | Doctors | London | Acute | £203 | |
| Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust | Medical Rostering Improvement | Doctors | London | Mental health | £62 | West London NHS Trust |
| East London NHS Foundation Trust | Medics Rostering | Doctors | London | Mental health | £190 | |
| Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust | AHP job planning and rostering | AHPs | London | Acute | £218 | |
| University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust | e-roster for AHPs and medics | AHPs and doctors | Midlands | Acute | £154 | |
| The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust | Competency-based rostering | Doctors | Midlands | Acute | £127 | |
| George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust | e-Rostering | Doctors | Midlands | Acute | £386 | |
| Dudley Integrated Health and Care NHS Trust | Rostering and job-planning for community staff | Multi-professional | Midlands | Community | £111 | |
| Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust | Community Workforce Deployment System Project | Multi-professional | Midlands | Specialist | £237 | |
| The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust | AHP and Pharmacy | AHPs and pharmacists | Midlands | Acute | £491 | |
| Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust | e-Rostering System Project – and Trust Wide | Multi-professional | North East and Yorkshire | Mental health | £417 | |
| Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust | Medical Workforce e-Rostering Project | Doctors | North East and Yorkshire | Acute | £140 | |
| York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | Medical e-Rostering Project | Doctors | North East and Yorkshire | Acute | £258 | |

| NHS organisation | Bid type | Professional group | Region | Sector | Total award ('000) | Additional trusts involved |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust | Integrated Scheduling System | Multi-professional | North East and Yorkshire | Acute | £200 | |
| The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust | Improving Workforce Deployment Project (IWDP) | Nurses | North West | Specialist | £280 | |
| Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust | Looking Beyond the Roster Care Needs First – Mersey Care and North West Boroughs | Nurses and AHPs | North West | Community | £300 | North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust |
| North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust | Community Workforce Deployment System | Nurses and AHPs | North West | Acute | £618 | |
| Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Medical e-Rostering | Doctors | North West | Acute | £133 | |
| Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust | e-Rostering and e-Job Planning for Medical Workforce | Doctors | North West | Specialist | £97 | |
| Lancashire teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Collaborative AHP Staff Bank | AHPs | North West | Acute | £505 | Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundations Trust, East Lancashire Hospitals Trust, Morcombe Bay Foundation Trust |
| Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust | e-Rostering Project for Clinical Professionals | AHPs, pharmacists and HCS (non-medical) | North West | Acute | £367 | |
| Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust | e-rostering | Multi-professional | North West | Mental health | £116 | |
| Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust | Clinical e-Rostering | Doctors | South East | Acute | £118 | |
| Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust | Medical e-Rostering Solution | Doctors | South East | Acute | £285 | |
| Ashford and St Peter's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | Workforce Deployment System Project | Doctors | South East | Acute | £220 | |

| NHS organisation | Bid type | Professional group | Region | Sector | Total award ('000) | Additional trusts involved |
|------------------|----------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | Total | £7,489 |

Footnote: A May 2018 Newton Europe Consultancy review of community services found that route planning and geographic matching of clinical resource and demand could save travel time by 20% and 30% respectively. The use of scheduling solutions could, assuming a conservative estimate of 10% lower travel time, save 34 minutes per clinician per week, allowing them to see more patients.

Environment Agency invests £48 million in projects to benefit fishing

The Environment Agency invested over £48 million in projects to enhance fisheries and make improvements for anglers, angling facilities and the environment during 2019-20.

The EA's [Annual Fisheries Report](#), published today (15 January), shows that over £20 million was raised from rod licence sales, with almost a million (940,974) fishing licences sold between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. This was supplemented by partner contributions and additional government funding, allowing the EA to spend over £48 million to support the management of fisheries.

Environment Agency fisheries staff also used rod licence income to work with the Angling Trust and the police to educate anglers, enforce fisheries law and protect the sport for those who want to fish safely and legally. This resulted in 1,611 successful prosecutions and over £285,900 in penalties against people committing angling offences, demonstrating that angling crime doesn't pay.

Fishing licence sales have also allowed EA fisheries officers to save thousands of fish and helped protect hundreds of fisheries. In 2019-20, the agency attended 309 reported incidents of dead fish or fish in distress. When responding to incidents, trained officers collect evidence for prosecution and where possible help mitigate impacts of both natural and preventable incidents.

Kevin Austin, Deputy Director for Fisheries at the Environment Agency, said:

Income from fishing licence sales is used to fund vital work to improve and protect our fisheries and much-loved fish species. Our new Annual Fisheries Report shows how income generated is invested

directly back into our angling community, improving fish stocks, boosting opportunities for anglers as well as working with partners to make it easier for anyone to take up fishing.

When you buy a licence, you are supporting important work by the EA, including restocking, fisheries enforcement, habitat improvement and fish rescues when needed.

The report shows that in 2019-20, licence sales funded:

- In-depth monitoring of fish stocks, with EA teams conducting 1,521 fisheries surveys to assess fish stocks and the health of waters across England
- Over 40,000 people encouraged to try fishing for the first time at 1,525 angling participation events
- Installation of 58 fish passes and the improvement of 515km of rivers providing habitat for all fish to thrive
- The enhancement and improved access to 185 hectares of stillwater fisheries
- 27 projects to protect fisheries from predation from otters and cormorants through the Angling Improvement Fund (AIF)
- 135 projects to improve and enhance fisheries via our Fisheries Improvement Programme (FIP)
- Collaborative work with over 2,000 partners (including the Angling Trust, Wild Trout Trust, local rivers trusts, land owners and angling clubs)
- The supply and stocking of more than half a million coarse fish including roach, dace, chub, barbel, tench, rudd, common bream and grayling. These fish are essential in helping to develop fisheries and for waters impacted by major pollution incidents.

Annual fishing licences are available from only £30. Anglers under 16 can fish for free and concessions are also available. As well as being a legal requirement, purchasing a fishing licence contributes to the enhancement of rivers and lakes across England and supports participation events which helps angling become more accessible to everyone.

[Find out more about fishing licences](#) to enjoy fishing and make sure you fish legally.

Near miss with a member of staff at Rowlands Castle

News story

Investigation into a near miss with a member of operational staff at Rowlands Castle, Hampshire, 19 December 2020.



Rowlands Castle station (Photo by Simon Burchell on Wikimedia Commons. Used under Creative Commons licence.)

At around 19:14 hrs on 19 December 2020, a Network Rail Mobile Operations Manager (MOM) was nearly struck by a non-stopping passenger train passing through Rowlands Castle station, between Petersfield and Havant. The MOM was on the track retrieving a bag from the line, when he saw the train approaching. He managed to get onto the platform and clear of the train about one second before it passed at around 60 mph (97 km/h). Nobody was injured, although the MOM and the train driver were distressed by the incident.

The MOM did not request that trains through the platform be stopped and was not aware of the train's approach because he had contacted the wrong signaller to check whether there were any trains approaching. Instead of contacting the signaller at Havant signalling centre, which controls the area including Rowlands Castle, the MOM contacted Petersfield signal box, which controls the adjacent area on the approach to Rowlands Castle. The signaller and MOM did not discuss the fact that Rowlands Castle was not in the control area of Petersfield signal box.

Our investigation will determine the sequence of events that led to the incident and include consideration of:

- the factors affecting the decisions and actions of those involved
- verbal communications between the MOM and the signaller
- the training, assessment and monitoring of MOMs
- information sources available to, and used by, MOMs
- any local management factors
- any other relevant underlying factors.

Our investigation is independent of any investigation by the railway industry or by the industry's regulator, the [Office of Rail and Road](#).

We will publish our findings, including any recommendations to improve safety, at the conclusion of our investigation. This report will be available on our website.

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reports.

Published 15 January 2021

British Army trains 500th Somali soldier in infantry skills

The British Army has trained its 500th Somali soldier in the essential infantry skills they need to combat armed groups and ensure security and stability in the country. The latest batch of 113 troops marked the end of their training with a ceremony in Baidoa, Somalia on 31 December.

The eight-week Company Collective Training course is designed to prepare officers and soldiers from the Somali National Army (SNA) to conduct security operations in the country's South West State, countering the threat from Al-Shabaab and other jihadist and criminal organisations. The 26-man British training team from 2nd Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment taught students skills including marksmanship, patrolling, medical aid and counter improvised explosive device (IED) techniques.

On completion of the course, soldiers were provided with uniforms and equipment which, when combined with their training, will allow them to operate much more effectively. The contingent are the fifth Somali company trained by Britain since the course was rolled out in the country in September 2019. The UK has also provided the SNA with military vehicles to support security operations and a new barracks in Baidoa that can accommodate 450 troops.

Minister for the Armed Forces James Heappey said:

This milestone shows Britain's ongoing commitment to help Somalia provide security and stability for its people, while combating terrorist groups that threaten the UK's interests at home and abroad.

The United Kingdom and our Armed Forces will continue to support Somalia, with plans to double the number of troops trained under this scheme in 2021.

Ben Fender OBE, British Ambassador to Somalia, said:

The UK remains fully committed to training the Somali National Army in Baidoa. In September, we ran a course for headquarters staff in

how to plan and run operations, and this week are graduating another infantry company (of 113 soldiers). We expect to train a new company around every eight weeks next year, and to complete our training of 8 Brigade by the end of 2021".

The graduation ceremony was attended by Brigadier General Mohammed Sheik Irow, Commander of SNA 60 Sector, and Lt Col Andy Wareing. Following a parade and speeches, the two officers inspected the graduating soldiers and presented individual awards.

Lt Col Andy Wareing, SNA Training and Advisory Team (STAT) Commander, said:

I congratulate the soldiers from 60 Sector stood here today. They displayed impressive professionalism and commitment during eight weeks of tough training and are well prepared for the challenges that lay ahead.

I would also like to thank their Somali and British instructors, whose relentless pursuit of excellence set a fine example to the soldiers. We look forward to the next Company Collective Training course which starts in January 2021.

The milestone graduation of the 500th soldier from the course underlines the UK's commitment to Somalia's longer-term security, with plans to train five more companies comprising around 600 troops in 2021.

Over 1,750 officers and soldiers have attended various military courses at the British-funded training centre in Baidoa.

It follows an announcement in September 2020 that the British Army had trained the first Brigade Headquarters for a generation in Somalia. A total of 19 SNA officers attended the course – adapted to ensure it could take place in accordance with COVID force health protection measures – which covered planning and delivery of stabilisation operations and prepared the officers to work alongside international partners to deliver security for the Somali people.

Lt Ibrahim Madkus Abdurahman of SNA 60 Sector, said:

The Brigade Staff Course gave me the tools to plan operations, and the Company Collective Training course gives our soldiers the skills to conduct those operations.

The UK Minister for Africa, James Duddridge MP, recently underlined Britain's continued commitment to Somalia with a new support package worth £21.8 million. The package included £1.6 million to counter the threat from roadside bombs, and a further £3.37 million for the Somali Security Forces engaged in joint operations with the African Union Mission to Somalia

(AMISOM) .