

£76m contract boosts F-35 Lightning fleet support

Signed by Lockheed Martin and the F-35 Joint Program Office, the Lightning Air system National Capability Enterprise (LANCE) contract will provide additional expertise on aircraft maintenance, bespoke UK training courses for pilots, groundcrew and engineers, and logistical and technical support for the fleet.

Providing additional experienced technical personnel at existing facilities, the contract will also allow three new capabilities to come into operation. These include an ejection seat maintenance workshop, a 'Pilot fit facility' to fit aircrew equipment, and component spray facility to transfer coatings onto aircraft components.

Giving the UK more freedom to operate its fleet of F-35s, it will also increase the number of flying hours available, alongside delivering important mission planning, training and maintenance capabilities.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said:

The Lightning Force forms a key part of the UK's Carrier Strike Group and plays a central role in protecting our interests at home and abroad.

This investment will help ensure that this world-class fleet, and their crew, are ready to deploy wherever and whenever required.

Based at RAF Marham, home of the UK Lightning Force, the investment reflects the increasing size of the UK's F-35 fleet and will create and secure 172 jobs mainly at the Norfolk base.

The contract will provide support for 25 months, with an option for a further three months. The majority of the work will be carried out by subcontractor BAE Systems.

Air Commodore David Arthurton, Combat Air Force Commander, said:

I welcome the opportunity LANCE provides to build upon the Lightning Force Element's already close relationship with our industry partners. The new contract will deliver an enhanced level of performance whilst also providing welcome stability to all involved with the programme.

Furthermore, it will underpin our participation in the United Kingdom's inaugural Carrier Strike deployment later this year, and provide an excellent foundation for future land and maritime

operations as Lightning matures towards Full Operating Capability.

The support provided by the contract will be crucial in ensuring the fleet is ready and prepared when they sail with HMS Queen Elizabeth on her maiden Global Carrier Strike Group '21 deployment.

Vice Admiral Rick Thompson, Director General Air for DE&S, said:

I am delighted that we have secured LANCE for the UK's Lightning Force. This is a critical support contract that shows a significant maturity in the platform's capability.

The UK currently has 21 fifth-generation F-35s, having received three new jets on 30 November 2020.

Recruitment of Non-Executive Director

News story

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate is recruiting one Non-Executive Director to the VMD's Management Board and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.



The Veterinary Medicines Directorate is seeking one Non-Executive Director to bring their experience to add critical challenge to the work of the agency and to assist the Chief Executive as accounting officer to provide the necessary assurance.

Person Specification

We are looking to recruit one individual who will bring the following skills to the VMD's Management Board and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee:

- management experience on a board or running or overseeing a public sector/commercial business. This should include experience of financial controls, the use of management information to drive business improvement and working in partnership with other organisations to deliver outcomes, products or services
- experience of working on an audit committee
- an ability to chair a meeting
- an appreciation of the functions and responsibilities of a public service organisation and how such organisations have been responding to the drive for efficiency across Government
- an ability to communicate and build relationships at all levels and good interpersonal skills, including the ability to negotiate, persuade and build partnerships at all levels
- the ability to provide impartial, objective and pragmatic advice, to contribute to discussions at a strategic level and to think creatively and bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance and resources

You will need to demonstrate in your written application examples of where your experience matches these essential skills.

Additional desirable skills:

- experience of working within the Animal Health Sector and an understanding of the science related to livestock husbandry
- animal welfare or veterinary science and/or functional animal nutrition
- experience of the IT industry

Additional Information

All candidates will be required to complete the following forms:

- diversity monitoring questionnaire
- political activity questionnaire

How to Apply

For forms and information on how to apply please contact Chris Abbott c.abbott@vmd.gov.uk.

Applications to be received by midday Friday 26 February 2021.

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Parole Board: appointment and reappointment of members

The Secretary of State has approved the appointments, reappointments and extensions of tenure of Parole Board Members. These comprise independent, psychologist, psychiatrist and retired judicial members as set out below.

New member appointments

Unless otherwise indicated, the members below have been appointed for 5-year terms from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2025.

Independent members

- Jawaid Akhtar
- Rahila Akram
- Amanda Bond
- Marc Callaghan
- Christopher Evans
- Shazina Haider
- Deborah Hall
- Scott Handley
- Eimear McAllister
- Andrew McMillan
- Julia Mulligan
- Shazia Parveen
- Barbara Petchey
- Hannah Reid
- Julie Robertson
- Denise Rowland
- Wendy Steele
- Fiona-Jill Strachan
- Samantha Thompson
- Ian Tolan
- Asrar Ul-haq
- Alison Whalley
- Mir Zaman

Psychologist members

- Laura Bowden
- Ian Burke
- Jennifer Cottam
- Vicky Hatton
- Rose Hooper
- Catrin Morrissey
- Chanelle Myrie
- Jo Pallas
- Rawlins Rayann

- Tracey Tostevin

Retired judicial member

Serving Judges

The members below have been appointed for 3-year terms running from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2023.

- Ian Bourne
- Simon Carr
- Jeremy Donne
- Noel Lucas
- David Miller
- Huw Rees
- Marcus Tregilgas- Davey

Retired Judicial members

The Secretary of State has extended the tenure of the following member for 2 years from 1 October 2020 until 30 September 2022.

Direct appointments

Ministers consulted the CPA before making the appointments which are required to support the Board's work in reducing the backlog of cases – arising from the Covid-19 pandemic – requiring an initial paper assessment.

The Secretary of State has approved the appointment of the following Independent Members for a period of 12 months from 2 November 2020 until 1 November 2021.

- Rick Evans
- Melanie Millar
- Emma Pusill
- Carol Swaffer
- Denise White

The Secretary of State has extended the tenure of the following independent members for a period of 12 months from 1 October 2020 until 30 September 2021.

The extensions have been notified to the Commissioner for Public Appointments (CPA).

- Michael Crewe
- Margaret Dunne

Reappointment of existing members

Unless otherwise indicated, the members below have been reappointed for a period of 5 years from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2025.

Retired judicial members

- David Calvert-Smith
- Nick Coleman
- Phillip Wassall

Independent members

- Graham Bull
- Sue Dale
- Malcolm Davidson
- Sian Flynn
- Alan Harris
- Bill Mayne
- Clare Mitchell
- Sue Smith
- Ilana Tessler

The members below have been reappointed for a period of 2 years from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2022.

Independent members

- Pamela Baldwin
- Paul Cavadino
- Jane Christian
- Peter Coltman
- Geoff Crowe
- Victoria Doughty
- Stewart Eldon
- Kevin Green
- John Holt
- Rebecca Hunt
- Chitra Karve
- Mark Lacey
- Joanne Lackenby
- Susan Lewis
- Tom Millest
- Steve Pepper
- Bernard Postles
- Sue Power
- Nigel Stone
- Jennie Sugden
- Kay Terry
- Jo Thompson
- Alan Whiffin

Psychologist members

The members below have been reappointed for a period of 5 years from 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2025.

- Abby Fenton
- Jane Gilbert
- Victoria Magrath
- Mary McMurran
- Rebecca Milner
- Wendy Morgan
- Brendan O'Mahony
- Sue Vivian-Byrne

Psychiatrist members

- Luke Birmingham
- Lynne Daly
- Caryl Morgan
- Sajid Muzaffar
- Huw Stone

The Parole Board's functions and duties are set out in Section 239 of Schedule 19 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 ('the Act'). Parole Board members make risk assessments about prisoners, to decide who may safely be released into the community or make recommendations for their transfer to open prison conditions. Appointments and reappointments to the Parole Board are regulated – save for judicial members – by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. These appointments – save for judicial members – have been made in line with the Cabinet Office Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer 'lifeline' to domestic abuse victims

From today (14 January), victims of domestic abuse will be able to access much needed support from thousands of pharmacies across the UK, backed by the government.

The Ask for ANI scheme allows those at risk or suffering from abuse to discreetly signal that they need help and access support. By asking for ANI, a trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services such as a national or local domestic abuse helplines.

As an essential retailer based on high streets across the country, and with specifically trained staff, pharmacies can provide a safe space for victims to sound an alarm if they are isolated at home with their abuser and unable to get help in another way.

The Prime Minister committed to launch this scheme at the Hidden Harms summit last year in recognition of the impact of Covid restrictions on the ability of victims to reach out for help and support. The scheme was initially proposed by survivors as something that would have helped them.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

As we once again have to ask people across the country to stay at home to tackle this virus, it's vital that we take action to protect those for who home is not a safe space.

That is why we have launched this scheme, supported by pharmacies up and down the country, to give some of the most vulnerable people in society a critical lifeline – making sure they have access to the support they need and keep them safe from harm.

The codeword scheme will be promoted using discreet social media adverts and paid search. Pharmacies will be given promotional material to display in store to signal to victims that they are participating. Health professionals, social workers and Job Centres will also be asked to promote the scheme, alongside police, local authorities and specialist support services for victims.

The scheme will be initially available through the 2,300 Boots stores across the UK as well as 255 independent pharmacies. There will be an [on-going sign-up process open to all pharmacies](#).

Safeguarding Minister Victoria Atkins said:

I know that lockdown restrictions are especially difficult for those experiencing domestic abuse. Home should be a safe place, but for those confined with an abuser it is clearly not.

The codeword scheme will offer a lifeline to all victims, ensuring they get urgent help in a safe and discreet way.

Throughout this pandemic this Government has invested millions in ensuring that vital services including helplines, counselling and refuge accommodation remains accessible during this challenging period.

Boots UK Chief Pharmacist, Marc Donovan said:

With over 170 years at the heart of community care, Boots pharmacies have long been a place where people can turn to for help and advice on their local high street. Since the start of the pandemic, our 2,300 stores in communities across the UK have taken on increased importance as a place of safety for those who need

one.

In addition to the designated Safe Spaces in our pharmacies, we hope with the new codeword scheme we can continue to help people access the support they need quickly, safely and discreetly.

This is something our pharmacy teams feel very passionately about, and we are proud of their continued dedication supporting those in need at a time of such extraordinary challenge.

Chief Executive of the National Pharmacy Association Mark Lyonette said:

Community pharmacies are about people, not just pills. There is a clear and urgent need to support victims of abuse and we want to play our part.

The Ask for ANI alert mechanism is a discreet and sensitive way to help support some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

The codeword scheme will complement the charity Hestia's UK SAYS NO MORE Safe Spaces initiative by enabling pharmacy staff to offer immediate and emergency assistance. Building on the successful Home Office #YouAreNotAlone campaign, this scheme is another way government is raising awareness of the vital support available through domestic abuse charities and other partners including the police.

The launch of the scheme comes as Home Secretary Priti Patel announces new laws to reform pre-charge bail which will allow for better protection to victims and witnesses in cases of violent and sexual offences, including domestic abuse.

The Home Office today published [its response to a consultation on pre-charge bail](#), which enables police to release a suspect from custody subject to conditions, while they gather evidence or await a charging decision. The new measures will include removing the presumption against use of pre-charge bail, enabling police to impose strict conditions on more suspects in high-harm cases – including most cases of domestic abuse and sexual violence – and where there are real risks to victims, witnesses, and the public.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

As Home Secretary, it is my priority to deliver justice for victims and restore confidence in our criminal justice system.

The introduction of the national codeword scheme, Ask for ANI, will ensure victims of domestic abuse can always get help when they need it, while our pre-charge bail reforms will ensure that suspects, including those charged with domestic abuse, are more closely monitored and the public is protected.

Taken together, these changes will help us create a safer more secure UK after the pandemic.

In another move to support victims of domestic abuse, Business Minister Paul Scully has today issued a rallying call to employers across the country to take some simple steps to ensure their organisation is spotting signs of domestic abuse and helping their staff find the right support. In an open letter to all UK employers, the Business Minister has outlined a few key, practical steps they can take to build awareness of domestic abuse, ensure they are noticing warning signs, and helping workers access the support they need.

[Past COVID-19 infection provides some immunity but people may still carry and transmit virus](#)

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