

MeL Nebhrajani receives C.B. in Queen's 2021 New Year's Honours List

News story

Litigation Director (and former DHSC Legal Director) appointed Companion of the Bath



Happy New Year. Along with a general optimism that this year will be better than last, it's a pleasure to ring in the new by congratulating GLD's MeL Nebhrajani, former Legal Director of the Department for Health and Social Care Legal Team, who has been appointed a Companion of the Bath (C.B.) in the Queen's 2021 New Year's Honours List.

The citation for her award states it is in recognition of her services to the Government Legal profession, especially during the COVID crisis.

MeL said:

"I was stunned when I was told I was being appointed Companion of the Bath – it was so unexpected – but I am also utterly thrilled and proud. I want to thank all those who have supported me without whom this would never have happened. It is truly an honour!"

MeL has undertaken legal work over a number of years and in several different legal teams, deftly handling a range of important issues. She has demonstrated leadership over a sustained period, particularly during the COVID crisis, in which she played a key role in co-ordinating legal issues across Whitehall.

Her work in the networks across GLD, particularly on race and as champion of the parents network, has been a leading light in promoting these issues across the civil service and in helping people across GLD.

GLD Interim Permanent Secretary and Treasury Solicitor Peter Fish said:

"MeL has demonstrated great skill, commitment and compassion in every area of her work. I am proud to congratulate her on this achievement."

We join with Peter in congratulating Mel and wishing her continued success.

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[Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm given development consent](#)

The Hornsea Project Three offshore wind farm offers an approximate capacity of up to 2,400MW and is located off the coast of Norfolk. This is within the area known as Zone 4, under the Round 3 offshore wind licensing arrangements established by The Crown Estate.

The application was submitted for consideration on 14 May 2018 and accepted for examination on 8 June 2018. It is the 98 project to be decided under the Planning Act 2008 regime and is the 61st energy project examined by the Planning Inspectorate to gain development consent.

Following a six-month examination during which the public, statutory consultees and interested parties were given the opportunity to give evidence to the Examining Authority, a recommendation was made to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on 2 July 2019.

Following a request for further information and comments from interested parties, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy issued a letter stating that he was [minded to approve this application](#) subject to further information from the applicant and Interested Parties on a number of specific issues.

To allow time for the Applicant to submit further information by 30 September 2020 and to allow for consultation on the further information with Interested Parties, the Secretary of State set a new deadline of 31 December 2020 for his decision on this application.

The Planning Inspectorate's Chief Executive, Sarah Richards, said:

When examining the application and making their Recommendation, the Examining Authority took full account of views from communities, particularly those near the North East coast of England who might be affected by this proposal, alongside national policy and evidence of the need for the project.

The decision, the recommendation made by the Examining Authority to the Secretary of State and the evidence considered by the Examining Authority, is [publicly available on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

Journalists wanting further information should contact the Planning Inspectorate Press Office, on: 0303 444 5004 or 0303 444 5005 or email: press.office@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

[Scots recognised by Queen's New Year Honours](#)

Press release

The Scottish Secretary congratulates Scotland's honours recipients



Commenting on Her Majesty's New Year Honours list, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

"The Honours list demonstrates the wealth of talent and commitment in Scotland's science, education, sport and public life. We should all be proud of our country's outstanding achievements in these fields.

"Her Majesty has also recognised the dedication, compassion and kindness of so many ordinary people up and down the UK. As we all know too well, 2020 has been a year like no other. So many Scots have gone above and beyond in supporting friends, neighbours and their wider community during the pandemic. These are not people who seek the limelight, so I'm very glad that so many of those local heroes have been recognised by Her Majesty.

"My heartfelt congratulations go to the many Scots who have been honoured by Her Majesty."

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Government encourages people to stay home on New Year's Eve

Press release

Everyone in England is being be encouraged to stay at home to see in the new year safely.



- With New Year's Eve approaching, the government has launched a campaign urging people to act like they have the virus and to stay at home
- The public will be reminded of the rapidly rising rate of coronavirus infections, asymptomatic transmission, and pressures facing NHS hospitals
- The campaign is running across radio, print media and out of home advertising

Everyone in England is being be encouraged to stay at home as part of a public information advertising campaign urging the public to see in the new year safely.

'See in the new year safely at home' is running across radio, print media and out of home advertising until 31 December.

It comes at a time where current data shows COVID-19 cases are at an all-time high.

The advertising reiterates people should not meet up with friends or family indoors, unless they are in the same household or support bubble, and they should avoid large gatherings of any kind.

The adverts remind the public how easily COVID-19 can be spread. 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and as such the public should act like they have the virus to avoid spreading it without realising. The new strain of the virus spreads even faster than before and NERVTAG's early analysis suggested it could increase R by 0.4 or greater.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

With our NHS under pressure we must all take personal responsibility this New Year's Eve and stay at home.

I know how much we have all sacrificed this year and we cannot let up. Over 600,000 people have now been vaccinated and we are close to beating this virus.

Now more than ever, we need to pull together to save lives and protect our NHS. If we continue to do our bit by staying at home, we can get through this together.

NHS Test and Trace is reaching 97.5% of contacts within 24 hours, and more than 3.9 million people have been reached and the government is calling on people to do their bit and further prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- [Find all local restrictions and laws](#)
- [Download images of the campaign](#)
- The weekly average case rate for England has increased by over 66% compared to 2 weeks previously (the weekly average at 15 Dec compared to the weekly average at 1 Dec)
- In London, the case rate has nearly doubled over the last week, with the new variant accounting for 60% of infections in London

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[New Year Honours and Awards: Military](#)

A host of personnel across the armed forces have been recognised, including those who showed exemplary dedication during the Coronavirus pandemic. From providing essential workers with greater access to Covid-19 tests, to nursing care and providing logistical support across the four corners of the UK, the honours list praises the exceptional leadership, commitment and professionalism across the military this year. The recognition follows a thank you from the Prime Minister last week who praised the Armed Forces for coming to the aid of the whole nation in the battle against the pandemic. He also praised their ongoing work across the globe to keep Britain safe during the festive season.

Read the full list of [Military New Year Honours 2021](#).

This included hundreds of UK Armed Forces personnel deployed to boost Covid-19 testing in Kent to help hauliers travel across the Channel to France. They are part of 5,000 military personnel currently providing aid to

civilians across the UK, joining the 6,400 sailors, marines, soldiers, airmen and airwomen deployed on overseas operations, working around the globe to keep the UK safe.

Welcoming news of the honours, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

Our armed forces have been instrumental in the Covid-19 response, and I congratulate all who have received an award in the New Year Honours list today.

In a year of additional challenge for all of us, our serving men and women have delivered testing, critical care and essential support to public services, whilst protecting us abroad, too.

They are truly the best of us and it is great their hard work and perseverance is recognised today.

Knighthoods have also been awarded to notable members of the senior armed forces.

Lieutenant General Tyrone Urch has been praised for his pivotal role in the military's contribution to foreign policy over the decade and delivering military support for Covid-19 this year.

Lieutenant General James Hockenhull and Vice Admiral Ben Key are also knighted for their long and distinguished respective Army and Navy careers.

The below case studies provide more information on some of the individuals who have been honoured.

Commanders of the most excellent order of the British Empire (CBE)

Brigadier Elizabeth Faithfull-Davies, Commander Headquarters 102 Logistic Brigade

One of the highest ranked women in the British Army has been awarded a CBE for delivering Covid-19 testing to frontline workers including care homes, police stations and prisons.

Brigadier Lizzie led the strategy for the mobile testing units which saw vehicles refitted into testing sites to travel around the UK to increase access to coronavirus testing.

Nearly 100 units, designed by the Royal Engineers of the British Army, were developed in just a few weeks and deployed across the country including Salisbury, Southport and Teesside.

1,000 military personnel at the Prince William of Gloucester barracks, Grantham, were trained under Brigadier Lizzie's leadership to operate the units.

Newly appointed as a Brigadier, her drive and unrelenting focus was fundamental to ensure the care sector and other workers could get tests as part of their frontline fight against the pandemic.

Brigadier Lizzie Faithfull-Davies said: "It is an extraordinary honour to be recognised in this way and I am enormously grateful for the incredible team I have had the privilege to work with this year.

It is humbling to be able to contribute in a small way in the fight against this pandemic. The discipline and ingenuity shown by our soldiers who have worked in support of the nation's testing programme make them equally worthy of recognition.

Ordinary Associate Second Class Royal Red Cross (ARRC)

Petty Officer Naval Nurse Andrew Cooper, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service

A naval nurse who led his NHS colleagues in the midst of the pandemic has been recognised for delivering exemplary care during the COVID-19 crisis.

Chief Petty Officer Andrew Cooper has been awarded a Royal Red Cross for designing training to help NHS and military colleagues on the frontline in a hospital emergency department.

Using his military background operating in a crisis, he helped set up additional emergency resuscitation rooms at short notice and gave extra training to junior staff in assisted intubation and the use of non-invasive ventilation – medical care often required for coronavirus patients.

He also helped train colleagues on how to work in full personal protective equipment (PPE) and led the re-design of Portsmouth's Queen Alexandra Hospital's emergency department.

This was all achieved while giving the highest level of care to his patients.

Chief Petty Officer Andrew Cooper, 36, from Eastbourne, said:

I couldn't believe it at first but my work this year has been a team effort.

It will be exciting when I can let people know, having to hold off since finding out has been tough. I cannot wait to tell them.

Earlier on in the year, Chief Petty Officer Cooper also planned and coordinated the testing of 800 sailors due to deploy with aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth. At short notice, he ensured all personnel had been tested and the ship's medical team were trained on caring for any potential coronavirus patients.

Ordinary Associate Second Class Royal Red Cross (ARRC)

Staff Sergeant Emma Clarke, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

Staff sergeant Emma Clarke has been recognised with a Royal Red Cross for exceptional leadership including creating more capacity for Critical Care Units during the height of the pandemic.

Thanks to her swift actions, critical care training was delivered to over 40 NHS and military nurses and healthcare assistants within her ward at the University Hospital Birmingham Trust.

Her initiative – at a level far beyond her rank – meant wards were not overwhelmed at a critical time and staff felt fully supported within the difficult circumstances.

Other wards at the hospital quickly replicated new systems created under her direction including making nursing handovers more efficient.

Staff sergeant Emma Clarke said: “It was important to ensure my staff were given full support through such a challenging period.

My team were calm and professional in the most unprecedented circumstances, and it's a privilege to have our work recognised in this way.

Officers of the most excellent order of the British Empire (OBE)

Group Captain Rachel Mawdsley, Headquarters Air Command

A RAF Group Captain has been awarded an OBE for support to local Government during the outbreak of the pandemic.

Group Captain Rachel Mawdsley was praised for her impeccable leadership as she supported Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Council to assist mortuary facilities by creating a temporary rest facility at RAF Henlow.

RAF planners worked around the clock to relieve pressure on hospitals and undertakers to ensure any tragic loss of life in the local community was handled with the utmost care and respect.

Group Captain Rachel Mawdsley said: “I am incredibly proud to have been the Station Commander of the whole force team at RAF Henlow as we responded to a request for Military Assistance to the Civil Authorities.

We worked with, and were fully supported by, the Luton and Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forums to assist the community during the challenging early months of the Covid-19 pandemic.