

Dstl scientists and military advisers receive New Year's Honours

Dr Phillippa Spencer has been awarded the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE), in recognition of her support to the UK's decision makers by her application of maths to deliver consistent, assured data to prevent the loss of life through exposure to COVID-19, Novichok and Ebola.

Philippa said:

I am genuinely overwhelmed by the honour. The award recognises not only me, but an incredible team of people who provide vital support to so many collective efforts. I am beyond happy to have been nominated.

Dr Joanne Thwaite has been awarded the Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE), which recognises her service to the NHS during COVID-19, in particular her selfless dedication carrying out repeated and sustained deployments to Hospital laboratories where she supported NHS staff dealing with an unprecedented increase of workload. Using her scientific skillset Joanne worked within diagnostic laboratories, from the very onset of the pandemic.

Joanne said:

I am humbled and excited to be nominated for this honour which also represents the dedication and professionalism of a team of other Dstl specialist microbiologists. I am proud to be a part of that team and that I could help NHS colleagues deliver life-saving care at this time of acute national health response

Dstl Military Adviser Lt Col Gareth Walker Royal Engineers (RE) also receives an OBE in recognition of his performance in command of 66 Works Group with responsibility for Defence's specialist water, fuel and materials infrastructure capabilities. During a two and a half year period he led vital military support to natural disasters in the British Caribbean and extreme flooding events in the UK, as well as myriad operations and tasks worldwide.

I am absolutely delighted to be receiving this most prestigious award, and am incredibly grateful to those that nominated me. It is a privilege and honour to work in this amazing organisation that is home to some of the most talented people I have worked with. Dstl engineers, scientists and analysts are dedicated to developing and improving capabilities that are vital to the UK's defence and

security, and it is exciting to be part of a team that is redoubling its efforts to meet the future challenges and threats that we face.

We also congratulate Warrant Officer 1st Class (W01) Ian Conolly, who has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) in the Queen's New Year's Honours list. Ian works as the Senior Acoustic Analyst within the Underwater Group at Dstl Portsmouth West. The MSM is a very old medal, first established in the 1840s; there is a strict limit on the number of annual awards and it is now only awarded to non-commissioned officers who have provided unbroken "good, faithful and meritorious service." The Royal Navy may recommend its award to no more than 49 recipients annually.

Dstl's Chief Executive Gary Aitkenhead, said:

I offer my sincere congratulations to all those awarded. It gives me great pride to see our people recognised in this prestigious way. The awards are deserved recognition of dedication, professionalism and technical excellence.

British exporters recognised in New Year's Honours List 2021

Today, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss MP is congratulating UK exporters, business leaders and DIT staff who have been recognised with Honours for their exceptional and outstanding service to international trade, investment, and exporting.

Those honoured this time around represent a diverse range of businesses, from sourcing PPE for the pandemic, green energy, trade policy negotiations and to services exports in the creative industry such as cross-cultural theatre productions.

The New Year's Honours List also recognises the work and dedication undertaken by those who worked during the pandemic to keep the country safe.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

All those being honoured have made a terrific contribution to the UK over the past year, whether it be leading the fight against coronavirus or helping champion free and fair trade across the world. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their hard work.

More trade and investment is vital to delivering the jobs and economic growth we need to recover from the pandemic and build back better. Our innovative and go-getting exporters are critical to that, and we will continue to support them as they look to sell more of their wares overseas this coming year and beyond.

Antonia Romeo, Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Trade, said:

I am extremely proud of DIT colleagues recognised for their hard work for the Department on international trade issues.

It is also excellent to see so many British exporters and business leaders recognised in the 2021 New Year Honours List, showcasing the success of British exports abroad.

Many congratulations to them, and to all recipients.

Exporters and business leaders in the New Year's Honours List 2021 include:

- Kirsty Hamilton; Associate Fellow, Chatham House (OBE)
- Stuart Paul Gibbons; Managing Director, Le Mark Group (OBE)
- Sharon Pursey; Co-Founder, SafeToNet (OBE)
- Steve Crane; Chief Executive Officer, business Link Japan and Executive Director of Export to Japan (OBE)
- Matthew Hurn; Chief Financial Officer, Mubadala Investment Company, Chairman, Association of Corporate Treasurers, Middle East (OBE)
- Ella Spira, Co-founder, Sisters Grimm (MBE)
- Piertra Mello-Pittman, Co-Founder, Sisters Grimm (MBE)
- Laura Bounds, Managing Director, Kent Crisps (MBE)
- Manoj Varsani, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Hammock (MBE)
- Paul Jonathan Morris, Founder and Chief Executive Addmaster UK Limited (MBE)
- Zoe Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Sparkol (MBE)
- Daniel Leigh Brooks, Chief Executive Officer, Virtual Human Resources (MBE)

Staff from the Department for International Trade (DIT) have also been recognised in the 2021 New Year Honours list, including:

- Matthew Davies; Deputy Director, Trade Agreements Continuity Programme (OBE)
- Deborah Clarke; Country Director, Department for International Trade Malaysia (OBE)

- Ruchi Nanda – Lately Account Manager, Trade, Investment and Business Support (MBE)
- Jasmine Baker – Head of Insurance and Asset Management British Embassy Beijing (MBE)
- Chris Dunn – Head of Infrastructure and Environment (China), Energy, Infrastructure, Creative and Sports Directorate (MBE)

Exporters recognised in this list include Laura Claire Bounds, who manages three businesses: Kent Crisps, Kentish Oils and Kentish Condiments. Her businesses already export to twelve countries around the world, including in the Middle East. Laura started exporting in 2015 and has worked tirelessly with DIT in getting the brand into overseas markets, particularly in Asia.

Laura Claire Bounds, Managing Director, Kent Crisps, said:

To have been awarded an MBE is an absolute privilege, especially when it relates to the work done for a county that I am so proud to be a part of.

Kent Crisps is made up of a small but extremely passionate team, without whom I would not have had this opportunity. I hope that this proves to others that we all can make a difference, and that with hard work & determination, anything is possible.

Pietra Marie De Mello-Pittman and Ella Louvaine Spira are other impressive UK exporters listed in the New Year Honours List 2021. They are the co-founders of Sisters Grimm, a productions company which creates cross-cultural collaborations in art, music and dance. The business is a creative partnership of former Royal Ballet ballerina Pietra Mello-Pittman and Grammy-nominated composer Ella Spira.

Pietra and Ella have worked with DIT to expand Sisters Grimm into new worldwide marketplaces such as Voices of the Amazon, working with Brazilian partners and Sakura in Japan. Their productions have been presented on the biggest stages across the globe.

Pietra Marie De Mello-Pittman and Ella Louvaine Spira, Co-founders of Sisters Grimm, said:

Being honoured with an MBE is a wonderful recognition of the role we play bringing talent together internationally. We feel such a passion and a drive for representing other cultures, and seeing our shows reach audiences all over the world.

It is an honour to be recognised not only in contributing to the creative industry but also for services to international trade. As female founders from mixed heritage backgrounds, we have had to

overcome challenges to not only create a business model around the arts, but to be recognised as internationalists.

The impact that the arts can have on society should never be undervalued – they allow people to make sense of their emotions in a space they often don't give themselves. In these dark and difficult times for live entertainment we mustn't lose sight of how the arts have the ability to join people together.

[Commander Strategic Command Commendations \(December 2020\)](#)

News story

General Sir Patrick Sanders, Commander Strategic Command awards Commander Commendations.



General Sir Patrick Sanders has awarded Commander Commendations to personnel across the organisation for their outstanding service.

Individual Awards

- Royal Navy Commander M Moules
- British Army Lieutenant Colonel JA A'Lee
- British Army Lieutenant Colonel P Driver
- British Army Lieutenant Colonel A M Lewis
- British Army Lieutenant Colonel H MacMillan
- British Army Lieutenant Colonel T Young
- Royal Air Force Wing Commander K R Cranswick
- Royal Air Force Wing Commander M J West
- Royal Navy Lieutenant Commander T Wardley
- British Army Major M S R Coles
- British Army Major R C Da Gama

- British Army Major A M Docherty
- British Army Major C Groves
- British Army Major A Gurung
- British Army Major S Harlen
- British Army Major P Jackson
- British Army Major S J G Lea
- Royal Air Force Squadron Leader (Now Wing Commander) S A Cage-Brimelow
- Royal Air Force Squadron Leader A J Manley
- Royal Air Force Squadron Leader A G M Reid
- Royal Navy Lieutenant J Welch
- British Army Captain J Fraser
- British Army Warrant Officer Class 2 M Luxford
- British Army Warrant Officer Class 2 P J Marshall
- Royal Air Force Warrant Officer A D Green
- British Army Warrant Officer Class 1 J A O'Connor
- Royal Navy Chief Petty Officer A Latham
- Royal Navy Chief Petty Officer J Thornhill
- British Army Staff Sergeant J P Foden
- Royal Air Force Flight Sergeant L McCormick
- British Army Sergeant R M Wallace
- Royal Air Force Sergeant (Now Acting Flight Sergeant) G R Moore
- British Army Corporal C Neilson
- Civil Service T Atkins
- Civil Service P Basford
- Civil Service N D Moggridge
- Civil Service S Patel
- Civil Service J Riddell
- Civil Service K Rushton
- Civil Service F Stirling-Brown
- Civil Service/Contractor R N Wilcocks
- Civil Service/Contractor C M McVeigh.
- Civil Service D Bowen
- Civil Service J Coombs

Team Awards

- Team Award: Germany Enabling Office – LEC Human Resources Team Members
- Team Award: JHG Ops Cts Team
- Team Award: Military Donning and Doffing Team
- Team Ward: Royal Navy Plymouth Trust Radiography Team.

Published 30 December 2020

[Strategic Command personnel recognised](#)

[in New Year's Honours List](#)

Help us improve GOV.UK

To help us improve GOV.UK, we'd like to know more about your visit today. We'll send you a link to a feedback form. It will take only 2 minutes to fill in. Don't worry we won't send you spam or share your email address with anyone.

Email address

Send me the survey

[Letter from Michelle Donelan to higher education providers](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content]A letter from Michelle Donelan MP, Minister of State for Universities, to higher education providers about students' return in Spring 2021.