

Scottish Secretary responds to August Labour Market Statistics

News story

As new figures from the ONS show Scottish unemployment at a record low, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack says the UK Government is continuing to help create and support jobs through investment in communities.



Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

Today's labour market figures show positive signs for Scotland. Unemployment has fallen over the last year to a historic low and there are more people on the payroll.

The best way to continue growing our economy in the long-term is to get even more people into well-paid, highly-skilled jobs as we know that people are better off in work than on benefits. However, we also know people are worried right now about the rising cost of living and that's why we're providing the most vulnerable households with an extra £1200 of direct support through our £37bn package of support, while continuing to help all households with their bills.

Alongside this, the UK Government continues to drive forward investment in communities to create and support jobs, helping level up opportunity from our biggest towns and cities to our most remote villages.

Background

Figures from the ONS show unemployment at 3.2 per cent in Scotland, down 1.1 p.p. since the same time last year. Scotland's employment rate is at 75.4 per cent, an increase of 1.2 p.p. over the last year.

DataConnect22 starts soon!

Taking place on 26-30 September, DataConnect is back! [Register now](#) for the free online conference that's for everyone working in the public sector and is all about Data.

DataConnect22 brings together people and data stories from across the public sector. Join us for presentations, workshops, show and tells, and "community meet-ups" to share stories about data, connect with other colleagues working with data across government, and inspire collaboration to create better data and increase data skills across the public sector.

Last year thousands of colleagues from across the country registered for DataConnect21. Together, we covered topics from data standards to data science, from maturity to metadata, and everything in between... We were educated and enlightened by participants and speakers from all over the public and third sector, including:

- Department for Work and Pensions
- Office for National Statistics
- Central Digital and Data Office
- Department for International Trade
- Scottish Government
- Environment Agency
- Open Data Institute
- HM Revenue & Customs
- DAMA UK

About DataConnect22

DataConnect22 is a fully online, free conference to celebrate data in the UK public sector. It is jointly organised by the Government Data Quality Hub and the Central Digital and Data Office.

Sign up to attend the conference on [our website](#) and use the calendar find sessions that you would like to join.

You'll find a variety of session formats from presentations, to interactive workshops and roundtables, to networking events led by colleagues from across the public sector. Sessions already cover a huge range of topics, such as applications of Natural Language Processing for policy delivery, aligning the Government Data Maturity Model with strategic drivers, and opportunities to network informally at a Coffee Connect session.

Can I organise my own DataConnect22 session?

Want to tell your own data story? There's still time to bring your own session!

Find our more [detailed information for speakers](#) on the DataConnect22 website. Then [sign up to our mailing list](#) to get all the information about attending this year's conference, and to express your interest to host a session.

Any questions?

Email us at dataconnect@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk or join one of our [lunchtime drop in sessions](#) which will be held from 12:00-13:00 on Tuesdays.

Independent Veterans Advisor to UK Ministers visits Veterans UK

News story

Mr David Richmond CBE, an ex-serving member of the Armed Forces himself, visited Veterans UK last week and met with staff from multiple business areas.



David Richmond talking with Veterans UK staff

Mr Richmond was given a tour of the compensation operational teams and met with staff that help administer the schemes. Mr Richmond also met with Armed Forces and Veterans Services deputy heads and the communication and engagement teams to find out about the ongoing work Veterans UK is doing to improve customer service.

Mr Richmond said:

Veterans UK has a touch point with every veteran of the UK Armed Forces and will be pivotal in delivering the government's vision to make the UK the best place in the world to be a veteran. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the team at Norcross and was struck by their deep commitment and desire to do a great job. Ministers must ensure now that they give the Vets UK team the tools they need to deliver that great service and the current digitisation programme will be vital to that.

We look forward to seeing Mr Richmond in future visits.

David Richmond talking with Veterans UK operational staff

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[Regulator opens inquiry into legal charity over concerns about the continued involvement of a disqualified trustee](#)

Press release

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into JAFLAS (1142202), after concerns that a disqualified individual was still acting as a trustee.



JAFLAS provides free legal advice to those experiencing financial hardship.

The Commission's engagement began when a former trustee of the charity, Dr Alan Blacker, was automatically disqualified from acting as a trustee or a senior manager. However, as of July 2022, Dr Blacker was still listed as a

director of the charity and as being a person of significant control on Companies House records (the charity is a charitable company and is therefore also registered with Companies House).

The inquiry will examine the administration, governance and management of the Charity and in particular:

- whether a disqualified individual has continued to play a role in the charity – acting whilst disqualified has both criminal and civil consequences
- the trustees' response to the automatic disqualification of a trustee and their decision-making regarding that individual's continued involvement in the charity
- whether the charity's objects are being met and the charity is operating for the public benefit
- the trustees' compliance with their legal obligations for the content, preparation and submission of the charity's accounts, and other information and or returns.

The Commission may extend the scope of the inquiry if additional issues emerge.

Notes to Editors

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.
2. The Commission has not made any conclusions and the opening of the inquiry is not a finding of wrongdoing.
3. Individuals who are automatically disqualified from trusteeship can apply to the Commission for a waiver. Dr Blacker applied for such waiver, and was rejected. He appealed this rejection to the Charity Tribunal, and lost that appeal.
4. The charity does not have an official connection with HM Armed Forces.

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jHub Fellowship Scheme: “Connecting world class technology and talent to Defence”

News story

Callum, Chief Operating Officer at jHub and manager of the jHub X Team, shares his insights on making innovation in defence a reality.



When I speak to friends outside of work now and again, we'll talk about what we do and when I say 'connecting world class technology and talent to defence' they say: 'That sounds awesome!'

Callum has been working at jHub for three years and, in his words, it's the best role he's had in defence. As Chief Operating Officer, Callum manages the jHub X Team which are responsible for the special forces projects within Strategic Command Innovation.

I really love it, it's an enthusiastic place to be. Everyone is incredibly forward leaning, everyone cares, and is incredibly passionate about what they do.

The jHub is made up of people from all backgrounds and this contributes to, what Callum describes as, a matrix of diversity across the organisation.

The mix between civil service and armed forces is evident throughout, and despite the challenges the two worlds combining sometimes presents, it's the numerous positives that Callum really enjoys:

I'm a civil servant but I spend more time with my military counterparts, and I personally get a lot out of it because I'm seeing the world through their eyes. I think the jHub is better for

it.

The whole-force feel of the jHub and the host of backgrounds and experiences on offer, means working collaboratively to complete a task is more pleasure than chore.

When I'm in the office I've got a team all around me. I can bring together people from a range of experiences and we can run together on a project, collaborating and really making an impact.

With three-years under his belt, Callum is more than qualified to recommend jHub and ends our chat with a sincere:

I couldn't recommend it more. It's great.

You can find more information about working for the jHub and their new Innovation Fellowship by reading the [Innovation Fellowship Launches](#) article.

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