

Reappointment of Professor Nicholas Hopkins as Law Commissioner for property, family and trust law

News story

The Secretary of State today (27 May 2020) announced the re-appointment of Professor Nicholas Hopkins as Law Commissioner for property, family and trust law.



Professor Nicholas Hopkins has been reappointed as Law Commissioner for property, family and trust law for a 5 year term from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2025.

Professor Hopkins is an academic of over 25 years standing, whose publishing portfolio includes co-authorship of 2 leading textbooks on land law for Oxford University Press. He is an honorary bencher of Middle Temple and an academic member of the Property Bar Association and the Property Litigation Association. He has led the Commission's work across a range of property and family law projects including its work on Making a Will, Surrogacy, Weddings, leasehold enfranchisement, commonhold, and the Land Registration Act.

The Law Commission was created by the Law Commissions Act 1965 with the role of keeping under review the law of England and Wales with a view to its systematic development and reform. The Law Commission promotes the reform of the law to make it clearer, more modern and more accessible. The Commission's projects bring real benefits to the public, businesses or other organisations affected by old, complex and out-of-date law.

Reappointments to the Law Commission are made by the Secretary of State for Justice and are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. This re-appointment has been made in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Professor Nicholas Hopkins has not declared any political activity.

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1. 27 May 2020

First published.

No surprises

[I wrote last month](#) about how health and care data is being used to tackle the coronavirus COVID-19 epidemic. I explained a little about what we've been doing during this time to support proportionate uses of people's data to tackle the pandemic. And I emphasised the importance of openness about what is happening with data in order to maintain public trust.

Since then we've continued to work with a range of other organisations and individuals to try and achieve those aims. We've advised on protections for new data collections, on communications to the public, on guidance for staff and volunteers, and more.

Two of the members of [my advisory panel](#) have been representing the National Data Guardian on the [NHS COVID-19 App Data Ethics Advisory Board \(EAB\)](#). This is a group which is advising NHSX about steps it should take to ensure that the NHS COVID-19 app will be trustworthy. We've worked alongside other members of the group to try to ask the questions that we believe are critical – exactly what the data will and won't be used for, how far the data will be anonymised, how well the app will work, who will have access to the data and for how long, how the public will be informed and enabled to make choices.

The EAB presented a set of six principles to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and we're pleased to see that [the letter presenting these principles](#) and the [Government response](#) has been published. This is an important and welcome step forward in transparency.

There has understandably been a great deal of public interest in this app. The app is a tool which has potential, as part of a wider test and trace programme, to help people live more safely and under fewer restrictions. We all have a stake in its success and that will be helped by open engagement about the principles behind its development and the choices that are to be made.

The importance of there being no surprises for the public about the use of their data has long been a theme threaded through my work. This has run through work with my advisory panel to consider the role that the legal concept of 'reasonable expectations' should play in shaping the circumstances under which health and care data may be shared legitimately. We've been looking at this for more than two years, and our work has encompassed

[articles](#), [seminars](#), [a citizens' jury](#), discussions among the NDG panel, and engagement with stakeholders. It has been influenced by [academic work](#) led by two NDG panel members, Dr Mark Taylor and Professor James Wilson.

As a result, we are proposing to create an eighth Caldicott Principle to add to [the existing seven Caldicott Principles](#). It would remind those using and sharing data of 'no surprises', of the importance of considering and informing people's expectations to promote understanding and agreement about its uses.

The Caldicott Principles were [first published in 1997](#) as six good practice guidelines recommended for application by the NHS when confidential information is used. Senior individuals responsible for ensuring the Principles were upheld in their organisations were appointed in the NHS and later in social care and other sectors. They became known as Caldicott Guardians and there are now more than 18,000 across England helping their organisations ensure that information is used legally, ethically and appropriately. [A review in 2013](#) led to the creation of a seventh principle. It made clear that the duty to share information can be as important as the duty to protect patient confidentiality.

So we've been talking with a range of stakeholders about the Caldicott Principles over the last few months. We've had feedback that the existing Principles remain useful and relevant. We've heard that during this epidemic, when data needs to be shared in new ways or more quickly than usual, the Principles are more important than ever to provide a simple, practical summary for staff, patients and those seeking social care about how information may be used. And we've been told that the role of the Caldicott Guardian continues to be valuable, complementing other roles, such as the Senior Information Risk Officer and the Data Protection Officer, with responsibilities for data.

We believe that our proposed eighth principle would be highly relevant now, when maintaining public trust for the use of data is critical. If it were not for the epidemic, we would have launched a full public consultation, accompanied by workshops for members of the public to have their say. The consultation would cover proposed minor changes to the wording of the existing Caldicott Principles to ensure they remain up-to-date, the new eighth Principle and a proposal that the NDG uses [her statutory powers](#) in order to issue guidance about organisations appointing Caldicott Guardians to uphold the Caldicott Principles.

We've delayed the launch of that consultation while we, and others we work with, have been concentrating on the COVID-19 response. But we are also thinking ahead to the time after the current crisis. Some of the temporary data sharing arrangements will have to end. What is appropriate during a public health crisis to meet the overriding need to protect the public against a dangerous disease may not be appropriate when the danger recedes. However, some of the changes that were expedited by the impetus to improve data sharing rapidly may be very beneficial and should be maintained. There must be careful consideration of which of the temporary measures cease, and which are continued. We look forward to contributing to that conversation.

We've decided to launch our consultation later in the summer, and to extend the period that it's open to allow colleagues busy with COVID-19 activities more time to respond. We hope that this will allow both members of the public and health and care professionals, to help us develop our new set of Principles and guidance in time to inform the conversation about data sharing once the crisis is resolved.

[Call for project proposals to carry out research into coronavirus \(COVID-19\) impact on Ukraine](#)

The British Embassy Kyiv is now accepting project proposals from organisations (hereinafter – the implementer) to implement the “Identifying and understanding secondary implications of COVID-19 on conflict and stability in Ukraine” project.

Background

The UK remains committed to supporting Ukraine and its people en route to democratic development, stability and prosperity. We are funding a range of peacebuilding and conflict management projects, alongside assistance to enable Ukraine to deliver key reforms and strengthen democratic institutions.

The outbreak of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic poses additional challenges and risks for Ukraine. Understanding how people and the state could be affected as a result of emerging secondary implications of COVID-19 is crucial in order to mitigate those risks and identify implications on conflict and stability in Ukraine.

The key audience for this project is the British Embassy Kyiv who will be responding to new evidence and analysis by adapting existing conflict and stability initiatives, as well as developing new ones. The Embassy will seek to share the analysis with other donors in Ukraine and the Ukrainian government stakeholders.

Scope of Work

The project is expected to deliver the following:

Outcome:

- Greater understanding of the emerging medium to longer term secondary implications of COVID-19 on conflict and stability in Ukraine. This will enable responsive, context specific policy and programme decisions.

Outputs:

- The implementer is expected to deliver a rolling evidence-based analysis highlighting the medium to longer term implications of COVID-19 on areas relating to conflict and stability in Ukraine. The final methodology and structure of the products will be agreed with the successful implementer. A proposed list of products includes:
 - Peace and Stability Tracker – a flexible product that provides a snapshot of areas of concern, trends, risks and opportunities for greater stability. It will provide an easy to understand overview of all strands of analysis and help aid the prioritisation and focus of below analytical products
 - Rolling Conflict and Stability Analysis and summary document using a mixed method approach that highlights meaningful findings that will inform recommendations on mitigating and addressing the negative secondary implications of COVID-19 on conflict and instability in Ukraine. Identifying any opportunities for future UK engagement and programming
 - Deep Dives will look at priority areas in more detail. They will likely be a short (10 page) case study focussing on a certain thematic area highlighted during previous rolling analysis. It will allow a greater focus on a certain area of interest that will inform adaptation of existing programming or development of new initiatives.

Proposed table of products and delivery schedule:

1. Peace and Stability Tracker	End July 2020 then updated monthly
2. First Analysis + Summary	End August 2020
3. Rolling Analysis + Summary	November 2020
4. Deep Dive*	December 2020
5. Rolling Analysis + Summary	February 2021
6. Deep Dive*	March 2021

Products should be produced in English with flexible budgeting for translation into Ukrainian

- details will be agreed with the successful implementer

Themes to be considered

The following themes should be addressed in project proposals with specific analytical areas to be agreed with successful implementer:

- implications of COVID-19 on conflict drivers in the east of Ukraine
- implications of COVID-19 on nationwide stability and regional resilience
- implications of COVID-19 on political stability
- gendered implications of COVID-19 in Ukraine

Requirements

To be eligible, the proposals must:

- demonstrate extensive experience in research and/or evidence based analysis in Ukraine
- propose a clear research plan that sets out appropriate data collection and analysis methods to deliver robust findings within the constraints of the operating context
- understand the specific political, economic, and historical background of Ukraine's conflict. Identify the risks of instability and peacebuilding activity, both in the east and more broadly across the whole of Ukraine
- be legally able to carry out the activities indicated in the bid
- demonstrate sufficient operational, human resources and expert capacities (local and/or international) to deliver expected results

Timeline

The expected project start date is 01 July 2020. The project duration is nine months with the possibility to extend.

Proposal guidance

- The selected implementer must be able to receive project funding in GBP to an existing GBP account or open a GBP bank account for the project.
- Estimated budget is between £50,000 and £100,000. The final amount will be agreed with the selected implementor based on their proposal.
- Interested parties are required to submit the following documents: [CSSF Project Proposal Template](#) (ODT, 43.2KB), [CSSF Activity-Based Budget Template](#) (ODS, 13.4KB)
- Potential implementers may combine efforts and submit their project proposals in consortium of several organisations (implementers). Those could be both international and local organisations.

Assessment

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Points
Methodology (clear research approach, alignment with the expected outcome and outputs, realistic delivery approach and schedule, monitoring and evaluation and complementarity with existing analysis)	50
Stringent risk matrix	10
Value for money	10
Conflict and gender sensitivity	15
Communication and visibility	5
Implementer's background and relevant experience (a brief history and examples of similar projects undertaken)	5
Capacity to deliver (including team composition)	10

Language capabilities, with an emphasis on English language	5
Alignment of the project budget with requirements and recommendations listed in the CSSF activity-based budget (ABB) template	30
Total	140 points

Receipt of project proposals

1. The submission deadline for bids is at 23:59 (Kyiv time) on 10 June 2020. Late submissions will not be considered. Proposals can be submitted at any time up to the indicated deadline. British Embassy Kyiv is not responsible for non-receipt. Proposals submitted before that deadline will remain unopened until then.
2. When submitting, please indicate "Secondary implications of COVID-19" in the subject line of your e-mail.
3. Project proposals must be submitted using the attached forms only (CSSF Project Proposal and CSSF Activity-Based Budget). Please make sure your files do not exceed 5 MB in size. They must be free from any form of virus or corrupted contents, otherwise you might not be able to submit your proposal.
4. Project proposals must be submitted to the following email: CSSF.Programme@fco.gov.uk. Bidders must upload documents in standard Microsoft Office formats (Word, Excel).
5. Only shortlisted bidders will be notified via email before or on 15 June 2020. The selected bidders will be asked to complete a Due Diligence Assessment (form will be sent to them) and will be invited for an online interview on 19 June 2020.
6. British Embassy Kyiv seeks to finalise the contract award with the selected implementer by 01 July 2020.

Key dates

Submission deadline for bids	23:59 (Kyiv time) on 10 June 2020
Notification of shortlisted bidders	15 June 2020
Shortlisted bidders complete Due Diligence Assessment (DDA)	By 14:00 (Kyiv time) on 18 June 2020
Online interview with shortlisted bidders	19 June 2020
Project start date	01 July 2020

Contacts

CSSF Programme team: CSSF.Programme@fco.gov.uk

Questions should be submitted to CSSF.Programme@fco.gov.uk by 09:00 (Kyiv time) on 02 June 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please find additional information about this call in this note [FAQ](#)

[coronavirus impact on Ukraine project](#) (PDF, 492KB, 2 pages).

Notes

Bidding is competitive and it is likely that only one selected project will receive funding. The British Embassy Kyiv reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant(s) of the grounds of decision making. Due to the volume of bids expected we will not be able to provide feedback on unsuccessful bids.

[Ian Ackerley reappointed as NS&I Chief Executive](#)

News story

Ian Ackerley reappointed as Chief Executive of NS&I for a three year term.



Ian Ackerley has been reappointed as Chief Executive of NS&I (National Savings & Investments), as of 13 March 2020, by HM Treasury. Ian's reappointment will be for a term of three years.

NS&I is one of the largest savings organisations in the UK with over £175 billion invested. Its products offer 100% capital security because NS&I is backed by HM Treasury.

Ian was appointed Chief Executive of NS&I in February 2017. Immediately before joining NS&I, Ian was at Barclays, which he joined in 2011 as Director of Investments, and where he was responsible for Barclays' UK retail investment business.

Ian has over 20 years' experience in the UK retail financial services industry. His previous roles include Managing Director of Investments and Pensions at Virgin Money, Managing Director of Sun Life International, and working as a consultant with McKinsey & Company.

Notes

- All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Ian Ackerley has confirmed that he has not engaged in any political activity in the last five years.

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[Another leap forward in returning salmon to Yorkshire Dales](#)

The Developing the Natural Aire (DNAire) project will see fish passes installed at the last four major obstructions blocking access up the river to the Dales.

Work to install a fish pass at Kirkstall weir has got under way with the building of a pontoon bridge across the river and a cofferdam.

This is being done in parallel with the construction of a fish pass at Saltaire weir, which began earlier this year.

The final two obstacles – Armley and Newlay weirs – will be made passable to fish later this year, with this part of the project expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Once complete it will allow passage for salmon up to spawning habitat in the upper Aire and its tributaries for the first time in more than 150 years.

It will also benefit other migratory fish, such as sea trout, eels and lamprey, as well as in-river coarse fish.

The £2.7 million project is led by the Environment Agency, delivered in partnership with Aire Rivers Trust and Yorkshire Water, and part funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Yorkshire Water and Craven District Council.

Martin Slater, of the Environment Agency, said:

The safety of our staff, partners and the communities we work in remains a priority for us. We are following the latest Covid-19 guidance on safe working on construction sites from Public Health England.

As well as the re-opening the River Aire to fish migration, this project is an amazing opportunity to engage people with the river and reconnect them with its fascinating stories and the life within it.

The river's heritage needs a sustainable future at the heart of communities and there is an opportunity to empower local people to take ownership and action to help care for this shared heritage into the future.

The River Aire is one of the longest rivers in Yorkshire, starting at Malham Tarn and flowing to meet the River Ouse near the Humber estuary.

In common with the many of the UK's rivers, the Aire was adversely affected by the industrial revolution, both in terms of water quality and fragmentation of the watercourse.

Along with other industrialised rivers in the county it became instrumental in the making of modern Yorkshire; a place famed for cloth, coal and steel.

This industrial activity helped to shape Yorkshire as it is today, leaving behind a legacy of buildings, communities and stories that are part of the fabric of the communities surrounding the river.

But by 1840 it was said the River Aire was a "reservoir of poison, carefully kept for the breeding of a pestilence in the town".

However, over the last 40 years, with the decline of the textile industry, investment by Yorkshire Water, tighter environmental legislation and pressure from interested groups, the water quality has steadily improved.

Dr Ben Gillespie, Yorkshire Water river resilience technical specialist, said:

Yorkshire Water is a proud partner of DNAire. We know that these projects benefit both the environment and our customers. Salmon, eel and other migratory fish will once again be able to access their historic spawning sites and complete their life cycles.

We expect this reinvigoration of the natural world to open up and enhance the economy of the Aire corridor, through increased tourism and angling opportunities.

On top of this, DNAire isn't just about fish passes, and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of the community engagement and educational schemes planned and delivered by the Aire Rivers Trust.

Ultimately, DNAire will capitalise on historic investment in the Aire catchment by Yorkshire Water, and we look forward to seeing the results through working together in this Partnership project.

Aire Rivers Trust chairman Geoff Roberts said:

We are delighted to be part of this major project restoring the Aire to its former glory. Bringing salmon back to the river, and reconnecting the ecology for the benefit of many other fish species, has long been a dream of the Trust.

This project will catalyse a whole new interest in one of Yorkshire's greatest rivers and we are already working with community groups along the river to regenerate interest.

Councillor Simon Myers, Craven District Council's lead member for Enterprising Craven, said:

We're delighted that work has started at Kirkstall weir on this exciting project. Craven District Council chose to support the development of this project with £150,000 from our New Homes Bonus Infrastructure Reserve, because we believe it will benefit communities and help create safe walking and cycling routes, as well as boosting tourism in the area.

George Hinton

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