

Fiona Dickie on becoming the Pubs Code Adjudicator

Today I step up to become the Pubs Code Adjudicator at a time when the pubs sector faces an unparalleled threat from COVID-19 and the livelihoods of tied tenants are on the line. It is vital that my focus is on upholding the principles of the Pubs Code through this emergency. It is now more important than ever that tenants have the benefit of their statutory rights and protections, and that the regulated pub-owning businesses (POBs) are adhering to the Pubs Code principles of fairness and transparency.

Directors of all the POBs regulated by the PCA have signed a declaration which stops the clock on many important Code rights. These arrangements ensure that these rights are preserved and protected, but do not stop any tenant from taking any available Code step to access their rights.

It is important that the industry as a whole has a safe journey through the difficult days the country is facing. We all want to see a strong tenanted pub sector at the other end, and this means taking an intelligent approach to regulation. The PCA is here to assist the journey. However, I am acutely aware of the stress and uncertainty tied pub tenants are facing at this time, and of the potential for a long-term impact on their businesses and their relationships with their POB of large rental debts from the period of lockdown. My involvement in promoting Code rights as the industry pulls itself out of the impact of the outbreak will be sustained for as long as it takes

I am expecting POBs to make themselves accountable for how they are supporting, and can support, their tenants to ensure they survive the outbreak, by being transparent and fair about their approaches. This includes being consistent and documenting their conversations with individual TPTs, in line with Pubs Code requirements. I understand that tenants may be feeling financial and mental strain in these uncertain times, and this makes it all the more important that POBs take care to ensure that they behave towards them in ways which cannot be received as oppressive or unreasonable.

While my immediate priorities include ensuring the POBs are complying with the Pubs Code and their individual declarations and are supporting their tenants through the emergency and as they return to trading, I am also focusing on wider priorities around the promotion and upholding of the Code.

I will be working with the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on the delivery of the statutory review of the Pubs Code with the aim of supporting and strengthening Code rights. In addition, I will be leading on concluding the investigation against Star Pubs and Bars.

It is critical that tenants are aware of the rights and how to access them and so I have made efforts to raise and maintain awareness of the Pubs Code among tenants and the wider industry a personal priority. My team and I will

be working to adapt different methods of communications during this time to make them more accessible. More information will be published on the PCA website and we will be launching social media channels to provide more regular updates.

I was new to the pub trade 30 months ago when I took up post as Deputy Pubs Code Adjudicator, but I am not now. I have worked closely with the sector and understand the challenges of the role, but I know the PCA now needs to make a difference at an extraordinary time.

I intend to be clear and frank with the POBs about my expectations that they deliver on their statutory obligations. I will be a strong champion for the rights and protections Parliament has given to tied tenants through the Pubs Code.

As PCA my objective will be to drive the progress forward and ensure that tied tenants can emerge from today's emergency and prosper tomorrow.

[Tax credits customers will continue to receive payments even if working fewer hours due to COVID-19](#)

News story

People who can't work their normal hours because of coronavirus (COVID-19) will still receive their usual tax credits payments.



The government has confirmed that people who can't work their normal hours because of coronavirus (COVID-19) will still receive their usual tax credits payments.

Those working reduced hours due to coronavirus or those being furloughed by their employer will not have their tax credits payments affected if they are

still employed or self-employed.

These customers do not need to contact HMRC about this change. We will treat customers as working their normal hours until the [Job Retention Scheme](#) and [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#) close, even if they are not using either scheme.

We'll use the information we hold about the number of hours they normally work.

Customers can still report any other changes in income, childcare and hours in the normal way. However, they must tell us if they or their partner lose their job, are made redundant or cease trading.

Customers can continue to claim Working Tax Credit and be treated as though they are working their normal hours, but they should check GOV.UK to see if [additional or alternative support](#) is available based on their personal and financial circumstances.

Published 4 May 2020

[Joint statement on reconciliation processes in Jubaland](#)

World news story

International partners signed a joint statement welcoming the dialogue between the Jubaland administration and the leadership of the Jubaland Council for Change.



Joint Press Statement

The below statement was signed by United Kingdom, Austria, Belgium, Denmark,

European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United States and the United Nations.

We, the undersigned international partners welcome the dialogue between the Jubaland administration and the leadership of the Jubaland Council for Change which culminated in a reconciliation agreement signed on 23 April.

Disputed electoral outcomes in Jubaland and other Federal Member States over the past 18 months underscore the importance of credible electoral processes in which Somalis may choose their leaders in accordance with the Provisional Federal Constitution and Federal Member State constitutions.

We encourage all Jubaland stakeholders, including political leaders, communities and traditional leaders to build upon the 23 April agreement, implement the follow-up steps, and continue their constructive dialogue.

We also welcome the willingness expressed by the Jubaland stakeholders to engage the Federal Government of Somalia, and that Jubaland is ready for full collaboration with the Federal Government. International partners urge the Jubaland administration and the FGS leadership to peacefully resolve their continuing differences through dialogue, and to de-escalate the ongoing tensions in Gedo region.

We stand ready to provide the necessary support to the FGS and all FMS leaders as they strive for reconciliation and cooperation to advance national interests. In this regard, partners also welcome other recent reconciliation initiatives, in particular in South West State and Galmudug, aimed at forming inclusive, unified state-level administrations.

We urge that these efforts continue throughout Somalia for the benefit of the people. We call on all Somalis to foster unity and reconciliation as they begin the Holy month of Ramadan while facing not only the unprecedented menace from COVID-19 but also the continuing threat from terrorism.

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COVID-19: ACCEA proposals agreed by DHSC and Welsh Government ministers

News story

An update following the suspension of the 2020 competition for new and renewed national Clinical Excellence Awards.



Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Welsh Government ministers have agreed the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards' (ACCEA) proposals following suspension of the 2020 round.

They have agreed that:

- applications for the 2020 national Clinical Excellence Awards competition should remain suspended
- consultants and academic GPs unable to submit a renewal application in 2020 (whose awards are due to expire 1 April 2021) will not be disadvantaged – their awards will be extended by one year
- ACCEA should keep plans for new applications under review based on the ongoing impact of coronavirus (COVID-19)

ACCEA and DHSC and Welsh Government ministers have listened to advice from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Royal Colleges, employers and applicants in making these decisions.

ACCEA will further update award-holders and stakeholders on plans for the 2020 and 2021 national Clinical Excellence Awards competitions after the pandemic has subsided.

Consultants and academic GPs who were due to renew their awards in the 2020 competition should [log in to the online system](#) to ensure that we have your up-to-date email address.

We will contact you to explain how to extend your awards by one year.

Response to the ACMD recommendation: Epidyolex

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.