

COVID-19: A statement from our Chief Executive, Eric Robinson

The Chief Executive of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Eric Robinson has issued the following statement:

DBS recognises the vital role it has to play in responding to this national crisis. Employers within the healthcare profession are starting to recruit huge numbers of staff and volunteers to help them deal with the significant demand. The role of DBS is to ensure we provide those employers and voluntary organisations with adequate information, to enable them to make safer recruitment decisions.

Measures have been taken and systems put in place that will ensure we prioritise applications for DBS checks for those who are assisting in responding to this national emergency, making sure where possible, checks are carried out within 24 hours and also checking the Barred lists to make sure applicants are not already barred from working in regulated activity.

We will continue to work with the Home Office and other Government departments to provide them with as much support as possible and we believe with the measures we have taken, we will be in a position to meet the increase in demand for the foreseeable future.

COVID-19: Call for rapid sanitising technology for ambulances



The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) is looking for rapid sanitising technology to speed up the time it takes to clean ambulances to help in the national effort against Coronavirus and save lives.

It can take up to 45 minutes to clean ambulances once they have transported a patient suspected of having COVID-19.

Some ambulance cleaning centres can also be some distance away from their base or hospitals – adding strain and delay on an already busy and pressurised service as the vehicles cannot be used until cleaning is completed.

DASA has today launched a new Innovation Focus Area as part of its [Open Call for Innovation](#) seeking industry's help to identify rapid sanitising technology solutions that can be demonstrated in a live trial on an ambulance.

Solutions must be suitable for rapid deployment to clean public sector vehicles following the transport of patients with the COVID-19 virus.

Ideally solutions will have wider applicability than just ambulances, which might include, buses, trains, and other blue light services or even in hospital wards/rooms.

Solutions which are mobile, allow ease of operation and maintenance, robust and reliable are of particular interest.

[More details can be found here.](#)

DASA is working in conjunction with the Welsh Government, The Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Centre of Excellence, the Welsh Ambulance Service, Innovate UK, and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

Published 25 March 2020

Last updated 2 April 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 2 April 2020

Removed line suggesting 1 April end date for this Innovation Focus Area as it has rolled into the new cycle of Open Call.

2. 25 March 2020

First published.

Appointments to the Attorney General's Public International Law A, B and C panels



The Attorney General is seeking to appoint new members to three of her panels of junior counsel, the Public International Law (PIL) A, B and C panels, to undertake civil and EU work for government departments.

Public International Law A, B and C Panels

Membership of the PIL panels is open to barristers, solicitors, Scottish advocates and legally qualified academics qualified in a jurisdiction in the UK.

Members of the PIL A Panel will deal with the most complex public international law matters and, when appearing as an advocate, will often appear against QCs. Those who are interested in being appointed to this panel will be of similar experience to the London A Panel, in that they will generally have had in excess of 10 years' practice experience.

Members of the PIL B Panel deal with substantial cases but which are not in general as complex as those handled by the A panel. Members of the B Panel will often provide (but not exclusively) the A Panel members of the future and so will be expected to show the potential to join the A Panel. Those who are applying to join this panel will generally have had between 5 and 10 years' practice experience.

Prospective members of the PIL C Panel will be expected to have at least two years' practice experience by 2 April 2020 (starting from end of their second six months' pupillage for barristers, or the end of their training contract for solicitors). Those appointed to the C panel will often provide (but not exclusively) the PIL A and PIL B Panel members of the future and so will be

expected to show the potential to join those panels.

Application

Applicants are advised to read the [information for applicants](#) (MS Word Document, 112KB). All applicants must complete the [equal opportunities monitoring form](#) (MS Word Document, 91KB)

Applicants for the PIL A panel are required to complete the [PIL A panel application form](#) (MS Word Document, 118KB) and to use the [PIL A panel reference form](#) (MS Word Document, 54KB)

Applicants for the PIL B panel are required to complete the [PIL B panel application form](#) (MS Word Document, 119KB) and to use the [PIL B panel reference form](#) (MS Word Document, 54KB)

Applicants for the PIL C panel are required to complete the [PIL C panel application form](#) (MS Word Document, 119KB) and to use the [PIL C panel reference form](#) (MS Word Document, 54KB)

Completed applications must be emailed to PanelCounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk by noon on Thursday 2 April 2020. Please address any enquiries to PanelCounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk

Published 18 February 2020

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1. 25 March 2020

Updated with instructions to email rather than send hard copies, and converted .odt to .doc

2. 18 February 2020

First published.

[Rogue emergency services publisher wound-up](#)

KMG Promotions Limited was wound up in the public interest in the High Court in Manchester before Deputy District Judge Watkin on 23 March 2020. The Official Receiver has been appointed as the Liquidator.

In considering the petition, the court heard that KMG Promotions Ltd was incorporated in November 2016 and traded as a publisher with registered offices in the Wirral.

Since the company began trading, KMG Promotions Ltd self-published two different publications: Crime Awareness magazine, and Scorch, a fire-prevention magazine.

As a source of income, KMG Promotions Ltd offered prospective clients advertising space, on the understanding that a copy of the magazine was going to be sent to a police and fire station, local to the client. Prospective clients would also receive their own copy of the magazine they advertised in.

Clients, however, began to complain about KMG Promotions' activities before the Insolvency Service conducted confidential enquiries into the company's activities.

Investigators uncovered that 771 customers had paid for adverts. But only 340 adverts appeared in the magazines that were available to the investigators and the number of magazines printed were short of the client's expectations.

Further enquiries found that the company made misleading claims to potential advertisers, including the volume of printing and distribution, KMG Promotions Ltd's charitable status or not-for-profit business, as well as previous business relationships with the advertisers.

The company falsely informed clients they were calling from the real emergency services and also pursued advertisers using aggressive sales tactics.

Scott Crighton, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

As part of our enquiries, we spoke to KMG Promotions' customers and none of them were satisfied with the level of service they received.

The company acted in an unscrupulous manner and thankfully the courts recognised the severity of their actions when they ordered for the publisher to be wound-up.

All public enquiries concerning the affairs of the company should be directed to the Office of the Official Receiver in Birkenhead, quoting LQD5840591, via: [Birkenhead.0R@insolvency.gov.uk](mailto:birkenhead.0R@insolvency.gov.uk).

KMG Promotions Ltd (Company number: 10492837) was incorporated on 23 November 2016. The company's registered office is at: 95 Greendale Road, Wirral, United Kingdom, CH62 4XE.

The petitions were presented under s124A of the Insolvency Act 1986 on 14 January 2020 at the High Court in Manchester.

Company Investigations, part of the Insolvency Service, uses powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). [Information about](#)

[how to complain about a live company.](#)

[Information about the work of the Insolvency Service.](#)

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

Written Ministerial Statement by the Secretary of State

On 22 January 2020, DCMS informed the House that my predecessor had issued a Public Interest Intervention Notice (PIIN) in respect of the acquisition by Daily Mail and General Trust (DMGT) of JPI Media Publications Ltd, and thus the i newspaper.

The PIIN triggered the requirement for the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to report to me on jurisdictional and competition matters, and for Ofcom to report on the following media public interest consideration:

the need for, to the extent that it is reasonable and practicable, a sufficient plurality of views in newspapers in each market for newspapers in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom.

I received the CMA and Ofcom reports on by the deadline of 13 March and have today published these on the gov.uk website.

I accept the CMA's findings that whilst it is, or may be, the case that a relevant merger situation has been created, the merger does not give rise to a realistic prospect of a substantial lessening of competition in any market.

I have also agreed with Ofcom that the merger does not raise concerns in relation to plurality of views in newspapers.

In light of this, and having considered representations submitted by interested parties in response to the PIIN, DCMS has written to the parties today confirming my decision not to refer the merger for a Phase 2 investigation.

The role of the Secretary of State in this process is quasi-judicial and procedures are in place to ensure that I act independently and have followed a process which is fair and impartial.