

[News story: Charity Commission staff engagement scores reach highest level in ten years](#)



We have published our results from the [2018 Civil Service people survey](#). This is the tenth annual cross Civil Service survey of employees' attitudes and experiences of working in the Civil Service, with 102 government departments and agencies participating.

Our 2018 engagement index reached 65%, an increase of 11% compared with 2017, reaching the highest level in ten years and in the top one third across the Civil Service. Other highlights include:

- almost 8 in 10 staff said that their work gave them a sense of personal accomplishment
- almost 7 in 10 said they were proud to tell others they worked at the Charity Commission
- 94% of staff said they were interested in their work at the Charity Commission

However despite these positive and improved results we are not complacent and will continue to look at ensuring staff are satisfied, motivated and happy in what they do.

Helen Stephenson, Chief Executive at the Charity Commission said:

I am delighted to see such positive results about our staff engagement – this year they are at the highest level in ten years and take us into the top third across the Civil Service. Our staff play such an integral part in our ability to regulate effectively and in pursuit of our purpose to ensure that charities can thrive and inspire trust to improve lives and strengthen society.

It is absolutely vital that we value their contribution and treat them with respect. These results show that our staff feel proud to work at the Commission, are driven by our purpose, and feel inspired and motivated in what they do – in turn, they motivate me

and my senior team. I am truly grateful to have a team that is such a credit to the Commission, and the Civil Service more broadly.

These are positive results but we will continue to listen and learn in order to improve the experience of our staff. Our workforce are at the heart of what we do and the ambitious [new purpose and strategy that we have set](#) – ensuring that they are able to develop, grow and take pride in what they do will remain a key focus of mine.

Published 28 January 2019

[News story: Accurate prescriptions for people in custody: apply for funding](#)

The process for collecting prescriptions for people entering police custody is complicated.

The police need consent from the individual to access their information from healthcare providers. Consent is typically given when individuals enter prison, with medication verified electronically.

However, this frequently clashes with the time people are transported between court and prison – from 5pm to 7pm – when medical and pharmacy services are closed, delaying the prescribing process.

Working with Innovate UK, the [Department of Health in Northern Ireland](#) has up to £1.25 million for projects that can ensure medication continuity for people entering custody.

This is a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition with funding provided by the GovTech Catalyst, which helps the public sector identify innovate technologies to improve public services.

Improving medication pathways

The competition is looking for ways to improve the time it takes to identify and get necessary medication to people entering custody.

It aims to improve the wellbeing of the person in custody and reduce the number of incidents on prison arrivals. This could include:

- earlier means of obtaining consent for treatment
- improving real-time communication sharing between the criminal justice

system and healthcare providers

- transferring information to healthcare services earlier, giving them more time to prepare

A 2-part competition

The competition will potentially run in 2 phases.

Phase 1 will award research and development (R&D) contracts to projects that can demonstrate the technical feasibility of an idea. Up to £250,000 including VAT is allocated to fund up to 5 projects.

Projects in phase 1 will get to work with potential end users at the following organisations:

Successful projects will be invited to apply in phase 2 to develop a prototype for field testing.

Up to £500,000 including VAT will be available for each contract. Phase 2 field tests will work with [Maghaberry Prison](#) and [Hydebank Wood College and Women's Prison](#).

Competition information

- the competition opens on 4 February 2019 and the deadline for registration is at midday on 13 February 2018
- organisations of any size are eligible to apply
- up to £250,000 including VAT is available in phase 1
- projects must start on 17 June 2019 and can last up to 5 months
- a [briefing event will be held in Belfast on 11 February 2019](#) where organisations can find out more about the competition and applying

[News story: Next-generation digital healthcare: apply for funding](#)

Advancing new and novel digital technologies can significantly improve outcomes for patients and reduce costs for healthcare providers.

Innovate UK, part of [UK Research and Innovation](#), has up to £5 million to invest in projects through the digital health technology catalyst – a programme that aims to accelerate the development of digital health innovations.

The competition is part of the [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#) to deliver leading-edge healthcare in the UK.

This £181 million fund will transform how we develop and manufacture medicines and other healthcare products, such as digital technologies, to get the right drugs and treatments to patients when they need them.

Using real-world data

This competition is supported by the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#) (NICE), which will provide successful projects with its real-world data advisory services, DataLab.

DataLab aims to connect expertise across the NHS and academia through the institute's data research. It is a collaboration between NICE, the University of Manchester and Health Innovation Manchester.

Successful applicants in the competition will be able to work with DataLab to get advice and consultancy across 4 main areas:

- the application and use of real-world data
- ensuring health data is secure
- how to evaluate digital health interventions
- additional scientific advice from NICE, and how to demonstrate the value of a project to the UK and international health systems

Advancing health care through digital solutions

Previous digital health technology catalyst winners include [Neurofenix](#), whose tool helps patients that have had a stroke to recover.

[Neurofenix video](#)

Better healthcare solutions

The competition is for collaborative research and development projects that span a variety of technologies, markets and healthcare needs and demonstrate the potential for significant innovation.

Projects must do one or more of the following:

- improve health and wellbeing
- transform care to improve quality
- control costs and enable change

Technologies could include:

- virtual and augmented reality
- artificial intelligence and machine learning
- the Internet of Things
- data analytics and security

Ideas could be for use in a clinical or non-clinical setting. This could include digital technologies to:

- support clinical decision-making
- improve access to healthcare, support treatment compliance or patient-led management
- improve the patient experience from disease prevention through to diagnosis, treatment, recovery and long-term care
- overcome privacy challenges with managing, sharing and exploiting data
- create significant improvements in quality, speed, costs and outcomes

Competition information

- the competition opens on 11 February 2019, and the deadline for applications is midday on 10 April 2019
 - to lead a project, you'll need to be a UK-based small or medium-sized business (SME)
 - SMEs can work alone or collaborate with others, including other businesses, NHS organisations, universities, research and technology organisations, public sector organisations or charities
 - total costs can be between £300,000 and £1 million
 - businesses could get up to 70% of their project costs
 - projects can last up to 18 months. They must start by 1 October 2019 and must be completed by 1 March 2021
-

Press release: Waste firm fined £510,000 for illegally storing tonnes of rubbish

In 2014 and 2015, Winters Haulage Limited used a site next to Royston Sewage Treatment Works (STW) on the Hertfordshire/Cambridgeshire border to illegally store thousands of tonnes of baled combustible waste known as refuse derived fuel (RDF), posing a significant fire risk.

Some waste was also buried at the site and stockpiled at another nearby location.

At Cambridge Magistrates' Court this week, District Judge Ken Sheraton said company director Liam Patrick Winters was "certainly reckless", ordering him to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work as part of a 12 month community order.

He was also ordered to pay £8,850 in costs. Judge Sheraton said Winters Haulage's actions were deliberate and the company had no systems in place to prevent the offences.

Of the £510,000 fine, £450,000 was the money saved or avoided by committing the offences. The company was also ordered to pay costs of £30,000.

After the hearing, Environment Agency team leader Phil Henderson said:

Illegally stockpiling thousands of tonnes of waste in this manner has potentially devastating impacts on the environment, communities and transport infrastructure.

This case highlights the growing problems being faced with waste across the country and the result in court today should reassure the public that the Environment Agency is committed to bringing waste criminals to justice.

Members of the public and those inside the waste industry who have knowledge of, or suspect illegal waste activity, are urged to come forward and report directly on 0800 807060 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

The Court heard that Winters, aged 41, was responsible for Winters Haulage Ltd (now in liquidation), a waste management company which was based at Hunting Gate, Hitchin. The company had operated at the Hitchin address under an environmental permit, but operated the Royston site without a permit, which is required by law.

When the Environment Agency told them to clear the site some of the waste was taken to a Biffa landfill site and some to the company's Hitchin site (one of two large waste transfer stations operated by the company at the time) but the necessary accompanying waste transfer notes were either absent or incorrect.

More waste was also left illegally at a nearby location known as Kings Ride, near Therfield, which was also not a permitted site.

It was later discovered that some of the baled waste, known as RDF, had been buried at the Royston site close to the STW.

Rebecca Vanstone, prosecuting for the Environment Agency, told the court that "burial of waste would never have been permitted". The site is above a sensitive chalk aquifer and landfilling waste can only be authorised under a specific permit which requires the site to be engineered to strict standards to protect the environment.

There was no evidence of contamination of the groundwater, Ms Vanstone told the court, but there would be a time delay while contaminants travelled to the groundwater so there was "a possibility of harm in the future".

Mitigating for Liam Winters, Mike Magee told the court that early in 2014 Seneca Environmental Solutions Ltd, which runs an RDF production facility in Wembley, indicated that it could offer Winters Haulage a service to deal with its baled waste for transfer to Europe.

However, Seneca was unable to take round bales as were produced by Winters at their Hitchin site. Winters used the Royston site to store the waste as a

temporary measure until the RDF contract "kicked in".

Mr Magee said "Mr Winters never intended to undermine the statutory regime".

The Environment Agency served a statutory notice on the company stating that the site should be cleared, however the company failed to comply, despite having 4 months to clear it.

Acting on information received, Environment Agency officers also visited a racehorse training site west of Royston known as King's Ride, near Therfield. They saw 6 long rows of green-wrapped bales in a field and estimated there to be 450 bales.

Some were ripped and revealed their contents to be mixed waste. The occupier and Winters Haulage were advised that the waste would have to be removed and the company later produced waste transfer notes stating that it had been taken to the company's Hitchin site.

During the investigation waste transfer notes for waste taken from Hitchin to Royston showed 60% was RDF, 30% was card and paper and 10% plastic.

However, Ms Vanstone told the court that "the waste was mixed waste and there were no bales found that contained separate waste".

RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel) is residual waste that is often used as a fuel and can contain plastics, cloth, materials, and treated and untreated wood and is commonly baled using plastic wrapping which can degrade during periods of storage. Potentially polluting liquid can leak out and pollute the environment. Discrepancies in waste transfer notes, the use of number plate recognition equipment to track lorry movements of waste and officer observations all led to the conclusion that the company was acting illegally.

Winters told investigating officers there were several clerical errors in relation to waste transfer notes which he had been unaware of. He said he did not know they needed a permit for the Royston site and did not think storing materials next to a sewage works was a bad place to store. He said there was no fire risk.

After that conversation the company still moved bales from the Royston site without transfer notes.

Officers became suspicious after the Royston site was finally cleared and the level of the land appeared to have changed, in some places by up to 1.5 metres. The ground was excavated and waste was discovered buried. In some areas landfill gas (hydrogen sulphide) was found.

It was also discovered that the chalk bedrock had been excavated by up to 3.1 metres.

Winters told officers that no waste was deliberately buried but that some may have been accidentally buried after some bales had split and the ground had been re-profiled to allow access due to the harsh weather conditions.

On behalf of Liam Winters Mr Magee told the court "it was never his instruction to bury the waste".

The court heard that the site had not yet been remediated and it was estimated to cost the landowner, Anglian Water Group, £1.9 million to clean the site up to its previous condition.

Cambridge Fire and Rescue Service assessed a risk of fire at the site and a plan was drawn up due to the risk of dense acrid fumes from a fire posing a threat to public safety.

A Cambridgeshire County Council Emergency Plan was created involving 11 public organisations as the site was within 2.5km of schools, nurseries, sheltered accommodation, children's homes, care and residential homes – all of which could have been at risk.

The risk of polluting the groundwater would have been moderate to high from firefighting water run-off. An Environment Agency analytical chemist concluded that toxic substances could have been produced by a fire.

Liam Winters pleaded guilty to:

- Between 10 September 2014 and 19 December 2015 on land adjacent to Royston Sewage Treatment Works, Royston, Cambridgeshire Winters Haulage Limited did, with your consent, connivance or attributable to neglect on your part as a director of the said company, operate a regulated facility, namely a waste operation for the deposit, storage and disposal of waste, without being authorised by an environmental permit granted under Regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. Contrary to Regulation 12(1)(a), 38(1)(a) and 41(1)(a) and (b) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.
- On or before 11 August 2015 on land at Kings Ride, The Thrift, Royston, Hertfordshire, Winters Haulage Limited did, with your consent or connivance or attributable to neglect on your part as a director of Winters Haulage Limited, deposit a quantity of controlled waste, namely baled refuse derived fuel waste, when there was not in force an Environmental Permit granted by the regulator pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 authorising the said deposit. Contrary to sections 33(1)(a), 33(6) and 157(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Between 10 September 2014 and 15 October 2015 Winters Haulage Limited failed to comply with the duty of care imposed by Section 34 (1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in that as a person that carries, keeps, treats and disposes of controlled waste, Winters Haulage Limited failed to take such measures as were reasonable in the circumstances on the transfer of such waste to provide a written description of the waste in accordance with Section 34(1)(c)(ii) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Regulation 35 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and such failure was due to your consent, connivance or attributable to your neglect as a director of Winters Haulage Limited. Contrary to section 34(1)(c)(ii), (5) (6) and 157(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Winters Haulage pleaded guilty to:

- Between 10 September 2014 and 19 December 2015 on land adjacent to Royston Sewage Treatment Works, Royston, Cambridgeshire you did operate a regulated facility, namely a waste operation for the deposit, storage and disposal of waste without being authorised by an environmental permit granted under Regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. Contrary to Regulation 12 and 38(1)(a) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.
- On or before 11 August 2015 on land at Kings Ride, The Thrift, Royston, Hertfordshire, you did deposit a quantity of controlled waste, namely baled refuse derived fuel waste, when there was not in force an Environmental Permit granted by the regulator pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 authorising the said deposit. Contrary to section 33(1)(a) and (6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Section 34(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as a person that carries, keeps, treats and disposes of controlled waste, in that you failed to take such measures as were reasonable in the circumstances on the transfer of such waste to provide a written description of the waste in accordance with Section 34(1)(c)(ii) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Regulation 35 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. Contrary to section 34(1)(c)(ii), (5) and (6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Press release: UK firms help Iraqi citizens access electricity with support from UK Government

- US \$1.02 billion in support for UK firms to build two new power stations
- Agreement will help build and refurbish numerous electricity substations across Iraq
- Announcement reaffirms the UK's commitment to Iraq's continued economic development

US \$620 million financing will go to support two contracts between GE and Iraq's Ministry of Electricity to build two power stations in Samawa and Dhi Qar, located northwest of Basra, in southern Iraq. UKEF had already provided initial support for the project; this additional financing supports the main construction phase of the project involving further procurement from UK suppliers through GE sub-contractor ENKA UK.

UKEF will also provide US \$400 million to support a project by GE's Grid Solutions, business to develop 14 sub-stations across Iraq. GE will build new substations on a turnkey basis and supply equipment such as transformers and

other parts to rehabilitate existing substations, helping to bring power to areas with significant power shortages from the north to the south of the country.

This announcement follows the agreement between the governments of the UK and Iraq signed in March 2017, which re-affirmed the UK's commitment to Iraq's continued economic development.

This project will play a key role in bolstering the capacity of the Iraqi electricity grid, the two new power stations, located in the Basra region, will give citizens the access they need to critical infrastructure.

Baroness Fairhead, Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion, said:

The scale of these contracts illustrates the demand for British expertise in the utilities sector and the level of support the government can give to British businesses looking to make the most of similar opportunities across the globe.

The UK Government continues to be committed to Iraq's economic development and I am delighted that UK Export Finance is supporting projects that will have such a direct impact on improving the country's critical infrastructure and the lives of the Iraqi people.

Guto Davies, GE Energy Financial Services' Global Capital Advisory Managing Director, said:

The announcement of these new facilities further strengthens GE's collaborations in Iraq to support the country's power infrastructure and meet the growing need for electricity. GE recognises the importance of UKEF in supporting critical infrastructure projects in Iraq and the UK supply-chain. We are delighted they continue to fund major projects in the country's power energy sector.

Yavuz Akturk, Director at ENKA UK, said:

Power shortages continue to halt Iraq's reconstruction and addressing this scarcity is crucial to the country's future. As ENKA, we have taken a significant role in rebuilding the country's infrastructure, and with these projects we will help the people in the country which are in urgent need for electricity. It would not be possible without the continuous support of the UK Government and the highly dedicated UKEF team; and we as ENKA, are grateful for the high-level support for these projects which will also provide

great opportunities for the UK exporters.

[UK Export Finance](#) is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, working alongside the Department for International Trade as an integral part of its strategy and operations.

Our mission is to ensure that no viable UK export should fail for want of finance or insurance from the private market. We provide finance and insurance to help exporters win, fulfil and ensure they get paid for export contracts.

Sectors in which UKEF has supported exports include: aerospace, healthcare, infrastructure, telecommunications and transport.

UKEF has a [national regional network of 24 export finance managers](#) supporting export businesses.

Our range of products includes:

- Bond insurance policy
- Bond support scheme
- Buyer & supplier credit financing facility
- Direct lending facility
- Export insurance policy
- Export refinancing facility
- Export working capital scheme
- Letter of credit guarantee scheme

Our [country cover positions](#) outline our current cover policy and risk appetite for each country.