

[News story: Appointments to the Small Business Commissioner's Office Advisory Board](#)

Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark has appointed Heidi Rehman as a non-executive director for corporate services and Laurence Milsted as an audit and risk non-executive director at the [Small Business Commissioner's Office](#).

Heidi and Laurence will hold the roles until 6 January 2023, having started on 7 January 2019.

Heidi is an entrepreneur and was most recently the CEO of womenswear brand Rose & Willard. She was previously a senior equity research analyst at financial services and banking group Citi.

Laurence is a chief financial officer for Baker McKenzie, a trustee and audit committee chair of ESCP Europe Business School in London, and has recently joined the Ministry of Justice Audit Committee as an independent member.

Board members play a key role in providing leadership and direction to the organisation, working closely with the Small Business Commissioner's Office and the Commissioner Paul Uppal.

The Small Business Commissioner's Office was set up by BEIS in December 2017 to help the UK's 5.7 million small businesses struggling with late payments.

The Small Business Commissioner, Paul Uppal, supports small businesses to resolve their payment disputes with larger businesses, providing advice, and helping bring about a culture change in payment practices and how businesses deal with each other.

[News story: Government publishes 'No deal' EU exit advice on travel changes for protected animals and plants](#)

The government has issued [advice](#) to help minimise disruption in the trade of protected animals and plants in the event of a 'no deal' EU exit.

In this scenario, protected animals and plants would need a permit to be transported between the UK and the EU and would only be able to travel through designated ports.

To make sure there is enough capacity within the system, the government has increased the number of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) points of entry and exit for goods. Currently there are just 10 ports and airports for CITES trade with countries outside the EU. Read the [full list of designated ports](#) that will be available in a no deal scenario.

Delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the government's top priority. This has not changed. However, the government must prepare for every eventuality, including a 'no deal' exit.

CITES

CITES is an international agreement between governments which aims to ensure international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, musical instruments or dried herbs.

All CITES species bar those with the highest level of protection can be traded and transported freely within the EU. The UK will continue to be a member of CITES after we leave the EU, even in the event of no deal.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, all CITES species that are currently freely moved and traded between the UK and the EU would require a CITES permit or import/export notification. This would mean movement of all species controlled under CITES between the UK and the EU would need to follow the same processes as those currently in place for movement between the UK and non-EU countries.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

The CITES convention plays a key role in protecting endangered species and we will continue to uphold it after we leave the EU, as part of our pledge to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than that in which we found it.

This government has been absolutely clear on our commitment to deliver the Brexit deal negotiated with the EU. But the government is preparing for any eventuality.

That's why we are taking the responsible step of ensuring people and businesses understand the potential impacts of no deal – such as the transport of protected goods and animals between the UK and the EU – to help minimise any potential disruption.

Businesses or individuals trading in or moving CITES-listed species outside the UK would need to check the specific requirements with the intended import or export country on the [Global CITES website](#), and either apply to the Animal and Plant Health Agency for a CITES permit or request and complete an import notification form.

Designated ports and airports

In addition, CITES animals and plants would only be able to travel or be transported through certain designated ports, meaning individuals and businesses may be more restricted in the transport routes they can use.

Busy routes (for example Eurotunnel, Dover and Holyhead) are not currently proposed for designation. This is to avoid potential delays at these ports as they experience large volumes of traffic passing through. Businesses or individuals who regularly use these routes may need to make alternative arrangements as there will be no facilities at these ports for CITES permits to be stamped.

If we were to leave the EU without a deal, the designation of CITES ports would be reviewed as we gather more data post March 2019 on the actual levels of CITES trade between the UK and the EU.

- We have also published [updated guidance](#) which sets out how people who trade in, or travel with, endangered animals or plants, or their products, would be affected if the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 without a deal.
- We have increased the number of CITES points of entry and exit for CITES goods, as they are currently limited to just 10 ports and airports for CITES trade with countries outside the EU. Read the [full list of designated ports](#) that will be available in a no deal scenario .
- All CITES-listed species are contained within Annexes A to D of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. The [Species+ database](#) includes details of all CITES-listed species.
- Details of how to obtain a CITES permit in the UK are available on [GOV.UK](#), as are current details of [fees for CITES permits](#) and [designated CITES points of entry](#).

[News story: New appointments to the ACMD](#)



Experts in topics including pharmacology, pharmacy, and health economics have been recruited to help deliver the ACMD's ongoing work.

The ACMD is an independent body which makes recommendations to government on the control of dangerous or otherwise harmful drugs, including classification and scheduling under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and its regulations.

The new appointees being announced today are:

- Mohammed Fessal, chief pharmacist for Change, Grow, Live, and a pharmacist special advisor at the Care Quality Commission
- Professor Graeme Henderson, professor of pharmacology at the University of Bristol and trustee of the Bristol Drugs Project
- Professor Roger Knaggs, associate professor in Clinical Pharmacy practice at the University of Nottingham
- Dr Carole Hunter, lead pharmacist at the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Professor Matthew Sutton, professor of Health Economics at the University of Manchester.
- Professor David Taylor, director of pharmacy and pathology at the Maudsley Hospital, and professor of psychopharmacology at Kings College London.

The Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, Dr Owen Bowden-Jones, said:

I am delighted to welcome the new members to the ACMD. Their depth of expertise will ensure the Council provides the best advice on the harms of drug misuse and I look forward to working with each of them.

The 3 year appointments, which were approved by Home Secretary Sajid Javid and attract no remuneration, have been made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). The newly-appointed members take up their posts today.

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[Press release: Movement restrictions introduced to protect UK against tree pest](#)

New measures are being introduced today (16 January) to protect the country against the tree pest known as the larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*), which was [discovered in Kent in December 2018](#).

Legislation is being laid in Parliament that will restrict the movement of all susceptible material, including trees and wood with bark, within 50km of the outbreak sites where *Ips typographus* was found.

This legislation is a necessary precaution to prevent the spread of the pest further afield and will remain in place until further notice, but will be kept under review.

The exact boundaries of the restricted area and details of the materials under restriction are available on the [Forestry Commission website](#).

Industry are also urged to remain vigilant for signs of the pest and to report any suspicions to the Forestry Commission.

Nicola Spence, the UK Chief Plant Health Officer, said:

The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) poses no threat to human health, but it can be a serious pest to the spruce tree species and the forestry industry.

That is why we are taking robust action through this new legislation and its restriction of movement for spruce trees in a 50km area around the outbreak.

I encourage anyone who suspects a sighting of the bark beetle to report these to the Forestry Commission online through Tree Alert.

Further detail on how to report suspected cases is [available here](#)

News story: Gosforth youngsters prepare for Lego League challenge with LLWR presentation

Pupils from Gosforth Primary School were given the chance to hone their presentation skills in front of an audience at LLW Repository Ltd (LLWR) ahead of their appearance in a major science and technology challenge.

LLWR are in the middle of a five-year sponsorship of the First Lego League, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) initiative, and Gosforth are one of three local schools supported by the organisation.

Youngsters were keen to rehearse their presentation before delivering it for real in front of a panel of judges later this month in the regional final.

The theme of this year's challenge is 'Into Orbit' with pupils asked to consider a problem that astronauts may face in space.

Gosforth came up with loneliness as a key issue and youngsters have devised a robot dog companion as a solution.

Marc Goodwin, one of the LLWR volunteers assisting the nine to 11 year olds at Gosforth, said: "They got some constructive feedback from the LLWR audience and took away some good ideas that they may be able to incorporate into their presentation in the regional final.

"In addition, they really enjoyed the experience, which was great to see. Thanks go to LLWR for making it possible."

Marc is one of four volunteers assisting Gosforth and additional colleagues are giving their time to work with pupils at Seascale Primary and St James' Primary, in Millom, who will also compete in the regional final at Energus, Lillyhall.