

News story: Department of Transport responds to European Commission contingency action plan



Today (19 December 2018) the [European Commission published a 'no-deal' contingency action plan](#).

On transport, it includes a proposal which would ensure the continuation of flights between the UK and the EU and one which would allow UK hauliers to continue to carry goods into the EU.

Their announcement demonstrates a clear commitment to future travel while offering reassurances that both sides will work to maintain UK and EU transport links.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:

The European Commission's proposals today are welcome.

We need to study the detail, but any steps to ensure UK hauliers can continue carrying goods into the EU in the event of a no deal is good news, as is ensuring flights are maintained between the UK and EU immediately after Brexit.

Whether for business or leisure, travellers can continue to book with confidence.

The UK government has already set out in our [technical notices published on 24th September \(2018\)](#), that we would permit EU airlines to fly to the UK and would expect this to be reciprocated.

And the UK stands ready in principle to consider taking reciprocal steps for EU hauliers coming here.

We will consider the Commission's proposals in greater detail over the coming days.

[Press release: Paul Newby and Fiona Dickie Publish First Arbitration Awards](#)

The PCA and Deputy PCA have for the first time published awards, providing information about the interpretation of the law and its application in individual cases considered by them within statutory arbitration proceedings. The published awards are in relation to both [MRO](#) and [non – MRO](#) issues.

This is a significant step to creating greater transparency in the arbitration process and providing equality of arms between pub companies and tied tenants. Publication of awards is intended to facilitate open, fair and informed negotiations for tied tenants, in particular on the MRO terms offered by their pub companies.

Paul Newby, Pubs Code Adjudicator, said: “Our aim is to help tenants be more informed when negotiating with their pub companies. Publication of awards will also provide a greater incentive for pub companies to engage in effective negotiations with their tenants on the issues that have already been decided by the PCA.”

Examples of themes included in the awards are:

- Terms of MRO proposals should be reasonable and be common in the free of tie market as a whole;
- As MRO negotiations are not taking place in the open market pub-owning businesses should not take advantage of the more limited negotiating power that a tied tenant who requests a MRO proposal will usually have.
- The MRO proposal should constitute an accessible option for the individual tied tenant; a pub-owning business should not make a proposal on standard terms unless it has considered the particular circumstances of the tied tenant and is satisfied that the terms are compliant in that individual case.

Fiona Dickie, Deputy Pubs Code Adjudicator, said: “Of course we will continue to consider each case on its own facts, keeping an open mind when making a decision. However, we do expect that where a decision on law has been made, that this is respected by both pub-owning businesses and tenants.”

The PCA has also published a [document](#) providing information for tenants who have received a Pubs Code award to help them consider whether there is personal or particularly commercially sensitive information they do not want to be published.

Today's publication is the first set of awards to be published, with the PCA intending to publish in the public interest further awards to increase industry understanding about how the Pubs Code has been applied in individual cases.

[News story: DASA delivers innovation in time for Christmas](#)

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) has rapidly turned around the delivery of four commercial contracts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of training and education across defence.

Within 48 hours of the initial customer meeting, DASA opened two new focus areas in their open call competition to engage the private sector in providing potential solutions. These innovative ideas were assessed and funding awarded within ten weeks of initial contact.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) has identified two major training challenges to maximise the effectiveness of UK forces in future operating environments. Firstly, Dstl finds that current training and education is resource intensive and limited by location, capacity and time constraints. And secondly, the proliferation of military interconnected technology and the expected escalation in the sophistication of this technology requires deep human understanding of those interactions in order to exploit the advantages.

Jyoti Hirani, Operations Lead, DASA said:

Innovation is not just about providing shiny new technologies to our front line, but can also be in the efficiencies of how we do things day-to-day within government. If one of our customers identifies a specific area as a capability gap, we can help them to hone the requirement and develop a potential solution. DASA can deliver transformative solutions quickly that can enhance and improve the operation of our government customers.

Four contracts have been placed to the value of £342,000 and each project will be working closely with Dstl from the New Year to test, trial and investigate the practicalities and potential benefits of their innovative idea. In order to deliver the contracts quickly, DASA has accelerated processes outside normal practices.

Anita Hay, Project Manager, Delivery and Innovation, Dstl said:

DASA is a mechanism to private sector engagement and we appreciate their rapid engagement in this project. Simulation training needs to be as realistic as possible as UK Forces are deployed in difficult operational environments. Giving them the best training possible with minimal inconvenience is something Dstl strives to provide.

Funding was awarded to XPI Simulations, SimCentric Limited, Vedette Consulting Limited and Transmedia Storyteller Limited, which are all small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) or micro SMEs. For small businesses such as these DASA funding can make a real difference to their future growth and success.

XPI Simulation's proposal "CIRRUS – Cloud Infrastructure for Rapid Rendering to Users for Simulation" is looking to develop a totally cloud hosted synthetic environment for training.

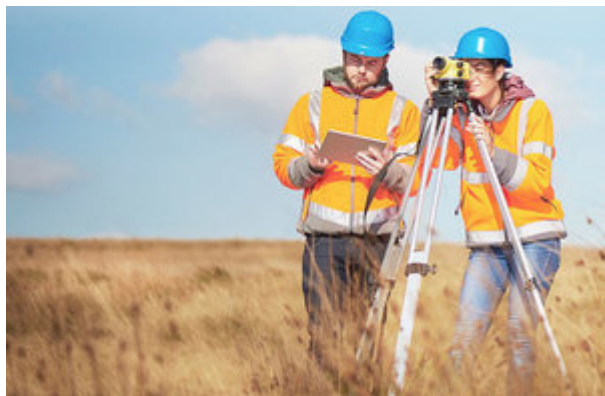
SimCentric Limited's proposal "A simulation testbed for high fidelity human behaviour within megacities" is going to develop a simulation engine to represent the various elements of a megacity.

Vedette Consulting Limited's proposal "Model to Optimise Simulation Mix to Deliver Efficient and Effective Training" will provide a prototype technique to support decision makers in achieving optimum training outputs matched to current and future resources.

Transmedia Storyteller Limited's proposal "Hybrid Warfare Rehearsal Tool" will aim to deliver software that allows warfighters to rehearse hybrid warfare strategies and tactics that span influence, information and infrastructure.

Innovation Focus Areas: We are continuously open for proposals under the [Open Call for Innovation Focus Areas](#), including 'training and education efficiency and effectiveness challenge' and 'modelling and simulation representation of the future operating environment'. The next deadline for proposal submission is 3 January.

[News story: Government launches new policy to deal with radioactive waste](#)



Engineers at work on a site

Following today's written ministerial statement by Richard Harrington and the publication of [Implementing Geological Disposal – Working with Communities](#) by the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#), Radioactive Waste Management (RWM), a subsidiary of the [Nuclear Decommissioning Authority](#), will now begin the search for a willing host community and a suitable site to construct a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Geological disposal is one of the UK's largest ever environmental protection projects, which will provide a safe and secure long-term solution for the disposal of higher activity radioactive waste.

Malcolm Morley, Chairman of RWM's Board of Directors, stated:

RWM recognises that this nationally important project needs to contribute positively to the community within which it is located. Working with communities will be at the very centre of its approach to the delivery of the GDF.

Bruce McKirdy, Managing Director of RWM, said:

Our highly experienced team has been preparing for this vital project to provide a long-term solution for the management of higher activity radioactive waste. We will now embark upon an engagement programme to help individuals, businesses and communities understand how they can get involved.

David Peattie, Chief Executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, said:

Although the UK has made significant progress in dealing with the radioactive waste left over from decades of nuclear activities, today's announcement is a vital step towards finally cleaning-up our nuclear legacy.

In support of the Government's policy announcement, RWM simultaneously

published information for communities including:

In addition, we have also launched a consultation on how we will evaluate sites in England:

Anyone interested in learning more about geological disposal and what it could mean for their community should visit our [website](#) or contact RWM via gdfenquiries@nda.gov.uk

Published 19 December 2018

Last updated 19 December 2018 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 19 December 2018 We have added a note on the new policy document
2. 19 December 2018 First published.

[Statement to parliament: Home Secretary: Future Border and Immigration System](#)

With permission Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement about the UK's future border and immigration system, after we leave the EU.

We all heard the public's concerns about immigration in the run-up to the EU referendum.

These were concerns held by many voters. On both sides of the debate.

The result of that referendum was clear, and the UK will be leaving the European Union on the 29th March 2019.

This means we can end free movement.

So that, for the first time for more than 40 years, we will be able to say who can, and who cannot come to this country.

This is an historic moment.

But let's be clear.

The United Kingdom has a proud history of being an open and welcoming nation – and this will not change.

As the son of immigrant parents, I know full well the contribution they, like many other migrants, made to the community I grew up in.

We recognise and value the contribution immigration has made to our society, our culture, our economy and communities. And this cannot be over-stressed.

How it has helped to deliver vital public services.

It has brought new perspectives, expertise and knowledge, stimulating growth and making us the tolerant, outward-looking nation we are today.

Britain is going to stay open for business.

We will continue to welcome talented migrants from every corner of the globe.

And we have been clear to the three million EU nationals already here: we value hugely the contribution you have made to this country.

Deal or no deal, we want you to stay, and we will protect your rights.

The future system is about making sure immigration works in the best interests of the UK.

We are absolutely not closing our doors.

We are simply making sure we have control over who comes through them.

Ensuring – as we committed to do in our manifesto – we are able to bring annual net migration down to more sustainable levels.

This morning we published a white paper setting out the government's proposals for doing this through a single, skills-based immigration system that will seize the unique opportunities enabled by the end of free movement.

Copies are available for Honourable and RH members in the Table Office.

I would like to highlight the key proposals and principles within it to the House.

Firstly: free movement will come to an end.

Tomorrow we will introduce the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill to implement this.

It will make EEA and Swiss nationals, and their family members, subject to UK immigration control.

And it will protect the status of Irish nationals.

This means that in future everyone other than British and Irish citizens will need to get UK permission before they can come here.

Secondly: it will be a single immigration system for all nationalities.

The existing automatic preference for EU citizens will end.

This approach will give everyone the same chance, regardless of where they are from.

Levelling the playing field to welcome the most talented workers from

anywhere in the world.

And thirdly: it will be a skills-based system, giving priority to those with the skills we need.

We are taking this approach to ensure we can attract the brightest and best migrants to the UK.

Those who will help our economy flourish.

This follows advice commissioned from the independent Migration Advisory Committee on the impact of European migration on the UK economy and society.

We believe this is fair, it will help drive up wages and productivity across our economy.

Following these three principles we are acting to make the future immigration system work, for people coming to our country, businesses, our public services and the UK as a whole.

Our approach will maintain protections for British workers while cutting bureaucracy.

Fundamental to this will be a new route for skilled workers to ensure that employers can access the talent they need to compete on the world stage.

There will be no cap on numbers and no requirement for the highest skilled workers to undertake a resident labour market test, but there will be a minimum salary threshold.

We are creating a time limited short-term workers route to ensure businesses have the staff they need to fill jobs as they adapt to the new immigration system.

We will ask the MAC to keep this scheme under review, so that it ensures a smooth transition.

This route will be open to seasonal and low-skilled workers, along with high-skilled workers who need to come to the UK for longer than the current business visitor rules allow.

Those who arrive under this scheme will have no rights to access public funds, settle or bring dependents.

The White Paper sets out our initial proposals to allow these short-term workers to come to the UK for 12 months at a time, followed by a year-long cooling-off period to prevent long-term working.

And we will be engaging extensively with business and stakeholders on the length of the stay and cooling-off period to make sure we get this right. These proposals will give protection to British workers, but we have recognised that immigration alone cannot be the solution.

So, we will continue as a government – working in partnership with business – to invest to improve the productivity and skills of the UK workforce.

Mr Speaker, our world class universities will also benefit from the proposed new system.

There will be no limits on the number of international students who we will continue to encourage to come and study here.

And we will make it easier for the most talented graduates to stay and work.

This will widen the talent pool for businesses and boost economic growth.

Our plans are about opening up Britain for business rather than creating new red tape.

The future immigration system will be quick and easy to use.

We will introduce a streamlined application process for those visiting, or coming to work or coming to study, that uses the latest digital technology.

This will improve the experience visitors and travellers have crossing the border.

We will also make it possible for more people to use e-gates.

At the same time, we will improve security at the border by introducing an Electronic Travel Authorisation Scheme and phasing out the use of insecure national identity cards.

We are proposing a single skills-based immigration system that will be fit for the future.

One that is flexible, to accommodate the trade deals we agree with the EU and other countries.

It will operate from 2021, but it will be phased in to give individuals, businesses and the government the time needed to adapt.

This means that individuals do not need to make immediate changes and businesses do not need to rush through plans based on guesswork about the future system. Mr Speaker, the Immigration white paper outlines proposals for the biggest change to our immigration system in a generation.

However, it is important to note it is not the final word.

Rather, it is the starting point for a national conversation on our future immigration system.

And I'm pleased to announce that the government will be launching a year-long programme of engagement across the UK to ensure a wide range of views are heard.

I am confident that all the measures I have outlined today will ensure that

the UK continues to flourish outside of the EU.

That the future immigration system is geared towards controlling who can come here and for what purpose, reducing net migration while ensuring the brightest and best can work and study in the UK.

That it will boost our economy and benefit the British people.

We are building a fair and sustainable immigration system that answers the concerns people have rightly had about free movement.

An immigration system that is designed in Britain, made in Britain and that serves our national interest.

I commend this statement to the House.