

## [News story: Annual Conference: Hold the date – 25th June 2018](#)

The GCA will present her annual report and new work programme at the 2018 conference at Church House in Westminster. YouGov will also announce the results of the 2018 survey and the audience will hear from a keynote speaker and senior representatives of the regulated retailers.

After the conference ends, the GCA and her team will be available to meet with suppliers and others to discuss issues in confidence.

Details of the programme are available here [2018 GCA Conference programme](#) (MS Word Document, 46.7KB)

You can register your attendance at the conference [here](#)

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## [Press release: Blackpool, Bradford and Lake District to benefit from £15 million Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund](#)

Three major cultural projects across the North of England will receive a share of the £15 million Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund, Arts, Heritage and Tourism Minister Michael Ellis announced today.

The fund, which was created to build a lasting regional legacy from the Great Exhibition of the North, will support diverse projects in Blackpool, Bradford and the Lake District.

A total of £4 million will help transform the vacant former Bradford Odeon cinema into a 4,000 capacity live music, entertainment and events venue.

Nearly £3.3 million will enhance the visitor experience at cultural attractions across the Lake District, the UK's newest World Heritage Site.

A further £4 million will be used to create a museum in Blackpool that will celebrate the town's history as the UK's first mass seaside holiday resort.

Michael Ellis, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, said:

“These exciting projects will provide a true cultural legacy for people across the North that increases tourism, boosts local economies and creates

jobs for the future. They reflect the diversity and unique identity of Blackpool, Bradford and the Lake District and will enable them to realise their exciting cultural ambitions.”

Exchequer Secretary Robert Jenrick said:

“The UK has the most vibrant cultural scene and creative industry in the world today, but we want to ensure that reaches all parts of the country and that every young person has access to cultural experiences and opportunities. That’s why we are investing these resources to ensure there is a lasting legacy for the upcoming Great Exhibition of the North, driving the region’s economic and cultural success.”

Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry, said:

“These multi-million pound cultural investments in Blackpool, Bradford and the Lake District represent a major economic and cultural boost for the Northern Powerhouse. From converting a vacant cinema into a state-of-the-art venue to improving access to the UK’s newest World Heritage site, these investments will have a transformative effect, benefitting local communities by creating new jobs while increasing tourism from across the UK and further afield.”

Eleven towns and cities from across the North of England bid for a share of the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund, which encourages sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in the Northern Powerhouse and will benefit areas with historically low levels of cultural and creative investment.

As well as the three capital projects, a new fund providing access to finance for the cultural sector and creative industries in the North of England will be created.

Bradford Odeon – The 1930s twin domed cinema has been vacant since 2000. The redevelopment will be one of the biggest of its type in the country outside of London and will bring Bradford back on the national touring circuit. The venue, due to be run by NEC Group International, will aim to put on around 225 events to more than 270,000 people every year, creating 50 jobs in the city. The project is being led by a not-for-profit social enterprise, Bradford Live, assisted by Bradford Council.

Blackpool museum – Due to open in 2020, the museum will display artefacts, music and performances from within Blackpool and partners including the V&A, EMI Group Archive Trust and the British Music Hall Society. The museum – the biggest new museum development in the North West – is expected to attract almost 300,000 visitors a year and will be developed on the world-famous Golden Mile. It will aim to engage younger audiences in the history of Blackpool and further strengthen the town’s tourism offer.

Lake District – £3.29 million will be invested in a project to strengthen the visitor experience at Windermere Jetty, Dove Cottage, the Wordsworth Museum and Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum. The money will be used to enhance the

visitor experience at these attractions, increase accessibility and improve exhibition spaces. The regeneration project aims to attract nearly 150,000 additional visitors, create or maintain 150 permanent jobs and boost cultural tourism to the newly designated World Heritage Site.

The projects will build on the impact of the Great Exhibition of the North, which launches in Newcastle-Gateshead on June 22. The event is set to be the biggest in England this year and will showcase the best of Northern art, culture and innovation.

Notes to editors: The bids were coordinated by Local Enterprise Partnerships in Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Humber, Lancashire, Leeds City Region, Liverpool City Region, North East, Sheffield City Region, Tees Valley, and York, North Yorkshire and East Riding.

For further information contact Rebecca Evans on 020 7211 2210.

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## **[News story: Innovate UK: first Council announced](#)**

The Innovate UK stand at Innovate 2017 – future, growth, global.

Innovate UK has announced the members of its first Council, who will advise and make decisions on Innovate UK's operations as it becomes part of [UK Research and Innovation](#).

With a specific focus on innovation, they will:

- provide leadership in their field of activity, including prioritising budgets within their delegated remits and developing delivery plans
- ensure a pipeline of skilled specialists and other roles that are essential to the sustainability of the UK's research and innovation capacity
- engage with the innovation and business community to develop ideas, raise awareness and share strategic outputs
- encourage and facilitate collaborative work across the 9 Councils to build strategic relationships

## **Range of expertise and experience**

The members are:

- Sir Harpal Kumar, who will serve as Senior Independent Member through his role as UK Research and Innovation's Innovation Champion and work closely with the board

- Dr Arnab Basu MBE, Chief Executive, [Kromek Group plc](#)
- Baroness Brown of Cambridge DBE FREng FRS (Julia King)
- Professor Juliet Davenport OBE, Chief Executive, [Good Energy](#)
- Dr John Fingleton, Chief Executive, [Fingleton Associates](#)
- Priya Guha, Ecosystem General Manager, [RocketSpace UK](#)
- Dr Elaine Jones, Vice President, [Pfizer Ventures](#)
- Professor John Latham, Vice-Chancellor of [Coventry University](#)
- Sir William Sargent, Chief Executive, [Framestore](#)
- Stephen Welton, Chief Executive, [Business Growth Fund](#)

Innovate UK's funding is awarded to businesses of different sizes across a wide range of industries, and the Council's membership reflects that.

They have a range of expertise and experience in research and innovation across business, entrepreneurship, investment, technology development, economics and business impact evaluation, with different characteristics and professional backgrounds.

## **Champions of business-led innovation**

Chief Executive of Innovate UK, Dr Ruth McKernan said:

As UK Research and Innovation begins its work, the Council of Innovate UK will have a vital role to play. They will champion the vital role that business-led innovation and the commercialisation of research play in driving economic growth and increasing productivity.

The important duties of the Council means that we need people who are up to the task. It's fantastic that the role has attracted people of such high calibre from a diverse range of backgrounds. We look forward to them taking on the task with enthusiasm and passion.

The Council replaces Innovate UK's governing board. Members will serve between one and 3 years.

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## **[Press release: UK's 'first ever' successful prosecution for false company information](#)**

Kevin Brewer, a businessman, incorporated John Vincent Cable Services Ltd in 2013, making the former Business Secretary Vince Cable MP a director and

shareholder without his knowledge. The company was dissolved and taken off the company register after Companies House took action.

Brewer, 65, then formed another company in 2016, Cleverly Clogs Ltd, making Baroness Neville-Rolfe – the Minister with responsibility for Companies House – James Cleverly MP and an imaginary Israeli national, Ibrahim Aman, all directors and shareholders without their knowledge. Companies House dissolved the company and took it off the company register.

Brewer, from Ullenhall in Warwickshire, was ordered to pay over £12,000 after he pleaded guilty to filing false information on the UK's company register at a hearing in Redditch Magistrates' Court last Thursday 15 March.

This is thought to be the first time a company director has been successfully prosecuted for falsifying company information under laws which came into force in 2009.

A Companies House spokesperson said:

Deliberately filing false information on the register is a serious offence and people who have been found to have knowingly done this can face prosecution.

Business Minister Andrew Griffiths said:

This prosecution – the first of its kind in the UK – shows the Government will come down hard on people who knowingly break the law and file false information on the company register.

Companies House works hard to protect and continually upgrade the company register, identifying potentially criminal activities and working closely with law enforcement bodies to help bring those perpetrators to justice.

The company register is operated by Companies House and contains information about company addresses, accounts, and those who own and run companies. There are nearly 4 million companies on the UK's company register and the vast majority of these companies use the register lawfully.

- Brewer pleaded guilty to breaking section 1112 of the Companies Act 2006, which sets out the criminal offence of providing false information on the company register.
  - Brewer was fined £1,602 and ordered to pay costs of £10,462.50 and a Victim Surcharge of £160.
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# What has happened since changes to vehicle tax rates were introduced?

This time last year, DVLA and the motor industry were gearing up for the new tax rules that came into force on 1 April 2017.



A lot has happened since, so I thought this would be a great time to update you and tell you about new changes on the horizon.

## **Tax reminders**

Customers who bought a new car registered on or after 1 April 2017 will be getting their tax reminder (V11) through their letterbox from this month onwards.

These tax reminders will show the standard rate, or if the car had a list price of over £40,000, the standard rate plus the additional rate. See our [vehicle tax rates](#) for information.

## **New first registration service**

During the past year, service designers here at DVLA have been working on our new first registration service. We have been working closely with manufacturers and dealers to ensure the service meets their needs as well as ours.

The new service will start the DVLA's [IT transformation](#), using APIs and cloud technology, while improving our internal IT estate.

## **Changes to tax rates for new diesel cars**

In the Chancellor's [November budget](#), further changes to the way vehicle tax is calculated were announced. The change will apply to new diesel cars registered on or after 1 April 2018.

Put simply, new diesel cars registered from this date will have their first

year rate calculated in line with the changes.

The rates will not apply to next-generation clean diesels. These are vehicles which are certified as meeting emissions limits in real driving conditions, known as Real Driving Emissions Step 2 (RDE2) standards.

The Chancellor also announced increases to current VED and standard rates in line with Retail Price Index (RPI) from the same date.

### **Other legislative changes**

We have other changes to incorporate into our services. Some of these changes may be familiar to you, and include:

- Clean Air Zones (CAZ)
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP)

There may be some of these that you, as a driver, will never know about or even need to. But we have to factor these into our processes when registering a vehicle for the first time.

No doubt there will be more changes to come and we need to make sure we can introduce these with minimal disruption to our customers and stakeholders.

We will continue to work closely with industry colleagues, trade bodies and motoring associations to keep moving forward. This helps us to improve our services and make them simple to understand and easy to use.

To check when the tax is due for your vehicle, go to [gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax](https://gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax).

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