

Press release: CEO Sir Alan Massey retiring after four-decade maritime career

Sir Alan joined the MCA in July 2010 after a 33-year career with the Royal Navy, where he left as Second Sea Lord.

During his eight-year tenure, Sir Alan has successfully steered the MCA through changes to modernise Her Majesty's Coastguard, new arrangements for the UK's search and rescue helicopter capability, a transformed survey and inspection capability and a more commercially-responsive approach to how the UK Ship Register operates. Sir Alan will continue his role until late 2018, to allow the appointment process for a successor to take place.

Bernadette Kelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Transport said: "I want to thank Sir Alan for his leadership of the MCA and his tireless commitment to improving safety at sea for all and supporting the UK's maritime interests. I know that he will continue to make an exemplary contribution to the MCA and its ambitious plans until he leaves his post later this year."

Sir Alan said: "It has been an immense privilege to work for the MCA and serve the public. I am extremely proud of what we have achieved. Whilst this has been a difficult decision for me to make, I feel that now is the right time for a new Chief Executive to bring a fresh perspective, new ideas and initiatives to the Agency. I'm confident that the MCA will continue to successfully deliver its objectives under new leadership. I will continue to lead the MCA with my full commitment and energy until my successor is found and is ready to take over towards the end of this year."

The Department of Transport will launch a competition to recruit a new Chief Executive on Monday 19 March.

Press release: Return-to-work placements for scientists and engineers at Dstl

Dstl, part of the Ministry of Defence, has teamed up with Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST) and the Women's Engineering Society (WES) to pilot the [STEM Returners programme](#). The programme is aimed at giving experienced science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)

professionals the confidence to step back into their careers after time taking off or the opportunity to transfer into another field.

Natalie Desty from the STEM Returners programme, said:

The science and engineering industry has a shortage of skilled workers, but many highly qualified and experienced people are struggling to get back into work. We want to change employers' perceptions of CV gaps, remove barriers to returning to work and ensure the widest possible pool of talent is being considered for jobs. For example, female professionals returning from career breaks are often underemployed, with three in five likely to move into lower-skilled or lower-paid roles.

The Dstl pilot is open to any gender and offers individuals a paid 12-week placement, where they will work on challenging projects that make a real difference to the UK's defence and security. Successful applicants could work in areas such as platform systems, cyber and information systems, or defence and security analysis. Placements are also available with the [Defence and Security Accelerator](#), which manages the £800 million Defence Innovation Initiative.

As well as contributing to exciting and rewarding projects, the programme offers 1-to-1 mentoring, networking opportunities and further career support.

Helen Christie, Dstl Resourcing Specialist said:

We're thrilled to be involved in the STEM Returners programme and help break down barriers people face when coming back to work. Dstl has long been committed to a flexible and supportive workplace so that talented people of all backgrounds and circumstances can thrive here and contribute to our country's national security.

While we can't guarantee a permanent position with Dstl at the end of the placement, it's equally important that the wider science and engineering community is full of skilled and experienced people. About half of Dstl's work is delivered externally through industry, universities, and small-and-medium-sized enterprises, so we rely on being able to collaborate with STEM workers all over the UK. We hope by participating in the programme, we can help grow the STEM workforce.

Dstl is also part of the STEM Futures consortium, which is proud to embrace the STEM Returners programme as part of its overall intent to develop talent while actively championing diversity and inclusion.

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[Press release: PHE publishes latest data on nation's diet](#)

The figures from the latest [National Diet and Nutrition Survey \(NDNS\)](#) collected from 2014 to 2016 show:

- sugar makes up 13.5% of 4- to 10-year-olds, and 14.1% of teenagers' (11- to 18-year-olds) daily calorie intake respectively; the official recommendation is to limit sugar to no more than 5%
- 4- to 10-year-olds consume two thirds of the amount of sugary drinks they did 8 years ago – down from 130g per day in 2008 to 2010 to 83g in 2014 to 2016
- for teenagers, sugary drink intake is more than double that of younger children (191g) even though consumption has decreased by 30%; sugary drinks remain the main source of sugar (22%) in their diets

The survey confirms the UK population continues to consume too much saturated fat and not enough fruit, vegetables, and fibre:

- average saturated fat intake for adults (19 to 64 year olds) is 12.5% of daily calorie intake, above the 11% recommended maximum
- adults consume on average 4.2 portions of fruit and vegetables per day, 65- to 74-year-olds consume 4.3 portions and teenagers consume just 2.7 portions per day
- only 31% of adults, 32% of 65- to 74-year-olds and 8% of teenagers meet the 5 A Day recommendation for fruit and vegetables
- average fibre intake in adults is 19g per day, well below the recommended 30g per day

Dr Alison Tedstone, chief nutritionist at PHE, said:

Poor diets are all too common in this country and, along with obesity, are now one of the leading causes of disease such as cancer, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. It's clear from these data that the nation's diet needs an overhaul.

A healthy balanced diet is the foundation to good health. Eating 5 A Day and reducing our intake of calories, sugar, and saturated fat is what many of us need to do to reduce the risk of long term health problems.

The data underscores PHE's call for the population to follow a healthy balanced diet, based on the [Eatwell Guide](#), which includes eating at least 5 portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables per day, increasing consumption of oily fish and fibre and limiting the amount food high in saturated fat,

sugar and salt.

Following a healthy, balanced diet and reducing calories will help reduce obesity and the economic and social burden of its consequences.

1. The NDNS rolling programme is a continuous cross-sectional survey, designed to assess the diet, nutrient intake and nutritional status of a representative sample of around 1,000 people per year (500 adults and 500 children) from the general population aged 18 months upwards living in private households in the UK. The NDNS comprises an interview, a 4-day diet diary and collection and analysis of blood and urine samples. Results are used by government to monitor the diet and nutritional status of the population, to provide the evidence base for policy development and to track progress towards public health nutrition objectives such as reducing sugar, saturated fat and salt intakes. This report covers data collected over a 2-year period – from year 2014 to 2015 to year 2015 to 2016.
2. Work to deliver years 7 and 8 of the NDNS rolling programme was carried out by NatCen Social Research and the Medical Research Council Elsie Widdowson Laboratory (formerly known as MRC Human Nutrition Research).
3. The last [NDNS report](#) covering years 5 and 6, (2012 to 2013; 2013 to 2014) was published in 2016.
4. Reference to poor diets being one of the leading causes of disease: [Newton JN et al \(2014\)](#) – Changes in health in England, with analysis by English regions and areas of deprivation, 1990 to 2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. [Lancet 386\(10010\):2257-74](#).
5. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) advice is to limit free sugars to no more than 5% of daily calorie intake:
 - adults should have no more than 30g of free sugars a day, (roughly equivalent to seven sugar cubes)
 - children aged 7 to 10 should have no more than 24g of free sugars a day (six sugar cubes)
 - children aged 4 to 6 should have no more than 19g of free sugars a day (five sugar cubes)
 - there is no guideline limit for children under the age of 4, but it's recommended they avoid sugar-sweetened drinks and food with sugar added to it

[Public Health England](#) exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and providing

specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific expertise and support. Follow us on Twitter: [@PHE_uk](#) and Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland.

[News story: Toys “R” Us Ltd in administration: how to claim redundancy or register as a creditor](#)

Information for former employees:

Information: [Your rights if your employer is insolvent](#).

If you've been dismissed

If you've been dismissed, you might be entitled to redundancy pay and statutory notice pay from the Insolvency Service.

Other money you're owed will be paid to you automatically through the company's payroll. This includes holiday pay, salary, wages, or overtime you're owed.

Who is eligible

You can to apply to the Insolvency Service for redundancy pay and statutory notice pay if:

- you worked for Toys “R” Us under an [employment contract](#)
- you live in England, Scotland or Wales

[Workers](#) and [self-employed contractors](#) who provided services to the company are not eligible to apply. Instead, these individuals should [contact the administrator to register as creditors](#).

How to apply

The administrator will give details about how to apply and will also give you a case reference number (eg CN12345678).

Once you have this information you can [apply online](#).

Paying your claim

Once you submit your online application, it takes us an average of 14 days to process your application and pay claims.

However, sometimes we need to get additional information from you or from the administrator. This can take a bit of time.

We'll contact you directly if we need anything from you.

We always try to pay eligible claims within 6 weeks of receiving the application.

Please don't contact us to check the status of your application until after the six weeks have passed. This will help us deal with everyone's application as quickly as possible.

Getting help

Further information for Toys "R" Us team members can be found on the [Toys "R" Us website](#).

If you have questions about your situation or about any wages, salary, overtime, or holiday pay you're owed, you can contact ERA Solutions by:

- phone: 01827 383531
- [email](#)

If you need help completing your application, you can contact the Insolvency Service's Redundancy Payments helpline on 0330 331 0020.

When calling, please have your case reference number (eg CN12345678) and National Insurance number to hand. If you do not have a case reference number, please contact the administrator.

If you need to email us after submitting your claim, please only use the email address you gave on your application form. Otherwise, we won't be able to respond to you for security reasons.

Other support available to you

[Factsheet: finding a new job, managing your finances and benefits available to you](#).

Information for creditors

You'll need to register as a creditor in the administration if:

- you haven't been paid for goods or services you've supplied to Toys "R" Us
- you've paid Toys "R" Us for goods or services that you haven't received

Information about [how to register as a creditor](#) can be found on the Toys “R” Us website.

If you have any question, you can also contact the Insolvency Enquiry Line:

The Insolvency Enquiry Line can give you general information about:

- insolvency
- redundancy
- what redundancy payments offices do
- where you can go to get the information or advice you need

They cannot give you:

- legal or financial advice
- information on specific insolvency cases
- information or advice on matters directly relating to other government departments

[Press release: Second year opens on a high for A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon upgrade](#)

As the £1.5bn project enters its second year of construction at full speed, the team this week found out that they have been shortlisted the 2018 Construction News Awards 2018 in the Supply Chain Excellence category.

This nomination to a top industry award comes after the recent news that the team won the BIM Show Live 2018 Award in the Information Management category (on 27 February 2018). Earlier last year, the team also won the Highways Award 2017 for Team of the Year – Procurement & Supply Chain, and the Judges overall winner award.

The project, which will see 21 miles of A14 in Cambridgeshire upgraded to three lanes in each direction (four between Bar Hill and Girton), is continuing to progress to its challenging schedule to open to traffic by the end of 2020 despite the recent severe weather. It is doing so while being recognised as leading the way in the construction industry.

David Bray, A14 project director at Highways England, says:

Since it was given the go ahead by the Secretary of State for Transport in May 2016, the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme has been leading the way in the road construction sector in many ways.

The way the project delivery team is set up in itself is unique – one big team delivering all the construction packages as one. We're matching each project milestone with the best team to deliver it, drawing from specialist areas across all contractors working on the scheme.

This means we're making the most of the expertise at our disposal and it has already been paying off across the board.

Industry leading delivery

The project's environmental team, which is continuing its work to create 18 wildlife habitats as part of the scheme covering a total of 271 hectares of new habitat by the time the scheme is completed, has received a lot of attention from the public over the past few months.

The A14 upgrade aims to leave a positive footprint on the local environment when it is complete by the end of 2020.

David explains:

Thanks to the publication of the team's high-standard work via the media earlier this year, the team was nominated by the public for this year's BBC Countryfile Award in the Conservation Success of the Year category. Even though we didn't win the award, being one of five finalists nationwide is still an amazing achievement!

Another aspect in which the A14 upgrade is a trailblazer for the construction industry is via the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS). For the past 18 months, the project has been one of 12 pilot 'Ultra Sites' – the first major road infrastructure project to be recognised as such. This has meant that we've helped CCS develop and refine the initiative, which has been an invaluable opportunity for the team.

The Ultra Sites initiative, which was launched on 14 February 2018, demonstrates and promotes the highest standards of considerate construction. Ultra Sites actively seek to become beacons of best practice in the construction industry and a catalyst for exceptional leadership, collaboration and innovation. To find out more, visit the [Considerate Constructors Scheme website](#).

We've also taken community engagement very seriously right from the start

using as many ways as possible to communicate with people living along the A14 in South Cambridgeshire and beyond. We've been using a mobile visitor centre, social media, newsletters, and more to give people a chance to find out more, get involved or even gain skills, get a job or secure funding for community projects. And we're also planning to open our doors to the public soon!

On Saturday 24 March, the project team will participate in the nationwide 'Open Doors – Get in to Construction' initiative, welcoming people to visit one of the project's three compounds. There will be opportunities to talk to the team to find out more about what it takes to build such a huge road project, as well as come out on a guided tour of the project's construction site. Places are limited and can be booked via the [Open Doors website](#).

The A14 Community Fund has also been very successful in helping the local community forge meaningful links with the road upgrade. The A14 Writer in Residence project led by the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education, which secured funding from the Community Fund last year, has now concluded. A collection of writing inspired by the road called A14 Voices was published on 11 March 2018. The 120-page book contains poems, letters, fiction and short stories from people who live locally.

Recent milestones achieved

David Bray continues:

A lot has happened since the construction phase of the project reached its first anniversary at the end of November last year.

Nearly 40 percent of the project's main construction work has been successfully completed and work is currently focusing on the scheme's 34 bridges and structures while winter continues, marking a pause in the earth works side of the project.

Giant steel beams have been delivered steadily to site since the end of December and many have now taken up their permanent positions on a number of bridges near Huntingdon, including the bridge over the East Coast Main Line train line and a bridge near Brampton Hunt junction which will carry the future A14 over the A1. The 750m long River Great Ouse viaduct, with its 17 spans of piling, has also seen seven of its spans fitted with steel beams, with the rest to come between now and this summer.

And a second bridge was opened to traffic in February: the Brampton Road bridge over the A1, linking Brampton and Grafham. The old bridge it replaces was demolished that same week in just under 19 hours.

Demolition of the old Brampton Road bridge over the A1 on 17 February 2018

Coming up next

We will start the new earth works season as soon as the weather turns milder and drier.

By the time the project is completed at the end of 2020, we will have moved ten million cubic metres of earth across site, equivalent to 4,000 Olympic swimming pools, to build the foundations for the new road. Last year, we moved a quarter of that amount.

This second year of construction will see yet more project milestones reached as well as work starting on new sections of the scheme's 21 miles of road upgrade. A crucial but challenging part of the project will be the redesign of the Bar Hill junction, on which we will start work after Easter.

We need to build a completely new junction which will span eight lanes of A14 traffic as well as link with the future local access road –at the exact location of the old bridge, which is still being used by traffic every day. This will mean some disruption to local residents at times, though we are planning the work to minimise impact as much as possible and will make sure people are kept informed so they can plan ahead.

More information about work at the Bar Hill junction will be available in the coming weeks.

Other work planned for the coming months includes the installation of beams across the A14 at Swavesey as part of the redesign of the Swavesey junction, where the current path of the A14 veers off to the south marking the start of the future Huntingdon southern bypass.

The Swavesey interchange taking shape – picture taken in January 2018

Work to widen the A1 from two to three lanes in each direction near Alconbury has also been progressing well and a section of the new southbound carriageway is planned to open to traffic by Easter.

David concludes:

Once again, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the roads users and local residents who use or live near the A14 for their patience.

We're continuing to make great progress and the support we are getting from people locally means a lot to us.

The improvements we are delivering between Cambridge and Huntingdon are vital for the local area and for the country's economy and

we're doing our best to make sure they are delivered to the highest standard, leading the way and showcasing best practice for future road investment projects as well as building a positive legacy for when the project is completed.

For the latest information about the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme, including job and training opportunities, visit the [scheme web page](#) follow @A14C2H on Twitter and like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/A14C2H/.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.