

# Press release: Shared UK-Ireland commemoration announced for the Battle of Messines Ridge

Today, the Secretary of State, Rt. Hon. James Brokenshire MP, has announced plans for a shared UK-Ireland commemoration ceremony on 7 June 2017 to mark the centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge.

The battle has considerable historic and symbolic significance for the UK and Ireland, as Messines was the first time that the 36th (Ulster) and 16th (Irish) Divisions fought alongside each other during the Great War. The UK and Irish governments have now committed to working together to deliver a shared ceremony of commemoration, in the spirit of the 36th (Ulster) and 16th (Irish) divisions at the battle.

Making the announcement today, Rt. Hon. James Brokenshire MP said:

I am pleased to announce this shared UK-Ireland ceremony to mark the centenary of the Battle of Messines. We have seen all too well how history can divide, but our ambitious goal throughout this decade of centenaries is to seek to use history to bring us together, and to build on the political progress that has been made throughout these islands.

This shared ceremony is an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of those who fought at Messines Ridge, as well as to further strengthen the important relationship that exists between the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The commemoration ceremony will take place at the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines, Belgium, and will be a ticketed event. Members of the public who wish to express an interest in attending the commemoration can obtain further details [here](#) (MS Word Document, 169KB) .

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

1. Expressions of interest are now being sought from individuals interested in attending the Battles of Messines Ridge Centenary Commemoration, at the Island of Ireland Peace Park at 2pm on 7 June 2017.
2. Invitations will issue shortly to invited guests. All those interested

in applying for a public ticket are asked to complete a brief form which can be found [here](#) (MS Word Document, 169KB) before submitting it to [messinesqueries@dfa.ie](mailto:messinesqueries@dfa.ie). If you would like to receive the form in an alternative format, please contact [messinesqueries@dfa.ie](mailto:messinesqueries@dfa.ie).

3. Given the likely level of interest in attending this ceremony, tickets cannot be guaranteed to all who apply and tickets may be allocated through a ballot system.
4. Priority will be given to the relatives of those who fought in the battle and persons who can provide demonstrable evidence of a particular interest in, or link to, commemoration of the Battle of Messines, in a context of reconciliation.
5. Further information on logistics for the ceremony will follow in due course.
6. The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday 5 May 2017 at 12 noon.

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## **[Press release: Pubs Code Adjudicator releases new figures on arbitration awards](#)**

Paul Newby, the Pubs Code Adjudicator, has today announced the latest figures on completed arbitration cases.

The total number of cases in which the Adjudicator has made awards has now reached 25, including the five first cases announced on 9 March 2017.

Mr Newby said: “We are making good progress in moving cases through the arbitration process and this rising figure of awards shows that our systems and resources are robust and working.

“We currently have 97 cases at different stages within the arbitration process. The timetable for resolving cases is largely in the hands of the parties to the dispute but my team and I are making all efforts to ensure the process moves forward as quickly as possible. This includes issuing prompts and reminders for information or actions whenever there are delays.

“I continue to encourage tenants and pub-owning businesses to sit down

together and negotiate purposefully. As a result, in a number of cases this is achieving the desired result of a narrowing of the issues, a stronger negotiating position for tenants and swifter settlements.

“Arbitration awards remain private unless all parties to the dispute agree to release details. However, I am committed to identifying general principles where I can do so without breaching confidentiality and will share these with tenants and pub-owning businesses to help guide their future relationships.

“The PCA enquiry line remains open for tenants and others who want help understanding the Code and there is a wealth of information on the [PCA website](#), including flowcharts and templates to guide tenants and their representatives through the processes. I urge them to read and understand this information.”

For further information contact Sheree Dodd on [office@pca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:office@pca.gsi.gov.uk)

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## [News story: Non-Executive director appointment to the Health and Safety Executive](#)

### **Biography**

Martin Esom became Chief Executive of Waltham Forest Council in October 2010, having previously been Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Environment and Regeneration. An environmental health officer by training, he worked at 3 other London Boroughs in senior roles before joining Waltham Forest. He was awarded the Ronald Williams Gold Medal on graduation by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, where he later served as a Board Member and Trustee for 8 years.

During his time at the Council, Martin has led a number of community safety initiatives, including Waltham Forest’s award-winning gang prevention programme and a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy. Martin is also the Chair of the London Prevent Board, which continues to drive work in relation to counter-terrorism and anti-radicalisation across the capital.

He has led on the transformation of the William Morris Gallery, which has since been awarded the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2013. He has also taken forward the regeneration of the Borough, in particular rejuvenating high streets and the construction of the Borough’s new cinema and entertainment complex in Walthamstow, which opened in November 2014.

Martin has a Masters in Business Administration and holds technical qualifications in Health and Safety and Noise Control.

## More information

Non-Executive Board members are entitled to an annual remuneration of £15,100 a year for approximately 30 days commitment.

Read further information about the [HSE and its Board](#).

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## [News story: View Gender Pay Gap Information](#)

Thousands of employers are now required to publish their gender pay gap figures for the first time. You can see what information companies have published so far on the [gender pay gap viewing service](#).

As part of the new regulations, by April 2018 employers will be required to:

### **Publish their median gender pay gap figures**

By identifying the wage of the middle earner, the median is the best representation of the 'typical' gender difference.

### **Publish their mean gender pay gap figures**

By taking into account the full earnings distribution, the mean takes into account the low and high earners in an organisation – this is particularly useful as women are often over-represented at the low earning extreme and men are over-represented at the high earning extreme.

### **Publish the proportion of men & women in each quartile of the pay structure**

This data will show the spread of male and female earners across an organisation, helping to show employers where women's progress might be stalling so they can take action to support their career development.

### **Publish the gender pay gaps for any bonuses paid out during the year**

As there is a significant issue around bonus payments in some sectors, employers will also have to publish the proportion of male and proportion of female employees that received a bonus during the year.

Employers will also be encouraged to publish an action plan alongside the figures on their own website, demonstrating the steps they will take to close the gender pay gap within their organisation.

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## [News story: Boost to National Infrastructure Commission's expertise](#)

Lord Adonis has today (21 April 2017) been appointed as the permanent Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), where he will provide expert and impartial advice to ensure modern Britain has the infrastructure it needs for the future.

Previously interim Chair, Lord Adonis, who served as Transport Secretary between 2009 and 2010, has successfully led the Commission since it was first established in October 2015.

The Chancellor has also appointed Sir John Armitt as Deputy Chair. He brings a wealth of experience to this role with a long and distinguished career in business and a proven track-record in delivering major infrastructure projects.

Four new Commissioners – Dame Kate Barker, Professor David Fisk, Andy Green and Julia Prescott – will also join the NIC to help boost its expertise as it develops a National Infrastructure Assessment setting out how best to meet Britain's long-term infrastructure needs.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said:

The National Infrastructure Commission plays a crucial role to help ensure the UK's infrastructure is fit for the future. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Lord Adonis as the permanent Chair. He has great ambition, vision and energy, and brings cabinet-level experience and deep knowledge of infrastructure to this role.

The government has a plan for Britain and is determined to make the most of the opportunities ahead. Part of this will be ensuring our infrastructure is fit for purpose to support an economy that works for everyone and ensure our outward-looking country can continue to succeed on the global stage.

Lord Andrew Adonis said:

I'm delighted to have been formally appointed as Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), and to be able to build on the work that I began as interim Chair. Our infrastructure networks are central to the UK's economy and society, but too often their planning has been piecemeal and short-term. The NIC provides the opportunity to transform this and deliver the infrastructure

that the UK needs to ensure its prosperity over the coming decades.

I'm also pleased to welcome the new Commissioners to the NIC. These Commissioners, along with our existing ones, are leading experts and ensure the NIC provides the best advice to government on the UK's long-term infrastructure needs.

The government has also asked the existing members – Tim Besley, Demis Hassabis, Sadie Morgan and Bridget Rosewell – to serve as Permanent Commissioners until October 2020, having been initially appointed on an interim basis.

### **Further information**

The NIC was established in January 2017 as an executive agency to help plan, prioritise and ensure efficient investment in infrastructure. It has its own budget and is autonomous, which is set out in a [charter](#) detailing the government's clear commitment to its operational independence.

Today's appointments of the Chair, Deputy Chair and new Commissioners follow an open competition, in line with the principles set out in the Governance Code on Public Appointments. Lord Adonis, Sir John Armitt and the new Commissioners will serve 5 year terms on the Commission.

### **Further details on the new Commissioners:**

- Dame Kate Barker is a business economist, and was a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) from 2001 to 2010
- David Fisk is Emeritus Professor of Systems Engineering and Innovation at the Centre for Systems Engineering and Infrastructure at Imperial College London, and a member of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority
- Andy Green is a business leader. He currently chairs IG Group plc, a global leader in online trading, and the Digital Catapult, an initiative to help grow the UK digital economy
- Julia Prescott is Chief Strategy Officer at Meridiam, a leading global investor and asset manager specialising in public infrastructure