

# Career Insight: Rachel, Lawyer, Government Legal Department

“When the [Government Legal Department \(GLD\)](#) introduced commercial training contracts in 2019, I was instantly drawn to the scheme, which offered an appealing mix of commercial and public law. Having been a paralegal in a charity, I already had an interest in advising an organisation with wider legal considerations than a conventional private sector business. As such, GLD’s commercial training contract aligned with my interests and seemed like a great opportunity to learn about new areas of law, such as public procurement and subsidy control.

As a legal trainee on the [Department for Transport \(DfT\)](#) commercial training contract I completed seats in the rail passenger services team and aviation team within DfT Legal Advisers, the Commercial Law Group’s litigation team and also undertook a secondment at one of the [Rail Legal Services](#) panel firms (in its infrastructure, projects and energy team).

The breadth of experience on offer was immediately apparent. In the commercial litigation team, I was involved with commercial disputes for a number of government departments and agencies, including procurement disputes, contractual claims and judicial reviews, which provided the opportunity to assist with drafting court filings and preparation for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes. Perhaps most interesting was having first-hand experience of the impact of the pandemic on the type and nature of work.

My seat in DfT Legal Advisers’ aviation team provided the opportunity to develop public law advisory skills. This included regularly advising on vires and proposed courses of actions, including the interpretation of and powers to amend retained EU law, assisting with drafting secondary legislation and supporting the provision of financial support to the industry as a result of the pandemic.

A unique feature of the GLD commercial training contracts is the opportunity to undertake a seat on secondment at a private practice firm. As well as gaining experience in interesting new areas such as renewable energy, this seat provided an insight into the concerns of private-sector stakeholders involved in public projects. It also provided the opportunity to develop effective transaction management and drafting skills which are undoubtedly valuable for a government commercial lawyer.

For my first posting on the [2+2 Scheme](#) (the scheme whereby lawyers are allocated to two, two-year postings in GLD over the four years following qualification), I am delighted to have returned to DfT Legal Advisers’ rail passenger services team which advises on a broad range of commercial work arising from the relationship between the government and private-sector stakeholders in the rail industry, including high value rail procurements. Legal advice regularly focuses on the commercial arrangements for rail

franchises in England which have evolved considerably in recent years in response to the pandemic and the intention to transition to implementation of the recommendations of the [White Paper \(Great British Railways: The Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail\)](#).”

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## [ALRA in liquidation: information for students, employees and, creditors](#)

News story

Information for students, employees and creditors of ALRA (The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts) in liquidation.



On 12 April 2022 winding up orders were made against ALRA (Company Number: 04306353) and the court appointed the Official Receiver as Liquidator.

The Official Receiver's duty is to wind-down ALRA, for the benefit of the company's creditors. The Official Receiver also has a duty to enquire into the conduct of current and former directors.

### **Information for students**

ALRA is in liquidation and has ceased to trade, with all services cancelled.

Current students should contact the St Mary's University Helpline on [alra.support@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:alra.support@stmarys.ac.uk) or call 020 8240 8284 for help and advice.

### **Information for employees**

If you've been told that you are being made redundant, the information in this section provides advice about claiming money you're owed and where you can seek support.

## Who is eligible?

You can apply to the Insolvency Service for redundancy and other payments if:

You cannot apply to the Insolvency Service if you live in Northern Ireland. Find out about your [rights in Northern Ireland if your employer is insolvent](#).

## How to apply

The Official Receiver will give you details about how to apply and will also give you a case reference number (for example CN12345678).

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

## What you can apply for

What you can apply for depends on your circumstances. The Insolvency Service can pay:

- redundancy pay: if you've worked for ALRA for at least 2 years
- pro rata holiday pay (known as 'holiday pay accrued'): the unused leave you were entitled to take between the start of your leave year and the date you were made redundant.
- holiday pay taken (HPT): if ALRA hasn't paid you for annual leave you took before being made redundant
- money you're owed by ALRA: for example unpaid wages, overtime and commission
- statutory notice pay: if you've worked for ALRA for at least 1 month

There are caps on what we can pay you for each type of claim. [Find out how much we can pay you](#).

## Information for creditors

You will need to [register as a creditor](#) in the liquidation if:

- you have not been paid for goods or services you've supplied to ALRA (in liquidation)
- you have paid ALRA (in liquidation) for goods or services that you have not received
- you are a [worker](#) or self-employed contractor who provided services to ALRA

To register as a creditor you will need to complete a [Proof of Debt](#) form which you should then email: [ALRA@insolvency.gov.uk](mailto:ALRA@insolvency.gov.uk).

Once you have registered and the Official Receiver receives your [Proof of Debt](#) form they will add you to the list of creditors and include you on future correspondence about the case.

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## Ukraine crisis: increased risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

The situation in Ukraine continues to change rapidly, with many Ukrainians becoming displaced and seeking the shelter and safety of charities operating along Ukraine's borders and in the neighbouring countries.

We recognise the vital work charities are delivering, here and in the region, to support those affected by the crisis. Through our collaboration with the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), we are aware that criminal groups are operating in the region. Charities need to be alert to the risks that some individuals may try to use the cover of charity for the purpose of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment of those in need of assistance.

All trustees must take reasonable steps to protect from harm people who come into contact with their charity – this is a fundamental part of fulfilling your trustee duties and operating as a charity for the public benefit. However, operating internationally in response to a humanitarian crisis will pose particular safeguarding challenges and we recognise that those fleeing from conflict will have experienced significant trauma, which may result in specific vulnerabilities.

Whilst the risks faced, and how these are managed, will depend on the size, nature and complexity of the charity, trustees should consider what further steps they could take to ensure they are keeping people safe from harm.

We expect trustees of charities operating in the region to:

- assess and manage sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment risks and wider safeguarding risks in their charity and for its operations
- regularly review existing safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that they remain fit for purpose as the situation on the ground evolves
- make sure trustees, staff and volunteers are suitable and legally able to act in their positions, [undertaking or updating vetting checks as appropriate](#)
- implement any training plans, especially following new recruitment
- use the [Misconduct Disclosure Scheme](#) if they are signatories when hiring staff and volunteers to help protect their charity and other organisations from individuals who pose a safeguarding risk – for those who are not currently signatories, you should apply the principles of the scheme and then sign up to it as soon as feasible
- ensure all those connected to their charity understand how, and feel able, to report concerns

If your charity is responding to the crisis in Ukraine by working with partners, you must make sure that any grant recipient or partner body is suitable and they must have appropriate safeguarding procedures in place. Where a registered charity supports, or works closely with overseas partners or not-for-profit organisations that are not registered with the Commission, we will hold the registered charity to account over the suitability and management of that relationship – including its supervision of safeguarding risks.

For more information on conducting appropriate and proper due diligence, please [see our Compliance Toolkit](#) which includes a range of practical tools. For specific due diligence guidance on safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, charities may also wish to consider FCDO's framework for implementing partners.

## **Handling allegations or incidents**

Where allegations or incidents do arise, it is important that charities respond quickly and handle the situation appropriately. Charities should ensure that support is available to victims and survivors. They must also report to all relevant agencies and regulators as appropriate.

This includes [reporting to the Charity Commission where serious incidents occur](#) and reporting potentially criminal incidents to the police and/or appropriate authorities in the locality.

In cases where a British national or a person with a claim to UK residency has committed, or potentially committed, a child sexual abuse/exploitation offence overseas, the UK authorities may have an interest even though it happened overseas. Please see our guidance on [reporting to the police](#) for more information.

## **Further information**

For more information on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, please see:

The Commission also has further information on protecting people who come into contact with your charity:

For guidance on responding to the crisis in Ukraine, please see the Commission's main hub – [Ukraine humanitarian crisis: guidance for charities and trustees](#).

## **Notes**

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, is issuing this alert to charities as regulatory advice under section 15(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

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# [UKHSA update on salmonella cases linked to confectionary products](#)

## Latest

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is continuing to investigate an ongoing outbreak of salmonella linked to certain Kinder products made in one of Ferrero's factories, in Arlon, Belgium.

We are working with the Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland, Public Health Scotland, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, as well as international public health and food safety authorities, to ensure that the risk to public health is minimised as far as possible.

As of 29 April, there are 76 cases linked to this outbreak in the UK. The majority of the cases are children under 5 years of age.

We continue to remind people that a range of Kinder Egg products and Schoko-Bons should not be eaten.

[Full details on the products affected and the recall can be found here.](#)

Further information on case numbers in all affected countries can be found at the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#).

## Previous

### 22 April 2022

UKHSA is continuing to work with the Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland, Public Health Scotland, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland – as well as international public health and food safety authorities – to investigate an ongoing outbreak of salmonella linked to certain Kinder products made in one of Ferrero's factories, in Arlon, Belgium.

As of 20 April, there are 73 cases linked to this outbreak in the UK. The majority of the cases are children under 5 years of age.

We continue to remind people that a range of Kinder Egg products and Schoko-Bon's should not be eaten.

[Full details on the products affected and the recall can be found here.](#)

Further information on case numbers in all affected countries can be found at the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#).

**15 April 2022**

As we enter the bank holiday weekend, the Food Standards Agency (FSA), Food Standards Scotland (FSS) and UKHSA are strongly reminding people that a range of Kinder Egg products and Schoko-Bon's should not be eaten.

The agencies are continuing to work with Public Health Scotland, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland – as well as international public health and food safety authorities – to investigate an ongoing outbreak of salmonella linked to certain Kinder Egg product ranges and Schoko-Bons produced at one of the Ferrero company's factories, in Arlon, Belgium.

[Full details on the products affected and the recall can be found here.](#)

As of 15 April, there are 70 cases linked to this outbreak in the UK. The majority of the cases are in children under 5 years of age.

Dame Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of UKHSA, said:

We're reminding people of the recall this bank holiday weekend as it's possible these products have been bought and stored as gifts, or for events such as Easter trails.

It's crucial these products are not eaten and are discarded. Salmonella infection can be severe and many children affected in this outbreak have been very unwell and hospitalised, so anyone giving chocolate products to friends or family should take extra care to ensure their Easter gifts are not amongst those products recalled.

Thank you to parents and guardians who worked with us and other public health authorities in the UK to tell us what their children had eaten prior to becoming unwell – this allowed us to rapidly pinpoint a potential source of infection and helped food chain investigations both in this country and in Europe. We understand this has been a worrying time for these families, and their responses have helped to prevent more children and vulnerable adults being affected.

Emily Miles, Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency, said:

As we go into the Easter weekend, we are strongly urging consumers to follow the advice in the latest recall notice and to check any Kinder products they might have already bought against the list detailed in the notice, as they may pose a risk to health. If they do have any products on the list, they should not eat them and should discard them immediately.

We have emphasised to the business and the authorities in Belgium

the importance of taking a precautionary approach to their recall and trust that they will continue to put consumers' needs first in any action they take.

Symptoms of salmonellosis – or infection with salmonella – typically resolve themselves within a few days. However, symptoms can be more severe, especially in young children, those who are pregnant and those with weakened immune systems.

Anybody with concerns that they have symptoms of salmonellosis should contact their GP or call NHS 111. Salmonella can be spread from person to person as well as from food, so anyone affected should adhere to good hygiene practices, such as washing hands thoroughly after using the bathroom and avoiding handling food for others where possible, if you have symptoms.

The following products have been recalled and regardless of best-before date, should not be eaten.

The recall includes:

- Kinder Surprise 20g and 3x 20g
- Kinder Surprise 100g
- Kinder Egg Hunt
- Kinder Mini Eggs
- Kinder Schoko-Bons

## **13 April 2022**

UKHSA is continuing to work with the Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland, Public Health Scotland, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland – as well as international public health and food safety authorities – to investigate an ongoing outbreak of Salmonella linked to certain Kinder products produced by the Ferrero Group.

[Full details on the products affected and the recall can be found here.](#)

As of 13 April, there are 67 cases linked to this outbreak in the UK. The majority of the cases are in children under 5 years of age.

Dr Lesley Larkin, Surveillance Lead, Gastrointestinal Pathogens and Food Safety (One Health) at UKHSA, said:

We would like to thank all the parents who worked with us and other public health authorities in the UK to tell us what their children had eaten prior to becoming unwell – they allowed us to rapidly pinpoint a potential source, which facilitated food chain investigations both in this country and in Europe. We understand this has been a worrying time for these families, and their responses have helped to prevent more children being affected.

Symptoms of salmonellosis typically resolve themselves within a few days. However, symptoms can be more severe, especially in young

children, those who are pregnant and those with weakened immune systems.

Anybody with concerns that they have symptoms of salmonellosis should contact their GP or call NHS 111. Salmonella can be spread from person to person as well as from food, so anyone affected should adhere to good hygiene practices, such as washing hands thoroughly after using the bathroom and avoiding handling food for others where possible, if you have symptoms.

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## [Multiplying maths skills for adults](#)

Adults looking to improve their numeracy skills are set to benefit from a £270 million investment in new courses, helping to level up opportunities for more people to progress and get good, well-paid jobs.

Around [17 million adults in England](#) – half of the working-age population – have the numeracy skills of primary school children. Poor numeracy skills can hold people back from having the confidence to get on in life and into work.

Those who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages, and better wellbeing.

Local councils and mayoral combined authorities across England will receive the cash boost ahead of the rollout of the government's flagship [Multiply](#) programme this autumn.

Multiply will offer adults who do not already have a GCSE grade C/4 or higher in Maths or equivalent, and need to improve their numeracy, free flexible courses that fit around their lives. Courses are expected to be available this autumn in person or online, at work or at home, and either on a part time or intensive basis. These courses will equip adults across the UK with the numeracy skills they need to fulfil their potential.

Employers who could benefit from boosting their workforce's skills will be able to work with their Local Authority and training providers to deliver Maths GCSEs or work-ready Functional Skills Qualifications as well as design and deliver bespoke programmes for their workforce – at no cost to them.

Minister for Skills Alex Burghart said:

As the son of a maths teacher, I know that, with the right support, everyone can do maths. That is why making sure everyone has good maths and numeracy skills is central to the mission of this government.

Poor numeracy holds people back in their lives and careers. Multiply will be a launchpad for people to progress into better paid jobs that will help our economy grow.

This £270 million of government funding will unlock potential and level up opportunities for people across the country. We will give this money to local areas based on need so they can find the right solutions for their communities.

There is already help available for adults to improve maths and numeracy skills including [fully funded maths courses up to GCSE](#) to enable people to get the maths skills they need.

Multiply will build on this by offering a range of free training options helping people to build their confidence with maths in their everyday and working lives.

Businesses that develop their employees' numeracy skills can also boost productivity, increase profits and improve employee retention. [Research](#) shows that sectors with a high proportion of workers with basic or advanced numeracy skills have experienced the most rapid growth in employment over the last decade.

The funding announced today for England is part of a £2.6 billion investment through the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) which is designed to help spread opportunity and level up the country. Up to £559 million in total from Fund will be invested across the UK to support the delivery of the government's Multiply programme.