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The Newsflash is a monthly round up of publications, information, events, funding and jobs relating to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers for anyone who wants to keep up to date with the latest developments.

The newsflash is produced by the East of England Local Government Association - Strategic Migration Partnership.

Asylum Seekers and Refugees - including Vulnerable Persons resettlement

Inspection report from Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

The Independent Chief Inspector credits partners for what they have achieved so far; in particular for the resettlement of over half of the target 20,000 refugees by the end of 2017. This inspection examined the efficiency and effectiveness of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (the Scheme), looking at the dependencies and risks to successful delivery of the 20,000 target. It found that the processes on which the Scheme relied were essentially effective. While the Scheme is delivering what it set out to, the Chief Inspector concludes that the Home Office could do more; to analyse and evaluate the various stages of the resettlement process; to share 'best practice' and achieve greater consistency of treatment and outcomes. The report makes seven recommendations, of which the Home Office has "accepted" 2 and "partially accepted" 5. However, its formal response commits to few actions and disputes or rejects some of the report's findings. The Inspector is disappointed to conclude that the Home Office appears closed to the idea that there is any room for improvement. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Inspection report published: Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme - GOV.UK](#). Please follow this link to read the response from the Home Office: [Response to the report on an inspection of the vulnerable persons resettlement scheme - GOV.UK](#)

BBC news – where have the UK's 10,000 Syrian refugees gone?

The report uses the government's data to show where resettled refugees are living, contrasting with where adult asylum seekers are being housed. The data about who looks after unaccompanied asylum seeking children is not in the public domain so this does not feature in this report (but we are aware that this is something which the east of England does more of than many parts of the UK). Please follow this link to read the BBC report: [Where have the UK's 10,000 Syrian refugees gone? - BBC News](#)

Court of Justice of the European Union press release – and unaccompanied minor who attains the right of majority during the asylum procedure retains that right to family reunification.

The ruling requires that an application for family reunification must be made within a reasonable time, in principle within three months of the date on which the minor concerned is recognised as having refugee status. Please follow this link to read the press release in full: <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-04/cp180040en.pdf>

Home Office new guidance clarifying when the study ban bail restrictions should/should not be applied

This new guidance makes clear that the study ban on bail restrictions should not apply in cases where someone has an outstanding asylum claim or appeal or for a former-UASC who is in receipt of leaving care services from the local authority, even if they are appeal rights exhausted. Please see page 14 of the guidance for further information: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705600/im_migration-bail-v2.0ext.pdf

New publications from the European Migration Network (EMN)

[Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2017](#): The EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum provides an overview of significant EU and national policies and legislative developments in the fields of migration and international protection that were developed in 2017. The report is based on contributions from 25 Member States, covering 8 areas: legal migration and mobility, international protection including asylum, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, integration of migrants, irregular migration, return, actions against trafficking in human beings and maximising development impact of migration and mobility.

[EMN 10 Year Anniversary Report](#): To mark the 10 year anniversary of the EMN, the Anniversary Report takes stock of and presents key trends in asylum and migration flows and policy developments over the past 10 years.

[EMN Glossary Version 6.0](#): The EMN Glossary has been updated to reflect the most up-to-date developments in the field of asylum and migration and now contains over 450 terms. This new version is available as an interactive online Glossary and as a pdf file.

Results of special Eurobarometer on integration of immigrants in the European Union from European Commission

According to the results, 37% of Europeans think that they are well informed about immigration and integration related matters. Respondents tend to overestimate the number of non-EU immigrants: in 19 out of the 28 Member States, the estimated proportion of immigrants in the population is at least twice the actual proportion and in some countries, the ratio is much higher. 54% of Europeans think that integration of immigrants is successful but the figures vary widely between countries. There seems to be a link to the actual share of immigrants in a country's total population: in countries which have a low proportion of non-EU immigrants in their population, respondents are less likely to see integration as a success or feel that immigrants have had a positive impact on their society. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Results of special Eurobarometer on integration of immigrants in the European Union | Migration and Home Affairs](#)

Law Society – failures in UK immigration asylum undermine the rule of law

The Law Society issued a press release to highlight the Home Office's record of immigration and asylum appeals, where nearly 50% are overturned on appeal. Please follow this link to read the press release in full: [Failures in UK immigration and asylum undermine the rule of law - The Law Society](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons - Inspection of a Third Country Unit removal to France, Austria and Bulgaria

The UK is party to the Dublin Convention, the EU law that determines which EU member state is responsible for considering an asylum claim and allows member states to transfer an asylum seeker to the responsible state. Many detainees are returned to third countries using scheduled flights, but in February 2017 the Home Office started to use charter aircraft to remove groups of detainees. This report covers the inspection of a charter removal. The inspectors had concerns about the way that this operation was conducted, principally around the excessive use of restraints. Most detainees were in waist restraint belts for the entire journey. The documentation and inspectors' observations showed that, in many cases, restraints were unnecessary and not reasonable or proportionate. Detainees' compliance was not tested during the journey, so restraints remained in place for longer than necessary. In contrast, the inspector looks at other detention settings where far more disruptive behaviour is managed without such physical restraints. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [A Third Country Unit removal to France, Austria and Bulgaria](#)

Free resources now available to support organisations in the refugee sector

The first resource is an interactive timeline of key policy and legislative changes affecting the UK asylum system from 1999 to the present day. This can be accessed via <http://www.andyhewett.com/policy-timeline>.

The second resource is a set of interactive heat-maps and graphs covering UK, European and Global refugee data. These can be accessed at <http://www.andyhewett.com/data-visualisation>

Migration

Expert briefing from APPG on Migration: Understanding “Windrush”

The APPG on Migration has published an expert briefing on the situation affecting members of the Windrush generation. It explains the legal history that has led to the current controversy and comments on some of the proposed solutions. Alexander Finch of Fragomen LLP has written the briefing. Please follow this link to access the briefing in full: [Windrush generation briefing – Fragomen LLP](#)

The Windrush immigration enforcement investigation and advice for undocumented Commonwealth citizens

The Home Secretary has written to the Chair of the Home Affairs committee, outlining how the Home Office will be responding to the way in which some of the Windrush generation of Commonwealth citizens have been wrongly assessed as not being present legally in the UK. The letter sets out plans for a taskforce to take questions from concerned people, to explain what they need to do to regularise their immigration status and apply for British citizenship. It details how enforcement action taken on migrants who settled in the UK before 1973 is being reviewed, going back to 2002, plus what arrangements there are for compensation. Please follow this link to read the letter in full: <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180514-Home-Secretary-Windrush.pdf>. Please follow this link to access the advice from government about obtaining evidence for undocumented long-term residents of the UK to prove their status here [Undocumented Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK - GOV.UK](#)

Housing and benefits advice on ‘Windrush and similar cases

Housing professionals, advisers and applicants for housing and housing benefit can get new advice to assist people from the ‘Windrush generation’ from www.housing-rights.info. The Home Office and DWP have issued new guidance relating to the ‘right to rent’ and to housing benefit. On the [right to rent](#), landlords are told: “If a prospective tenant has lived in the UK permanently since before 1973 and has not been away for long periods in the last 30 years, they have the right to be here and to rent property. If a prospective tenant came to the UK after 1 January 1973 then they might not have the automatic right to be here, but they may be allowed to stay here permanently and will have the right to rent property.” They are then referred to the Home Office checking service and the applicants are asked to get in touch with the Home Office’s dedicated unit. On [housing benefit](#) (HB) the DWP advises that: “Should councils identify... HB cases where the claimant is unable to evidence their immigration status to allow access to HB, but indicates they are from the ‘Windrush generation’, councils are urged to apply extreme caution and refer the claimant, or their representative, to the Home Office dedicated taskforce team... to allow them to undertake necessary action.”

Norfolk Black History Month 2018 is “Celebrating 70 Years of the Windrush Generation”

Norfolk Black History Month (BHM) Committee would like to invite everyone to join in celebrating BHM 2018 this October. The committee is planning a variety of interesting and meaningful events across Norfolk. Anyone who would like to hold his or her own event, the BHM Committee would be happy to help and advise. Please contact Danny Keen (Chair of Norfolk BHM) on e: communityproject@norfolkblackhistorymonth.org or m: 07824 668327.

Coram Children’s Legal Centre, Migrant Children’s Project Newsletter – April edition

The newsletter features articles about the cost that children are facing to apply for British citizenship – and how campaigners from ‘Let us Learn’ and Coram featured in a programme on Radio 4 about increased fees for immigration applications. The newsletter also features links to reports, training and news. Please follow this link to access the newsletter: [MCP April newsletter- Windrush, application fees, legal representation and more...](#)

Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know – updated Government guidance

Information for European Union citizens living in the UK has now been updated. Please follow this link to read the guidance in full: [Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know - GOV.UK](#)

Number of Britons becoming citizens of another EU state doubles – The Guardian

According to the Guardian report, numbers doubled to 6,555 in 2016 compared to the previous year. Please follow this link to read the article in full: [Number of Britons becoming citizens of another EU state jumps | World news | The Guardian](#)

Unsettled Status? Which EU Citizens are at risk of failing to secure their Rights after Brexit? – Report from the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford

As the UK moves towards Brexit, the government is designing a system to give those EU citizens already living in the UK 'settled status.' Plans announced so far propose that the process will be mandatory, with a deadline for applying; that the application process will be streamlined and more 'user-friendly' than existing Home Office applications; and that the eligibility criteria will be simplified so that almost all EU citizens living in the UK at the point of Brexit will qualify. One challenge facing any large-scale government programme is how to enable everyone who is eligible to participate. EU citizens living in the UK are mainly an educated population who are unlikely to have problems navigating a simplified application process. However, securing settled status will be more difficult for some groups of people, whether because they lack awareness of the process or the need to apply, are vulnerable for different reasons, have difficulty navigating the application system, or cannot provide evidence of time spent in the UK. Please follow this link to the report, which looks at the characteristics associated with those at risk of being unable to secure their status in the UK: [Unsettled Status? Which EU Citizens are at Risk of Failing to Secure their Rights after Brexit? - Migration Observatory - The Migration Observatory](#)

Refugee and Migrant Forum Essex and London (RAMFEL) – legal advice service for destitute migrants

RAMFEL have received funding until the end of 2019 to provide legal advice to destitute vulnerable migrants for immigration matters that are not covered by legal aid. Any agency which would like to become a referral partner for this project please contact James Tullett on e: james.tullett@ramfel.org.uk

Home Affairs Committee - Business, trade union and academics discuss post-Brexit migration

On 22 May, the Home Affairs Committee discuss the options available to the UK for future immigration arrangements between the UK and the EU with business, trade union and academia representatives. The session is likely to cover: Trade-offs between trade and migration policy - Options for controlling EEA migration - Labour market controls - Relationship between skills shortages and migration - Non-EEA migration - International comparisons. Please follow this link to read or watch this session: [Business, trade union and academics discuss post-Brexit migration - News from Parliament - UK Parliament](#)

European Network Against Racism (ENAR) - Promoting fair and efficient policing for Roma, Sinti and Travellers in the EU

A briefing note by ENAR highlights discriminatory policies across Europe, and flags the UK's detention/deportation of precarious EU citizens as having "a disproportionate effect on Roma." Please follow this link to read the briefing note in full: http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/2018_brief_roma_week_final-2.pdf

Immigration rules are hampering the ability of the NHS to recruit doctors, health leaders warn – BBC

NHS leaders are reporting that doctors from outside the EU, who are subject to the cap on visa numbers, are being refused permission to come to the UK for work, leading to a worsening service for patients. Please follow this link to access the report in full: [Health bosses criticise visa rules for doctors - BBC News](#)

New Government guidance on Turkish ECAA business people applying for indefinite leave to remain (ILR)

The Home Office will no longer accept applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain under the Turkish European Communities Association Agreement (ECAA) Business Persons category. This is in light of the Upper Tribunal's judgment in [Aydogdu v SSHD \[JR/15737/2015\]](#). The Upper Tribunal found that the settlement of Turkish nationals and their dependents did not fall within the scope of a provision of the ECAA agreement with Turkey. While the Home Office examined the implications of the decision, ECAA ILR applications were processed until 16 March 2018. Please follow this link to read the guidance in full: [Turkish ECAA business guidance - GOV.UK](#)

The nature and scale of labour exploitation across all sectors within the UK – Report from the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)

National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data shows that the number of Vietnamese potential victims is consistently high and is increasing. In 2017, Vietnamese, British and Albanian were the most common nationalities referred for labour exploitation. In contrast, GLAA intelligence indicates that exploitation of Romanian workers is most frequently reported. The analysis shows that there is often a correlation between the nationality of potential victims and exploiters; they may share a common language or cultural similarities, which facilitates recruitment and control. In the future, the GLAA will continue to focus on the agriculture sector, nail bars, construction, but will also look more into transport and taxi drivers in the gig economy in particular. Please follow this link to the report: [external nature and scale of labour exploitation report final version may 2018.pdf](#)

Section 17 HUB launched - to collate information about local authorities' No Recourse to Public Funds practice

This new project will collate information about local authorities' No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) practice. It will enable organisations to obtain the best outcome when referring and helping destitute clients to approach local authorities for support under s17 Children Act 1989 and assist litigation. Information includes contact details, policy and practice documents and s17 subsistence rates that Project 17 obtained through FOI responses from all local authorities in England, what challenges have been taken and their outcomes, JR applications issued, interim relief and/or result at hearing and judgements regarding NRPF policy documents. Access to the database is by membership and will be available to organisations working with NRPF families. Go to the link here to apply [s17hub.project17.org.uk](#). Part of the project is to collect information from organisations advocating for destitute clients. They have created a Google form here [s17 Hub Data Entry form](#) where you can load your anonymized cases on to the Hub.

Sopra Steria awarded new UKVI contract to deliver service for people applying for a work or study visa, settlement or citizenship from within the UK

The new visa, settlement or citizenship service will offer a streamlined application process from over 60 locations across the UK, including 56 local libraries. Under the new arrangements people using the service will be able to submit biometric information including photos, fingerprints and signatures, and their supporting evidence at a single appointment. The evidence will then be copied and sent to UKVI, meaning that people won't have to hand over important documents, such as passports, whilst the applications are processed. Please follow this link for more details of the service: [Sopra Steria has been awarded a new UKVI contract - GOV.UK](#)

Migrant Journey – Home Office statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016

This release is the eighth in an annual series of publications that explore changes in migrants' visa and leave status within the UK's immigration system. The findings are based on combining data collected from UK Visas and Immigration databases. These databases hold records of individuals granted (Entry clearance) visas outside the UK, and any subsequent grants of extensions of stay in the UK, as well as grants of settlement (indefinite leave to remain) and citizenship. It shows that the visa route most likely to lead to settlement is the family route with dependent route the next highest. Of those coming for work, just 25% applied for settlement. Please follow this link to read the publication in full: [Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016 - GOV.UK](#)

Review into NHS overseas visitor charges: call for submissions

The government is reviewing the impact of changes to regulations on recovering the cost of health treatments provided to overseas visitors. The deadline for submissions is 1 June. Please follow this link for more information: [Review into NHS overseas visitor charges: call for submissions - GOV.UK](#)

New project launched to defend the rights of homeless EEA migrants

Following the successful legal challenge against the Home Office's policy of criminalising EEA nationals for rough sleeping, the Public Interest Law Unit is launching a project to defend the rights of EEA homeless migrants. PILU acts for individuals and campaign groups who have been treated unlawfully. The aim of the project is to ensure homeless people from the EEA receive access to specialist legal representation and learn, defend and enforce their rights. While the project is based in London, some aspects of the project are available to those working outside the city, such as 'Know your Right' factsheet for homeless people and advisors and training on the opportunities and limitations of Public Law as a tool for defending the rights of homeless people. If you would like more information or want to meet to discuss the project please feel free to contact Jean Demars on e: JDemars@lambethlawcentre.org or t: 44 (0)207 840 2000, m: 44 (0)7975708543 or f: 44(0)207 820 8303.

Cities of Migration – April edition issued

This latest edition includes stories on children's language learning in New Zealand, jobs SMEs and refugees at Volkswagen and living together in Leicester. Please follow this link to read the bulletin in full: [Cities of Migration Newsletter, No. 74, April 2018](#)

Events

Domestic Violence in the context of immigration training – 30 May, Bedford

BRASS is offering a training session on "Domestic Violence in the Context of Immigration" which will be held from 2pm to 4pm at the BRASS offices at 27b Tavistock Street MK40 2RB. Please book soon by contacting BRASS on e: info@brass27b.org or t: 01234 211 381. If you cannot make that date but would be interested in a further date let BRASS know. There will be a small charge of £40.

Refugee Action Colchester fund raising evening, cello recital – 30 May, Colchester

Orlando Jopling, cellist and Artistic Director of Roman River Music will be performing a Recital of the Bach Cello Suites at St Botolph's Church, St Botolph's Street CO2 7EE. The Syrian Pop-up Café is also preparing some food, which is included in the price of each ticket. Please help make this a successful evening by buying a ticket. They are available from the [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

In the classroom and beyond: supporting refugee children – 31 May, webinar

Research in Canada has found gaps in research, policy and teacher preparation when it comes to supporting refugee students in Canadian classrooms. One way to address those gaps is to explore the methods and experiences of educators working with refugee children outside Canada. Can the national and transnational exchange of educational policy and practice provide solutions and new approaches to support refugee learners and educators in a 'globalized' classroom? Join this webinar to discuss the experiences of refugee students in the classroom and beyond, current educational policy gaps when it comes to supporting refugee students, and successful strategies that teachers, resettlement officers, and school administrators can use to ease the transition for refugee students in schools. [Learn more](#)

Cambridge Chinese Association Dragon Boat Festival – 16-17 June, Cambridge

For the first time since this race began in 1996, organisers have extended the festival from the traditional one day to two days of celebration. The main highlight of the festival will be the traditional Dragon Boat Race on

Jesus Green, accompanied by the Chinese lion dance and other cultural activities and varieties of Chinese traditional performances.

Portuguese Festival – 7 and 8 July, Peterborough

This event will be hosted at the Peterborough Rugby Club, Second Drove, Fengate PE1 5XA. There will be stalls of crafts, food and fine Portuguese wine, plus traditional music and activities for children. For more information, please follow this link: [Festival Portuguese](#)

Funding

Council of Europe resource on language support for refugees

This call relates to dissemination activities for the Council of Europe toolkit 'Language Support for Adult Refugees' <https://www.coe.int/en/web/language-support-for-adult-refugees/home>. They have issued a [call for proposals](#) with a closing date for applications of **24 May**. The call itself is here: <https://rm.coe.int/call-for-proposals-dissemination-toolkit-2018-liam/16807c1151>. They intend to fund 15 projects of 5000 Euros each.

Fund Supporting Summer Play Schemes is Open for Applications

Each year the Hilden Charitable Fund allocates a small budget to help community groups run summer play schemes for the benefit of disadvantaged children aged five to 18 years in the UK. Grants of between £500 and £1,500 to support the following:

- Summer play schemes for children aged five to 18 years.
- Local schemes lasting for two to six weeks.
- Schemes with strong volunteer support.

Some priority will be given to projects that show they are inclusive of children from refugee families and show involvement of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. Applications are invited from voluntary agencies in the UK with an income of less than £150,000. Please follow this link to find out more: [The Hilden Charitable Fund](#).

The next deadline for applications is **1 June 2018**.

Leeds University launches new Sanctuary Scholarship scheme for forced migrants

The University of Leeds's new Sanctuary Scholarship will enable forced migrants to the UK embark on a Higher Education qualification. This year, there are three scholarships to award, each worth the full cost of tuition in addition to £10,000 in living costs for each year of the programme. The scholarship is available to students with an offer from the University of Leeds to study an undergraduate, post-graduate taught, post-graduate research and PHD qualification. The scholarship application is now live and will remain open until **July 13 2018** when the applications will be assessed. The form and more information about the scholarship can be found [at this link](#). If you have any questions, please contact the university on e: sanctuaryscholarships@leeds.ac.uk

Jobs

A new programme of ESOL volunteering at the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF)

CECF is looking for volunteers to teach learners on Talk English ESOL [English for Speakers of Other Languages] courses to help them improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. The role involves giving informal support to learners, helping them to access services and get more involved in the wider community. Beneficiaries are likely to be asylum seekers, refugees and people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities. CECF offer free training that introduces the role and responsibilities of Talk English volunteer ESOL teachers and ESOL teaching, learning and assessment methods. Lesson plans and materials will be provided. No salary is paid but travel expenses will be. To apply: please contact Ila on e: info@ilachandavarkar.co.uk or t: 01223 655241.

Volunteering opportunities at Herts welcomes Syrian families (HWSF)

HWSF is seeking volunteers to support for their cycle scheme, including people to source, transport and store bikes across the county. They need more ESOL / Language Support volunteer befrienders and they need volunteer drivers. Or they are looking for people to be part of a fundraising team or make a donation. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.hwsf.org.uk/get-involved.html>

Suffolk Refugee Support - Full time Advice Worker (Resettlement Programme) 37 hrs/week (12 months with strong likelihood of extension) £24,598 per annum

The post-holder will work full time with the Refugee Resettlement programme and will be responsible for assisting refugees with all areas of advice, support and integration into the UK. Excellent knowledge and experience of assisting vulnerable people along with Arabic language skills are essential. For an application pack, call on t: 01473 400785; download from <https://suffolkrefugee.org.uk/current-vacancies>; or contact Susannah on e: skennedy@suffolkrefugee.org.uk. Please note: a CV alone is not sufficient – please complete an application form and address the criteria in the Job Description. An enhanced DBS will be required for this post – to be carried out upon commencement of contract. Previous applicants need not apply. The closing date for applications is **29 May** at close of business. Interview date: 1 June all day.

Suffolk Refugee Support - Part-time Community Engagement Worker – Hidden Harms (Ipswich). 14 hrs per week (7 hours Wednesday and 7 hours Friday with some flexibility where the service requires it), initially until March 2019 with strong likelihood of extension. £24,598 per annum (pro rata from 37 hrs p/w)

Responsible for engaging with the community, professionals and Suffolk Refugee Support clients to raise awareness and provide support around Hidden Harms. Applicants should have excellent knowledge of relevant issues, presentation skills and experience of supporting and advising vulnerable people. For application pack, please call on t: 01473 400785; download from <https://suffolkrefugee.org.uk/current-vacancies> or email Cath on e: cminchin@suffolkrefugee.org.uk. Please note: a CV alone is not sufficient – please complete an application form. An enhanced DBS will be required for this post – to be carried out upon commencement of contract. Closing date: **29 May** at 12 noon. Interviews will be held: 7 June. The post is funded by the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund, the Big Lottery Fund, BBC Children in Need and Public Health Suffolk.

Refugee Council, Hertfordshire – Kurdish Kurmanji interpreters

For more information about this opportunity, or to request a registration pack, please contact Laila Elayyan on t: 02073 466733 or e: Laila.elayyan@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Council, Hertfordshire - Project Worker. £24,657 fulltime, fixed term to September 2019

The resettlement team provides advice and support for resettled refugees to help them access services and mainstream provision, and establish community links. Working closely with local stakeholders and in partnership with other voluntary sector agencies running similar services across the UK, the Refugee Council resettlement team promotes both the integration and independence of this group. The Refugee Council has agreed to work in partnership with Hertfordshire local authorities to deliver the regional programme. The Project manager will work closely with the Local Authorities. This post will report to the project manager in Hertfordshire. For more information, please follow this link to job description and person specification. [PW JD May 2018](#). The closing date for applications is **31 May 2018**.

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