



**Geospatial  
Commission**

# **Commissioner Geospatial Commission**

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**Candidate Pack March 2021**

●●●● Interim & Permanent Recruitment

**AllenLane**

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# Welcome



Location data has the potential to underpin huge advances in our society, improving our lives and our environment and equipping the economy to recover from the effects of Coronavirus. The Geospatial Commission is an impartial, expert committee, established within the Cabinet Office to advise the Government about how best to maximise the significant opportunities that location data and technology offer to the UK.

The Commission is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the geospatial ecosystem in the UK, setting geospatial strategy, policy and standards. It holds the budget for the public sector's largest investment in location data and works in partnership with others to make targeted investments in data projects that accelerate innovation and adoption of geospatial data applications.

In the **two** years since its establishment, the Commission has delivered a range of high impact policy and programme-based measures under the leadership of the former Chair, Sir Andrew Dilnot. These include: pilots for a National Underground Asset Register; signing a £1bn contract with Ordnance Survey to upgrade the UK's foundational public sector data assets over ten years; publication of the UK's first comprehensive analysis of the value of the UK's geospatial data market; and, mandating across the public sector the golden thread of housing data identifiers: unique property and unique street reference numbers.

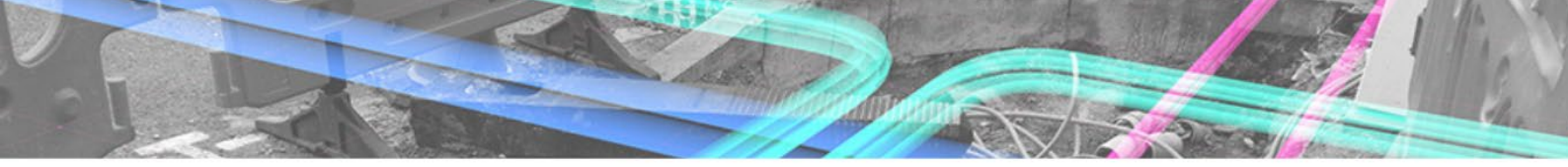
In June 2020, the Commission published the UK Geospatial Strategy, which set out a coordinated approach to unlock economic, social and environmental value from location data. It outlines an ambitious programme of activity across four key missions:

**Mission 1:** Promote and safeguard the use of location data.

**Mission 2:** Improve access to better location data.

**Mission 3:** Enhance capabilities, skills and awareness.

**Mission 4:** Enable innovation.



We are now seeking a highly-regarded leader to join the Board of Commissioners to drive implementation of the UK government's ambitious Geospatial Strategy by providing guidance and challenge on all aspects of the Geospatial Commission's cross cutting work, including the use of location data to support Housing, Land Use, Property and Planning.

We require an experienced Non-Executive Director who will provide robust, impartial advice under a high level of public interest and scrutiny; will work closely with the Chair and wider Board members to help build consensus towards and support implementation of the UK Geospatial Strategy; and will act as a source of advice to the executive management team.

I welcome your interest in this role.

**Thalia Baldwin**

**Director, Geospatial Commission**



# About the Geospatial Commission

The Geospatial Commission is an independent, expert committee responsible for setting the UK's geospatial strategy and coordinating public sector geospatial activity. We have a mandate and budget to drive and deliver changes by working in partnership with others.

This means we:

- Provide strategic oversight of the geospatial ecosystem in the UK, setting geospatial strategy, policy and standards.
- Hold the budget for the public sector's largest investment in geospatial data.
- Make targeted investments in data projects that accelerate innovation and adoption of geospatial data applications.

In June 2020, the Geospatial Commission published the UK's [Geospatial Strategy](#) to unlock the significant economic, social and environmental value of location data. The Strategy sets out four key missions, together with a combination of actions, serving as our blueprint for collaboration and targeted priorities.

The Commission's agenda is crucial for effective delivery of many of the government's key aims; including through supporting infrastructure delivery and construction as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery, helping to put the UK on the front foot in its transition out of the EU through further developing a technology and science capability where the UK is a recognised exemplar, and driving public sector efficiencies and reform through access to improved location data.

For more details on the Commission please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/geospatial-commission>



## Partner bodies

The commission has a formal relationship with six, core 'partner bodies' (known as the Geo6). Each of these partners play a central role in the delivery of the UK's Geospatial Strategy - both through the geospatial data they hold and their extensive expertise.

The partner bodies are:

[The British Geological Survey](#)

[The Coal Authority](#)

[HM Land Registry](#)

[Ordnance Survey](#)

[UK Hydrographic Office](#)

[The Valuation Office Agency](#)

Here is a link to an article on the Geospatial Commissions' recent independent review of data location across housing and planning: <https://www.geospatialworld.net/news/geospatial-commission-releases-new-independent-location-data-review-across-housing-and-planning-sectors/>



# Job description & person specification

The Government is seeking a highly-regarded leader to join the Geospatial Commission's Board of Commissioners to drive implementation of the UK government's ambitious Geospatial Strategy.

**Role: Commissioner, Board of Commissioners**

**Remuneration: £15,000 p.a.**

**Length of tenure:** 2 years (one term)

**Time commitment:** The Board of Commissioners meets formally six times per year. There will be other commitments throughout the year to provide leadership and engagement with key stakeholders. The time commitment is therefore expected to be around 30 days per year.

**Location:** London (currently working from home due to Covid-19)

You will provide guidance and challenge on all aspects of the Geospatial Commission's cross cutting work, including the use of location data to support Housing, Land Use, Property and Planning. You will provide robust, impartial advice under a high level of public interest and scrutiny, using your public profile to build consensus. You will work closely with the Chair and wider Board members to support implementation of the UK Geospatial Strategy to drive investment and innovation across the UK economy and act as a source of advice and support to the executive management team.

## Ongoing responsibilities:

- Providing expert, impartial advice to the government on geospatial data, including advice on prioritisation and value for money;
- Building broad cross-sector support and consensus around Commission recommendations;
- Supporting the monitoring of performance of public sector bodies responsible for delivering the Geospatial Strategy;
- Chairing Commission working groups, facilitating deep dives into priority areas via detailed, collaborative, stakeholder engagement;
- Engaging with stakeholders, including industry, government, academia, interest groups and the public;
- Representing the Commission in public, including at industry events.



## Person specification

### Essential:

- Experience of strategic leadership at senior levels of government, academia or business;
- A capacity to operate strategically and with influence;
- A highly-regarded leader in their field;
- An understanding of location data and its applications;
- Ability to process complex information, take a long-term view and weigh probabilities to reach clear conclusions;
- Track record of communicating and influencing at the highest levels;
- Credibility with government, the data community, industry, and the public;
- Experience of representing organisations in public, with a range of stakeholders;
- Clear communication of complex topics.

### Desirable:

- An understanding of location data and its applications in the field of housing, property and planning;
- Understanding or experience of growing a company in the digital economy.

## Commencement of appointment

Successful candidates would ideally be able to take up the post in July 2021.

## Period of appointment

The appointment will be for an initial term of 2 years, with an option to extend further in certain cases.

## Conflicts of interest

The Commission advises on issues with wide implications across the economy and society more broadly. It will be important that the Commissioner's other commitments do not cast any doubt on their ability to act independently and impartially in discharging the role; any potential conflict of interest must be declared.





# Diversity & equality of opportunity

Diversity of opportunity is something the Cabinet Office cares passionately about.

Applications are encouraged from all candidates regardless of ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, gender identity. We particularly welcome applications from women, those with a disability and those from a black or ethnic minority background.

We would also particularly welcome applications from those currently working in, or with experience of, the private sector, and those who have not previously held public appointments. We want to explore the widest possible pool of talent for these important appointments.

We ask all applicants to public appointments to complete a diversity monitoring form. We hope you will help us by providing this information. This will allow us to see if there are any unfair barriers to becoming a public appointee and whether there are any changes we could make to encourage a more diverse field to apply. **Please find the Google link in the How to Apply section on the next page.**

## Offering an interview to disabled people (GIS scheme)

As a Disability Confident employer, we will ensure that a fair and proportionate number of disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for this position will be offered an interview.

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. For more information please visit the [Public Appointments website](#).

If you wish to indicate that you are disabled or have a long-term health condition, please complete the Disability Confident - Offering an Interview to Disabled People declaration in the supporting documents and send it with your application.



# How to apply & application deadline



To make an application, please email [geospatialcommission@allenlane.co.uk](mailto:geospatialcommission@allenlane.co.uk) with the following prepared:

- Your CV or equivalent biographical information
- A [covering letter](#) that sets out your motivation for applying for this appointment, and why you think your skills and experience make you suitable
- [Diversity monitoring form \(FIND HERE\)](#) you do not need to have a Google account to complete the form – any information you provide in Section A will not be used as part of the selection process and will not be seen by the interview panel. The form now includes questions about disability. Information to help answer these questions can be found on the [Public Appointments website](#)
- Details of [two people you have worked with previously](#) who we could talk to at shortlist stage (with your permission)

Closing date for this position is **16<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.

You may be invited to meet remotely with Rebecca O'Connor at Allen Lane the **w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**.

Agreement of the final shortlist is expected to be complete by **w/c 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**. Shortlisted candidates will have the opportunity to speak with the Director of the Geospatial Commission before the final stage interview.

Formal interviews for shortlisted candidates are expected to take place during **w/c 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

## How we handle your application

- The process is being run by Allen Lane as one of fair and open competition, in keeping with the Government's Governance Code for Public Appointments.



- We will deal with your application as quickly as possible and will keep you informed at key stages
- After the closing date we will acknowledge receipt of your application (by email if you have provided this).

The Commissioner is required to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies](#), which covers your conduct in the role and includes the [Nolan Principles of Public Life](#).

As set out by the Institute of Directors, Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) (also known in the context of Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs), as non-executive board members) are appointed to the boards of organisations to bring: independence; impartiality; wide experience; special knowledge; and personal qualities.

As a NED of a public body you should be expected to act in an independent manner bringing expertise, scrutiny and challenge and support to your organisation.

NEDs on Public Bodies should demonstrate the 12 qualities listed in the newly published guidance "12 principles of governance for all public body NEDs":

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-bodies-non-executive-director-principles/12-principles-of-governance-for-all-public-body-neds>