

ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- The Enforcement Conduct Board, the new oversight body for the enforcement sector, has announced the appointment of four new Board members, following the announcement of Catherine Brown as Chair in March
- The new Board members include a former Vice-Chair of the Money Advice Trust and individuals with a wealth of experience across local government
- The Enforcement Conduct Board is due to formally launch in the autumn

EMBARGOED: 27 June 2022: The **Enforcement Conduct Board**, the new independent regulator for the enforcement industry (bailiffs) across England and Wales due to launch in autumn 2022, is appointing four non-executive directors effective from 1 July.

The new appointees are; Alan Cavill, Ged Curran, Althea Efunshile, CBE and Jenny Watson, CBE. They will join Catherine Brown, the inaugural Chair of the Enforcement Conduct Board, whose role was announced in March. The purpose of the Enforcement Conduct Board is to ensure that all those who are subject to enforcement action are fairly treated.

The four new Board members were selected following an open recruitment process:

- **Alan Cavill** is Director of Communications and Regeneration at Blackpool Council, supporting a town that has 8 of the ten most deprived neighbourhoods in England and is at the forefront of the Government's levelling-up agenda.
- **Ged Curran** was Chief Executive at the London Borough of Merton for twenty-one years with direct experience of the complexities involved in enforcing debt recovery including the establishment of an in-house enforcement agent team. He is also a non-executive director on Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Integrated Care Board.
- **Althea Efunshile, CBE**, is Chair of Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing, and Chair of Ballet Black. Althea previously served as Executive Director, Education and Culture, at the London Borough of Lewisham and has worked at the Department for Education and Skills.
- **Jenny Watson, CBE**, is Chair of the House of St Barnabas and GAMSTOP and is a trustee of the Norfolk Community Foundation. Jenny is also a former Chair of the Fawcett Society, the UK Electoral Commission, and the Equal Opportunities Commission (before the creation of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights), and Vice-Chair of the Money Advice Trust.

Commenting on the appointment of the new Board members, **Catherine Brown, Chair of the Enforcement Conduct Board**, said:

"I am delighted to welcome Alan, Ged, Althea, and Jenny to their new positions. Their extensive experience across a range of sectors relevant to the Enforcement Conduct Board's work will be invaluable as we develop our forward plans and prepare to launch later in the year. Until now, there has been no independent regulatory oversight of the enforcement

industry and although minimum standards, published by the Ministry of Justice, expect enforcement agents to treat those in debt fairly, these are not legally binding.

“The FCA has identified that more than a quarter (27%) of the population having low financial resilience, a figure set to increase as the cost-of-living crisis unfolds in the months ahead.¹ Set against this, the National Audit Office reports that the likely combined cost and non-tax income pressures following the pandemic may be as high as £9.7bn, increasing the importance of local authorities being able to collect debt effectively.² The future role for the Enforcement Conduct Board is a vital one.”

Commenting on his new role **Ged Curran** said:

“I am pleased the enforcement industry is committed to regulation. Through my own experience in local government, including setting up an in-house enforcement agent team in Merton, I know that there are real improvements that can be made in this industry. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on the Enforcement Conduct Board to shape our future priorities as we head to our launch in the autumn.”

Funded by a voluntary industry levy, the Enforcement Conduct Board will be wholly independent and committed to working openly and transparently to secure widespread confidence in its ability to serve the public interest. Both the enforcement industry and debt advice charities have welcomed the establishment of the Enforcement Conduct Board and agree that the new regulatory body ought to be given statutory powers. The Government has committed to review the emerging arrangements by 2024.

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Notes to Editors

Our Twitter handle is: [ec_board](#)

Our LinkedIn page can be found at: [linkedin.com/enforcement-conduct-board](https://www.linkedin.com/enforcement-conduct-board)

Further Information

- In June 2022, Catherine Brown gave evidence to the [Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee](#) as a contribution to its inquiry into Council Tax Collection and set out her thoughts regarding three early priorities:
 - Collect data from enforcement and debt advice sectors to inform a transparent evidence-base to better understand the reality of the situation.

¹ [FCA tells lenders to support consumers struggling with the cost of living | FCA](#)

² [Local government finance in the pandemic \(nao.org.uk\)](#)

- Establish the widest possible coverage so that no enforcement agency, whether privately owned or in-house, can avoid the rules. This will require local authorities, Government departments and other responsible creditors to commit to only working with enforcement agents who are signed-up to being regulated.
- Review the current processes for complaints and give guidance about how a robust, fair, and accessible complaints system ought to operate.

In the longer term:

- Consult widely on a robust code of practice including rules on how to identify and deal with vulnerability and affordability to be able to provide clear strong guidance as to how enforcement ought to behave.
- The House of Commons Library published in June 2021 a useful and detailed briefing paper - [Enforcement officers \(formerly known as bailiffs\) \(parliament.uk\)](#)
- There are around 2,000 enforcement agents in England and Wales, and all are required to be licensed by a judge at the county court - [Certificated Bailiff Register – Justice UK](#)