

Catherine Mealing-Jones FCPFA FRAeS

Career to date

July 2021-Present Chief Executive, Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park Authority

Responsible for running, rebuilding and providing a new strategic direction and identity for this Special Purpose Local Authority. (c.110 FTE staff; £8.3m operating budget)

- Reset the organisation and built a new culture, brand and profile
- Developed and agreed with stakeholders an ambitious new 25 year partnership strategy *Dyfodol y Bannau*
- Worked closely with Welsh Government, Audit Wales and Board Members to reform and reconstitute the Authority Board
- Designed and implemented a new organisational structure, governance framework and operating model
- Drove work to remodel and diversify organisational income including taking a Wales lead on Natural Capital development
- Responsible as a board member of National Parks Partnership LLP for driving green finance, commercial and charitable income diversification for the UK National Park family
- UK National Parks lead CEO for work on climate

April 2014 -July 2021 Director of Growth, UK Space Agency

Led space strategy working across government. Provided a focus on industrial strategy, including opening new markets for the UK,

Key achievements:

- Developed the National Space Framework to provide coherence for government space policy and objectives
- Engaged with the UK space industry, the research base and other partners to establish the *Space Growth Partnership* to enable a shared long term view of sector development
- Secured UK investment of €670.5m to underpin the UK Space Agency's partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA) on satellite telecommunications, Earth observation and business applications, investing c.£160 -£200 m per annum in research and innovation to drive new uses of space technology, data and applications
- Initiated the work to investigate the potential for a UK launch capability
- Led the development of a new European Centre for space at Harwell in the UK and the National Space Propulsion Test Facility at Westcott
- Chaired the European boards on satellite telecommunications and navigation at the time of the UK exit from the European Union
- Initiated the *Principia* education and outreach programme to maximise the impact of ESA astronaut Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station
- Established the UK Space Agency Local Growth Programme working closely with Local Enterprise Partnerships, the Devolved Governments and local partners
- Established a team of economists in the Agency to ensure appropriate underpinning analysis, evidence and benefits management. Published the Agency's first *Investment Principles and Evaluation Strategy*

Jan 2012 - Apr 2014 Director Growth, Applications and EU Programmes, UK Space Agency

Provided leadership for space sector growth activity and investment. Ensured that the UK secured effective management of the EU space programmes. Lead for European space policy. Lead on engagement with the European Commission.

Key achievements:

- Launched a process to galvanise the space sector to ensure a focus on accelerating UK Space Sector economic growth and delivering a clear industrial policy
- Led the Government response to the space industry 'Space Growth Action Plan' which was published in April 2014.
- Developed the National Space Security Policy through Whitehall and other stakeholders which was published in April 2014
- UK Space Agency lead on the process to set up the Satellite Applications Catapult Centre.
- Created the *Space for Smarter Government Programme* to encourage the public sector to seize the benefits of using space data and space enabled ways of working

2008-2012 Director, Business Change and Technology, Border Force, UK Border Agency

Led the Business Change and Technology Portfolio within the Border Development Programme which created the UK Border Force. Ensured that technology development and delivery met programme objectives to improve performance and deliver savings of between £65m and £85m by 2014. Lead on research and development and emerging technologies and on strategic capability management for Border Force including automated technology, biometrics, non-intrusive inspection, ICT and systems and surveillance technologies and scientific aids. Budget c. £20m, core team of 90 staff with matrix management responsibility for a flexible pool of technical specialists and contractors.

Key achievements:

- Led the development and implementation of the Border Force operating model (integration of customs and immigration functions) and ensured that the transfer of HMRC officers into Border Force on 15 July 2009 was a smooth transition
- Delivered a single uniform to UKBA staff and single brand at the border within a year of the formation of the UK Border Agency
- Delivered automated clearance technology at 13 major operational locations around the UK
- Created and led a number of successful international border research collaborations

2005-2008 Deputy Regional Director, Corporate Development – Government Office for the East of England

2004 – 2005 Strategic Policy Advisor – The Attorney General’s Office

2002 – 2004 Various roles - Crown Prosecution Service HQ and Thames Valley

2001 – 2002 Performance Champion, Home Office Performance Delivery and Strategy Unit

2000-2001 Policy Development Manager, UK Immigration Service

1998-2000 Contract Manager, UK Immigration Service

1996 Entry Clearance Officer, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Dubai and Nairobi

1990-1998 Immigration Officer, UK Immigration Service

Professional Qualifications and Experience

- Fellow, Chartered Public Finance Accountant
- Fellow, Royal Aeronautical Society
- Executive Board Member, UK Space Agency (2012–2021)
- Chair, ESA Joint Communications Board & Programme Board for Navigation (2014–17)

- Lay Member of Council, University of Bath (2016-2024 Finance Committee; Audit Committee; Remuneration Committee; Nominations Committee)
 - Graduate of Infrastructure and Projects Authority and Cranfield University Project Leadership Programme
 - Windsor Leadership Programme
 - Non-Executive Director, Satellite Applications Catapult (2013–15)
 - GOLD Commander, National College of Policing
 - Cabinet Office Public Service Leadership Scheme
 - Postgraduate Diploma, Public Finance & Leadership (Warwick Business School)
 - MSc, European Politics (Brunel University)
 - BA(Hons), English (Bedford College)
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