

Waste crime: Bucks man 'after quick buck' fined

A High Wycombe man has been convicted after cameras caught him dumping several tipper-truck loads of waste in north London.

Thomas Cook liquidation

Published 23 September 2019

Last updated 24 September 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 24 September 2019 We have added a letter to the Financial Reporting Council.
 2. 24 September 2019 Added letters to ABTA, ABI and UK Finance.
 3. 23 September 2019 First published.
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Regulations on the accessibility of new public sector websites come into force

From today, public sector websites launched on or after 23 September 2018 must meet accessibility standards. This includes publishing accessibility statements, explaining how accessible their websites are.

The deadline for public sector organisations to make all existing websites accessible is 23 September 2020, and the compliance date for mobile applications is 23 June 2021.

Around a third of disabled people in the UK experience difficulties in accessing public, commercial and leisure goods and services. The aim of the legislation is to help make sure online public services are accessible to all users, including people with disabilities.

The Minister for Implementation, Simon Hart said:

Today is another positive step in our longstanding commitment to

ensuring digital services are accessible for all users and to encourage improved equality of access to public information and services.

Although directly impacting the public sector, the regulations provide a necessary reminder for all organisations to consider the needs of all users when building online services.

This builds on the existing legal obligations of all UK service providers to make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010 and Northern Ireland's Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Government Digital Service (GDS) will monitor public sector websites and apps on their accessibility from 2020.

You can find out more about accessibility, including our guidance at [GOV.UK/accessibility-regulations](https://gov.uk/accessibility-regulations)

£1.5m boost for space innovation

The announcement marks the next step in the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's (Dstl) 'Space to Innovate' competition, which sought to find and fund new technologies that could improve the UK's resilience, awareness and capability in space.

The competition, run on behalf of Dstl by the Defence and Security Accelerator, the MOD's innovation hub, received more than 60 bids from innovators around the world.

The successful entries cover the full spectrum of innovative ideas, from state-of-the-art imaging technology developed at the University of Strathclyde, to futuristic optical communication technology from mBryonics.

The announcement was made by Defence Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan at the UK Space Conference, which brings together government, industry and academia to discuss the challenges and opportunities offered by space. She said:

It's vital we harness the ideas of the brightest and best innovators to improve the UK's resilience and awareness in space.

Faced with growing threats to UK interests, programmes like those selected today will boost our intelligence capability and help us stay ahead of our adversaries.

The successful bidders will share more than £1.5m of funding, provided jointly by Dstl and the UK Space Agency's (UKSA) National Space Technology Programme, to further develop the concepts.

Key challenges outlined in the competition include the development of technology to boost the surveillance capability of UK satellites and identify potentially hostile actors in space.

Gary Aitkenhead, Dstl's Chief Executive, said:

Our role at Dstl is to provide innovative solutions, underpinning science and technology to access the best space has to offer for defence and security, but also to protect our interests against growing threats.

I am delighted that the competition has unearthed a breadth of UK expertise from a good mix of industry, academia, and SMEs. And I welcome the UK Space Agency's investment which will ensure that the civilian market will also benefit.

Dr Graham Turnock, UK Space Agency Chief Executive said:

The UK Space Agency is leading cross-government efforts to grow a strategic capability in space-based systems, technologies and applications.

The National Space Technology Programme provides vital, early-stage support to innovative technologies which have the potential to play a leading role in future space activities.

The initial stage of development will complete with a demonstration day in summer 2020, at which point further funding may be available.

The publication of the winning bids follows a string of recent announcements on the UK's military space programme.

At the RAF's Air & Space Power Conference, the MOD established a new transatlantic team of government and industry personnel, named Team ARTEMIS, to lead a small satellite launch programme and undertake research into the military uses of small satellites.

The MOD also announced the UK as the first formal partner in the US-led Operation Olympic Defender – a multinational military effort formed to strengthen deterrence against hostile actors in space, enhance resilience and preserve the safety of spaceflight.

At the DSEi conference earlier this month, the MOD awarded a contract worth almost £70 million to QinetiQ to develop enhanced satellite receivers and noted its intention to tender contracts to develop the £6 billion SKYNET 6 programme over the next few months.

The UK has a rapidly growing space sector estimated to have generated an income of £15.5 billion last year and employing almost 42,000 people.

The full list of the successful bids can be found by [clicking here](#).

UK to help develop new tech to stop sharing of terrorist content

The Home Office is providing funding and support for a new project that will help to stop violent videos being shared online after terrorist attacks.

The new funding, announced by the Prime Minister at the UN General Assembly in New York, will support efforts to develop industry-wide technology that can automatically identify online videos which have been altered to avoid existing detection methods, and help prevent them from being shared online.

The announcement follows the Christchurch attack in New Zealand in March, in which 51 people were killed and which saw hundreds of different versions of the attacker's live-streamed video spread across online platforms, with Facebook removing over 1.5 million uploads of the video from their platform.

Many had been intentionally edited to evade current content filters and, in some cases, it took days for them to be removed.

UK data-science experts, supported by the Home Office, will use the new funding to create an algorithm which any technology company in the world can use, free of charge, to improve the way that they detect violent and harmful videos and prevent them being shared by their users.

Not only will this make it much harder for terrorist content to be shared online but the outcomes of the research could eventually also be used to help spot other types of harmful content such as child sexual abuse.

Home Secretary Priti Patel MP today added:

The sharing of images of terrorist attacks has a devastating effect on the families and loved ones of victims and plays into terrorists' hands by amplifying their twisted messages.

The UK has a track record of showing that state of the art technology can be developed, in partnership with industry, at

relatively low cost and this is just the latest example of our commitment to working with industry to tackle our shared challenges and respond to the ever evolving threats which we face.

The announcement further demonstrates the UK's role as a world leader in online safety as it continues to build on the shared commitments to work with industry in the fight against terrorism online which were made at the Home Secretary hosted Five Country Ministerial meeting in London earlier this year.

This announcement also honours the commitments made in the Christchurch Call to Action to tackle terrorist use of the internet, which world leaders signed up to at a summit in Paris in May.