

Policy paper: UK strategy for radioactive discharges: 2018 review of the 2009 strategy

The UK is a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (the 'OSPAR Convention'). The OSPAR Convention identifies threats to the marine environment and organises programmes and measures designed to ensure effective national action to combat them. One of the key work areas of OSPAR is on radioactive substances.

The [2009 Radioactive Discharges Strategy](#) alongside the [OSPAR Radioactive Substances Strategy](#), aims to prevent pollution of the OSPAR maritime area (the North East Atlantic) from radiation through progressive and substantial reductions of discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances.

The 2018 Review shows the UK is making good progress towards achieving the outcomes in the 2009 strategy, and that the UK is contributing towards meeting the objectives of the OSPAR strategy.

Press release: Sentence doubled for man who violently attacked victim in Sheffield home

A man who attempted to violently rob a vulnerable family friend has today had his sentence increased after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred his sentence for being too low.

The victim let Bernie Ward, 32, into his home in January and the two had a conversation before Ward began punching the victim in the face and threatening him with a knife. The victim suffered a stab-wound to the arm, bleeding on the brain which led to an uncommon form of stroke, and serious bruising and cuts.

Ward was originally sentenced at Sheffield Crown Court in April, where he received 3 years 4 months' imprisonment. Today, after the Solicitor General's referral, the Court of Appeal increased his sentence to 6 years 8 months.

Commenting on the sentence increase, the Solicitor General said:

Ward targeted a victim he knew to be vulnerable and subjected him

to a brutal attack in his own home. I hope that the Court of Appeal's decision today sends a clear message to anyone despicable enough to consider abusing a vulnerable member of their community – you will not escape justice.

Press release: Foreign Secretary announces UK strategy to protect world's oceans

The Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has today [22 June] unveiled an ambitious plan to bring together all of the Government's international oceans work under a single strategy for the first time.

The Government will agree and implement a new oceans strategy, under the aegis of the FCO, which will cover work from departments including Defra, BEIS, DfT and DIT. The strategy will be developed over the coming months. Responding to the recommendation from the Government Chief Scientific Adviser to develop a more strategic approach to marine and maritime policy, it will provide a blueprint for international action by HMG towards the oceans that supports the long-term prosperity of the UK and the long-term health of the marine environment.

Speaking on a visit to the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), the Foreign Secretary said:

Britain has a proud and ancient maritime history, but our commitment to the oceans must be enshrined in our future. Today in Southampton I've heard from world-leading UK experts on marine protection, and what more the UK can do to help.

We need to improve and energise international ocean governance to protect the world's seas and their ecosystems, to keep our people and goods safe, and to support sustainable economic growth, as well as to deliver our ambitious environmental commitments. Utilising expertise across government, Britain will stay at the leading edge of international marine excellence.

At the NOC, the Foreign Secretary met scientists working on Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded marine protection programmes, including the flagship Blue Belt programme, which will protect over four million square kilometres of British waters by 2020.

The Foreign Secretary's visit builds on commitments made during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London in April, where the FCO announced additional funding for the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme and a number of Government commitments to reduce the amount of plastic waste entering the oceans.

Notes to editors

- The Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme is a £23 million programme over 4 years (from 2016) to assist Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean to develop maritime economy plans for sustainable economic growth and prosperity.
- The Government Office for Science issued a Foresight report on 21 March 2018 entitled 'Future of the Sea', which sets out the important role that the oceans play in the life of the UK and its Overseas Territories. It highlighted an opportunity for the UK to develop a "thriving 21st Century marine and maritime economy and leading the global response to environmental change."
- The Blue Belt programme aims to deliver demonstrable increases in the protection of marine biodiversity across the combined maritime zones of the UK and the UK Overseas Territories, taking into account local views and supporting the development of sustainable economies. The Blue Belt programme is on course to deliver over 4 million square kilometres of protected ocean around the UKOTs by 2020, with funding of up to £20m to support scientific assessment, implementation, management, monitoring and surveillance of these areas.

Further information

- Follow the Foreign Secretary on Twitter [@BorisJohnson](#) and [Facebook](#)
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Further information

[News story: Civil/crime news: LAA annual report and accounts and DLAC report](#)

The LAA annual report & accounts for 2017 to 2018 and the DLAC report for the same period are both now available on GOV.UK.

These are the fifth such reports for the agency since it came into being in April 2013.

The LAA and the DLAC role were both created by the LASPO Act 2012. The reports document the work carried out under these functions.

Further information

[Legal Aid Agency annual report and accounts 2017 to 2018](#)

[Director of Legal Aid Casework annual report 2017 to 2018](#)