

# News story: Civil news: relaunch of electronic escape case claim1 forms

We have redeveloped the electronic versions of the EC Claim1 forms for providers to use when submitting escape case claims for controlled work matters.

These forms are web based and:

- make the completion and submission process simpler and quicker
- reduce the chances of the form being rejected
- have been redeveloped to be more user-friendly

## **Does this affect processing of work?**

There are no changes to the way this category of work is processed. The electronic forms provide a more efficient way to submit the claim, which providers should find more convenient.

Although no changes to the assessment process are being made the current Word-based versions of the form will eventually be withdrawn.

Using digital escape case claim forms will then be mandatory for submitting your claims for controlled work.

## **Important to learn new process**

We recommend that providers begin to make themselves familiar with the process for submitting digital claims before the paper option is withdrawn.

There are separate electronic claim EC Claim1 forms for these escape case categories:

- civil
- mental health
- immigration and asylum

Once the form is completed providers should use the submit button so that the form can be assessed. You can find a link to the new forms below.

## **Submitting your case file**

Paper case files should be submitted to the usual escape cases postal address.

The assessment will be completed and results issued to you in the same format as at present.

Electronic case files should be placed in a secure cloud based system and details of how to access the account provided with the electronic EC Claim1.

Alternatively, electronic files can be provided on compact disc and sent through the post.

Assessment of the claim will then be completed without the need for a paper case file. We will then email you with the assessment result.

## **Further information**

[Escaped cases](#) – online portal

[mhu-ec@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mhu-ec@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk) – email for advice on using electronic claim forms  
0151 235 6750 – urgent enquiries only

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## **Press release: Northumberland farmer fined for failing to fix pollution risk**

A Northumberland farmer who was fined £19,000 last year for twice polluting a protected watercourse has been ordered to pay a further £2,854.56 in fines and costs for failing to fix the source of the pollution.

John Laing, 54, of New Heaton Farm in Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland, appeared at Berwick upon Tweed Magistrates' Court on 5 April 2018 having previously admitted contempt of court.

The court heard that in January 2017 Laing was ordered by Newcastle Magistrates' Court to repair the storage unit by 30 June 2017. Without remedial works, there remains a continued risk of silage leaking from a silo storage unit into a tributary that flows into the River Till.

The order had required Laing to carry out specific works to capture and prevent any effluent from escaping the silo, and provide written certification from a chartered engineer that the works had been completed to the required standards. Environment Agency officers made several visits to the farm before and after the deadline to check whether the works had been completed.

While Laing had enlisted the services of a builder, work had not started before the June 2017 deadline. Subsequent visits by Environment Agency

officers in August and September 2017 revealed that some work had begun but not as agreed and to a poor standard.

In mitigation, Laing said he had relied on the assurances of a builder as to the quality of the remedial work and was no longer using the storage facility himself.

Neil Paisley, Senior Agriculture Officer at the Environment Agency, said:

John Laing has repeatedly shown a disregard for the law and a disregard for the environment since an initial pollution incident in 2014.

Pollution of any watercourse is a serious offence because of the devastating impact it can have on fish, wildlife and ecosystems. We will take action against anyone who fails to act in accordance with environmental laws and fails to comply with orders to ensure pollution is prevented.

If anyone spots a potential pollution issue they can report it to the Environment Agency's free 24-hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

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## Corporate report: Waste Metric Dashboard: March 2018

The National Waste Programme publishes a range of waste metrics to track progress and ensure that expected programme benefits are being delivered.

The metrics demonstrate:

- the successful diversion of waste away from disposal to the LLW Repository
- the optimal use of key national assets, such as the LLWR site and waste

treatment facilities

- the safety and environmental performance of the National Programme
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## **Press release: Essex rapist has sentence increased after Solicitor General's appeal**

A rapist has had his sentence increased after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred it for being too low.

On 29 May 2015, Sezer Keser, 25, offered to drive the victim home from an Essex shopping centre. After tricking her back to his house, Keser got the victim drunk before raping her.

Keser was originally sentenced to 5 years imprisonment at Nottingham Crown Court. Today, after the Solicitor General's reference, the Court of Appeal increased his sentence to 7 years in prison.

Commenting on the sentence increase, the Solicitor General said:

I am pleased that the Court of Appeal has agreed that Keser's sentence should have been higher. He put his victim through a terrible ordeal and my thoughts are with her and her loved ones. I hope the increased sentence will bring them some comfort today.