

## News story: GC team contributes to ongoing discussions on honey authenticity



Michael Walker, Selvarani Elahi, Franz Ulberth and John Warren

Validating honey authenticity claims with regards to botanical source or geographical origin is a global issue. An [EU Coordinated Control Plan](#) on honey adulteration indicated that 38% of the 2,264 honey samples examined in the EU were non-compliant with authenticity criteria.

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) convened a Technical Round Table on Honey Authentication on 25 January 2018 to help in the fight against food fraud.

The meeting was opened by the Director of the JRC, Elke Anklaam and was chaired by Franz Ulberth (Head of Fraud Detection and Prevention at JRC). It was attended by approximately 45 delegates from EU member States and included policy officials, academic researchers, Official Control Laboratory scientists, industry scientists and the Chairman of the UK Honey Association. [Selvarani Elahi](#), [Michael Walker](#) and John Warren, from the UK Government Chemist team, attended and contributed to the meeting.

The meeting identified many technical areas where further work and clarity would be beneficial for the authentication of honey. These will be covered in a forthcoming note from the JRC.

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## Guidance: Temporary dewatering from

## **excavations to surface water**

*Updated:* New information on abstracting water from excavations following the the Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017. We have also asked you to consider the available dilution when receiving water flows are low.

This regulatory position statement covers the discharge of uncontaminated water (such as rainwater) from excavations at building sites and other excavations.

It does not apply to discharges to ground or groundwater.

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## **Notice: Millbrook tidal barrier: flood defence repairs**

The Environment Agency gives notice that it proposes to carry out improvement work to Millbrook tidal barrier in Millbrook (NGR SX 42857 52352). The proposed improvement work will involve the following:

- erosion control measures to toes of the barrier
- reinstatement of erosion at the end of the spillway and slipway
- replacement of control gates

This is in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations 1999 as amended by SI 2005/1399 and SI 2006/618.

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## **Press release: British Prime Minister appoints Trade Envoy for Sri Lanka**



Ranil Jayawardena – UK trade envoy for Sri Lanka

Mr Jayawardena's role as trade envoy will be to support and enhance the development of Britain's trade and investment with Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister's Trade Envoy will be visiting Sri Lanka from 15th to 17th February to meet with senior members of the government and engage with British business's working in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Jayawardena was elected as the Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire in May 2015 and was reelected in 2017. He has a degree in government from the London School of Economics. In Parliament he is the chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Sri Lanka. Mr. Jayawardena's father is of Sri Lankan origin.

Mr. Jayawardena said:

Given the shared history and close bonds of friendship between Britain and Sri Lanka – and with my family ties to Sri Lanka – I am looking forward to serving as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy at an exciting time for both our countries.

There's lots of scope for further trade and investment between Britain and Sri Lanka. I recently visited 'Port City', one among many initiatives that the Sri Lankan Government is pushing forward that demonstrate its commitment to creating the right conditions for economic growth. Port City will provide a range of opportunities for UK-based professional services to work with Sri Lankan partners to take forward our shared ambitions to develop international business. I am confident that engagement by the UK's professional services sector will help Port City to attract international investment and build its reputation.

British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka James Dauris said:

For centuries Britain has been a global trading nation. Today we have one of the world's largest economies and strong commercial relationships with countries around the globe. As the Sri Lankan

economy grows we are seeing an encouraging increase in the number of British companies wanting to do business with Sri Lanka. Mr. Jayawardana's appointment will help us to encourage more UK firms to look at options for doing business in and with Sri Lanka and to boost bilateral trade.

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## [News story: Investigation into the policy and process followed by the Victim Contact Scheme in the Worboys case](#)

On 19 January, Secretary of State David Gauke told Parliament he had asked Chief Inspector of Probation, Dame Glenys Stacey, to urgently review the way the victim contact scheme engaged with victims in the Worboys case.

Dame Glenys Stacey has completed this report and submitted her findings to the Justice Secretary.

[Investigation into the policy and process followed by the Victim Contact Scheme in the Worboys case](#)

Receiving the report, Secretary of State David Gauke said:

I am extremely grateful for Dame Glenys Stacey's thorough report into the operation of the Victim Contact Scheme in the Worboys case – it will be an invaluable part of our urgent work to review parole transparency and victim contact.

It is reassuring that the correct procedures were followed and that in some respects Victim Liaison Officers have gone above and beyond the victim contact requirements.

However, I fully accept that there are things we can do much better. That's why we have already changed the letters we send to victims to make them more compassionate, clearer and more informative, but there is more to do. We will take these findings and improve the system.

[Read the Secretary of State's oral statement on Transparency of the Parole](#)

## Board and Victim Support