

# [Press release: Boat patrols target illegal fishing](#)

Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officers in the North East are continuing their crackdown on illegal angling.

This week they carried out boat patrols on the River Tees on the lookout for people fishing illegally. On Wednesday they reported two men for fishing for pike during the coarse fishing close season near Preston Park.

The close season prevents fishing for coarse fish for 3 months to give the fish a chance to breed. It runs from 15 March to 15 June inclusive.

Kevin Summerson, Fisheries Enforcement Technical Specialist with the Environment Agency in the North East, said:

The Environment Agency's role is to protect fish stocks and improve fisheries. This includes rescuing fish in distress, improving habitat and restocking rivers across the region which have been affected by pollution or poor fish passage.

However, the close season means fish are left alone during the spring to allow them the opportunity to breed. During this time our specialist enforcement teams police illegal fishing as they do all year round to ensure compliance with the law.

## **Licences checked**

Enforcement officers have checked around 500 anglers since the beginning of April so far, with most being fully licensed and compliant. Enforcement officers have reported 15 people for offences.

During March the Environment Agency prosecuted nine anglers at courts in the North East for unlicensed fishing and associated offences, resulting in fines and costs totalling almost £2,000. Kevin added:

We take all kinds of illegal fishing very seriously, whether it's those fishing without a licence or licensed anglers using illegal equipment.

It's not fair on other anglers who make sure they fish within the law, and also endangers the future of the sport by damaging the sustainability of fish stocks. It's really important people report information about suspected illegal fishing to us so we can investigate.

The Environment Agency's work is intelligence-led and they work closely with partners to target known hot spots and where illegal fishing is reported. It urges anyone to report illegal fishing by calling 0800 80 70 60.

Coarse fishing is still allowed on most still waters and canals, depending on fishery owner agreement, though a valid fishing licence is still required. You can check which still waters and canals still have a close season in operation by [checking the byelaws which apply in your area online](#)

Anyone who wants to go fishing needs to buy a fishing licence. A full annual licence costs from just £30 (short term and some concessionary licences are also available) and are [available online](#)

---

## [Press release: Boat patrols target illegal fishing](#)

Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officers in the North East are continuing their crackdown on illegal angling.

This week they carried out boat patrols on the River Tees on the lookout for people fishing illegally. On Wednesday they reported two men for fishing for pike during the coarse fishing close season near Preston Park.

The close season prevents fishing for coarse fish for 3 months to give the fish a chance to breed. It runs from 15 March to 15 June inclusive.

Kevin Summerson, Fisheries Enforcement Technical Specialist with the Environment Agency in the North East, said:

The Environment Agency's role is to protect fish stocks and improve fisheries. This includes rescuing fish in distress, improving habitat and restocking rivers across the region which have been affected by pollution or poor fish passage.

However, the close season means fish are left alone during the spring to allow them the opportunity to breed. During this time our specialist enforcement teams police illegal fishing as they do all year round to ensure compliance with the law.

### **Licences checked**

Enforcement officers have checked around 500 anglers since the beginning of April so far, with most being fully licensed and compliant. Enforcement officers have reported 15 people for offences.

During March the Environment Agency prosecuted nine anglers at courts in the North East for unlicensed fishing and associated offences, resulting in fines and costs totalling almost £2,000. Kevin added:

We take all kinds of illegal fishing very seriously, whether it's those fishing without a licence or licensed anglers using illegal equipment.

It's not fair on other anglers who make sure they fish within the law, and also endangers the future of the sport by damaging the sustainability of fish stocks. It's really important people report information about suspected illegal fishing to us so we can investigate.

The Environment Agency's work is intelligence-led and they work closely with partners to target known hot spots and where illegal fishing is reported. It urges anyone to report illegal fishing by calling 0800 80 70 60.

Coarse fishing is still allowed on most still waters and canals, depending on fishery owner agreement, though a valid fishing licence is still required. You can check which still waters and canals still have a close season in operation by [checking the byelaws which apply in your area online](#)

Anyone who wants to go fishing needs to buy a fishing licence. A full annual licence costs from just £30 (short term and some concessionary licences are also available) and are [available online](#)

---

## **[Corporate report: National Waste Programme Quarterly Report: Q4 FY 2017 to 2018](#)**

The National Waste Programme (NWP) is a cross-UK programme of work to lead the ongoing implementation and delivery of the UK Nuclear Industry Solid LLW Strategy.

The NWP covers all nuclear industry waste producers including those in the NDA estate, the public sector and the private sector. The NWP is led by LLW Repository Ltd on behalf of the NDA (who are responsible for leading strategy implementation for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)).

The NWP works collaboratively with its stakeholders to produce a Blueprint and Benefit Map to show the direction of travel for strategy implementation.

The activities to deliver the strategy are executed by the stakeholders of the NWP, for example by waste producers through their waste management practices.

Find out more about the [National Waste Programme](#); established to implement the [UK LLW Strategy](#). An industry-wide collaboration led by LLWR on behalf of the NDA.

---

## [News story: Civil/crime news: list of individuals excluded from contract work](#)

A list of individuals excluded from being supervisors or performing contract work is available on our 'contract terminations and exclusions' page on GOV.UK – link below.

The information includes the:

- individual's name
- region in which the individual was working prior to exclusion
- nature of work individual excluded from doing
- date exclusion was imposed
- date exclusion will be reviewed

### **Reasons for exclusion**

Among other reasons which are set out in our standard contract documents, the LAA may exclude individuals where they have been:

- a cause of, or the subject of an official investigation or report – as defined within the applicable LAA contract standard terms
- a cause of a sanction, or

- they have been charged with, or convicted of, an imprisonable offence

In addition, we would need to consider that such action is reasonably necessary to protect clients, public funds or the LAA from material harm.

### **Why is this happening now?**

By publishing a list, our intention is to raise awareness and reduce the risk of legal aid providers using any excluded individuals for work affected by the terms of their exclusion.

### **Right of appeal**

Details of excluded individuals will only be published following the conclusion of any applicable LAA appeal processes.

### **Removing individuals from the list**

The individual will be removed from the published list once the exclusion expires or is revoked and the LAA is satisfied that the individual no longer poses a risk of causing material harm to clients' interests, public funds or the LAA.

Individuals are entitled to apply annually for a review of their inclusion on the list or should their circumstances change such that the exclusion may no longer be considered necessary.

### **Providers to check 'excluded individuals' list**

To ensure that providers are not in breach of their contractual obligations, it is the responsibility of providers to check the 'excluded individuals' list before allowing individuals or third parties to carry out contract work on their behalf.

Obligations are set out in clause 10.4 of the contract standard terms – see contract link below. Appropriate action against any providers found to be employing excluded individuals will be considered by the LAA in accordance with the terms of the contract.

### **Further information**

[Contract terminations and exclusions](#) – to download 'excluded individuals' list

[Standard Civil Contract 2015](#) – see clauses 10.4, 24.9, 24.10 and 24.11 which are common to civil and crime contracts since 2010

[Bar Standards Board Disciplinary tribunals and findings](#)

[SRA published regulatory decisions](#) – details of suspended/struck off individuals

## **Speech: Trade and tariffs: Brexit and beyond**

Thank you. And thanks to DWF and Hume Brophy for hosting us this morning.

Trade policy is all about playing to your strengths – it's called comparative advantage for a reason. So I think it's particularly apt that we're being hosted by a purveyor of one of our finest exports – legal services. Especially one based in Manchester.

### **The work of the Department for International Trade**

As you've heard, I'm the Minister for Trade Policy.

In crude terms, that makes me minister for trade agreements, as well as things like trade preferences for developing countries, agreeing WTO schedules, and establishing our own independent trade remedies regime, so we can protect industry against dumping and other unfair practices.

Today I've been asked to talk about our priorities in some of those areas.

But before I start I should emphasise that my department, the Department for International Trade, has a range of other priorities: things like encouraging small businesses to export, securing foreign direct investment from firms overseas, and providing export finance.

People often assume that DIT is a purely Brexit department, but this kind of bread-and-butter work is equally important and has been going on since long before the referendum: [UK Export Finance](#) is actually the world's oldest export credit agency.

What Brexit has done is give this work renewed emphasis, which is why we now have a dedicated Department for International Trade, so that all trade-related work is done under one roof, and so trade has its own voice at the Cabinet table for the first time in over 30 years.

To give one example: UK Export Finance can now give support in over 60 currencies. We'll also be launching a new Exports Strategy in the coming months.

A lot of that support is about helping us export more to the EU, and I've made numerous trips across Europe to promote UK exporters and the UK as an investment destination.

## **Our negotiations with the EU**

I think that's an important reminder that we shouldn't see European trade purely through the prism of Brexit negotiations – trade isn't all about trade agreements.

Nonetheless, I will touch on those negotiations.

As the Prime Minister has said, the government wants a deep, comprehensive and unique free trade agreement with the EU.

We want that because we value EU trade.

When I talk about the opportunities that lie outside the Customs Union, people often accuse me of ignoring the opportunity right on our doorstep. But I can assure you that the government is fully cognisant of that.

The EU takes two fifths of our exports; they're a developed market of half a billion people starting 20 miles from Dover.

That will always be important – it's simply that I don't see this as an either/or choice.

As a British MP, born in New York with a German wife, I've always seen the choice between Britishness, globalism and Europeanism as a false trichotomy, and so it is here.

By leaving the Customs Union, we will have the ability to sign new trade agreements. But I believe we will also get a good deal with the EU.

By the Commission's own estimates, trade with the UK are worth over EUR 800 Billion to the EU27. On the day we leave, we will immediately become the EU's second-largest trading partner, only slightly behind the US, and well ahead of third-placed China. It is strongly in the EU's interests to sign a deal.

Yes, in relative terms the trading relationship is worth even more to us than it is to them. But it's not a zero-sum game.

And in technical terms this is more straightforward than most trade agreements: this will be the only trade agreement in history where the 2 sides start from a position of already being aligned.

## **Our priorities for non-EU trade**

So I think we will get a strong, mutually-beneficial trade agreement with the EU. But what of trade agreements outside the EU – what of our priorities and our progress there?

We can split this out into our overall aims, how we're achieving those aims, and how we're prioritising them.

Our overall aim is to ensure continuity and certainty for UK businesses, by

transitioning the 40 or so trade agreements the EU has in place with third countries.

We will also take advantage of the great opportunities outside the Customs Union – the IMF has predicted that 90% of global growth will be outside the EU in the coming years – by agreeing new trade deals.

We're already making strong progress towards achieving these aims. Last month's draft text on the withdrawal agreement included the ability for the UK to negotiate and sign new trade agreements during the implementation period.

And although we can't do that yet – we're bound by the EU's principle of sincere cooperation – we're laying the groundwork.

We're laying the groundwork domestically. I am currently taking the [Trade Bill](#) through Parliament, which will, amongst other things, give us the power in domestic law to transition the EU's existing third-party trade agreements.

And we're laying the groundwork with our trading partners: we have set up trade working groups with 21 countries.

As for prioritising trade agreements: as you would expect, this is a holistic process; we look at things like the ease of achieving a deal and the size and compatibility of the other country's economy.

But there's no algorithm that will tell you what to do.

## **Our world-leading services**

As you would expect, wherever we discuss trade with services are important.

Services make up 44% of our exports. That's equates to a higher-proportion of GDP than for any G7 country and makes us the world's second-largest services exporter; second only to the US.

And if anything that underestimates the importance of service exports: when you look at value-add – taking into account re-exports – services are worth around two-thirds.

That's led right here, by the financial, professional and business services of the City of London: a sector close to my heart, given the time I spent on trading floors here before I went into politics, and the number of my Chelsea and Fulham constituents who work here.

Given our hosts, I specifically want to mention our 'Legal Services are GREAT' campaign, launched in October in Singapore.

This is spreading the word worldwide about our legal system's predictability, commercial adaptability and certainty; our judges' integrity and experience; and the depth and breadth of expertise that has made to UK such an exceptional global legal hub.

We want to protect our services trade as we leave the EU. But we also want to do much more. Trade in services has historically resisted liberalisation much more than trade in goods.

## **The UK: a voice for free trade**

So trade policy post-Brexit will be about much more than individual trade deals. It will also be about Britain becoming a voice for free trade, at the World Trade Organization and other international fora.

We are currently working to ensure we have our own WTO tariff schedules. We're already a member in our own right, but we're currently covered by the EU's schedules, so we've taken the decision to replicate these for the time being, partly so business has maximum certainty.

We're already a World Trade Organization member in our own right. But not one with our own voice, as the EU speaks for all member states.

The IMF estimated that we were the world's fifth largest economy at the end of last year, and in today's world, where there's so many forces in favour of protectionism, it is to everyone's benefit to have a nation of Britain's stature making the case for free trade.