

News story: Protecting the future of peer-to-peer lending

Today the peer-to-peer lending industry was given a boost of confidence as the government began legislating to clarify that no business borrowing through a peer-to-peer platform needs to be regulated as a 'deposit taker' (often referred to as a 'banking licence') unless that is their core business. The legislation will ensure that the industry can continue to thrive and innovate while still benefiting from the UK's high quality regulatory standards.

The draft legislation will provide certainty for UK businesses across a range of sectors including manufacturing, construction, and hospitality who finance their growth with peer-to-peer lending. Without this legislation, peer-to-peer platforms lacked clarity on whether some of their borrowers would require a 'banking licence' to borrow through their platform. This would have dramatically increased costs for platforms and borrowers, and impacted the sustainability of peer-to-peer business models, reducing the finance available to businesses.

Stephen Barclay, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said:

Peer-to-peer lending has brought about real benefits, not only for the UK's small and medium sized business community, but our economy at large. This vital clarification will mean that businesses can continue to access the finance they need to grow and expand, helping us to build an economy that is fit for the future.

Peer-to-peer lending is an increasingly important source of funding for UK businesses, especially smaller businesses. In 2016 over £1.2 billion of finance for businesses was facilitated by the peer-to-peer industry, and it provided the equivalent of 15% of all new bank lending to small businesses.

Press release: Man who killed family members who took him in has sentence increased

A homeless man who murdered 2 members of a family who helped him and tried to murder a third member of the same family has had his sentence increased after the Solicitor General appealed it as unduly lenient.

Aaron Barley, who was 23 years old at the time, attacked 3 members of the Wilkinson family in a premeditated and savage act of unprovoked violence.

Barley stabbed and killed Pierce Wilkinson, aged 13, and his mother Tracey, in their home having waited for Peter Wilkinson, Tracy's husband and Pierce's father, to take the dog out for a walk. When Mr Wilkinson returned to the house Barley stabbed him a number of times in an attempt to kill him which he was fortunate to survive.

The attack was entirely unprovoked, with the Wilkinson family having done much over the course of the preceding year to help Barley with the difficulties he had in his life. Their help included supporting him to find a home and a job and inviting him to spend Christmas day with them. The 4th member of the Wilkinson family, Lydia, who was aged 18 at the time was away at the time of the attack.

Barley has shown no remorse for the killings of Pierce and Tracey Wilkinson and has expressed regret that he failed to kill Peter Wilkinson. He was originally sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 30 years at Birmingham Crown Court. Today, the Court of Appeal agreed the sentence was too low and increased the minimum term to 35 years.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

Aaron Barley's attack on the Wilkinson family was a truly despicable crime. The Wilkinson family had gone out of their way to help him and he repaid their kindness with a brutal attack which devastated their family. My thoughts are with Peter and Lydia Wilkinson particularly and I hope they can find some comfort in the increased sentence today.

[News story: UK establishes new money laundering watchdog](#)

The Office for Professional Body AML Supervision (OPBAS) will work across the UK's anti-money laundering supervisory regime to improve standards and ensure supervisors and law enforcement work together more effectively.

It will directly oversee the 22 accountancy and legal professional body AML supervisors in the UK. Having several organisations supervising the same sectors risks inconsistencies that criminals could look to exploit.

OPBAS, which will operate within the FCA, will ensure the 22 bodies meet the high standards set out in the [Money Laundering Regulations 2017](#), and have

powers to investigate and penalise those that do not.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Barclay, said:

Our partnership with the private sector is at the heart of this reform, and OPBAS will help our supervisors tighten the UK's defences against dirty money whilst minimising unnecessary burdens on legitimate business.

This is the latest step in the government's reforms to the UK's financial system to make it a hostile environment for illicit finance

The OPBAS regulations have been laid in Parliament and will take effect on 18 January. Implementing OPBAS delivers the government's commitment to reform the AML supervisory regime, a key part of the [2016 Action plan for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist finance](#).

It is the latest step in the government's biggest reform of the AML regime in a decade, complementing wider work including enhancing law enforcement's powers through the Criminal Finances Act and updating the Money Laundering Regulations to implement the latest international standards, both of which took effect earlier this year.

[News story: Chair for the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management standing down](#)

Professor Laurence Williams FREng FIMechE FNucI stood down as Chair of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) in November 2017. He has held the post since November 2012.

Professor Williams has had a long and distinguished career in the field of nuclear regulation, fulfilling the role of the government's Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations from 1998 to 2005, and is currently Chair of the Defence and Nuclear Safety Committee. He is Professor of Nuclear Safety at the University of Central Lancashire, and a senior research fellow at Imperial College London.

Professor Williams said:

The effective management of the UK's radioactive waste is essential not only to deal with past legacies but also for the successful

exploitation of nuclear energy in the future. CoRWM has made, and will continue to make an important contribution to the management of radioactive waste.

The past 5 years have been both challenging and rewarding knowing that I have been able to contribute to this essential task. It has been both an honour and privilege to have chaired a committee of such distinguished and talented people.

I have every confidence that the current members of CoRWM will continue to provide invaluable advice to ensure that the new Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process will be a success.

Energy Minister Richard Harrington said:

On behalf of BEIS and the devolved administrations, I would like to thank Professor Williams for his outstanding commitment, dedication and professionalism serving as Chair of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) for the last 5 years.

CoRWM performs a vital function in providing scrutiny and advice on government radioactive waste management programmes. This has included constructive feedback and challenge in various fora such as the Geological Disposal Programme Board, as well as an invaluable level of independent assurance.

You have made an enormous contribution to the committee over the years and we particularly wish to thank you for your commitment to the timely and effective delivery of successive work programmes and CoRWM annual reports; your contribution to the implementation strategy for Scotland's policy on higher activity radioactive waste; and your assistance in the development of the Welsh government's radioactive waste policy.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has launched a recruitment campaign to find a new Chair for CoRWM, expected to complete by April 2018. Further details can be found on the [public appointments website](#).

CoRWM's Deputy Chair Professor Campbell Gemmell is standing in as interim Chair of the Committee until a new Chair is appointed.

1. The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management provides independent scrutiny and advice to UK government and devolved administration ministers on long-term management of radioactive waste, including storage and disposal. The Committee's primary task is to provide independent scrutiny of the UK government's and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's proposals, plans and programmes to deliver geological disposal, together with robust interim storage, as the long-term

management option for higher activity waste. For more information see the [CoRWM website](#).

2. The role of CoRWM Chair is remunerated at a rate of £450 per day; it is expected that the Chair will spend about 1.5 days per week on CoRWM business.
3. The appointment is made by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Energy and Industry, on behalf of the Devolved Administrations as joint sponsors of CoRWM.
4. Appointments to CoRWM are made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the Nolan recommendations, appointees' political activity (if any declared) must be made public.

News story: Animal medicines seizure notice: Cambridge Cavy Trust

Approximately 50 products were seized as they were intended for supply and administration to animals by a person not authorised to do so. These products included authorised Prescription Only Medicines (POM-V and POM-VPS) as well as human products and unauthorised veterinary medicinal products.

The supply and administration of these products is an offence under Regulation 8 (Administration of the product), Regulation 26 (Possession of an unauthorised veterinary medicinal product) and Schedule 3, paragraph 3 (Retail supply of veterinary medicinal products) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013.

This seizure is linked to the improvement notice issued at the same time.