

News story: Cold weather alerts and health warnings issued

Keep warm keep well warnings are being issued by Public Health England (PHE) today (24 November 2017), as weather forecasts suggest the winter's first blast of cold weather is on its way.

Met Office forecasters have said today that by tomorrow (Saturday) temperatures in the North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber will fall below 2°C.

This first drop in temperatures has prompted PHE's Extreme Events team to remind people all over the country that before cold weather arrives is the best time to prepare.

Dr Thomas Waite, of the Extreme Events team, said:

We're well used to winter in this country so most people know what to do to protect their health before and during cold spells.

But there are people who may not take precautions and who are at a very real risk. We know that every winter thousands of people fall ill and many die because of exposure to cold both in the home and while outdoors.

Those most at-risk include older people, very young children and those with conditions like heart and lung disease. That's why every cold season we urge people to look out for family, friends and neighbours who may be at risk. Ask yourself if you could check on a neighbour to see if there's anything they need?

Paul Gundersen, Chief Operational Meteorologist at the Met Office, said:

Colder air has now reached most parts of England, with temperatures expected to fall further by Saturday, when the cold will be accentuated by strengthening winds. Wintry showers are also likely in places, but any snow showers are expected to be confined largely to higher ground. A temporary incursion of warmer air is expected on Monday, with the colder air forecast to return by Tuesday.

You should:

- look out for friends and family who may be vulnerable to the cold and ensure they have access to warm food and drinks and are managing to heat their homes adequately
- try to maintain indoor temperatures to at least 18°C, particularly if

- you are not mobile, have long term illness or are 65 or over
- stay tuned for weather forecasts, ensure you are stocked with food and medications in advance, have deliveries or ask a friend to help
 - take weather into account when planning your activity over the following days
 - seek entitlements and benefits such as Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments, which are available to some
 - avoid exposing yourself to cold or icy outdoor conditions if you are at a higher risk of cold related illness or falls.
 - discuss with friends and neighbours about clearing snow and ice from in front of your house and public walkways nearby

Power and utility companies have schemes which make at-risk groups a priority for reconnection following power cuts. Find out if you meet the criteria and if so, sign up. Visit ofgem.gov.uk for more information.

There's lots of useful advice on the [Stay Well This Winter website](#).

Dr Waite added:

We know that more deaths occur every winter in the UK than in the summer due to a wide range of causes including cold weather, influenza and other respiratory infections. The flu vaccination is the best protection we have against flu and it's really important to have it if you are eligible. If we all keep a close eye out for each other over the coming months hopefully we'll all be able to stay well this winter.

[News story: MSPs discover more about life in the naval service](#)

The purpose of their visit is to help MSPs to better understand the range of social and welfare issues relevant to armed forces personnel, and their families, within their community.

During their visit the MSPs saw displays of Royal Marine marksmanship, all terrain driving, stalking, artillery, and met with the Royal Navy's bomb disposal experts from HM Naval Base Clyde. They also met with the families of RM Condor and the Naval Families Federation.

Naval Regional Commander Captain Chris Smith said:

While Defence is clearly reserved to Westminster, it is the

Scottish Parliament's policies and decisions that affect the day to day lives of Scots-based service personnel.

This is why it is essential that our elected representatives better understand military life, all the more so given that Scotland will be home to the entire Submarine Service from 2020, as well as an Army Infantry Brigade, the RAF's Quick Reaction Alert interceptors (North) and submarine hunting Maritime Patrol Aircraft flying from Lossiemouth.

As part of the Armed Forces Visit Programme, a group of MSPs visited the Royal Marine base at Arbroath.

Launched by Presiding Officer Ken Macintosh MSP and the Ministry of Defence in April, the Armed Forces Visit Programme has already had successful fact-finding visits to the Army's Glencorse Barracks, Penicuik, and RAF Lossiemouth, Moray.

The MOD has around 10,000 sailors, soldiers, and air personnel living permanently in Scotland, supported by 8,000 reservists and civilians.

Scottish industry benefits from Defence spending £1.5bn with it each year, supporting 9,750 private sector jobs in Scotland.

The Defence Board confirmed in February 2017, that £1.7 billion would be invested to upgrade Scottish military bases over the next decade.

List of attending MSPs:

- Keith Brown MSP, SNP, Clackmannanshire/Dunblane, (Cabinet Secretary Economy, Jobs and Fair Work/Veterans)
- Maurice Corry MSP, Conservative, West Scotland
- Graeme Dey MSP, SNP, Angus South
- Murdo Fraser MSP, Conservative, Mid Scotland and Fife
- Daniel Johnson MSP, Scottish Labour, Edinburgh Southern
- Liam Kerr MSP, Conservative, North East Scot
- Gordon Lindhurst MSP, Conservative, Lothian Region
- Lewis Macdonald MSP, Scottish Labour, NE Scotland
- Graham Simpson MSP, Conservative, Mid Scotland and Fife
- Annie Wells MSP, Conservative, Glasgow

[Press release: New charity investigation: Into the Light](#)

Ministries

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a new statutory inquiry into Into the Light Ministries, registered charity number 1143539. The investigation was opened on 11 October 2017.

The charity's objects are to advance the Christian faith and to relieve sickness and financial hardship and promote and preserve good health through the provision of funds, clothing or other basic essentials.

After receiving information from a third party that questioned the adequacy of the charity's financial controls, the Commission obtained bank account records and reviewed accounts previously filed. This revealed significant concerns regarding the charity's accounts, potential conflicts of interest, non-primary purpose trading and public benefit, indicating a possible risk to charitable property.

The accounts submitted for the financial year ending 31 August 2016 were also not compliant with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) which sets out how charities must prepare their accounts.

As a result we took regulatory action under section 76 of the Charities Act to safeguard the charity's property and funds, and have opened a statutory inquiry to examine the governance, management and administration of the charity. The inquiry will focus particularly on whether:

- the charity has adequate control systems in place to enable the timely preparation and submission of accounting and returns information
- any trading carried out by the charity is compliant with current legislation;
- the trustees are responsibly managing the charity's resources and financial affairs
- conflicts of interests and transactions with connected parties have been adequately managed
- receipt of any payments and benefits to trustees and connected parties have been validly authorised in accordance with the provisions of the charity's governing document

We will also consider to what extent the charity operates for the public benefit, and whether there has been mismanagement and/or misconduct.

The Commission stresses that opening an inquiry is not in itself a finding of wrongdoing. The purpose of an inquiry is to examine issues in detail, investigate and establish the facts so that the regulator can ascertain whether there has been mismanagement and/or misconduct; establish the extent of any risk to the charity's property, beneficiaries or work and decide what action needs to be taken to resolve the serious concerns, if necessary using its investigative, protective and remedial powers to do so.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's details can be viewed on the Commission's [online charity search tool](#).

Ends

PR 75/17

Notes to editors

1. The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
2. Search for charities on our [check charity tool](#).
3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the Commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.

[Press release: Countrywide crackdown continues – 20 directors of 16 more companies disqualified for employing illegal workers](#)

In all, 20 directors in 16 separate businesses across the United Kingdom have been disqualified recently, following investigations by the Insolvency Service, all of whom were already fined for employing illegal workers. Eighteen people have been banned from being company directors or being involved in the management of companies for six years each, whilst two have been disqualified for 7 years.

The businesses, which include 11 restaurants, four takeaway/fast food establishments, and a shop, are based in London (4), Sussex (3), North West (3) South Wales (2), Glasgow, Antrim, Frome and High Wycombe.

Between them, they employed 41 illegal workers and were fined a total of £505,000 by the Home Office, none of which was paid. Two of the companies have now entered into liquidation, with a further two having been dissolved.

The Insolvency Service is continuing to work very closely with Home Office

Immigration Enforcement to take action in cases where the company is still active and not subject to insolvency proceedings.

The matters leading to all of the disqualifications are that the directors failed to ensure that the companies complied with statutory obligations under The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to ensure that relevant immigration checks were completed and copy documents retained, resulting in the employment of illegal workers.

Following visits from Home Office Immigration, during which the breaches were discovered, the companies were issued with penalty notices ranging from £10,000 to £15,000 per worker, which remain unpaid.

All were directors of the companies at the time of the Home Office visit.

Commenting on the disqualification, Cheryl Lambert, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

Employing illegal workers is not consequence free, either for the employer, the employee or the consumer.

These directors sought an unfair advantage over their law abiding competitors by employing people who were not entitled to work legally in the UK. By definition this is a set of people who are without the protection of the law and knowledge of the authorities, and thereby extremely vulnerable to exploitation in all its forms.

It is bad for business and bad for society as a whole.

If a company is found to be employing illegal workers and not carrying out the checks they are required to by law, then the Insolvency Service will continue to liaise with the Home Office to ensure that not only the workers, but the employers will be removed from the market place. This is regardless of the whether the company remains trading or is in Liquidation

These actions are a warning that the Government is pursuing bad employers.

A Home Office spokesperson said:

Illegal working is not victimless. It undercuts honest employers, cheats legitimate job seekers out of employment opportunities and

defrauds the taxpayer.

Businesses should be aware that they have a duty to check that their staff have permission to work in the UK.

We are happy to work with employers who play by the rules but those who do not, should know that they will not go under our radar.

The disqualified directors are:

London

- Mohammed Aleem Tayyab and Mohammed Waseem Tayyab directors of Tayyab & Sons Limited which traded as a restaurant known as Tayyabs, 83 Fieldgate Street, London, E1 1JU were disqualified for 7 years each on 4 September 2017. Eight illegal workers were found in two separate Home Office raids and fines totalling £95,000 were levied
- Naqibullah Azizi, a director of Ameen Foods Ltd which traded as a restaurant/takeaway known as Bella Pizza, 101 Church Lane, Kingsbury, NW9 8JU, disqualified on 5 May 2017. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied
- Mohammed Qahhar Choudhury, a director of Majestic Romford Limited which traded as a restaurant known as Indian Fusion, 27 Station Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, RM6 4BE, disqualified on 6 July 2017. One illegal worker was found resulting in a fine of £15,000 being levied
- Ashim Kumar Saha, a director of Save & Pick Limited, which traded as a shop known as Savers, 372-374 High Road, Leyton, E10 6QE, disqualified on 4 August 2017. One illegal worker was found resulting in a fine of £10,000 being levied

Sussex

- Muhammad Furqan, director of Hsg Capital Ltd which traded as a pizza takeaway known as Slicebox, 6 Broadwalk, Crawley, RH10 1 HQ, disqualified on 27 July 2017. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied
- Sujon Miah, a director of Jaipur Restaurant (Worthing), which traded as a restaurant known as Royal Jaipur, 35 Brighton Road, Worthing, BN11 3EF, disqualified on 11 August 2017. Three illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £45,000 being levied
- Saleha Hussain Lucky, director of Curry Direct Limited, which traded as a restaurant known as Cardamom Bay, 43 Queensway, Bognor Regis, PO21 1QN, disqualified on 8 September 2017. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied

North West area

- Mohammad Seraz Ullah, director of Blue Cloud Limited which traded as a

restaurant known as Last Monsoon, 54 King Street West, SK3 0DY, disqualified on 11 July 2017. Two illegal workers were found and a fine on £30,000 was levied

- Abbas Rashid Ahmed, director Aa Foods (UK) Limited, which traded as a takeaway known as K2 Taj, 32 Hamilton Road, M13 4PD, disqualified on 6 April 2017. One illegal worker was found and a fine of £15,000 was levied
- Helena Tohamy, and Mohammed Fathelbab, directors of Old Swan Grill Limited, which traded as a takeaway known as The Charcoal Hob, 379 Prescott Road, Old Swan, Liverpool, United Kingdom, L13 3BS, were disqualified on 14 September 2017 and 3 October 2017 respectively. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied.

South Wales

- Sazzadur Rahman. A director of The 3 Mughals Restaurant Ltd, which traded as restaurant known as The 3 Mughals, 7 Western Valley Road, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9DS, disqualified on 30 June 2017. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied
- Bunyamin Hurum, a director of BH Catering Limited, which traded as a takeaway known as Best Kebabs, 3 Caerlon Road, Newport, NP19 7BU, disqualified on 14 August 2017. One illegal worker was found resulting in a fine of £15,000 being levied

Glasgow

- Manoj Barua and Vipin Kumar Sharma, directors of MV Hospitality Limited which traded as restaurant known as Café India, 29 Albion Street, Glasgow, G1 1LH, disqualified on 18 July 2017 and 23 June 2017 respectively. Four illegal workers were found and a fine of £40,000 levied

Northern Ireland

- Wen Qing Chen and Guanda An, directors of China Express (N.I.) Limited which traded as restaurant known as China Express, 76 Main Street, Crumlin, Antrim, BT29 4UU, disqualified on 24 July 2017 and 30 June 2017 respectively. Four illegal workers were found and a fine of £60,000 was levied

Somerset

- Abdul Rahim, director of Jhalmuri Limited which traded as a restaurant known as Jhalmuri, 14 Palmer Street, Frome, BA11 1DS, disqualified on 18 April 2017. Three illegal workers were found and a fine of £30,000 was levied

High Wycombe

- Mohammed Zinuk Khan, director of Royel Taj HW Limited, which traded as Memsaab Indian Restaurant, London Road, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, HP10 0NJ, disqualified on 14 September 2017. Three illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £30,000 being levied

Notes to editors

All disqualifications take legal effect 21 days after the date shown.

The personal details of the directors and current status of the limited companies are shown below, in the same order as presented as above.

London

- The directors of Tayyab & Sons Limited (CRO 06816002) were Mohammed Aleem Tayyab (born September 1973 and residing in London, E1 1JU) and Mohammad Wasim Tayyab born January 1975 and residing in London
- Naqibullah Azizi, a director of Ameen Foods Ltd (CRO 08930382) was born July 1974 and resides in Colindale
- Mohammed Qahhar Choudhury, a director of Majestic Romford Limited (CRO 08876907) was born August 1993 and resides in Southampton. Majestic Romford Limited entered liquidation on 13 July 2017 with Stephen Gordon Franklin, Panos Eliades Franklin & Co, Olympia House, Armitage Road, London, NW11 8RQ appointed liquidator
- Save & Pick Limited (CRO 09367312) was dissolved 21 March 2017. Ashim Kumar Saha, the director was born February 1981 and resides in London

Sussex

- Muhammad Furqan, director of Hsg Capital Ltd (CRO 09154310) was born August 1979 and resides in Greenford
- Sujon Miah, a director of Jaipur Restaurant (Worthing) Limited (CRO 07147296) was born December 1972 and resides in Worthing
- Saleha Hussain Lucky, director of Curry Direct Limited (CRO 08421972) was born on 7 March 29183 and resides at 3 Sandymount Avenue, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO22 9ET. Curry Direct Limited entered liquidation on 18 July 2017 with Muhammad Usman Nazir, 1 Friary, Temple Quay, Bristol, Avon, BS1 6EA appointed a liquidator

North West area

- Mohammad Seraz Ullah, director of Blue Cloud Catering Limited (CRO 09584282) was born June 1968 and resides in Oldham
- Abbas Rashid Ahmed, director Aa Foods (UK) Limited, (CRO 09271804) was born August 1992 and resides in Manchester
- The directors of Old Swan Grill Limited (CRO 10232862.) were Helena Tohamy (born March 1987) and Mohammed Fathelbab (born January 1986) both reside in Liverpool

South Wales

- Xia Cua Xia, a director of Tin Sang Treham's Limited (CRO 10306416), was born January 1985 and resides in Treharris
- Sazzadur Rahman, a director of The 3 Mughals Restaurant Ltd (CRO 07481949) was born August 1959 and resides in Newport
- Bunyamin Hurum, a director of BH Catering Limited (CRO 07231445) was born February 1988 and resides in Uxbridge

Glasgow

- MV Hospitality Limited (CR0 SC458793) was dissolved on 25 April 2017. Manoj Barua was born on 27 July 1963 and resides in Glasgow and Vipan Kumar Sharma was born August 1975 and resides in Glasgow. Northern Ireland
- The directors of China Express (N.I.) Limited (CR0 NI635323) were Wen Qing Chen (born March 1978 and resides in Belfast) and Guanda An (born August 1979 residing in Crumlin, Antrim) Somerset
- Abdul Rahim, director of Jhalmuri Limited (CR0 07499776) was born February 1987 and resides in Frome, Somerset

High Wycombe

- The director of Royel Taj HW Limited (CR0 09415059), Mohammed Zinuk Khan, was born on December 1989 and resides in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures. Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

BEIS' mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy that works for all, in particular by creating the conditions for business success and promoting an open global economy. The Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team contributes to this aim by taking action to deter fraud and to regulate the market. They investigate and prosecute a range of offences, primarily relating to personal or company insolvencies.

All public enquiries concerning the affairs of the companies should be made to: Cheryl Lambert, Head of Outsourced Investigations, Investigations and Enforcement Services, The Insolvency Service, 3rd Floor, Abbey Orchard Street, London SW1P 2HT. Tel: 0207 596 6117. Email:

Cheryl.Lambert@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

News story: Budget delivers devo deal and transport boost for North of Tyne

Those living North of the Tyne will benefit from £600 million of new government investment to spend on local priorities to boost growth after the area agreed a historic devolution deal.

Details of the deal were unveiled today by Treasury Minister Andrew Jones, who visited the region and was joined by the Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry and local leaders.

The 815,000 people living in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland will vote for a new directly-elected mayor who will have exciting new powers in housing, planning and skills.

The deal, announced by Chancellor Philip Hammond on Wednesday, will generate huge rewards for the area – boosting the local economy by £1.1 billion, creating 10,000 new jobs and attracting £2.1 billion in private investment.

As well as receiving devolved powers, the North of Tyne area will also get:

- full control over the adult education budget
- an Inclusive Growth Board to coordinate skills and employment
- collaboration with government to boost trade and investment, digital infrastructure and rural growth across the area

The Chancellor's Budget also revealed the area will benefit from a further £337 million of government investment in the Tyne & Wear Metro to replace its 40-year-old trains with a new fleet. Mr Jones visited the area in the summer where he heard representations from local business leaders. He returns today having delivered on his pledge to ensure investment is found to ensure the Metro system is fit for the future.

To mark this occasion, the ministers were joined by the Mayor of North Tyneside, Norma Redfearn, Leader of Northumberland County Council, Cllr Peter Jackson and the Leader of Newcastle City Council, Cllr Nick Forbes.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Andrew Jones, said:

This government is delivering for the North East. We have been

clear in our commitment to ensure that opportunity is shared across the country as we create an economy fit for the future. Today represents a big step in achieving this – giving the people of the North of the Tyne a bigger voice and greater power over their future.

This historic deal, including £600 million of government investment is yet another example of how we are backing the North. It will bolster the local economy in the North of Tyne and generate thousands of new jobs.

This deal comes on top of a Budget that delivers brand new trains for the Tyne and Wear Metro, freezes fuel duty for the eighth year running and supports business with a cut in business rates.

Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry, said:

This ground-breaking, multi-million pound deal – sitting alongside the Metro funding boost – truly passes power to the people, and is a pivotal moment for the Northern Powerhouse.

With a strong voice in a new mayor, a new Wear crossing and the globally-significant Great Exhibition of the North, this is a new golden era creating jobs, growth and prosperity for the resurgent North East.

Councillor Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle City Council, said:

The devolution deal we have negotiated is our region's next step towards creating a North East economy with above average wages and below average unemployment.

We now have a real opportunity for our region to come together and turn our ambition for more and better jobs into reality.

Newcastle is already home to national centres of excellence, and this deal builds on our strengths as we look to confirm our place at the heart of modern Britain.

Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor for North Tyneside said:

This is a very exciting deal that will help us to develop our economy and give us access to a wide range of new opportunities.

I am extremely proud of North Tyneside and am confident this deal will allow us to build on the strengths of our people and businesses.

It provides people with the chance to retrain, gain new skills and secure jobs at all levels in growing economies in our area. We will be able to invest in our infrastructure to support existing businesses and attract new ones, and make the North of Tyne an even better place to live.

It's vital that the North of Tyne has a strong voice as the country makes important decisions about its future. This deal gives us a seat at the table with other mayors, where we can fight for the needs of our residents.

Councillor Peter Jackson, Leader of Northumberland County Council, said:

The detailed negotiations with government ministers have resulted in an ambitious deal with many exciting opportunities for the County.

There are some significant issues for us to tackle over the next few years and this deal will give us the tools with which to make a real positive difference to the whole of Northumberland.

In particular, we have been asking government to help us significantly improve the educational attainment in our schools and I am delighted that we have been given the opportunity to introduce an Education Improvement Challenge for the area. This will be the first outside London. We've also been asking central government to devolve powers to our region so we will become a rural growth pilot for England to develop ways in which we can improve prosperity, job opportunities and housing delivery in all of our communities.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to make a step change to improve the prospect of every single person living in Northumberland.

Further information

The deal sets out a range of powers and funding which will enable investments in infrastructure, skills, entrepreneurship, innovation and business growth. In addition to interventions which will be funded locally through the Investment Fund, the government will commit to review business cases brought forward for further investment in areas where the North of Tyne hosts nationally or regionally significant innovation assets science and research strengths – including in offshore and energy, digital (including data, 5G and Building Information Modelling), culture and creative industries, and life sciences and ageing.

More information on the powers North of Tyne will have:

- an Inclusive Growth Board to take forward skills and employment reforms across the area, including a pioneering North of Tyne Education

Improvement Challenge to address disparities and drive excellence in schools across North of Tyne, ensuring that no one is left behind

- full control of the Adult Education Budget to allow North of Tyne to shape local skills provision to respond to local needs
- collaboration on an Employment Support Framework Agreement to drive better coordination of employment, skills and health services across the North of Tyne, increasing the number of residents moving into work
- a Rural Productivity Plan, with North of Tyne becoming a Rural Business

A decision on the funding of any projects will be taken following full assessment.

The deal signifies that government is minded to agree these terms with North of Tyne. Once the consultation process is complete and all seven constituent authorities of the existing North East Combined Authority consent to the deal, the minded-to deal will become a binding agreement and the new Combined Authority will be established.