

Nightclub owners banned for failing to submit accounts and pay tax

Paula Kelly (55) and Paul Anthony Kelly (58), from Thornton Cleveleys in Lancashire, will start their 7-year directorship disqualifications on 25 November 2020.

Husband and wife are both banned from acting as directors of a company or directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Flexitell Limited was incorporated in March 2016 and Paul and Paula Kelly were appointed as directors. Husband and wife managed several nightclubs and pubs in Blackpool under the trading name Ma Kelly's.

The company, however, entered into administration in May 2017 and Flexitell was referred to the Insolvency Service for further enquiries.

Investigators found that Paul and Paula Kelly had not maintained or preserved accounting records throughout the life of the company. This has meant the nightclub owners could not explain their claimed £1.1 million turnover, £195,000-worth of tax owed, and the outstanding balances on their directors' loans.

On 9 November 2020, the Secretary of State accepted disqualification undertakings from both Paul and Paula Kelly after husband and wife did not dispute they had failed to ensure Flexitell maintained or preserved adequate accounting records explaining an estimated company turnover in excess of £1 million and a £194,000 debt owed to the tax authorities.

Mike Smith, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

Failing to keep accounting records up to date is a serious obligation for any business director. The Kellys did not take their responsibilities seriously and at no point did they engage with our investigation.

These bans should serve as a warning that if company directors do not keep good company records, they run the risk of facing disqualification from their business for a significant period.

Paula Kelly is from Thornton Cleveleys and her date of birth is December 1965.

Paul Kelly is from Thornton Cleveleys and his date of birth is February 1962.

Flexitell Systems Limited (Company number 10057208)

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](#).

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

Thousands of women and girls to benefit from £15m Tampon Tax Fund

Charities supporting disadvantaged women and girls through the coronavirus pandemic and recovery are to receive £15 million from the latest round of the Tampon Tax Fund.

Projects that help victims of domestic abuse, work with eating disorder sufferers, and provide mentoring for disadvantaged young women, are among those to receive grants of more than £1 million each over the next two years.

The money will also be used to make grants to smaller organisations so they can deploy services that support vulnerable women and girls.

Minister for Civil Society, Baroness Barran, said:

Vulnerable women and girls need our support more than ever in this difficult year, and these grants will help keep vital services going.

From supporting victims of domestic abuse, to those suffering from mental health problems, this funding will help to directly tackle some of the most serious issues facing women and girls today.

This year's recipients can also use part of their grant funding to improve the sustainability of their organisations, helping them continue their vital work into the future.

The deadline for applications was extended this year in light of the coronavirus outbreak, to ensure as many front line charities as possible were able to apply.

The 12 projects receiving funding from this round of the Tampon Tax are:

Women in Prison (£1,000,000): The Creating Community Connections Project links women in prison with a network of local women's centres, to offer holistic support to meet their needs, address root causes of offending, improve outcomes on release and intercept cycles of trauma, disadvantage and abuse.

Ovarian Cancer Action (£1,259,788): The funding will go towards a project to spearhead equal access to clinical excellence for all women with ovarian cancer regardless of where they live, their age or ethnicity.

Solace Women's Aid (£1,614,288): The Labyrinth Project will help ensure all women have access to the support they need in the spaces most appropriate for them, joining up expertise across legal, economic, social and community spheres.

Rosa Fund (£1,906,855): Funding will benefit 27,000 women and girls through onward grants to 140 organisations of all sizes, helping them to navigate the pressures of the pandemic.

SafeLives (£1,488,534): The Your Best Friend project will empower 10,000+ young women with knowledge and confidence to act before someone harms or is harmed, to keep themselves and others safe.

Comic Relief (£1,282,173): Funding will be used for onward grants of between £40,000 and £250,000 to organisations led by BAME women for BAME women, to address violence against women and girls in England.

The Medaille Trust (£1,000,714): The Moving On Project focuses on meeting the long-term needs of women affected by trafficking and modern slavery.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (£1,203,610): Funding the national roll out of Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence.

London Youth (£1,000,000): The programme will support BAME girls aged 10-14 and a cohort of 30+ youth workers, funding activities to promote mental health and wellbeing.

YMCA England and Wales (£1,000,861.00): Y's Girls Mentoring will identify young people at risk of developing mild to moderate mental health issues and match them with a trained community-based volunteer mentor.

Beat (£1,074,032): The Keystone project aims to provide better health outcomes for girls and young women suffering from eating disorders through support for their carers.

Rape Crisis Scotland (£1,019,144.00): The Access to Change project aims to build the capacity of Rape Crisis services across Scotland to meet the needs of survivors of all forms of sexual violence, especially those who face additional barriers to support.

The Tampon Tax Fund uses the funds generated from the VAT on women's sanitary products.

While the UK was a member of the European Union, VAT on these products could not fall below 5 per cent. The Chancellor announced in March this year that the tax will end in January 2021, at the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the EU.

Today's announcement builds on the Government's unprecedented £750 million package of support which is ensuring that tens of thousands of frontline charities can meet increased demand as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and continue their vital work supporting those in need. This funding includes:

- The £200 million Coronavirus Community Support Fund for small and medium-sized charities working on the front line across England.
- £360 million via government departments, including £200 million to hospices across England, and £79 million to charities that support vulnerable children and people who have suffered from domestic abuse, sexual abuse and modern slavery;
- £37 million to the BBC's Big Night In appeal, which has matched the generosity of the public in raising funds for Children In Need, Comic Relief and the National Emergencies Trust;
- £85 million through DCMS' Community Match Challenge, which has doubled the money raised by recipients including Greggs Foundation, the Steve Morgan Foundation, Comic Relief and Global Radio's 'Make Some Noise' campaign to unlock more than £160 million for good causes;
- £60 million to the Devolved Administrations to support charities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- £5 million to the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership to support volunteers in local areas.

It comes on top of the £150 million released from dormant accounts to help social enterprises get affordable credit to people who are financially vulnerable and support charities tackling youth unemployment.

With the wider Government financial support schemes in place, charities will continue to benefit from an unprecedented multi-billion-pound package of support.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Additional quotes:

Denise Hatton, Chief Executive of YMCA England & Wales, said:

We are hugely grateful to have been selected as one of the recipients of the Tampon Tax Fund, the vital means from which will enable us to deliver our Y's Girls mentoring programme.

We know that mental health issues among this age range are rising dramatically, and on top of that consistent and damaging cuts to youth services have left many young people isolated and without

essential support.

Funding from the Tampon Tax Fund provides a much-needed bridge within our youth work, helping to reach young women and girls in their time of need.

Andrew Radford, Chief Executive of Beat, said:

We are extremely grateful for this new funding, which will help to support girls and young women suffering from eating disorders through training and support for families and carers.

We hope that our new work, made possible through the Tampon Tax Fund, will help to transform lives and allow as many people as possible to make full and sustained recoveries.

Cary Wakefield, Chief Executive Officer of Ovarian Cancer Action, said:

We are hugely grateful to be one of this amazing group of women's charities to receive a grant from the Tampon Tax Fund.

The funding will enable us to address the very real health inequalities that exist and ensure all women with ovarian cancer receive the best standard of care, regardless of their age, ethnicity or location. This could significantly improve survival rates in the UK and we can't wait to get started.

Rebecca Gill, Executive Director of Rosa, said:

Rosa UK and Smallwood Trust are delighted to have received money from the Tampon Tax fund. We are looking forward to distributing this funding to where it is most needed, enabling women's organisations across the UK to support women and girls to overcome the complex and long-lasting challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. We know women's organisations are in desperate need of funding to enable them to do this vital work.

Gerry Smith, Chief Executive Officer of the Medaille Trust, said:

We are so grateful to the Tampon Tax Fund for this phenomenal level of support. The £1million award will enable us and our partner, The Snowdrop Project, to deliver long-term support to vulnerable women affected by human trafficking and modern slavery.

The Moving On Project will give women the vital support they need to move forward with their lives, while reducing their

vulnerability to abuse, violence and exploitation in the future.

Kate Paradine, Chief Executive of Women in Prison, said:

This funding will help hundreds of women in prisons across the country to connect with vital support services in their communities, including the network of specialist women's centres.

Fiona Dwyer, Chief Executive Officer of Solace Women's Aid, said:

This important fund will help us to create lasting change to the lives of the most marginalised women across three nations and the women's groups and organisations that support them.

Only The Tampon Tax fund could meet the scale of our ambitions and we thank the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for their insight and confidence in enabling Solace and our incredible partners to create lasting change to the lives of over 20,000 women across three nations.

Pauline Daniyan, Director of Programmes at London Youth, said:

Young people today face a daunting reality. The pandemic could not have come at a worse time for them – just as they grow and develop their potential.

It is a tremendous opportunity to support youth clubs to be mental health hubs and extend this vital support for young women outside of schools and into the youth centres that make them feel welcome, supported and safe.

Suzanne Jacob, Chief Executive Officer of SafeLives, said:

Young women who are worried about their relationships turn to their friends and online, not to traditional services. Your Best Friend is a future-facing project from a creative partnership of charities and digital experts.

Working hand in hand, we'll empower girls and young women to place the advice and reassurance they urgently need where young women already are – keeping them and their friends safe.

Ruth Davison, Chief Executive Officer of Comic Relief, said:

The alarming rise in domestic violence throughout the pandemic

means that vital services are needed now more than ever.

With the generous support from the Tampon Tax we will work with frontline Black, Asian and minority led organisations that help women at risk of violence and abuse across England, especially those who find it harder to access mainstream services.

Sandie Barton, Director of Operations at Rape Crisis Scotland, said:

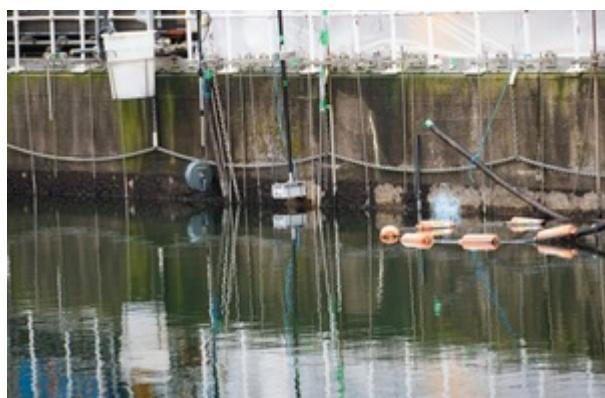
Seeking support after sexual violence is never an easy thing to do which is why it is so important that when someone is able to take that step, Rape Crisis Centres are resourced and able to be there at the point of need.

This welcome funding will make a real difference to survivors in Scotland not just by increasing capacity at a local level, but in carving paths to make sure that those who are too often locked out of support have a clear route in.

A challenge shared is a problem halved...

News story

The Game Changers programme – which sets up challenges to businesses to solve our decommissioning problems – is expanding to include Scottish nuclear site, Dounreay.



One of the challenges is to seek improved technology for the removal of contaminated concrete from walls and floors of ponds.

Bringing in the Scottish site – which shares many of the challenges we face – means we can hold joint challenges – developing solutions which can be used across the sites and saving time and money.

Dounreay is Scotland's largest decommissioning project and is internationally recognised as one of the most complex nuclear site closure schemes.

Two new challenges mark the Game Changers partnership. One seeks improved technology for the removal of contaminated concrete from walls and floors of ponds. The other aims to improve organic residue detection in pipes and vessels.

The challenges are open to any organisation, of any size, from any sector that believes they may have technology that could prove useful.

Like us, Dounreay is part of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) estate and shares goals and common experiences. This will add up to economies of scale and value for money to the taxpayer through Game Changers.

Gordon Tait, Dounreay's Deputy Head of Fuel Cycle Area said:

Dounreay and Sellafield Ltd share similar decommissioning challenges, dating from their common historic origins. Joining forces to solve them makes perfect sense for the sites, the NDA and the taxpayer.

Katherine Eilbeck, Sellafield Ltd's Head of Research and Development added:

It's fantastic to see the hard work from the technical teams of both sites pay-off in the publication of these joint challenge statements.

We always get a really good response from the supply chain from our Game Changers challenges and I'm looking forward to seeing the response we get to this call for innovation.

For further details on Game Changers, visit their website [here](#).

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CMA welcomes government response to digital advertising study

Press release

The CMA has welcomed the UK Government's response to its online platforms and digital advertising market study.



The government has today accepted, in principle, the findings of the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) year-long study, committing to introducing a new pro-competition regulatory regime to tackle the market power of tech giants like Google and Facebook.

In its [response to the study](#), the government has also outlined that a Digital Markets Unit (DMU) will be established within the CMA in 2021/22 to enable the CMA to begin work to put into operation key elements of the regime.

The CMA's Digital Markets Taskforce is due to advise government on the design of the new regulatory regime before the end of the year. It will then be for government to take action and bring forward legislation to establish the regime.

In the final report from its [online platforms and digital advertising market study](#), published in July this year, the CMA outlined a number of factors that undermine competition and entrench the market power of Google and Facebook.

The scale and nature of these issues led the CMA to conclude that a new pro-competition regulatory regime is needed so that people can continue to benefit from innovative new services; rival businesses can compete on a level playing field and publishers do not find their revenues unduly squeezed.

CMA Chief Executive Andrea Coscelli said:

We welcome the government's response to the findings of our digital advertising market study.

Only through a new pro-competition regulatory regime can we tackle

the market power of tech giants like Facebook and Google and ensure that businesses and consumers are protected.

We will soon be providing advice to government on how this new regime should work, as requested earlier this year, and stand ready to support the setup of the Digital Markets Unit.

Alongside today's announcement, Her Majesty's Treasury announced in its Spending Review on 25 November that the CMA will receive additional budget to take on new responsibilities, including establishing the Digital Markets Unit from 1 April 2021.

Notes to editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries and enforcing competition and consumer law.
2. In March, the CMA was asked by government to lead a Digital Markets Taskforce, led by the CMA working closely with Ofcom and the Information Commissioner's Office to advise government on how a new pro-competition approach should be designed for digital markets. Find out more in the [Terms of Reference for this work](#).
3. As a result of its clear recommendation for a new regulatory regime, and the ongoing work of the Taskforce, the CMA is not currently recommending making a market investigation reference. However, after the work of the Taskforce has concluded, it will assess whether the actions being taken by the government are sufficient to address the full range of issues identified by its market study, or whether direct action by the CMA is likely to be required.
4. Media queries should be directed to: press@cma.gov.uk or 020 3738 6460.

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The Philippines and the UK Agree Partnership on Climate and Environment

Climate change concerns in the Philippines continue to have more focused attention as bilateral cooperation and agreements with the UK are forged.

On 27 November 2020, the Philippines, represented by the DENR Secretary, Roy Cimatu, as Chairperson of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM DRR), signed a "Partnership Statement" with British Ambassador to the Philippines, Daniel Pruce, during

the first Climate Change and Environment Dialogue (CCE-D). Ambassador Pruce co-chaired the virtual Dialogue with Ken O' Flaherty, UK COP26 Regional Ambassador, and Undersecretaries Jonas Leones and Analiza Teh of the DENR.

As the two countries share and agree with each other's climate priorities, including energy transition and nature-based solutions, Secretary Cimatu is optimistic that the partnership will benefit the Philippines as it prepares for the implementation of its nationally determined contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Secretary Cimatu added:

We are definitely pleased to enter into a declaration of statement of partnership on key environmental concerns and we look forward to it with great optimism that this will serve as a platform for an inclusive, green, and resilient economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her Majesty's Ambassador Daniel Pruce said:

The United Kingdom is delighted to mark another partnership with Philippine Government to tackle an important issue that threatens both our island nations and the world. In our COP26 Presidency, the UK is committed to working with the Philippines to realise sustainability and clean growth through the full potential of the Paris Agreement and in a way that is responsive to post-pandemic needs.

Ambassador O' Flaherty also added that:

More widely, as a long-standing partner of ASEAN, in particular on low carbon growth, sustainability and climate change, our application to be ASEAN's dialogue partner offers an opportunity to strengthen collaboration on climate and green issues in coming years, building on existing UK cooperation with the region.

The Dialogue is an important element of the 'Enhanced Partnership', which the UK and the Philippines agreed to work towards at the annual bilateral 'High Level Political Talks' in November 2019. Under this new partnership for the future, both countries agreed to establish and convene an annual UK-Philippines Dialogue dedicated to discuss issues that are of common interest to both countries such as climate and the environment, including priorities for the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26).

The identified priority areas for cooperation will be supported through technical and policy assistance, as well as market development mechanisms under on-going UK programmes including the ASEAN Low Carbon Energy Programme,

Newton Agham Programme and Darwin Initiative Fund. The Dialogue will also provide a platform to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices in the areas of energy transition, adaptation and resilience, nature-based solutions, sustainable transport, and green finance.

The Dialogue is another milestone as we prepare for the 75th celebration of diplomatic ties between the UK and the Philippines in 2021.

Other highlights of the event were the virtual signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Secretary Alfonso Cusi of the Department of Energy for the 2050 Calculator, a tool to plan the Philippines' low-carbon transition, and ASEAN Low Carbon Energy Programme focusing on Green Finance (renewable energy voluntary market) and Energy Efficiency, and the launching of the UK's 'Greening the Philippines' COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Strategies' Project, which will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through Resident Representative, Dr. Selvakumaran Ramachandran.

Senior officials from the DENR, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Climate Change Commission, Department of Finance, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, and National Economic and Development Authority, and UK Government representatives were present during the dialogue.