

Britain's first 'smart' prison to drive down crime

• Deputy Prime Minister officially opens Britain's newest jail • First prison to be built with education, training and jobs at its heart

Britain's first 'smart' prison has opened today (4 March 2022) – where an unprecedented array of workshops will drive more offenders than ever into jobs and away from crime in a boost to public protection.

The new Category C prison in Northamptonshire is the first jail to have been designed with education, training and jobs for prisoners on release as its main purposes – factors proven to cut crime and reduce reoffending.

There will be a new presumption that prisoners at HMP Five Wells should spend their time behind bars learning new skills and getting trained in vital industries so they can find work immediately when back in the community and plug local labour shortages.

With 24 workshops and a large number of classrooms, prisoners will take part in formal learning, courses, qualifications and on-the-job training in areas including coding, car maintenance, fork-lift-truck maintenance, plumbing and engineering.

The prison will also be smart in how it supports prisoners with drug addictions into clean living, with two special drug recovery wings with a focus on abstinence-based methods. Here, up to 200 offenders with substance misuse issues will take part in a 16-week programme to help them get off drugs and into permanent recovery.

Designed throughout with cutting-edge technology, HMP Five Wells is also Britain's first 'smart' prison – utilising the latest designs and innovations to protect the public and rehabilitate offenders:

- Smart design to phase out crime behind bars – offenders will be housed in X-shaped blocks, with wider, shorter corridors and fewer prisoners on each wing so frontline staff can see all cells and offenders quickly at any one time. Cells will have ultra-secure, bar-less windows to put an end to drones bringing illegal drugs, phones and weapons into jails
- Smart technology to rehabilitate offenders – prisoners will have in-cell tablets to access education and learning from inside their cell, kitted out with stringent and robust security to ensure they are not abused, and cutting-edge body scanners will prevent contraband from wreaking havoc on the wings
- Smart in its approach to getting offenders into jobs – working in direct partnership with local employers to offer 500 on-the-job training places through release on temporary license, leading to ready-made jobs for ex-offenders once back in the community. Over 25 ex-offenders and prisoners

on temporary release were also employed in the construction of the jail, learning skills such as bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and roofing.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary, Dominic Raab said:

HMP Five Wells is a flagship example of this Government's plan to create secure and modern prisons that cut crime and protect the public.

From drug-recovery centres that employ abstinence-based treatment to world-class prisoner training courses, this smart prison is designed to tackle the key obstacles to cutting reoffending and making our streets safer.

At HMP Five Wells, the Deputy Prime Minister met with frontline prison staff to see first-hand the cutting-edge new technologies and workshops that will keep the public safe while supporting prisoners to turn their backs on crime for good.

The prison will hold around 1700 offenders when at full capacity in December and will boost local employment with over 600 new jobs for the community. Around 200 prisoners are already there.

The opening of HMP Five Wells is a major milestone in the government's commitment to create 20,000 modern, innovative places by the mid-2020s.

The new jail, on the site of the old HMP Wellingborough, is the first of 6 new prisons to be completed, with construction at Glen Parva, Leicestershire, well underway. The 1,700 place prison, recently named HMP Fosse Way by the local community, will be operated by Serco following a recent tendering competition.

The next new prison will be built next to HMP Full Sutton, East Yorkshire, and locations are being identified for a further three across the country. Of the four final builds, one will be run by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and three by private operators.

Together, this £4 billion investment will create thousands of jobs for local communities and see millions invested in local roads and infrastructure, while rehabilitating thousands of offenders and keeping the public safe.

Notes to editors

- Construction of HMP Five Wells began in May 2019 and G4S began preparations to open the prison in November last year. The first prisoner arrived on 4 February 2022.
- The prison's name was chosen by the local community after the five historic wells surrounding Wellingborough.
- The name of the new prison in Glen Parva, HMP Fosse Way, was selected by the local community and reflects the history of the local area – the

Fosse Way is a Roman road that runs through Leicestershire.

Bans for directors of sign company who failed to pay £70,000 tax

Robert Headspeath, 60, and Mandy Headspeath, 56, both of Galashiels, Scotland, have been disqualified as directors for six years each.

The couple were directors of Advanced Signs Ltd from March 2015 until February 2020 when the company went into liquidation following a winding-up petition by the tax authorities.

At the point of liquidation, the company owed £70,044 in unpaid tax to the public purse.

The Insolvency Service investigation, which began after the company went into liquidation, found that from April 2018 neither director had ensured that the company's accounts and records were adequately maintained.

It was therefore not possible to determine the true source of various income, and whether these related to legitimate business by the company, including over £70,000 deposited at ATMs during this period. Large payments of nearly £60,000 could not be explained as well as a further £23,080 paid out in cheques.

The accuracy of assessments to the tax authorities could also not be verified, although the investigation did establish that from at least November 2017 the directors failed to ensure that the company dealt with its tax affairs. There were unpaid tax returns dating from this period, and the company failed to file any further tax returns after the period ended 30 June 2019.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted a disqualification undertaking from both Robert Headspeath and Mandy Headspeath. In both cases, the bans are effective from 7 February 2022 and last for 6 years.

The disqualification undertakings prevent both from directly, or indirectly, becoming involved in the promotion, formation or management of a company, without the permission of the court.

Rob Clarke, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service said:

Directors have a duty to ensure that their companies maintain proper accounting records, and, following insolvency, deliver them to the office-holder in the interests of fairness and transparency.

Without a full account of transactions it is impossible to determine whether a director has discharged his duties properly, or is using a lack of documentation as a cloak for impropriety. These two directors have paid the price for failing to do that, and now cannot carry on in business other than at their own risk.

Directors have a firm duty to ensure they deal properly with tax matters and pay what is due. Taxation revenue provides for the benefit of all and cannot simply be ignored.

Notes to editors

Mr Robert Headspeath is from Galashiels and his date of birth is October 1961.

Mrs Mandy Headspeath, is from Galashiels, and her date of birth is September 1965.

Advanced Signs Ltd (Company Reg no. SC500879).

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](#).

[Information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct](#).

Contact Press Office

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[Greater collaboration between the UK and Switzerland on IP](#)

The Intellectual Property Office has signed a new declaration of intention with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property.



This declaration signals the importance of co-operation between the offices, and will see focus on sharing of best practice in areas of mutual interest.

The two offices have set out a range of activities for closer co-operation, with a view to modernising and enhancing services for IP users in both jurisdictions.

The sharing of expertise and know-how between the offices is a key pillar of the planned co-operation. The declaration provides for the potential secondment of staff between the two offices to enhance skills and knowledge, pooling their know-how for mutual benefit. It will help both offices embrace the global challenges and opportunities presented by emerging and future technologies, for the benefit of the wider IP community.

The UK IPO's Chief Executive Tim Moss said:

Working effectively with global partners in areas of common interest is vital to the UK IPO's strategy for creating a world-leading IP environment.

Both the UK and Switzerland are innovation nations and science powerhouses. The IPO and SFIIP share many of the same customers with similar needs, showing the clear benefits of this new declaration. This lays the foundations for a positive framework for both offices to pool and develop knowledge and expertise, and I am excited by the benefits this will help deliver to the IP users and communities our offices serve.

The Offices will carry out the cooperation activities in full compliance with their respective jurisdictions, institutional directives, applicable laws, and international treaties.

Cooperation under this new declaration may include:

- exchange of experiences, knowledge and expertise on programmes, tools, platforms and policies on the promotion, utilisation, exploitation and commercialisation of intellectual property;
- exchange of information on the development of public awareness programmes on intellectual property rights, including programmes that are applicable to youths and students;
- exchange of officials and experts; conduct of joint training activities, seminars, workshops and programmes on intellectual property, especially in the areas of artificial intelligence and IT innovation;
- organisation of symposia and conferences on subject matters of mutual interest;
- exchange of information and views on regional and international policy developments and trends of mutual interest

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[Leicestershire man made to pay for illegal fishing on River Trent](#)

- Day's fishing trip results in penalty of £861
- Catch included critically endangered species

A man from Leicestershire has been found guilty on 2 counts of fishing illegally.

A court heard that in July 2021, Robert Graca, of Minehead Street, Leicester had caught and removed both bream and eels or shad from the River Trent in Shelford, Nottinghamshire, contrary to Nottinghamshire byelaws.

The case was brought to Nottingham Magistrates' Court by the Environment Agency on 14 February 2022. Graca, 50, was proved guilty in his absence and ordered to pay a total penalty of £861.00.

The penalty includes a fine of £660, costs of £135 and a victim surcharge of £66.

Rod fishing byelaws protect fish stocks and their habitats. In the Midlands, these apply to anyone fishing with a rod and line for salmon, trout, coarse

fish, eels, smelt and lamprey in all freshwater fisheries and tidal estuaries.

Greg Dytkowski, Fisheries Enforcement Officer at the Environment Agency, said:

Robert Graca has been rightly punished for the illegal fishing he undertook in Shelford, on the River Trent in Nottinghamshire.

Illegal fishing undermines the Environment Agency's efforts to protect fish stocks and make fishing sustainable. All eels or shad caught must be returned to the water unharmed, to protect what is now a critically endangered species.

This case shows how seriously the courts take these offences and we hope the high penalty will act as a deterrent to any angler who is thinking of breaking the byelaws we have in place across England.

Anyone can anonymously report fishing activities that they suspect are illegal by calling the Environment Agency's incident hotline, 24/7, on 0800 80 70 60.

Robert Graca was found guilty in his absence of removing eels or shad by rod and line from waters contrary to Byelaw 3 (lii) of the Environment Agency National Byelaws, pursuant to section 210 and schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 2001, and contrary to section 211 of the said Act.

Graca was also found guilty of removing bream (coarse fish) by rod and line from waters contrary to Nottingham Byelaw 3 (i) of the Environment Agency National Byelaws, pursuant to section 210 and schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 2001, and contrary to section 211 of the said Act.

[Suspended prison sentences for brothers who illegally stored waste at Shropshire site](#)

Shrewsbury Crown Court sentenced brothers Jonathan and Mark Nicholson from Armagh, Northern Ireland, to 8 months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, on 24 February 2022. They were ordered to undertake 100 hours of unpaid work and were disqualified from being a company director for 3 years. The brothers were also told to pay a total of over £23,000 towards the costs of the prosecution.

Both men admitted the charge of breaching the environmental permit for the

site which was run through a company, Greenway Waste Recycling Ltd, they were directors of.

They admitted, between 12 October 2016 and 19 January 2017, they had stockpiled bales of waste, inappropriately at a site on land at Recycling House, Rock Road, Ketley, Telford in Shropshire.

The waste included plastics, wood, metal, paper, and cardboard. It is referred to as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), as its intended use was burning as a fuel to produce electricity.

In all, officers from the Environment Agency estimated the waste dumped amounted to more than 26,000 cubic metres or roughly the equivalent of 10 olympic-sized swimming pools.

Following the eviction of the company run by the brothers, efforts were made to secure the removal of the abandoned waste by them. Only one load, comprising 26 bales of waste was removed.

Throughout the time the waste was being stockpiled on the site in breach of the permit, Environment Agency officers inspecting the site highlighted the fire risk posed by the waste.

A significant waste fire took place at the site in April 2021 which led to the M54 being partially closed as well as a number of neighbouring primary schools.

David Hudson, Environment Manager for the West Midlands Area of the Environment Agency, said:

Waste crime can have a serious environmental impact. It puts communities at risk and undermines legitimate business and the investment and economic growth that go with it.

We support legitimate businesses and we are proactively supporting them by disrupting and stopping the criminal element. This is backed up by the threat of tough enforcement as in this case.

We continue to use intelligence-led approaches to target the most serious crimes and evaluate which interventions are most effective.

If you see or suspect waste crime is being committed we urge you to report it immediately to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Charges

Greenway Waste Recycling Limited did, between 12 October 2016 and 7 September 2017 at Recycling House, Rock Road, Ketley, Telford, breach condition 4.4.2 of Environmental Permit number EPR/PB3632RM in that it kept waste accepted at the site other than in accordance with section 4.6 of the working plan, that being an offence by it by virtue of Regulation 38(2) of the Environmental

Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Defendants

Jonathan James Nicholson, of Drumman Heights, Armagh, Northern Ireland.

Mark Alexander Nicholson, of Dobbin Street, Armagh, Northern Ireland.

Background information

Greenway Waste Recycling Limited (Company No. 07281560) had its lease for the site terminated by the land owner, for failing to pay rent in January 2017. Greenway subsequently went into administration.

In excess of 20,000 cubic metres of waste remained stockpiled at the site after Greenway was evicted.

On 31 August 2018, the Environment Agency granted an environmental permit reference EPR/RP3237YR to Johnson's Aggregates & Recycling Limited (Company No. 04366658) to process pulverised fuel ash into products at the site.

In December 2019 the permit holder's appeal against refusal of planning for the activity was allowed by a Planning Inspector. The permit holder has not sought to begin operations.

Between the departure of Greenway Waste Recycling Limited in 2017 and the fire in 2021 the Environment Agency has been in regular contact with the landowner and carried out regular inspections of the site.

The Environment Agency is leading an ongoing investigation into the fire at the site in April 2021.

If local residents are concerned about the site they should call our 24/7 hotline on 0800 80 70 60.