

Press release: Five Eye countries join Britain's call to remove terror content online

The Home Secretary has today, Tuesday 27 June, secured the support of the 'Five Eyes' members in urging communication service providers to do more in removing terrorist and violent extremist content online.

In a two day trip 26 to 27 June to Ottawa, Canada as part of a Five Country Ministerial, she joined her counter-parts from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US to take a united stand against international threats.

Ministers from the five countries put their name to a joint letter, [tackling terrorist use of the internet](#) (PDF, 72.7KB, 1 page) welcoming an announcement from Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and Google to begin forming a new global industry body but stressing that it is critical progress is made quickly.

The letter makes clear there should be no safe space for terrorists and extremists to communicate online their unlawful goals. Hateful content used to recruit and radicalise people should be removed faster as much of it is still freely accessible.

The cross country support for the letter comes after the Home Secretary held a roundtable in March with major internet providers to encourage them to prevent the dissemination of high quality propaganda. Now, these companies are working on an industry wide form that will share information, provide technical solutions and give support to small companies.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

The issue of terrorism transcends borders and a truly global effort is needed to end the spread of hateful propaganda. The commitment from my fellow Five Eyes members to a shared approach to Communication Service Providers and their backing of the new industry forum is a vital step forward.

In our darkest hours, the international community has stood together. The ties between our countries give us a strong foundation to end the spread of the poisonous propaganda used to recruit and radicalise people across the world. Today's letter is a statement that our countries will never let terrorists win.

Press release: Mr Andrew Soper has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

2014 – 2017 New Delhi, Minister Counsellor (Political & Press) 2013 – 2014 New Delhi, Prosperity Counsellor 2010 – 2013 Riga, Her Majesty's Ambassador 2007 – 2010 Maputo, High Commissioner 2004 – 2006 FCO, Head of Sustainable Development and Commonwealth Group, Global and Economic Issues Directorate 2001 – 2004 Brasilia, Deputy Head of Mission 1999 – 2001 FCO, Deputy Head, Human Rights Policy Department 1995 – 1999 Washington, First Secretary (Chancery) 1993 – 1995 FCO, Arab/Israel Desk, Middle East and North Africa Directorate 1990 – 1993 FCO, Team Leader, Economic Relations Department 1987 – 1990 Mexico City, Second (later First) Secretary (Chancery) 1985 – 1987 FCO, Desk Officer for Argentina, South America Department

Green Party responds to Sheffield Council's injunction against Green councillor



28 June 2017

Responding to the news that Sheffield Council is to seek a civil injunction against Green Councillor Alison Teal who protested against their tree-felling programme [1], Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

“This is a heavy-handed attempt by an authoritarian Labour council to shut-down debate and gag any opposition to their environmental vandalism. Their plans have already been shown to be ill-considered, environmentally illiterate, and downright destructive to the green spaces that surround residents in Sheffield.

“The Green Party stands shoulder to shoulder with Alison and with the wider community who have peacefully protested against the ravaging of the perfectly healthy trees that line Sheffield's streets. Greens are committed to standing up for local people who want to create healthy, vibrant communities that promote everyone's wellbeing and Alison along with her fellow campaigners are leading that movement from the front.”

Notes

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-40417519>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/28/sheffield-trees-dispute-scenes-putin-russia-nick-clegg-arrests>

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Press release: Cleveland director banned for seven years

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted a seven year disqualification undertaking from Mr Banaras which bans him, from 12 June 2017, from acting as a company director or from managing, or in any way controlling, a limited company until 2024.

North East Meats Limited (NEM) which traded from Boosbeck, Cleveland, went into liquidation on 20 August 2015 owing £1,128,393. An Insolvency Service investigation into NEM found that from at least 12 March 2014 Mr Banaras failed to maintain, preserve and deliver up records that were adequate to explain the financial position of NEM.

In the absence of complete records, it was not possible to determine the legitimacy of at least £195,476 of credit stated to have been granted to a connected company for the destruction of purchased livestock. Furthermore, NEM's books and records had no evidence to verify the destruction of at least 2,827 such animals. It was also not possible to determine the legitimacy of management charges paid by NEM to a connected company totalling £450,000.

Aldona O'Hara, Chief Investigator of Insolvent Investigations Midlands & West at the Insolvency Service, said:

Company 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 their duties properly, or is using a lack of documentation as a cloak for impropriety.

This director has paid the price for failing to do that, as he cannot now carry on in business other than at his own risk.

Notes to editors

Mr Banaras' date of birth is 8 October 1973 and he resides in Middlesbrough.

North East Meats Limited (CR0 No. 08610295) was incorporated on 15 July 2013 and traded from The Abattoir, High Street, Boosbeck, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland, TS12 3AG.

Mr Banaras was the sole director from 15 July 2013 to 20 August 2015 (the date of liquidation).

The matter of unfitness, which Mr Banaras did not dispute in the Disqualification Undertaking, was that from at least 12 March 2014, the date upon which NEM first granted a credit note to a connected company, Mr Banaras failed to ensure that NEM maintained and/ or preserved adequate accounting records. Or in the alternative Mr Banaras failed to deliver up to the liquidator such records as were maintained.

As a consequence of the inadequate books and records it was not possible to:

- verify the legitimacy of at least £195,476 of credit granted by NEM to a connected company.
- verify the legitimacy of management charges paid by NEM to a connected company totalling £450,000.

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.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7674 6910 or 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

Press release: Water abstraction lie costs farm business £5,500

Lakenheath farming business N&M Sizer lied about how much water it abstracted, fearing it would lose its licence or have its abstraction limits reduced.

In doing so, the company falsely stated that it had extracted more water than it was allowed to under the licence which resulted in an investigation by the Environment Agency.

The company had actually taken very little of the allowance as its crops at the time did not need spray irrigation, Ipswich Magistrates' Court heard today (30 May).

It fined the company £3,000 for the deception and ordered it to pay £2,531 costs.

Mrs Megan Selves, prosecuting for the Environment Agency, told the court the company had been worried that as it had not taken much water it would lose the right the following year to take what the licence allowed.

However, she said that any reduction in future abstraction or any revocation of licence would not be done without looking at about 10 years of records and without discussion with the licence holder.

Any assessment would only be carried out when the licence came up for renewal or if there was evidence that the licence is causing environmental damage. The licence for N&M Sizer Ltd expires on 31 March 2027.

Mrs Selves said that water meters at the company's site, Bedford Fen in Sedgfen, had been re-calibrated to corroborate the figures submitted to the Environment Agency in a 'determined effort to mislead'.

She said the company's actions had been deliberate and a 'flagrant disregard for the law' and although there had been no environmental impact, the company had falsified its figures giving a false impression of how much water had

been taken from the environment.

Mrs Selves said the company had shown remorse and co-operated with the investigation.

N&M Sizer Ltd pleaded guilty to:

Charge: On or before 30 November 2015 you furnished information to the Environment Agency pursuant to section 201 of the Water Resources Act 1991, namely the water abstraction return for 2014 to 2015 for licence 6/33/39/*S/0496/R01 for abstraction points A, C, D, E and F, and in the said information made a statement which you knew to be false or misleading in a material particular, namely that you had abstracted 153,360 cubic metres of water.

Contrary to section 206(1) and (5) of the Water Resources Act 1991

Media enquiries: For East Anglia press office please contact (24 hours): 0800 917 9250