

Press release: First ever convicted cross-border sex-trafficker has sentence increased

The first person to be convicted under the Modern Slavery Act for human trafficking outside the UK has today had her sentence increased after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, personally argued that her sentence was too low in the Court of Appeal.

From her south London home, Josephine Iyamu, now 51, organised the travel of 5 women from Nigeria to Germany for exploitation through prostitution for her own financial gain.

The victims were all vulnerable young women who knew Iyamu could get them into Europe. In return for arranging their travel, Iyamu demanded they repay her up to £35,000 once they began working in Germany, and were told that breaking this promise would result in activation of a voodoo curse.

The victims travelled from Nigeria across the Sahara to Libya, where they boarded overcrowded inflatable boats to Italy, and finally entered Germany using false identification documents. The traumatic journey involved spending days or weeks in "transit houses", the rape of one of the victims, and being rescued from the Mediterranean after their boat broke down.

After Iyamu's arrest in 2017, she plotted to stop the case against her through intimidation of the victims' families. This included arranging the unlawful arrest of one of the victim's sisters remaining in Nigeria.

Iyamu was originally sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court in July, where she was given 14 years imprisonment. Today, the Court of Appeal increased her sentence to 18 years imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

"Modern slavery exists in all societies, and respects neither borders nor jurisdictions. It has no place in a civilised society and the UK government is committed to tackling this abhorrent crime wherever it originates, working with our partners across the globe.

The Court of Appeal's decision today helps to show that crimes relating to human trafficking, such as Iyamu's, will not be tolerated – regardless of where they are carried out."

[News story: Voluntary recall of USA-manufactured homeopathic products: check for affected products](#)

The USA Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently [alerted](#) consumers and healthcare professionals to the voluntary recall by HelloLife Inc.

While the products, manufactured in the USA by King Bio Inc., are not licensed for use in the UK and are not known to be available in UK outlets, they were distributed worldwide and may be advertised on online shopping or pharmacy websites and available to UK consumers.

The products affected are Neuroveen, Respitrol, Thyroveev and Compulsin. See the FDA alert for further details, including information about the specific contaminating organisms. According to HelloLife Inc, Neuroveen was tested and found to be contaminated with Staphylococcus saprophyticus and Burkholderia cepacia. Compulsin was tested and found to be contaminated with Burkholderia cepacia. Respitrol and Thyroveev are still pending bacterial identification.

People are advised to check if they have any of the batches thought to be affected, which are listed below. The products can be identified by the main label on the bottle and the lot number that is printed on the label.

HelloLife Inc. is advising consumers to stop using the affected products immediately. If you have taken any of these products and feel unwell, consult your doctor as soon as possible.

Product	Indication	National Drug Code	Universal product code	Lot/Batch	Expiry date
Neuroveen	Natural temporary relief for nerve pain symptoms	49726-015-02	891129002804	NV/030717D	07/19
Respitrol	Natural temporary relief for respiratory symptoms	49726-003-02	891129002729	RE/030717E	07/19
Thyroveev	Natural temporary relief for sluggish thyroid symptoms	49726-025-02	349726000063	TVV/030717F	07/19
Compulsin	Nervous, repetitive thought/behaviour relief	49726-034-02	891129002194	C0/030717B	07/19

The voluntary recall of these products is part of a wider recall of a number of products manufactured in the USA by King Bio Inc. due to possible microbial contamination. A complete list of recalled products can be found in the [FDA alert](#). People who think they may have used any products manufactured by King Bio Inc. should check this list.

Anyone who has bought unlicensed homeopathic products online should not use them and return them to your pharmacy for disposal.

MHRA advises members of the public not to buy unlicensed medicines online and has launched a campaign to help people safely purchase medicines via the internet. Read our [eight top tips](#) for buying medicines and devices safely online.

News story: Facilities management suppliers invited to bid for places on new framework

The Future Defence Infrastructure Services (FDIS) contracts will provide FM services across the UK defence estate, replacing existing arrangements when they come to an end.

The contracts are being procured as part of the Crown Commercial Service's (CCS) Workplace Services Facilities Management Marketplace framework. This is a new way of working for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and enables access to a more diverse supplier base, while improving value for money for the taxpayer by leveraging government buying power.

This phase of the FDIS programme will procure new Hard FM arrangements for 4 Regional Prime contracts and five contracts that will replace the current National Housing Prime. The contracts have a collective value of £2.9 billion, excluding additional works. A later stage of the process will procure a National Training Management contract to replace the current National Training Estate Prime.

DIO's Commercial Director Jacqui Rock said:

DIO is not only one of the largest providers of housing in the UK, with a stock of nearly 50,000 homes, it is also responsible for managing land and buildings across hundreds of diverse MOD sites.

We are pleased to be working with CCS to procure these contracts. We want to make DIO easier to do business with and adopting this route to market is one of the ways that we hope to achieve this, while enabling us access to a wider, more diverse and increasingly resilient supply base.

CCS Strategic Category Director – Buildings, Sam Ulyatt said:

This procurement is a part of the FM Marketplace, which is changing the way in which central government and the wider public sector procure their FM deals, delivering great value for the taxpayer. We are proud to be working in partnership with DIO and supporting delivery against their commercial strategy for common goods and services.

The initial phase of the procurement process will see suppliers qualifying onto each of the lots in the framework, enabling them to participate in subsequent call-off competitions. The award of places to suppliers on each of the framework lots is expected to be completed by the end of February 2019, with call off competitions starting soon afterwards.

Each DIO call off contract will be 7 years in length, with options to extend up to a further 3 years, subject to satisfactory performance and other considerations.

An advertisement inviting supplier participation has been released in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and can be accessed via [Crown Commercial Service](#)

[News story: Appointment of the Chair of the Parole Board](#)



Caroline Corby has been appointed as Chair of the Parole Board.

Caroline has served as interim Chair since 23 April and will formally take up post from 1 November 2018 for a tenure of 3 years.

The Parole Board's functions and duties are set out in Section 239 and Schedule 19 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Parole Board members make risk assessments about prisoners to decide who may safely be released into the community or make recommendations for transfer to open prison conditions.

Appointments and re-appointments to the Parole Board are made by the

Secretary of State for Justice and are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. This appointment has been made in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice David Gauke said:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Caroline Corby as permanent Chair of the Parole Board.

I have confidence Caroline will provide strong leadership and I look forward to working with her as we move forward with our parole reforms and build on the work we have already done to increase transparency and better support victims.

Brief biography:

In addition to her recent service as interim Chair, Caroline has been a Non-Executive Director of the Board since 2015. She also holds Non-Executive Director roles at One Housing, Cafcass and the Criminal Cases Review Commission and is a Panel Chair of the Nursing and Midwifery Council and a Panel Member at the General Optical Council. Caroline has previously been Board Chair of London Probation Trust (2012 to 2014) and a Non-Executive Director at the Probation Association (2013 to 2014).

Published 20 September 2018

[Press release: Environment Agency and Fire Service team up to tackle emergencies](#)

The Environment Agency and the Fire & Rescue Service are rolling out new equipment which could save lives, land and property across the country from flooding by connecting fire service hoses to the EA's high-volume trailer mounted pumps.

The two organisations have developed a 'hose coupling adaptor' which will give the Environment Agency access to over 150,000 metres of hose stored by the Fire & Rescue Service at locations around the country. This will enable the Environment Agency to get pumps to the communities that need them most, more quickly in a flood.

The new kit, developed between the Environment Agency Northumberland, Durham and Tees Field Team and the County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service

will benefit communities by providing access to high-volume pumps which can move as much as 7,000 litres of water per minute and can pump over a distance of 3 kilometres.

The adaptor has already been put to good use in tackling the large protracted wildfire on Saddleworth Moor, Greater Manchester during, the hot, dry summer. It is now being rolled out nationally and will play a major role in the Environment Agency's preparations for winter flooding.

Caroline Douglass, Director of Incident Management & Resilience, Environment Agency said:

As an emergency responder, the Environment Agency attends many incidents alongside the Fire & Rescue Service and this innovation is another great example of us working together to provide greater safety for communities across the country.

With winter around the corner, we have 6,500 staff trained to respond to flooding and this new kit will form an important part of our preparation.

Chris Lowther, Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council Operations Coordination Committee, said:

This new equipment is a result of excellent collaboration between the Environment Agency and the Fire & Rescue Service, which means we will be better placed to tackle flooding.

We are committed to working alongside other blue light services and partners to ensure the best possible response is delivered to communities when they are affected by flooding. Being able to mobilise assets from across the country quickly is an essential part of our national resilience response, meaning the public can have confidence that the emergency services can and will respond quickly when needed.

The Environment Agency continues to use new technology to prepare for and respond to floods, including investment in 40km of temporary flood barriers and 250 high volume pumps. The Environment Agency also has 6,500 trained staff across the country ready to respond to flooding, including 500 flood support officers.

The Environment Agency provides year-round advice to residents and businesses on how to protect themselves, their property and possessions against flooding. To check your flood risk, prepare for flooding and sign up for free flood warnings visit: [check your flood risk](#)