

News story: Asian hornet: Fowey nest destroyed as two new sightings confirmed in Liskeard and Hull

The National Bee Unit has called for the public to report any suspected Asian hornets after two further confirmed sightings in Liskeard, Cornwall and Hull, east Yorkshire. At this stage, there is no evidence to suggest the Cornwall and Hull sightings are linked.

The Asian hornet is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than a bee. However, they do pose a risk to honey bees and work is already underway to identify any nests in the Liskeard and Hull areas, which includes deploying bee inspectors to visit local beekeepers and setting up monitoring traps. As part of this work, bee inspectors from APHA National Bee Unit are carrying out surveillance and monitoring in a 1-2 km radius around the sightings.

The hornets in Fowey were first discovered earlier in September and the National Bee Unit moved swiftly to find the nest and remove it. During September the number of hornets in a nest can reach a peak and this will increase the chances of seeing an insect.

Nicola Spence, Defra Deputy Director for Plant and Bee Health, said:

These sightings in Liskeard and Hull underline the need to remain vigilant. I want to encourage people to look out for any Asian hornet nests and if you think you've spotted one, please report your sighting through the Asian hornet app or online.

While the Asian Hornet poses no greater risk to human health than a bee, we recognise the damage they can cause to honey bee colonies. I am therefore pleased our well-established protocol to contain them has worked so effectively in Fowey.

If you suspect you have seen an Asian hornet you can report this using the iPhone and Android app 'Asian Hornet Watch' or by emailing alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. [Identification guides and more information are available.](#)

Background

- Members of the public can also report sightings by email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk with a photo or on the Great Britain Non-native Species Secretariat website.
- The Great Britain Non-native Species Secretariat is a joint venture

between Defra, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government to tackle the threat of invasive species. More information can be found on their [website](#).

- For details on the appearance of an Asian hornet please can be found on [Bee Base guide](#) or the [non-native species identification guide](#).
 - Photographs of the Asian hornet are available on our [Flickr](#) account
 - The cost of eradication on private land will be met by APHA.
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Correspondence: Cross-border petroleum licences partially within the Welsh onshore area: ministerial direction

These directions relate to [The Scotland Act 2016, Wales Act 2017 and Onshore Petroleum \(Consequential, Transitional and Saving Provisions and Model Clauses\) Regulations 2018](#), which come into force on 1 October 2018.

Speech: Corruption and conflict: An insidious plague

Thank you very much indeed Madam President and thank you for putting this very important issue on the Council's agenda today.

Thank you to the Secretary-General for those insightful words and also to Mr Prendergast. I was very interested in what you had to say about the three things that primarily need tackling and about sanctions having to be extended to networks and about system change. I hope that we will, as the Council considers some of the issues before it, I hope that we will be able to follow some of your prescriptions and debate how more productively we can actually tackle corruption.

It is pervasive, we agree with the speakers so far that is causes, it exacerbates conflict but even more than this, it's a major obstacle to economic growth and to poverty alleviation. It's a subterranean current that perniciously undercuts efforts at peace, reconciliation, at community rebuilding and in many cases it causes these efforts to collapse. From my own experience in Kabul, I know what it does to individuals' willingness to go along with governments trying to do the right thing when they see lower level officials trying to shake them down for the most basic human services.

Losses from corruption total some trillion dollars a year. It holds back economic development, it undermines the provision of public services and it stokes grievances and ultimately, conflict. Kofi Annan in 2003 called it an insidious plague.

The links between corruption and conflict are well established and we've heard some of that today. In Syria, we've seen how a corrupt government can generate grievances that lead to discontent and then to violence and then to conflict. In the Balkans, much ethnic tension has been fuelled by leaders not living up to their responsibilities. UNODC studies in Iraq, Nigeria and Afghanistan show how once conflict begins, it creates even more opportunities for bribery and other corrupt practices. In turn, this undermines the rule of law and that fuels further conflict. Terrorist groups such as ISIS or al-Qaeda take advantage of corruption. Both to fund their operations but also to attract recruits and fund their ideology.

No country is immune from corruption –I include my own country in that. The fight against corruption therefore needs to begin in our own capitals. I'd like to highlight three steps that the United Kingdom has taken recently to strengthen our own defences.

In 2017, we passed the Criminal Finances Act, which establishes new anti-corruption tools such as unexplained wealth orders. This year, we announced that we would establish a public register listing the beneficial ownership of overseas companies, including in our overseas territories. This will help ensure that the UK is not used as a refuge by corrupt leaders, businessmen and officials. We have also established a National Economic Crime Centre, hosted by our National Crime Agency, to task and coordinate our overall law enforcement response.

But in today's interconnected world, it is vital that there is a properly joined-up international response so we are very strong supporter of the UN Convention against Corruption. I'd like to take this opportunity to urge all those countries that have not ratified the Convention to do so. The Convention provides an excellent international framework to guide collective efforts but 15 years on from its adoption by the General Assembly, we need to ensure that we maintain momentum and focus on implementation and that the Security Council, ECOSOC and the General Assembly all ensure that their efforts in this regard are mutually reinforcing.

Madam President, in 2016 we hosted an Anti-Corruption Summit in London the hope of stepping up global action. One of the most important outcomes of this Summit we believe was the establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre. This brings together specialist law enforcement officers from six countries to trace the assets and individuals involved in cases of grand corruption.

Asset recovery is a crucial part of efforts to tackle corruption and it's a fundamental principle of the Convention. In 2017 we co-hosted the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery with the USA, the World Bank and UNODC. This forum helped progress arrangements for returning stolen assets of over \$300m to Nigeria.

Chapter VI of the Convention highlights the importance of technical assistance and information exchange. The UK is proud to be working in partnership with several countries to share best practice and develop capacity. In Nigeria, we provide technical assistance and equipment to key agencies fighting international and domestic financial and economic crime, and we work to raise public awareness of corruption.

In conclusion, Madam President, the UK will continue to support a concerted international response to end impunity for those engaged in corruption, recover stolen assets, and empower citizens to stand up to and report corruption. This in turn will help prevent and resolve conflict. The UN has a crucial role to play in this response. We hope all Member States will work together in order to get the better of corrupt leaders, businessmen and officials, and ensure there is no safe haven.

News story: Secretary of State statement following meetings with NI Political parties



Following the meetings, Mrs Bradley said:

As the current impasse continues, public services are suffering. Local decision-making is urgently needed to address this.

The right way forward is stable, fully functioning, inclusive devolved government.

Last week I set out the Government's clear plan to bring that about and today was the first step in that process. I will continue engagement over the next days and weeks ahead of legislation to

support the ongoing delivery of public services in Northern Ireland.

Devolved government is in the best interests of Northern Ireland and this is what I am determined to deliver.

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News story: Human Rights Council 39: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Rights of Older Persons

The United Kingdom thanks the Independent Expert on the Rights of Older Persons and the Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation for their work and would like to address our remarks to Ms Kornfeld-Matte.

The UK remains fully committed to the human rights of all persons, including older persons. We are cognisant of the serious issues older persons face, and will continue to engage in this important debate. The Independent Expert's report reflects the complex and intersecting nature of the causes of social exclusion for older persons, linking to the rights to work and health; to independent living and decision-making; and to the impact of policymaking on older persons.

As we said at the Working Group session in New York, the UK considers that States should promote equality in older age, which is the full participation and inclusion of older persons in all aspects of society based on equal respect for the dignity of older persons. We consider that States should have due regard to the differential impact of their decisions, in particular age-based policies, on older persons.

By way of example, in the context of decision making and participation all local authorities in the UK have an obligation to promote wellbeing when carrying out their care and support functions in respect of an individual's personal dignity, including treatment of the individual with respect; control by the individual over day-to-day life; and participation in work, education, training or recreation.

In the context of social protection, we have reformed our pension system to give people greater clarity on what they can expect from the state and to

provide a clearer foundation for private saving.

Mr Vice President,

We would like to ask the Independent Expert how she believes we can help older people to better prepare for later life.

Thank you Mr Vice President.