

[Press release: Barclays gets legal directions for PPI breach](#)

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has [issued Barclays with legal directions](#) requiring it to put appropriate systems and procedures in place to prevent a similar incident from happening again in the future.

Following an investigation into payment protection insurance (PPI) by the Competition Commission in 2011, one of the measures introduced in an Order was that customers should receive an annual reminder from their provider setting out clearly how much they had paid in, and their right to cancel the policy.

In the period from October 2016 – October 2017, Barclays failed to provide a reminder to 2,265 Littlewoods credit card PPI customers. It attributed the breach to a technical problem in transferring the customers to its computer system.

Following that breach, Barclays wrote to all affected customers, providing a reminder of their right to cancel the policy and the offer of a refund. From this communication, it has so far paid out almost £336,000 in refunds to customers.

This is not the first time Barclays has breached the Order, [having reported several substantive breaches to the CMA in 2015](#) for not providing annual reminders to almost 10,000 PPI customers.

Adam Land, the CMA's Senior Director of Remedies, Business and Financial Analysis, said:

The annual reminder is an important measure so customers know they still have a PPI policy and how much it is costing them each year, as well as their right to cancel or switch.

This is Barclays' second breach of the PPI order. As a result, we are issuing legal directions which can be enforced by a Court, to ensure they comply with the order.

We now require assurances from Barclays they have now put adequate systems in place to prevent a similar breach from occurring again.

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. For CMA updates, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

3. Barclays is in breach of the [Payment Protection Insurance Market Investigation Order 2011](#) (the PPI Order). One of the requirements of the order is that all PPI customers would receive an annual reminder from their provider setting out information including how much they had paid into their policy.
 4. Directions are a formal enforcement instrument, which can be used to ensure that an Enterprise Act 2002 remedy imposed by the CMA, in this case the PPI Order, is complied with fully.
 5. Barclays notified the CMA of the breach in March 2018.
 6. The CMA does not currently have the power to impose financial penalties for breaches of this kind. The CMA has called for such powers in order to increase incentives for businesses to comply with market and merger remedies and to rectify any breaches quickly.
 7. Media enquiries should be directed to 020 3738 6460 or press@cma.gov.uk.
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Research and analysis: Protecting biota from cooling water intakes at nuclear power stations

New build nuclear power stations in the UK will require large-volume intakes of cooling waters from estuarine or coastal sites, and this report identifies information on techniques and systems to reduce the impact of such intakes on marine and estuarine biota (fish, crustacea, larval forms, plants and microscopic organisms). Available sources of information on the effectiveness and applicability of various biota protection methods are provided and summarised.

There are various engineering methods that may reduce the impact to biota, particularly fish, of large water intakes. Some engineering technologies and operational methods are well established, but others are new, with less information on their effectiveness in different situations.

This scoping report identifies the main sources of information available, and will form a resource for regulatory staff and other interested parties. It is intended as an initial phase of a full review into some or all of these techniques for biota protection in cooling water intakes. Information on biota protection measures from cooling water intakes at existing nuclear and conventional power stations and other large volume water intakes has been included where relevant. The information summarised in this report could have relevance to other large scale water intakes such as tidal hydropower.

News story: Department for Transport to invest record amounts in small businesses

An active retro reflector for unambiguous object localisation Plextek Services Ltd (SME) The development of a tagging system for vehicles which can bounce back a unique radar signal in order to provide exact vehicle recognition. This information can be used to support intelligent and autonomous transport systems. Reducing road congestion and improving road safety. £29,970.00 Smart wind barriers for traffic and bridge protection City, University of London Developing a proof of concept prototype smart wind barrier for bridges which adapts to the existing weather conditions in order to maximise the protection to the vehicles while reducing the force on the underlying structure. Improving safety of bridges and reducing the amount bridges are closed in high-wind conditions. £29,894.00 Advance flat panel antenna for satellite communication On-The-Move: an innovative approach towards the Internet of Things for the rail industry Heriot-Watt University Developing a prototype of a flat panel antenna solution which will enable reliable broadband connectivity for high-speed rail services. Improving customer journeys through improved internet connectivity. £30,000.00 Development of a hydrophobic, freezing temperature sensing, and self-heating road coating system University of Plymouth Developing a proof of concept for a smart coating material which could prevent the formation of ice on roads in wintery conditions. Improving road safety in winter conditions. £30,000.00 Enhancing performance analysis of complex transit systems Ito World (SME) Delivering a prototype visualisation tool for a multi-modal transport system through combining real-time and historic data. This will be used to provide a live, detailed, view of the transport system's performance and provide recommendations for improvement. Enabling transport operators to have live information on the performance of the transport system, enabling better planning. £30,000.00 A compact hydrogen powered range extender Newcastle University Developing and testing a prototype free-piston engine generator, which operates on hydrogen fuel and could be used a range extender for road vehicles. Reducing Carbon Dioxide emission and improving air quality. £29,274.18 Universal Train Access Ramp Cecence Ltd (SME) Developing and laboratory testing a ramp made of lightweight composite materials. This will enable one ramp to be used for all trains and be lighter and easier to use than existing ramps in stations. Improving the accessibility on the transport system. £30,000.00 Range extender hybrid electric motorcycle University of Nottingham The development of a hybrid gas/electric motorcycle which is capable of being used directly as a range extender for an electric aircraft. Facilitating and improving the utilization of electric flight for short journeys. £30,000.00 Integrated platform for booking and allocating recharging slots for electric taxis EV Technology Limited (SME) Developing an electric taxi management system which provides live information and booking of charging stations, which will support the uptake of electric taxis by private hire companies. Supporting the uptake of electric vehicles for taxis, reducing transport emissions and improving air quality. £30,000.00 Vehicle to

grid controller with modular communications V2G EVSE Limited (SME) Developing a prototype for a vehicle to grid electric charging station controller, which will enable optimal charging across multiple vehicles, managing energy demand. This will include modular communications which will provide information to a central system. Improving the charging of electric vehicles. £29,050.00 Agile airspace collaborative decision making Winsland Ltd (SME) Developing a software demonstrator enabling the better use of airspace through effectively managing military airspace. This will enable use of this airspace for civil aviation when not being used for military purposes. Improving the utilisation of airspace and reducing air travel times. £30,000.00 Hyperloop beta HYPED Ltd (SME) The development of a software tool which will model the technical feasibility of Hyperloop and inform the potential economic and social impact of Hyperloop on the transport system. Informing DfT evidence base and monitor development of the technology. £29,952.00 Signly Disruption App Signly Ltd (SME) The development of an application which will enable better access to rail disruption information for deaf and hard of hearing passengers, who cannot hear or might miss station announcements, through providing the travel information directly to their personal device. Improving customer journeys and passenger experience. £28,980.00 Smart charging stations for accurate and reliable electric vehicle battery monitoring University of Liverpool Developing improved monitoring and diagnostic techniques for batteries in order to support the reliability of electric vehicles and optimize charging to maximise battery life. Improving the charging of electric vehicles. £26,337.48 Proof of concept for an innovative dynamic power transfer technology (electric roads) Algret Innovations LTD (SME) Developing a working prototype for a direct contact electric system, enabling the safe charging of vehicles on the road. This could be used as an alternative way of charging vehicles which spend significant idle, such as taxis queuing. Developing alternative ways of charging electric vehicles to support uptake. £30,000.00

[Press release: More victims and their families get justice](#)

The Attorney General's Office helped more victims and their families get justice last year, after 137 criminals had their sentences increased under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme.

New statistics out today reveal the Law Officers (Attorney and Solicitor General) referred 173 sentences to the Court of Appeal in 2017 because they believed them to be far too low.

The ULS scheme allows victims of crime, prosecutors and members of the public to ask for certain Crown Court sentences to be reviewed if they think the sentence is far too low. The Law Officers then ask the Court of Appeal to review the sentence to have it increased if they believe the judge made a

gross error in sentencing.

Sentences were increased for crimes including murder, manslaughter, rape and other serious sexual offences, causing death by dangerous driving, modern slavery, false imprisonment, child cruelty, burglary, robbery, perverting the course of justice, and drugs.

Of the 137 offenders who had their sentences increased, these related to crimes in the following categories: Rape and serious sexual offences (58), homicide and related (15), acquisitive offences (such as burglary, theft, and fraud) (19), serious assault offences (19), firearm-related (8), drug-related (4), kidnap and false imprisonment (2), and other offences (12).

The Solicitor General Robert Buckland QC MP said:

The Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme allows victims of crime, their families and the public to ask for a review of certain sentences that they believe are far too low.

We only have 28 days from the date of sentencing to refer a case to the Court of Appeal. Unusually, there is no way to extend this deadline – this means we require a referral very early in the process to be able to deal with it in time.

A sentencing exercise is not an exact science and in the vast majority of cases, judges get it right. For an offence there is a range within which a judge might sentence properly. The scheme is available to ensure that the Court of Appeal can review cases where there may have been a gross error in the sentencing decision.

In 2017, 943 referrals were received by the Attorney General's Office, a slight increase from the 837 referrals the previous year. The Attorney and Solicitor General referred 173 sentences to the Court of Appeal that they thought needed looking at again, compared to 190 in 2016.

137 sentences resulting in increases is a very small proportion of the 80,000 Crown Court cases heard each year, but the ULS scheme is there to allow adjustment of those sentences where an increase is warranted.

The scheme was extended last year to include an additional 19 terror-related offences including supporting extremist organisations, encouraging acts of terrorism or failing to disclose information about a terrorist attack.

The scheme was introduced after public outcry over the lenient sentencing of the offenders involved in the 1986 rape of 21 year old Jill Seward. The victim was brutally raped by a gang of robbers at her father's vicarage.

Anyone can ask for a Crown Court sentence to be reviewed and you can also follow the progress of referrals made to the Attorney General's Office.

There are only 28 days from the date of sentencing to refer a case to the

Court of Appeal. This deadline cannot be extended. In order to ensure we have time to properly consider a case we ask that referrals are made early in the process.

The ULS scheme only applies to certain Crown Court offences. Details of the offences that are covered by the ULS scheme are listed on our website.

[News story: Issues with our online services](#)

Updated: Issues with WebFiling, CHD and WebCheck

We're having issues that are affecting WebFiling, CHD and WebCheck.

We are working hard to fix the issues and apologise for any inconvenience caused.