

Press release: Illegal angler hooks £600 penalty

Anglers are being urged to obey the law after a Lincolnshire man was ordered to pay more than £600 for fishing illegally.

Shaun Hammond, 28, of Mariners Arms Flats, Keadby, was caught fishing without a licence at Hibaldstow Bridge on the River Ancholme in October last year.

He was discovered by an Environment Agency enforcement officer carrying out a routine patrol to enforce the law and protect the environment for people and wildlife.

Hammond committed an additional offence by refusing to give his name and address to the officer.

Enforcement officers are considered in law to be the same as police constables. Obstructing one effectively doubled the amount Mr Hammond was fined.

Hammond was proved guilty in absence at Grimsby Magistrates' Court on 9 February. He was fined £440 – £220 for each offence – and ordered to pay costs of £127, as well as a victim surcharge of £44, bringing the total penalty to £611.

Caroline Tero, fisheries team leader at the Environment Agency, said:

Not only was Mr Hammond fishing illegally, he also obstructed a law enforcement officer who was doing his duty to protect the environment for people and wildlife. We and the courts take this very seriously and will always look to protect the wellbeing of our officers.

It makes no sense to have the embarrassment of a court visit, a criminal conviction and a bill for potentially thousands of pounds when an annual licence is currently just £30. We hope this will make people think twice before picking up a rod illegally and if they don't, our officers are ready and waiting.

Steve Powell, Enforcement Once team manager for the Environment Agency, said:

The case acts as a reminder of the importance of having a fishing licence – and shows how seriously the courts take these offences. We hope the outcome will deter any angler who is thinking of fishing without a licence.

The yearly fishing licence Mr Hammond required would have cost just £30. Other types of licence are available, including one-day for £6, eight-day for £12, and a free one for those aged 12 to 16.

The money from licence sales supports fish, fisheries and fishing, and protects the future of angling. A small number of people refuse to buy one, cheating the sport and their fellow anglers.

For the minority who flout the rules, the most common offence is fishing without a valid licence, which could land them with a fine of up to £2,500 and a criminal record.

Last year in England, the Environment Agency checked more than 63,000 fishing licences and prosecuted 2,330 for rod and line offences, resulting in fines in excess of £335,000.

Any angler aged 12 or over, fishing on a river, canal or still water needs a licence. They are available online via gov.uk or by calling the Environment Agency on 0344 800 5386.

Anyone with information about suspected illegal fishing activities can contact the Environment Agency Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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costs of £127, as well as a victim surcharge of £44, bringing the total penalty to £171.

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[Press release: UK Visa Services now at your doorstep in Bangladesh](#)

The Dhaka ODMV is part of UK Visas and Immigration's proactive approach to constant improvement in customer service.

The ODMV uses the UK Visas and Immigration's mobile Biometric Enrolment System (BES) equipment to take biometric data (finger scans and digital photograph). This service is delivered by the UK Visas and Immigration's commercial partner, VFS Global.

Alison Blake, British High Commissioner, said:

"UK Visas and Immigration seeks constantly to improve the service we offer. I am delighted to announce that the UK is the first country to launch the VFS Global mobile facility in Bangladesh.

"This service allows Bangladeshis to submit their visa application and biometric data outside our current network of Visa Application Centres.

"For customers in Dhaka, it means they no longer have to travel to the Visa Application Centre in Dhaka to submit their applications.

"Bangladesh and Britain are close friends and partners and this development is a further step in enabling stronger people-to-people relationships."

NOTES TO EDITORS

On Demand Mobile Visa service is optional and applicants will have to pay an additional fee.

[Research and analysis: State of the environment](#)

Updated: Added report: State of the environment: air quality.

These reports cover the key environmental issues relating to:

- air quality – the concentrations of pollutants in our air, and their effects on the environment and health

- water resources – how much clean water we have available
- water quality – including rivers, estuaries, coasts and groundwater

The reports include the:

- status and trends
- current and future pressures

[Press release: Wales' oil industry has "full backing" of the UK Government](#)

Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns will today emphasise the UK Government's commitment to supporting the oil industry during a visit to Pembrokeshire today (19 Feb).

The Secretary of State will visit and tour Valero's refinery in Pembroke, where Vice President and general manager, Edward Tomp will update him on the company's operations.

He will then undertake a tour of the site to see up close the 220,000 barrel per day facility that is one of the largest fuel manufacturers in northwest Europe and one of the largest employers in the region.

With a workforce of over 500 people, with hundreds more employed as contractors, Valero refinery plays a pivotal role in the prosperity of the West Wales economy.

Speaking ahead of his visit, Alun Cairns will underline the company's continued investment in its Pembroke site as a testament to the strength of its people and the confidence it has in the business environment in Wales.

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:

The oil industry is crucial to the UK's future energy security, economy and our cross-government industrial strategy.

The contribution the Valero refinery makes to the regional and wider economies in Wales and the UK cannot be underestimated. Be it through job creation or community engagement, Valero plays a pivotal role in the lives of the people who live in this area.

I want to make it clear that this industry has the full support of the UK Government.

As one of the Wales' largest industrial sectors with one of the most highly skilled workforces in the world, we are determined to

continue to work together to secure its long-term success.

We will continue to ensure that we have the right policies in place to generate the necessary investment in energy infrastructure whilst ensuring important investors like Valero in Wales and the rest of the UK remain competitive.

**Edward Tomp, Vice President and General Manager at Valero
Pembroke Refinery said:**

Valero is delighted to welcome the Secretary of State to Pembroke Refinery, so he can see for himself the impressive work being done day in, day out in West Wales in this vital industry. Being responsible for 15% of Welsh exports Valero is a major part of the economy in Wales and we are grateful for the UK Government's continued support for the downstream oil sector, which is key in terms of economic growth, employment and energy security for Wales and the UK.