

## Press release: Anglers caught illegally fishing to pay £1,700

On 12 February 2018, at Guildford Magistrates court, Lee Grant, 38, of Eton Road, Southsea, and James Black, 29, of Heathyfields Road, Farnham were each fined £660 for fishing without a fishing licence, with costs of £127 and a victim surcharge of £66 imposed after a prosecution by the Environment Agency. The total penalty was £853 each.

Magistrates heard that on 23 September 2017, an Environment Agency enforcement officer found Lee and James fishing at Badshot Lea Ponds, Badshot Lea. A valid fishing licence is required to fish all waters in England. Neither were able to produce a valid fishing licence and were reported for that offence. James and Lee were each convicted in their absence.

David Brain, of the Environment Agency said

The majority of anglers fish legally and purchase a fishing licence. We invest the money from fishing licences back into fisheries improvements, fish stocks and fishing, this is essential for the future of the sport.

The minority of anglers that fail to buy a fishing licence are cheating their fellow anglers and the future of the sport. In addition fishing licence cheats risk a criminal conviction, a significant fine and could lose their fishing equipment.

During 2015-16 the Environment Agency checked more than 62,000 fishing licences and prosecuted more than 1,900 anglers for rod and line offences resulting in fines and costs in excess of £500,000.

Anyone witnessing illegal fishing incidents in progress can report it directly to the Environment Agency hotline, 0800 80 70 60. Information on illegal fishing and environmental crime can also be reported anonymously to Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

You need a valid Environment Agency Fishing Licence if you are aged 12 or over and fish for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt or eel in England.

Junior fishing licences (aged 12-16) are now free, but you must still get a fishing licence online at [www.gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence](http://www.gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence).

Notes:

Try fishing. There are lots of events for spring and summer 2018 listed at [www.getfishing.org.uk](http://www.getfishing.org.uk).

All media enquiries: 0800 141 2743. Please ask for the duty press officer.

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## **Notice: IP23 7HE, Drax Power Limited: environmental permit application advertisement**

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
  - what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)
- 

## **Notice: WR15 8PX, Colin Phillips (Farms) Limited: environmental permit application advertisement**

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## Press release: UK Commonwealth Minister visits Wales ahead of 2018 Commonwealth Games and Summit

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, will visit Cardiff to meet young people from the charity Children in Wales, including some representing Wales at the Commonwealth Summit, as well as people from Commonwealth diaspora groups.

He will also visit the home of elite sport in Wales where he will go behind the scenes to see how Team Wales athletes are training to deliver medal-winning performances at the Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast in April. The Minister will be hosted by Brian Davies OBE, Director of Elite Performance at Sport Wales, on a tour of the National Sports Centre in Sophia Gardens, and meet the athletes, sports science and medical staff looking to propel Team Wales to podium positions.

The UK is set to host the annual Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April with leaders travelling in from around the globe to take part in a week-long programme of activities focusing on the Summit's theme 'Towards a Common Future'.

### **Lord Ahmad said:**

The Commonwealth is a unique family of nations. Its members account for two and a half billion people. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April will focus on young people as we strive to meet the aspirations of the one billion people in Commonwealth countries under the age of 25.

From Cardiff to Canberra, from Bangor to Bangalore, if the future relevance of the Commonwealth is to be assured, it is vital that young people are involved in shaping decisions that affect their future, and that includes the young people of Wales.

I am incredibly hopeful for the future of our Commonwealth and the role Wales has to play in it.

Lord Ahmad will also meet the First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones and Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport Dafydd Elis-Thomas to discuss how the

Welsh Government will play a key role in plans for the Commonwealth Summit.

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## [News story: Using experts to analyse and measure problems: apply for support](#)

A team work together on computers around a desk.

The [National Physical Laboratory](#), the [National Measurement Laboratory at LGC](#), the National Engineering Laboratory and the [Science and Technology Facilities Council](#) have up to £4 million to invest in UK businesses to solve analysis and measurement problems.

The competition aims to help businesses to solve tricky and sometimes long-running technical issues affecting existing products and services by giving them access to some of the UK's top scientists and national measurement institutes.

It is the second in a series called 'analysis for innovators', run by Innovate UK.

Successful applicants will get free consultancy on how to approach their problem and information on how to get funding to work on a solution with a relevant funding partner.

### **Solving existing problems**

The competition aims to help businesses from a wide range of technology areas to solve problems that:

- are related to the measurement or analysis of some quantities or properties of an existing process, product or service
- are not effectively solvable by simple 'off the shelf' methods or techniques

### **Competition information**

- the competition opens on 5 March 2018, and the deadline for submissions is midday on 4 April 2018
- it is open to UK businesses
- we expect free consultancy sessions to start in May 2018
- we expect follow-on projects to typically last up to 12 months and to have project costs of up to £250,000
- details on funding options will be given at a series of roadshows in

February and March

- a briefing event will be held on 7 March 2018