

# News story: Asian hornet outbreak contained in Devon

A recent outbreak of Asian hornets has been successfully contained by bee inspectors who promptly tracked down and destroyed their nest in Devon.

The hornets were first discovered in the Woolacombe area in September, but the National Bee Unit moved swiftly to find the nest and remove it.

No further live Asian hornets have been seen since the nest was treated with pesticide and removed earlier this month.

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

I am pleased our well-established protocol to contain Asian hornets has worked so effectively in Devon.

We remain vigilant, however, and will continue to monitor the situation and encourage people to look out for any Asian hornet nests.

Members of the public are a vital tool in spotting Asian hornets and we urge people to report any potential sightings through the Asian hornet app or online.

This included a two mile surveillance zone in Devon, with bee inspectors scouring the area to track the hornets and the nest. The Animal and Plant Health Agency also opened a local control centre to coordinate the response between the various agencies and teams involved.

Asian hornets pose no greater risk to human health than a bee, though they are a threat to honey bee colonies.

The hornet prey on honeybees, disrupting the ecological role which they provide and damaging commercial beekeeping activities. This is why Defra takes quick action to identify and destroy their nests.

The species arrived in France in 2004 and is now common across large areas of Europe. It was discovered for the first time in the British Isles in Jersey, Alderney and Gloucestershire last summer.

Asian hornets can be confused with their larger native European hornet counterparts; the Asian hornet abdomen is almost entirely dark while the European hornet's abdomen is largely yellow.

It is possible Asian hornets could reappear in the UK and members of the public alongside the nation's beekeepers are urged to report any suspected sightings.

- The 'Asian hornet watch' app is available to download from the Apple and Android app stores.
  - Members of the public can also report sightings by email to [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) with a photo or on the Non-native Species Secretariat website.
  - Details on the appearance of an Asian hornet can be found on the Bee Base guide or the non-native species identification guide.
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## [News story: Sentinel-5P successfully launched to monitor world's pollution](#)

Sentinel-5 Precursor is an important satellite for the joint European Commission–ESA Copernicus programme – which monitors the atmosphere to help us understand the spread of key pollutants and their impact on our changing planet.

The satellite, which was launched on a Rockot from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in Russia at 10.37am BST, shows how important the UK contribution is to European space programmes.

Science Minister, Jo Johnson, said:

“The successful launch of the Sentinel-5 Precursor satellite is a clear demonstration of the UK’s valuable contribution to improving global knowledge through satellite data, and the heights we can reach by collaborating with our European partners.

“Our ongoing investment in the UK space sector forms a key part of our Industrial Strategy, and we are committed to ensuring that we have the infrastructure and skills in place to support our ambition to capture 10% of the global space market by 2030.”

The UK provides investment into the Copernicus programme through the European Union as well as additional UK Space Agency investment through the European Space Agency for the development of the Sentinel satellite technology and instruments. Defra are the lead department for Copernicus, championing the use of the Copernicus satellite data for government policy making, scientific research and commercial services.

Graham Turnock, CEO of the UK Space Agency, with sixth form students from Drapers Academy in Romford who were invited by the UK Space Agency to the launch event in London.

Sentinel-5 Precursor features the TROPOMI (TROPOspheric Monitoring Instrument) instrument, developed by Airbus DS Netherlands for the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Netherlands Space Office. TROPOMI will measure

ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, methane and other atmospheric pollutants at a higher resolution than previous instruments. Having more accurate atmospheric data will enable improved climate models and pollutant tracking and forecasting.

Professor John Remedios, Director of the National Centre for Earth Observation, who attended a launch event at the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in the Netherlands, along with a panel of experts from the UK, said:

“Sentinel-5P and successor satellites will give the public a consistent measure of the quality of our atmosphere over the next decades and monitor the success of the really significant steps society wants to take towards a healthier lifestyle and clean economy. It is encouraging to see the excellent UK participation with its expertise in this mission.”

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## **Press release: Pre-season tours no longer friendly for banned director**

Moyes' disqualification follows an investigation by the Insolvency Service into Glasgow-based Professional Pre Season Tours Limited, which ceased trading in April 2014.

The company had been involved in arranging pre-season tours for various football clubs, including Everton, Chelsea, Liverpool, Leeds United, Sheffield Wednesday, Nottingham Forest, Norwich City, Aberdeen, Hibernian and Celtic.

The investigation found that Moyes transferred over £300,000 from the company to himself as a 'bonus payment' shortly before the company stopped trading. However according to the company accounts, no money was actually transferred, although it allowed him to claim a loan account debt was settled. In reality, this money had already been withdrawn for his personal use.

Investigators established that he withdrew at least £420,400 in cash from the company while it was trading, but failed to declare the full amount.

Because the fictitious transfer resulted in a nominal asset of the company being turned into a liability, it was unable to pay its obligations to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in terms of PAYE and National Insurance contributions. At liquidation it owed £271,180 to creditors, of which all but £4,067 of which was to HMRC.

Commenting on the disqualification, Cheryl Lambert, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

This is a simple case of a director trying to avoid repaying their loans to a company and avoiding their proper tax payments. It was a cynical attempt to maintain personal wealth, with the consequence of depriving the public of tax receipts, and he abused the privileges and benefits of limited liability trading.

Kenneth Moyes also kept HMRC in the dark by not filing all returns on time, including partially paying VAT assessments at a sufficient level to avoid attracting priority attention.

Taking action against him is a warning to all directors that such behaviour will result in a very significant sanction, with a personal consequence. A limited company is not a personal piggy bank for directors.

On 18 July 2017, the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted a disqualification undertaking from Kenneth Moyes. The disqualification commenced on 8 September 2017.

## **Notes to editors**

Professional Pre Season Tours Ltd (CR0 SC311860) was incorporated on 14 November 2006. Its registered office was c/o McLay, McAlister & McGibbon LLP, First Floor, 145 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, Strathclyde, G2 5JF. It traded from 15 North Claremont Street, Glasgow, G3 7NR

Professional Pre Season Tours (PPST) Ltd was placed into liquidation on 8 October 2014 with Donald McKinnon of Wylie & Bisset, 168 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4TP appointed sole liquidator.

Kenneth Moyes is of Glasgow and his date of birth is February 1968.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

The Insolvency Service investigation established that:

- In the annual accounts for PPST for the year ended 31 December 2012 Mr Moyes had an outstanding director loan due to PPST of £172,597 which was repayable by 30th September 2013.

- Mr Moyes declared remuneration, reflected in p60 returns to HMRC and PPST's accounts, for the six years from incorporation to April 2013, totalled £90,464
- On 26 March 2014, shortly before PPST ceased trading in April 2014, a "bonus payment" of £329,936.02 was recorded (including in a pay slip) as being made to Mr Moyes. No moneys were transferred.
- Mr Moyes received at least £420,400 in cash from PPST during its trading, of which only £90,464 had been declared to HMRC for taxation purposes prior to 26 March 2014.
- The "Bonus Payment" extinguished, on paper, the director's loan account previously shown and created a liability of PAYE & NIC to HMRC of at least £203,022.24. This tax debt remained due and outstanding at liquidation.
- PPST did not comply with its statutory obligations to HMRC resulting in £271,180 being due in relation to PAYE/NIC (accrued from 2009/10), Corporation Tax accrued from December 2012) and VAT accruing for 18 consecutive partially paid assessments from 2010, whilst non-HMRC creditors totalled £4,068.14

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#). Media enquiries

## **Contact Press Office**

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

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## **[Government response: Statement on Al-Hijrah school judgement](#)**

I am delighted that we have won this appeal. Ofsted's job is to make sure that all schools properly prepare children for life in modern Britain. Educational institutions should never treat pupils less favourably because of their sex, or for any other reason.

The school is teaching boys and girls entirely separately, making them walk down separate corridors, and keeping them apart at all times. This is discrimination and is wrong. It places these boys and girls at a disadvantage for life beyond the classroom and the workplace, and fails to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

This case involves issues of real public interest, and has significant implications for gender equality, Ofsted, government, and the wider education sector. We will be considering the ruling carefully to understand how this will affect future inspections.

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## **Press release: £61.4m roads package to keep drivers moving in the East of England**

A12 Resurfacing, road markings, safety improvements, safety barrier repairs, traffic signals, bridge repairs, safety improvements November 2017 – March 2018 A120 Slip road improvements, bridge refurbishment, signage improvements, safety improvements, lighting renewal, carriageway repairs, resurfacing November 2017 – March 2018 A47 Bridge repairs, safety improvements, road markings, safety improvements, pedestrian warning signs, traffic signals, layby resurfacing, weather station renewal Ongoing, completion by March 2018 M11 Resurfacing, drainage works, embankment repairs, barrier repairs, sign replacement Ongoing, completion by November 2017 A14 (Suffolk) Weather station relocation, signage improvements, safety improvements, lighting renewal, bridge repairs, concrete carriageway repairs, resurfacing Ongoing, completion by March 2018 A14 (Cams) Resurfacing, bridge repairs, road markings and fencing October 2017 – March 2018 A428 Signs and road markings safety improvements January 2018 A1 / A1(M) Signs and road markings, resurfacing, safety improvements, bridge repairs, weather station upgrade, electrical repairs, drainage repairs, technology improvements, upgrading street lighting to LED, vegetation removal, landscape improvements Ongoing, completion by March 2018 M1 Resurfacing, bridge repairs, road markings, technology improvements, electrical repairs, upgrading street lighting to LED November 2017 to March 2018 A421 Signs and road markings, electrical repairs, safety improvements October 2017 A5 Signs and road markings, weather station upgrade, upgrading street lighting to LED, traffic signal improvements October 2017 to March 2017 M40 Noise barrier installation at seven sites along the M40; technology renewal at three locations in Buckinghamshire January 2018 – March 2018