

Press release: Welsh Secretary confident ahead of talks with First Minister

The First Secretary of State Damian Green and the Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns will meet the First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones for discussions on arrangements under the EU (Withdrawal) Bill for distributing powers returned from the European Union.

The people of Wales want to make Brexit a success and both the Welsh Government and UK Government want the same thing – we want Wales to prosper and we want an agreement for the whole of the UK with the European Union.

The Welsh economy is fundamentally integrated with the rest of the UK so we must bring together the assets of all parts of the UK to win deals and secure trade agreements. Exiting the EU is a time when the nation needs to come together to secure the best deal for every part of the UK.

It is in nobody's interest for there to be gaps in the law at the point where the UK departs the EU. Neither is it in anybody's interest to create any new obstacles or costs inside the UK as we leave the EU. That means that there will be a need for a common UK approach in a number of areas. We have had constructive talks already and will keep talking – I am confident we can reach an agreement that works for all parts of the UK.

Promotional material: Countryside Stewardship facilitation fund case studies

The facilitation fund supports over 60 groups with 1400 farmer/land manager members. These case studies illustrate the range of approaches taken by the groups.

Corporate report: Scrutiny of Radioactive Waste Management: annual report 2016 to 2017

The Environment Agency and Office for Nuclear Regulation's (the nuclear regulators) joint publication about their scrutiny of RWM's work relating to geological disposal of radioactive waste.

Government policy for managing higher activity radioactive waste in the long term is through geological disposal.

The nuclear regulators provide regulatory advice to RWM about implementing geological disposal.

This report explains what the regulators looked at and the main comments provided to RWM. It also highlights areas for RWM to improve.

RWM is making good progress towards ensuring that it will have the right people, skills and systems in place by the time it applies for environmental permits and a nuclear site licence for a geological disposal facility.

The regulators will make sure that any future geological disposal facility meets their high standards for environmental protection, safety, security, radioactive waste transportation and safeguards.

For more information email the Environment Agency at geological.disposal@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Press release: Payroll directors who found rules too taxing both disqualified

Kenneth Macgregor Munn and Richard Jonathan Owen Rees have been disqualified from acting as a director for seven years and four years respectively, after failing to pay over £1.4 million in taxes.

Munn and Rees were directors of Dormco SCP Ltd; S C Personnel Ltd; Cotsen Accountants Ltd; and Cathedral Road Management Ltd. All four companies traded in succession as payroll companies providing services to other companies also controlled by Munn and Rees, who are accountants. The companies went into liquidation in August 2013.

An investigation by the Insolvency Service found that Munn was responsible for Dormco SCP Ltd failing to file a Corporation Tax return resulting in the payment of an assessed amount of tax which was £168,520 less than the amount which he knew was due, and that Rees was found to have allowed this to happen. Both directors also caused all four companies to fail to pay Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) and National Insurance Contributions (NICs) amounting to £1,242,616 when due.

At the date of liquidation, the amount owed to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) amounted to £1,450,995 including additional interest, tax and penalties.

The Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted disqualification undertakings from both on 28 July 2017. The disqualifications commence on 19 July 2017.

Commenting on the disqualification, Sue MacLeod, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

These actions not only gave these companies and others controlled by the directors an unfair advantage over their competitors, but have also left the public purse seriously shortchanged.

If you run a business in a way that is unfairly detrimental to any of its creditors, including by failing to correctly pay tax, the Insolvency Service will seek to remove you from the business environment.

Notes to editors

Dormco SCP Ltd (CR0 0338223) was incorporated on 24 March 1997, SC personnel (CR0 06621779) was incorporated on 17 June 2008; Cotsen Accountants Ltd (CR007111448) was incorporated on 22 December 2009; and Cathedral Road Management Ltd (CR0 03144475) was incorporated on 10 January 1996. Their registered offices were all at 1st Floor, Tudor house, 16 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9LJ and they traded from the same address.

Kenneth Macgregor Munn is of Cardiff and his date of birth is July 1959.

Jonathan Owen Rees is of Cardiff and his date of birth is October 1969.

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.

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](#).

Contact Press Office

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[News story: The new robot helping clean up Sellafield](#)

The 'Avexis' will help dislodge and clear waste from the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo.

[Watch the robot enter the plant for the first time](#)

It has been developed by Cumbrian firm Forth Engineering with support from the University of Manchester.

The company was launched in 2000 by former Sellafield apprentice Mark Telford.

The Maryport business is now a global specialist in remote tooling, deployment methods, and sensor systems.

Mr Telford said:

Having Sellafield on our doorstep gives a huge advantage.

It's a testbed where we can develop unique skills and technologies.

The site needs innovative technology to undertake engineering tasks

in harsh environments underwater.

Successfully deploying our technology at Sellafield means we can then transfer it to other industries like marine and oil and gas which are looking for similar products.

The Avexis is already generating interest from potential clients overseas.

The Magnox Swarf Storage Silo was built in the 1960s to store waste from the UK's earliest nuclear reactors.

It closed in 2000 and has now been prioritised for clean-up by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

Rebecca Weston, Strategy and Technical Director for Sellafield Ltd, said: "The Avexis is a great example of the supply chain helping us to reduce the UK's nuclear hazard faster, cheaper and more safely.

"And, on top of that, companies are developing products and skills that can be exported all over the world."

The Avexis offers the ability to 'see' inside the silo via cameras attached to its body.

It can also clear away small bits of waste clinging to the silo wall.

Its key feature is its size – it is small enough to fit through spaces of just 150mm space.

It is the first robot of its kind to go from concept to market within five years. At just £10,000 it is also the cheapest of its kind.