

Press release: Illegal angler hooks hefty fine

A fishing trip to Lincolnshire has landed a man from Manchester with £597-worth of penalties after he was found breaking angling laws.

Mr John Handley of Herristone Road, Manchester, left his rod in the water unattended and was fishing without a licence at Lakeside Fishery, Wragby, on 21 June 2016.

He was discovered by Environment Agency enforcement officers, who carry out patrols designed to catch illegal anglers in the act – and protect the sport for those who do follow the rules.

Mr Handley was proved guilty in absence at Lincoln Magistrates' Court on 13 March 2017. He was fined £440 – £220 for each offence – and ordered to pay costs of £127, as well as a victim surcharge of £30, bringing the total penalty to £597.

Adam Basham, Environment Agency enforcement team leader, said:

By leaving his rod unattended, Mr Handley could have injured wildlife, and his refusal to buy a fishing licence harms the future and protection of the sport, effectively cheating the tens of thousands of anglers who do follow the rules.

We never hesitate to take action against offenders.

Leaving a fishing rod unattended is an offence under Environment Agency byelaws because of the danger it poses to fish and other wildlife, which can become entangled in the line or swallow the hook.

Anyone who wants to go fishing needs to buy a fishing licence. A full yearly fishing licence costs from just £30 and are available online at www.gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence, by calling the Environment Agency on 0344 800 5286, or from your local Post Office branch. Short-term and concessionary licences are also available.

The money from licence sales supports fish, fisheries and fishing, and protects the future of the sport. It funds a wide range of projects to improve facilities for anglers, including protecting stocks from disease and illegal fishing; restoring fish stocks through re-stocking; eradicating invasive species; and fish habitat improvements. The income is also used to fund the Angling Trust to provide information about fishing and to encourage participation in the sport.

A small number of anglers refuse to buy a licence, 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 conviction.

In 2015/16, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire enforcement officers checked 3,710 licences and reported 73 for fishing illegally, bringing in fines and costs totalling £16,810.

Last year in England, 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.

To help crack down on illegal fishing, the Environment Agency urges people to report suspect activity by calling its incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

[Appointments to Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse](#)

Richard Ives has been appointed as Chair of the Panel for an interim period of three months, running from 1st March 2017 to 31st May 2017. Meanwhile, Professor Simon Moore has been re-appointed to the Panel, from 24th March 2017 to 23rd March 2020.

The Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse is an independent expert advisory Welsh Government Sponsored Body established under general executive powers of the Welsh Ministers and supported by the Welsh Government.

The remit of the Panel is to advise on measures to prevent or reduce substance misuse, the associated health and social harms and review implementation of the Welsh Government's Substance Misuse Strategy.

The Panel will consist of not less than eight and not more than 12 Panel Members, all of whom are independent of the Welsh Government.

Members of the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse (APoSM), including the Chair, are not paid, but are reimbursed for reasonable travel and subsistence costs. They have a time commitment of up to 10 days per annum.

Rebecca Evans said:

“We are committed to tackling and reducing the harms associated with substance misuse in Wales. I am pleased that Richard Ives has agreed to the offer of appointment as Chair of the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse for this interim period and that Professor

Simon Moore has agreed to the offer of re-appointment.. I am confident their continued expertise will be invaluable.”

[Elmwood gamekeeping students attend another great BASC shoot day](#)

Gamekeeping students from SRUC’s Elmwood Campus attended the recent British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) shoot day event at Scone palace.

[Press release: New report with practical advice for teachers on pupil behaviour](#)

An independent review providing practical guidance to teachers about how to tackle bad behaviour in the classroom has been published today (24 March 2017).

Teacher and behaviour expert Tom Bennett spent several months meeting classroom teachers and leaders from a variety of schools to identify successful strategies used to tackle disruptive behaviour.

His report [‘Creating a culture: how school leaders can optimise behaviour’](#) concludes that while there is no ‘silver bullet’, there are a variety of strategies that can be used to tackle poor behaviour.

It also highlights that although standards of behaviour can be a challenge for schools, leadership is key to creating the right culture to tackle this issue.

Tom Bennett said:

How well students behave in school is crucial to how far they succeed, socially and academically. There are many tremendous schools doing a superb job, and some schools that could improve a great deal.

I spoke to leaders of coastal schools, inner-city schools, rural, primary, secondary, alternative provision and asked them what they did. Every school has different circumstances and challenges, but we found that some themes were almost universal: clear routines, robustly administered, high expectations and a focus on building a strong sense of identity and good relationships where children feel they belong, are safe, and are expected to do their best. That's why I called it 'creating a culture'. Because these things don't happen by accident.

We also need to acknowledge that in some schools, challenges faced are greater than in others, and in these circumstances we need to look at better ways of guaranteeing that provision, skill sets and support are available. The skills required to improve school behaviour cultures already exist within the ecosystem of schools. The challenge now is for us to collaborate as a community to do so.

The Department for Education has welcomed the report and will now use its findings to inform ongoing work to help and support schools to deal with this issue.

Edward Timpson MP, Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, said:

Part of our plan for Britain is building a fairer society – with a good school place for every child. That means children being able to learn in classrooms that are free from disruption. Tom Bennett's report is relevant, insightful and draws on tried and tested methods that will provide real help to teachers across the country.

I would encourage all school leaders to use its practical examples to help create a positive environment that addresses the needs of their pupils.

National Association of Head Teachers General Secretary Russell Hobby said:

The design of a culture to support good behaviour is a central duty of every school leader. It requires clarity, consistency and courage. It is a conscious choice, constantly maintained. Tom's report distils practical advice from excellent schools, alongside the evidence from research, to help leaders reflect on and develop their own impact.

John d'Abbro, executive headteacher of New Rush Hall School, said:

This is a refreshingly powerful, down to earth, and practical report, which distils and recognises effective good practice. Tom makes the key point that continuous professional development in

behaviour management is vital for both teachers and senior leaders and more needs to be made available. The case studies exemplify these points and further demonstrate that behaviour is a whole-school issue.

Alison Colwell, principal of Ebbsfleet Academy, which was visited as part of the review, said:

This fascinating report should be read by every school leader. It rightly emphasises the critical importance of culture, attention to detail and consistent practice, all of which are at the heart of strong and successful school leadership.

In its response to the report, the government has set out a number of measures that are being taken forward to address the points raised. These include:

- reforming National Professional Qualifications to equip school leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to deal with bad behaviour. The new qualifications will be delivered from September 2017
- encouraging providers to bid for funding from a pot of £75 million from the [Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund](#) to develop and run professional development programmes tackling bad behaviour for leaders in challenging areas
- revising our existing advice for schools including the mental health and behaviour guidance to ensure they support teachers and school leaders as best as they possibly can
- conducting further research into what works to help young people with behavioural issues, and as such, continue to develop our long-term ambition to give control of alternative provision budgets to mainstream schools, allowing these to commission their own such provision and take responsibility for educational outcomes of their pupils

Several schools are identified in the report as exemplars of good practice. These include:

Robert Clack, Dagenham

In one of the poorest boroughs of London, children from traditionally underachieving demographics exceed national expectations, and have done so for many years. The school uses practical measures such as wall displays to emphasise achievements, school awards and other opportunities. In this way, a culture of high expectation is in place for all students, regardless of their circumstances.

New Rush Hall, Redbridge

The school's philosophy is that the most vulnerable, the most challenging pupils, need greater support, not less. The school ensures staff receive

training throughout their careers to meet the needs of the student body.

Seymour Road Primary, Manchester

A school that went from requires improvement to good in just 2 years by developing good relationships with both parents and pupils. They have done this by having an open door policy for parents, a support worker who visits homes, and they have held behaviour training sessions for the parents.

Since 2010 the government has introduced a range of measures to give teachers more powers to tackle poor behaviour. These include:

- stronger powers to search pupils
- removal of the requirement to give parents 24 hours' written notice of 'after-school' detentions
- clarified teachers' power to use of reasonable force
- updated advice on tough but proportionate sanctions for misbehaviour as well as ensuring schools' decisions on exclusions can no longer be overruled
- ensuring that all teachers are equipped with the skills to tackle both the serious behaviour issues that compromise the safety and wellbeing of pupils, as well as how to deal with low-level disruption that stops children from learning properly

Superfast birth boosts business for Pwllheli farm

A video of the happy event was seen by an estimated 13,000 people after being published on Facebook. It brought much welcome publicity for the Cefn Cae'r Ferch farm in Pencaenewydd, near Pwllheli, which specialises in pedigree Texel sheep and also has a holiday cottage.

Dafydd Jones, his wife Dona and children Tomos and Carla, have been benefitting from very fast broadband speeds— up to 200 Mbps – since fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) arrived at the farm.

The video of the birth of the lamb is just one of the ways that Dafydd has used superfast broadband to promote the holiday cottage and showcase his Texel sheep to a wider audience using social media platforms, such as Facebook. The uploading of photos of videos is now much easier.

Visitors to the holiday home have been very impressed with the superfast speed of the broadband, with some commenting it is faster than at home. They are also able to access TV on demand services such as Netflix, Amazon and YouTube and, as they can access their work remotely, visitors can also extend their break to spend more time in rural Gwynedd.

Dafydd is also able to carry out much of the farming business online. This includes managing the farm's finances online and using the BCMS animal movement services quickly and with no delays. He also registers his pedigree Texel lambs online on the Basco sheep service and uses Rural Payments Wales' online service.

Dafydd said:

"We never expected to see fibre optic cable come all the way down to our farm, and it has definitely been worth the wait.

"It has made a huge difference to what we can do on the farm, and to our holiday let. Superfast broadband has brought with it new technology and capabilities for us to exploit.

"It's also helped with the mobile phone signal, which has been poor before now. With wi-fi calling available on modern handsets we can now make and receive mobile calls, and our visitors can too. It's reassuring as people know they can be reached or make calls in an emergency. It also means we make savings on outbound business and family calls to mobiles.

"People like to get away from it all when they're on holiday, but they do want to stay connected too. The superfast broadband is allowing them to do just that when they're staying with us."

Minister for Skills and Science, Julie James, said:

"It's great to see how a rural farm business such as Cefn Cae'r Ferch Farm has benefited from the Superfast Cymru programme.

This is what the programme is all about. Bringing faster internet speeds to areas which would otherwise not receive it. It's good to see how the farm is making the most of the fast speeds they now have so it benefits the farm and the visitors they welcome here.

"Superfast Cymru is making an impact, with over 8 out of 10 premises in Wales now able to access superfast broadband compared with just over half 2 years ago. Wales also has the best superfast broadband coverage among the devolved nations.

"We know there is more to do, and work is continuing to reach more premises every day."

Alwen Williams, regional director for BT Cymru Wales, said:

"Having grown up on a farm I understand how important good connectivity is for our rural farms.

“Throughout society, we’re doing more and more online and farming is no different. Cefn Cae’r Ferch Farm in Gwynedd is just one example of how access to superfast broadband is making a difference and our Openreach engineers continue to work hard to roll-out coverage even further and faster across the country.”

Superfast Cymru is the partnership between the Welsh Government, BT, UK government and European Regional Development Fund, bringing faster broadband to areas which would otherwise not receive it.

The Welsh Government also runs the Access Broadband Cymru scheme, which can offer assistance to those not able to access superfast broadband by providing grant aid to help them receive it through other technologies. Further details are available on gov.wales/broadband.