

Press release: Gove launches review into strongest protections for English seas

Today, on World Oceans Day, the Environment Secretary Michael Gove has announced the government's next steps in protecting England's precious marine environment with a new review to examine whether and how the strongest protections for areas of sea, known as Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), could be introduced.

This announcement follows the government's manifesto commitment to create a Blue Belt of marine protection for Britain's overseas territories and its own coast, and builds on the ambition of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

As the strongest form of marine protection, new Highly Protected Marine Areas could help protect England's precious coastline by closing off specific areas to any human activity with the potential to cause harm.

Targeted Highly Protected Marine Areas would complement the existing network of Marine Conservation Zones, which just last week expanded by a further 41 areas, and allow vulnerable marine wildlife to fully recover, free from all damaging human activities, with the aim of restoring areas to a pristine state. Together this would mark the most significant expansion of England's 'Blue Belt' of protected areas to date, as well supporting the government's international efforts in calling for 30% of the world's oceans to be protected by 2030.

The review, led by Richard Benyon MP, will be asked to establish an evidence-based process and criteria for selecting Highly Protected Marine Areas, and if supported by the evidence, recommend potential locations for pilot sites. The views of those who use the seas will be at the heart of the review, which will over six months consider the economic and social impacts on businesses and individuals who use the sea, taking into account the views of fishermen, conservation groups, marine industries, and local communities.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove said:

The UK is a global leader in the fight to protect our seas, but World Oceans Day is an important reminder that we need to safeguard the future prosperity and health of our ocean.

Last week we designated 41 new Marine Conservation Zones with an area almost eight times the size of Greater London, and our review into Highly Protected Marine Areas will help inform our next steps in the government's work to expand and strengthen the UK's Blue Belt to create richer habitats for marine life.

The review into Highly Protected Marine Areas comes after the government backed plans for more than 150,000 square miles of a 'no take' zone around Ascension Island, closing the off-shore area to any fishing activity and meaning that more than half of the UK's global waters will soon be within Marine Protected Areas.

Richard Benyon MP, who will lead the review, said:

Our ocean is a precious resource, valuable not just for its marine diversity but also for the many livelihoods it supports on our coastline.

While many areas have strong protections in place, there is a need to consider whether and where we can go further to safeguard marine life, balancing the needs of fishing, conservation and local communities.

Lewis Pugh endurance swimmer and UN Patron of the Oceans, said:

This review is a welcome first step towards the strongest form of protection for our waters. Following on from the establishment of 41 new MCZs it shows we are moving in the right direction. However time is not on our side and we must act as a matter of urgency.

Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, said:

Over the last few years, our world-leading marine scientists have played an important role in the development of the UK's Blue Belt, helping to safeguard over a million hectares of England's ocean and coastal environment. But there is still more to be done to secure the long-term health of our seas and their wildlife.

I welcome this review into the potential for increased protection for habitats and species in our waters and look forward to working with Richard Benyon and the review team over the coming months as they draw up their findings.

Today's announcement builds on the UK's global leadership in protecting the marine environment – with the UK government calling for 30% of the world's ocean to be protected by 2030 and the creation of the co-chaired Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance.

Through our Blue Belt programme we are also on track to protect over four million square kilometres of ocean across the UK's Overseas Territories by 2020. On this World Oceans Day a group of scientists, journalists, film makers and artists are taking part in an Blue Belt supported project to one of the world's remotest islands. Henderson Island in the South Pacific which

has one of the highest densities of beach litter anywhere on earth. The expedition which runs from the start of June has scientists investigating the plastic pollution problem and its effects on local wildlife, the surrounding coral reefs and seabed sandy habitats.

The UK Government currently has 175 Marine Protected Areas of different types & protections, spanning 32,000 square km and conserving 40% of English seas. Stretching from Cornwall to Northumberland, the 41 new Marine Conservation Zones announced last week safeguard 12,000 square kilometres of marine habitats, an area almost eight times the size of Greater London. The government will also publish an international ocean strategy this year setting out further action to conserve and sustainably use the ocean.

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Notes to Editors:

- The terms of reference are published on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- The UK's 'Blue Belt' now spans 220,000 square km with 128 Marine Conservation Zones. This includes: 89 in English waters, two in Northern Ireland offshore waters, five in Northern Ireland inshore waters, one in Welsh waters and 31 Nature Conservation MPAs in Scottish waters.
- You can follow the progress of the expedition to Henderson Island on twitter at: @ukgovbluebelt

About Richard Benyon:

- Richard Benyon has been an MP since 2005 and is a former Minister for the Natural Environment and Fisheries. He is actively interested in environmental issues, being the current chair of the All Party Parliamentary Environment Group and a former member of the Environment Audit Committee. He is widely respected within the fishing industry, and during his time at Defra worked closely with marine conservation groups, fishermen, and coastal communities during the development of the first tranche of Marine Conservation zones.

[Press release: Gary Stempel galardonado por el Reino Unido](#)

El entrenador británico-panameño, Gary Stempel, ha sido galardonado con un MBE en la Lista de Honores de Su Majestad la Reina Isabel II por servicios a la juventud y deporte en Panamá. MBE significa miembro de la orden más excelente del imperio británico y se da para celebrar los logros de vida y el servicio excepcional a la comunidad.

Los recipientes de la prestigiosa Excelentísima Orden del Imperio Británico

(Most Excellent Order of the British Empire o M.B.E, por sus siglas en inglés) instituido por el rey Jorge V en 1917, son galardonados por sus contribuciones, años de sacrificio y trabajo a las artes y ciencias, contribuciones de caridad y el servicio público, fuera del servicio civil.

Antes de mudarse a Panamá, Stempel fue funcionario de extensión comunitaria en el club Millwall de Londres. En 2003, clasificó a Panamá para la primera Copa Mundial Sub-20 de la historia. En 2008 tuvo la oportunidad de hacerse cargo de la Selección Mayor Panameña donde ganaron la Copa Centroamericana de Naciones en 2009. Era la primera vez que Panamá ganaba un campeonato internacional. Ha trabajado como instructor de entrenadores de la FIFA y ha impartido cursos para entrenadores en San Cristóbal y Nieves, Dominica, Islas Vírgenes de Estados Unidos, Belice, Nicaragua y Surinam.

Después de la Copa Mundial de 2018, Stempel fue nombrado director técnico interino de la Selección Mayor.

Durante más de 20 años, Stempel ha trabajado con jóvenes en situación de riesgo de algunas de las comunidades más pobres del país, ayudándoles a alcanzar su pleno potencial en el deporte del fútbol. Ha apoyado y transformado las vidas de muchos jóvenes, y ha sido fundamental para asegurar que Panamá cuente con una liga nacional de fútbol plenamente desarrollada, que recoge lo mejor del patrimonio futbolístico y los valores británicos, a la vez ganando 7 campeonatos de liga con Panamá Viejo FC y San Francisco. Su legado más importante y duradero es la influencia que ha tenido en las asociaciones deportivas de Panamá. Ha cambiado el sector deportivo persiguiendo la excelencia en el deporte desde el punto de partida de la acción social y de los programas dirigidos a la juventud en riesgo. Stempel también es reconocido por su trabajo con el sistema penitenciario, especialmente en la prisión de Tinajitas, ayudando a crear el Torneo Inter carcelario de Panamá.

El Embajador de Su Majestad en Panamá, Damion Andrew Potter dijo “felicitaciones a Gary Stempel por haber recibido tan merecido reconocimiento por parte de Su Majestad la Reina Isabel II, gracias a su compromiso y servicios a la juventud y el fútbol panameño”. El director técnico, Gary Stempel comenta que: “este es el honor más grande que he recibido a nivel profesional. Estoy agradecido con todos los que apoyaron la nominación. También estoy muy agradecido por el apoyo de mi esposa y mi familia, quienes me han acompañado durante todos mis logros”, agregó Stempel.

Press release: Queen’s Birthday Honours for Dstl staff

Three Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) staff members have been recognised in Her Majesty The Queen’s Birthday’s Honours 2019 for their

scientific support to the incidents in Salisbury and Amesbury during March and July 2018.

Prof Tim Atkins, Dr Mark Fulop, and Dr Sarah Stubbs, have been made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Prof Atkins receives his OBE for his service to UK defence and security, as well as providing scientific advice and support in the response to the incidents.

He said:

I am deeply humbled by this award which means a lot to me. The Salisbury and Amesbury incidents were challenging across the UK emergency response capability. I was proud to be part of a large team of people without whom I would not have been effective in what I did.

Prof Atkins has worked at Dstl since 1996 and is a senior fellow – a leading technical expert – within Chemical, Biological and Radiological Division.

Dr Fulop receives his OBE for his leadership in the field of chemical, biological and radiological science, including leading Dstl's scientific response to the incidents.

He said:

It is incredible to have received such an honour – it was an amazing privilege to lead such a dedicated and talented team throughout the events in Salisbury and Amesbury last year.

Dr Fulop has worked at Porton Down for 32 years, undertaking a variety of senior roles in scientific research, and project and programme leadership.

Dr Stubbs receives her OBE for her work across many years to develop analytical chemistry methods, which were used to assist during the incidents.

She said:

I am truly humbled by this prestigious honour which I believe proudly recognises the excellence and tireless dedication of Dstl's Analytical Chemistry team members past and present, and the outstanding impact of our work upon the defence and security of the UK.

Dr Stubbs has worked at Dstl since 2007 as an Analytical Chemist in the Chemical, Biological and Radiological Division.

Gary Aitkenhead, Chief Executive at Dstl said:

I offer my warmest congratulations to the recipients. They should be proud that their professionalism and passion has made, and continues to make, an immense impact on our nation's defence and security

[Press release: The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2019](#)

The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2019, published on Saturday 8 June, recognises the outstanding achievements of people across the United Kingdom.

Awards include damehoods for Laurie Lee, the founder and Chief Executive of Maggie's cancer centres, sculptor Rachel Whiteread and Sara Thornton, Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council.

There are knighthoods for actor Simon Russell Beale, the founder of Operation Black Vote, Simon Woolley, Chief Scientist of Genomics England, and head of the 100,000 Genomes Project, Professor Mark Caulfield and founding artistic Director of the Place, 94 year old Robert Cohan.

There are CBEs for Oscar winning actress Sarah Sinclair (Olivia Coleman), authors Joanna Trollope and Lee Child, pianist Joanna MacGregor and Terence Whittles, National Chairman, The Royal British Legion.

At OBE, there are awards for Nimco Ali and Leyla Hussein for their work in tackling Female Genital Mutilation and gender inequality, musician Elvis Costello and the co-founder of Silverback Films and producer of Blue Planet and Planet Earth, Alistair Fothergill, Chief Scout, Bear Grylls and actress Cush Jumbo.

At MBE, there are awards for Women's British Open winner Georgia Hall, along with journalist and broadcaster Dan Snow.

This List highlights a range of extraordinary people being recognised for their efforts to improve the social mobility of those from underprivileged backgrounds – whether through providing care, education or innovative business and employment support.

An OBE is awarded to Sonia Watson, the CEO of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, for her work helping disadvantaged people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds pursue a career in architecture; an MBE for Christie Spurling who founded the charity N-Gage to encourage disenfranchised students from deprived communities re-engage with their education; an MBE for Sarah

Burns for her work with charity Smart Works, which provides unemployed women who are single parents with clothing and coaching for job interviews; and a BEM for 19 year old Lauren Shea for her work in promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in young people.

Coming shortly after Foster Care Fortnight, the List includes a group of 15 leading foster carers who are recognised at MBE who between them have fostered over 1,000 children. These outstanding recipients are representative of over 40,000 foster families who are transforming the lives of young people across the UK – showing exceptional dedication to fostering, looking after multiple sibling groups or children with disabilities or particular needs.

The List also includes seven inspirational individuals who have dedicated their lives to holocaust remembrance and education, sharing their stories with over 100,000 schoolchildren around the UK. As holocaust survivors, they have demonstrated extraordinary personal resilience and commitment, championing tolerance and diversity, and playing a vital role in ensuring future generations continue to learn from the past.

Overview

This Honours List continues to demonstrate the breadth of service given by people from all backgrounds from all across the UK.

In total 1,073 people have received an award:

- 920 candidates have been selected at BEM, MBE and OBE level: 306 at BEM, 399 at MBE and 215 at OBE
- 75% of the recipients are people who have undertaken outstanding work in their communities either in a voluntary or paid capacity
- 508 women are recognised in the List, representing 47% of the total
- 0.4% of the successful candidates come from a BAME background
- 5.9% of the successful candidates consider themselves to have a disability (under the Equality Act 2010)
- 2.8% of recipients identified as being LGBT

The Prime Minister provided a strategic steer to the Main Honours Committee that the honours system should support children and young people to achieve their potential, enhance life opportunities, remove barriers to success and work to tackle discrimination.

Women

A number of prominent women are being recognised, including damehoods for Elizabeth Corley, Vice Chair of Allianz Global Investors for her work on diversity, Carolyn Fairbairn, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, Julie Kenny, Chair, Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust, and Professor Elan Closs Stephens for services to Welsh Government and broadcasting.

There is also a CMG for Professor Charlotte Watts, founder of the Gender Violence Research Centre and global leader on domestic violence as a global

public health issue, and a CBE for pioneering computer scientist and co-creator of the first Acron Micro computer, Sophie Wilson.

At OBE, there is an award for broadcaster and journalist, Brenda Emmanus for her work in broadcasting and on diversity.

Local Communities

In total, 75% of awards in the Birthday Honours List will go to people who have undertaken outstanding work in or for their local community. Awards include:

- an OBE for Qadeer Kiani for his work developing opportunities for migrants and refugees in London
- An OBE for Janice Cahill for her work to the Education of Vulnerable Young Learners and Child and Adolescent Mental Health in Stockport
- An OBE for Philip Maguire for his work with Prison Radio and Radio Production
- There are also OBE's for Cynthia Robinson, Elizabeth Sclater and Glenda Watt for their work with Older People

Supporting Children and Young People

Around 8.3% of awards are for work in education. The independent Education Honours Committee has recommended a knighthood for Jonathan Coles, Chief Executive of United Learning. Other senior awards include a CBE for Rebecca Meredith CEO, Transform Trust; and a CBE for Professor Michele Burman, Head, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow for her work on gender-based violence.

At OBE level, there are awards for Lee Major, CEO of the Sutton Trust for his work on social mobility, Colleen Amos, Chief Executive, the Amos Bursary, and Gillian Haworth lately Chief Executive, Intercountry Adoption Centre for her work with vulnerable children and families. There are also OBE's for husband and wife David and Elizabeth Carney-Haworth from Cornwall, co-founders of Operation Encompass, for their work with children affected by domestic abuse.

Economic Activity

Industry and the economy make up 13% of this honours list. The Economy Committee continued to highlight entrepreneurs, emerging sectors and those who have made striking interventions in established sectors, and has recommended a CBE for Rachel Clacher, Co-founder, Moneypenny and Founder of WemindTheGap for her services to business and her work with disadvantaged young people; a CBE for Dr Shane Legg, Co-founder and Chief Scientist, DeepMind Technologies; and a CBE for Paul Clarke Chief Technology Officer at Ocado.

There are OBE's for Gillian Docherty, Chief Executive of Data Lab, Maggie Berry, founder of the Women in Technology Network, and Catherine Mead for services to cheese making and the community in the South West of England.

Science, Technology and Health

Around 11% of honours are for work in the Science, Technology and Health sectors. The respective Committees have recommended CBE's for Professor Kenneth Brown, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Glasgow; Dr Adrian Crellin Consultant Clinical Oncologist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Trustee, Cancer Research UK; Ian Findlay, Chief Officer, Paths for All for his work on healthy lifestyles and outdoor activities; Professor Tamsin Ford, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Exeter; Professor Marie Le Quere, for her work on Climate Change Science; Dr Shubulade Smith, Consultant Psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust for services to Forensic Psychiatric Intensive Care; and Professor David Southwood, lately Chair, UK Space Agency.

At OBE level, there are awards for Maureen Bell lately a nurse consultant for vulnerable children at NHS Ayrshire and Arran for her work on child protection; and Simon Gillespie, Chief Executive, British Heart Foundation.

[Press release: Welsh Secretary congratulates Queen's Birthday Honours Recipients](#)

Marking the achievements of the recipients from Wales, Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:

I am delighted to congratulate and recognise the achievements of this year's deserved recipients of the Queen's Birthday Honours.

These honours highlight the outstanding achievements and hard work of incredible people across Wales who go above and beyond to better the lives of others.

I am grateful for their commitment and dedication to communities all over Wales and would like to congratulate them all on their incredible accomplishments – you are an inspiration to us all.

Congratulating Elan Closs, who received a DBE for services to Welsh Government and Broadcasting, Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns said:

During her distinguished career, Elan has made an exceptional

contribution to the promotion of media and creative industries in Wales. Demonstrating her incredible dedication, Elan's lifelong commitment to public service and highly effective leadership has made her someone governments turn to when difficult issues arise.

She is an enduring role model and an inspiration to all. My sincerest congratulations on this worthy honour.

Congratulating Rachel Clacher, founder of Moneypenny, on her CBE for services to business and disadvantaged young people, Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns said:

Pioneering an ethical approach to business, Rachel has not only founded one of the most successful businesses in Wales but has also developed a charity aimed at young, disadvantaged women, 'We Mind the Gap'.

Her commitment to providing women from challenging backgrounds with career opportunities whilst growing a multi-million pound business demonstrates her dedication to helping others and inspiring the next generation of female leaders. I am immensely proud of all her achievements and extend my warmest congratulations on her deserved accolade.

As a founding member of Merthyr Tydfil's Angling Association, William has been instrumental in turning the polluted River Taff into an international standard fishing haven. Devoting 50 years of voluntary service to the association, William's passion for the continuous improvement of the waterways around the Merthyr Valleys is truly inspirational.

It is with great honour that I congratulate William for his incredible work and commitment to putting the lives of others before himself.

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