

[UK commits to Life Sciences cooperation with Sweden](#)

Today (27 May 2022), Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Innovation at the Department of Health and Social Care, Lord Kamall, and the Swedish Minister for Education, Anna Ekström, signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) committing the UK and Sweden to ongoing co-operation in the life sciences.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the Swedish Ambassador's Residence in London, in the presence of King Carl XVI Gustav and Queen Silvia. Minister for Science and Innovation, George Freeman, was also present.

The MoU follows a long tradition of Swedish and UK co-operation, including the pioneering work achieved by the Anglo-Swedish company AstraZeneca in developing the coronavirus vaccine, and will see the 2 nations promoting joint progress across policy development, technical standards, industry collaboration, research, and the development and implementation of new technologies and treatments.

Both the UK and Sweden are world-leaders in the life sciences, and the Memorandum of Understanding commits our 2 nations to enhancing co-operation between our governments and to galvanise our life sciences ecosystems in working together on our shared strengths and common priorities, covering fields from precision medicine, clinical trials, pandemic preparedness and antimicrobial resistance to sustainability, trade, and investment for the sector.

The UK and Sweden are responsible international actors, leading the way in tackling global challenges, and this Memorandum of Understanding will pave the way for stronger business development and enhanced collaborative opportunities, while delivering on both the Life Sciences Vision, and the Integrated Review.

[Government recognises achievements of its geographers in fourth annual awards](#)

The fourth annual Geography in Government Awards took place on Wednesday 25th May 2022 at Geovation in London. It celebrates the work done by members of the geography profession across the public sector. The awards were presented

by Nigel Clifford Deputy Chair of the [Geospatial Commission](#).

This year had a record number of nominations across the 6 categories, the winners of those categories were;

Advancing geospatial data science

The Geography Data Products and Operations Team at Office for National Statistics for automation of the updates to the Statistical Geographies for the 2021 Census.

[Advancing geospatial data science](#)

Contribution to policy development (joint winners)

The Digital & Research team at Greater Manchester Combined Authority for developing the Digital Exclusion Risk Index by Digital inclusion.

[Contribution to policy development1](#)

The Systems Innovation and Futures, and Land Use Policy teams at Defra for modelling the geography of land use change by Spatial Data Science.

[Contribution to policy development](#)

Excellence in Geo-visualisation

Green Infrastructure Standards Mapping team at Natural England, Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) for their Green Infrastructure Mapping Database (Beta Version 1.1).

[Excellence in Geo-visualisation](#)

Excellence in Local and Regional Public Sector

Strategy and Intelligence Team at Westminster City Council (WCC) for Know Your Audience: Segmenting Westminster's Communities.

[Excellence in Local and Regional Public Sector](#)

Operational Delivery

Mapping Domain at Registers of Scotland for using mapping data to transform Scotland's Land Register.

[Operational delivery](#)

Making a difference in Geography (joint award)

Contribution to Women+ in Geospatial Network by GGP members of the Women+ in Geospatial leadership team

[Making a Difference in Geography](#)

[Making a Difference in Geography2](#)

Overall winner of Government in Geography Award 2022

From all the categories an overall winner was selected, this year it was jointly won by;

Digital Exclusion Risk Index by Digital inclusion, Digital & Research at Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Modelling the geography of land use change by Spatial Data Science, Systems Innovation and Futures, and Land Use Policy teams at Defra.

The overall winners were presented their award at the prestigious RGS (with IBG) medals and awards ceremony in June.

David Wood, Head of Government Geography Profession said 'every year the members of the Government Geography Profession demonstrate their expertise and professionalism, showing how geographers are crucial to policy decisions and local delivery. These awards showcase this impact and always makes judging very competitive.'

If you are a geographer working in government you are able to access a range of support from webinars to job opportunities via its [member site](#) or by visiting the [Government Geography Profession organisation page](#).

[Abusive partner sentenced to immediate prison term after referral by the Solicitor General](#)

News story

A Portsmouth man has been sentenced to an immediate prison term for abusing his partner.



A Portsmouth man who physically and mentally abused his partner has been sentenced to an immediate prison term after the Solicitor General Alex Chalk QC MP referred his sentence to the Court of Appeal.

Liam Kingswell, 25, was in an abusive relationship with his partner from July 2020 to June 2021. Throughout the relationship the defendant behaved in a controlling and abusive manner towards the victim, including breaking her possessions and demanding money to purchase drugs, which caused the victim to get into debt.

On occasions Kingswell would use violence against the victim, which included beatings, throwing objects at her and strangling her. The relationship only ended when Kingswell was arrested in June 2021.

On 18 March 2022 Kingswell was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment suspended for 24 months for criminal damage and controlling and coercive behaviour at Portsmouth Crown Court.

Following the sentencing, the Solicitor General referred the original sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme because he believed it was too low.

On 27 May the Court of Appeal found Kingswell's sentence to be unduly lenient and sentenced him to an immediate prison term of 2 years and 9 months.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General Alex Chalk QC MP said:

Liam Kingswell's abuse of his partner was shocking. I welcome the decision of the Court of Appeal to sentence him to an immediate prison term. I hope this verdict sends a clear message that those who abuse their partners will feel the full force of the law.

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New clinical trials deal struck to better protect world from future pandemics

- Resolution will help developing countries to run their own drug and vaccine trials
- UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid calls agreement a 'landmark moment' in world's journey to pandemic preparedness

Millions of people across the world will be better protected from future pandemics thanks to a landmark resolution brought by the UK and Argentina at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva today (Friday 27 May).

By encouraging more specific funding, the resolution will help developing countries increase their capacity to run their own clinical trials – helping them to test new drugs, vaccines and other health interventions which will benefit their populations – while working across countries to respond to future pandemics more rapidly.

As well as helping countries to respond faster in a public health emergency, the resolution will also help countries tackle existing health challenges such as tuberculosis, diabetes, and mental health problems.

There will also be closer collaboration between researchers on clinical trials across the world – reducing research waste – while increased transparency will mean the results of trials will be more readily shared between countries.

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid said:

We saw from Covid how important it is for countries to share information quickly and this resolution represents another landmark moment in the world's journey to pandemic preparedness.

Clinical trials are vital for testing and producing lifesaving drugs and vaccines, and this resolution led by the UK and Argentina will make it much easier for developing countries to run their own trials – protecting them and others from another pandemic.

The resolution aims to strengthen clinical trials of all health interventions, not just drugs and vaccines. For example, trials for new diagnostics, surgical procedures, or behavioural interventions. It will also help to achieve the goal of developing new diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines within 100 days of a new pandemic threat being identified.

The resolution urges research funders to invest in developing countries and

deliver trials to tackle health problems which disproportionately affect their populations. It also commits countries to increased international co-ordination to rapidly evaluate drugs and vaccines in any future pandemic.

The UK's Secretary of State for Health and Social Care used his speech on Monday to call for Taiwan to be given observer status at the WHA which would give them access to the relevant technical meetings that would help them prepare for another pandemic.

The resolution is the latest UK led endeavour to prepare the world for another pandemic, and follows the signing of the Pact for Pandemic Preparedness at the end of the G7 health ministers meeting in Berlin last week which will see G7 countries share their Covid inspired initiatives, including those on detection and surveillance.

1. The full resolution is available here: [Strengthening clinical trials to provide high-quality evidence on health interventions and to improve research quality and coordination \(who.int\)](#)

[Lincolnshire man fined £21,000 for storing waste illegally](#)

A Lincolnshire man has been fined after he pleaded guilty to operating a waste site without permission and allowing others to fly-tip there.

Raymond Wortley, 75, of The Streddars, Hundreds Road, Crowland, accepted and stored waste illegally at his home without a permit. Whilst some of the waste was burned, he also left his gate open which allowed flytippers to deposit other waste on his site.

Waste including tree cuttings, plastics, treated wood and construction waste was kept on land at Wortley's home between 23 October 2019 and 2 June 2021.

Officers visited the site in October 2019 after reports of material being burnt at the site. Smoke from the fire was so thick that the officers were unable to see each other. Metal sheeting, aerosols, ceramic pots and plastic were all found on the burn pile. At the time, Wortley only had permission to burn green waste produced at his site.

Surveillance was carried out at the site during February 2020 and June to July 2020. Officers noted tipper trucks bringing waste to the site on numerous occasions during this time. They were told by drivers that a fee of £20 was being charged per load to bring waste to the site.

Wortley was told orally and in writing on several occasions that he was not allowed to run the site in the way he was doing. Despite this, he continued

to do so.

Further visits were made to the site in July 2020. An attempt to regularise some of the activities had been made with the green waste now being shredded but this still required a permit.

Additional visits were made in February 2021 and again in October that year. Despite further warnings telling him to stop, Wortley continued to operate from the site with mixed waste including carpets, plastic and household waste being found.

In November 2021, the site was inspected via drone and found to be still operating as a waste transfer station without any permits.

Wortley was sentenced at Peterborough magistrates' court on May 24, 2022.

He pleaded guilty to operating a waste facility without a permit contrary to Regulation 12 and 38(1)(a) of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016. He also pleaded guilty to knowingly permitting others to deposit waste contrary to section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

In mitigation, it was explained that Wortley had misunderstood the scope of the regulations and had made efforts to comply. He had recently cleared the site and was in the process of making an application for planning permission.

He was fined £21,693.50 which included the avoided permitting costs and financial benefit Wortley had gained by running the illegal site. He was ordered to pay a contribution to prosecution costs of £10,000 and a victim surcharge of £181.

Peter Stark, enforcement team leader, said: > We take illegal waste activity very seriously and will take the necessary action to disrupt criminal activity and prosecute those responsible. > Wortley was advised to stop on numerous occasions but continued to disregard environmental law. He is now receiving the consequences of those actions. > Members of the public can report waste crime report to us on 0800 807060. Alternatively, they can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Notes to editors:

- In 2019 we stopped illegal waste activity at 940 sites, 3 per cent more than the previous year. We found 775 new illegal waste sites, 14 per cent less than we found the previous year.
- We continue to close illegal waste sites. At the end of March 2020, 544 known illegal waste sites were still active. 21 per cent less than at the end of March 2019 and the lowest number on our records.
- More information about waste permits can be found here: [Waste: environmental permits – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-permits)