

Three men fined for Alston illegal waste sites

Father and son Keith and Paul Liverick pleaded guilty when they appeared at Carlisle Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 30 March.

Keith, 74, of Station Road, Alston, pleaded guilty to two charges of operating illegal waste sites, while Paul, 51, of the same address, pleaded guilty to one charge of the same offence, and two charges of illegally depositing waste.

Their associate Frank Shepherd, 77, of Leadgate, Alston, had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to a charge of operating an illegal waste site, and a second charge of burning waste on land.

Waste stored at the Clarghyll Colliery site

The court heard that each of the four sites; Clarghyll Colliery, land at the rear of Moredun Garage, Old Foundry Yard, and Rotherthorpe Old Mine, had varying environmental permits and permit exemptions in place to allow for restricted waste deposits and activities.

None of the sites had an environmental permit to allow for the importing, depositing, treatment or sorting of mixed waste. Environmental permits impose conditions on waste operators to govern the type of waste and the type of activity permitted on a given site.

These conditions are designed to reduce the risk of pollution and harm to the environment arising out of the site activities. Environmental permits are designed to protect people and the environment and failure to comply is a serious offence that can damage the environment, undermine legitimate businesses, put jobs and risk and cause misery for local communities.

Between August and November 2018, Environment Agency officers made visits to each of the sites, where they saw illegal deposits of large amounts of mixed waste, which included scrap vehicles, skips of household waste, plastics, timber and construction waste.

Waste stored at the Clarghyll Colliery site

Over the ensuing two years, officers tried to work with the operators to bring the sites into compliance, but advice and notices were largely ignored.

In mitigation, Shepherd was remorseful, while both Paul and Keith Liverick said it was caused by poor management of the sites.

Andrew Turner, Area Environment Manager for the Environment Agency in the North East, said:

All three showed a blatant disregard for the environment over a great length of time and seemed to think the rules did not apply to them.

They deliberately and persistently allowed the deposit and storage of waste on these sites knowing the activity was illegal and presented a risk of harm to the environment. They did this in the face of officers working hard to encourage compliance.

We work hard to prevent and disrupt waste crime and we're pleased all three have admitted wrong-doing.

Shepherd was fined £666 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £67 and costs of £400; Keith Liverick was fined £1,980 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £190 and costs of £1,350, while Paul Liverick was fined £2,566, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £190 and costs of £2,200.

Environmental incidents can be reported to the Environment Agency 24/7 on 0800 807060.

Waste crime can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers online or on 0800 555111.

[P&O ferries: update from the Insolvency Service](#)

News story

The Insolvency Service has provided an update following its enquiries into the circumstances surrounding the recent redundancies made by P&O Ferries.



Following its enquiries, the Insolvency Service has commenced formal criminal and civil investigations into the circumstances surrounding the recent redundancies made by P&O Ferries.

As these are ongoing investigations, no further comment or information can be provided at this time.

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[Our Megan scoops prestigious skills award](#)

Megan Robertson won the 'Intermediate Apprentice' category at the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) Awards.

The awards are organised by UK Nuclear Skills and Cogent Skills. They highlight excellence in the nuclear sector and recognise rising stars of the present and future.

Megan has worked for Sellafield Ltd for 3 years as an apprentice nuclear operator.

She said:

When I started my apprenticeship, I was quiet and unsure about what I could achieve. I'm now much more self-confident, proud of the skills that I have developed and delighted to of won this award.

Two other Sellafield Ltd employees were recognised on the night. And Sellafield Ltd itself, alongside training partner Gen2, were finalists in the 'Best Employer and Provider' category.

Luke Doran, a 5th year process engineer degree apprentice, was shortlisted in the 'Higher and Degree Apprentice' category.

He said:

Being a finalist shows my hard work hasn't gone unnoticed and it gives me a great deal of pride in what I've managed to achieve.

I'm incredibly grateful for the support I've received throughout my apprenticeship.

Luke Crampton, who is working towards his chartership in IChemE design systems was also shortlisted for 'Graduate of the Year'.

He said:

I was delighted to be shortlisted for this award and grateful to the company for putting my name forward.

The nuclear industry provides technical challenges which put my skills to the test while helping to better myself as an engineer.

Sellafield Ltd and Gen2, our engineering and technology training provider, were shortlisted in the Best Employer and Provider Category.

Sellafield Ltd has approximately 600 apprentices on its books with qualifications ranging from level 2 (GCSE equivalent) to level 6 (degree level) across 15 schemes.

The company also has more than 120 graduates on a 2-year programme across 24 disciplines.

Gen2 has 5 training centres across Cumbria working with over 300 clients delivering a range of short courses and apprenticeship programmes with progression routes into employment and higher education including honours degrees.

Donna Connor, head of education and skills for Sellafield Ltd said:

Being shortlisted in this category is testament to the recruitment and support provided by Sellafield Ltd and the excellent training provision of Gen2 in West Cumbria.

We have such a diverse range of apprenticeships, including nuclear welding inspection, fire and rescue and business administration, and this award emphasises the exciting career opportunities at Sellafield Ltd and the nuclear industry.

Having 3 people shortlisted and Megan going on to win, highlights

the excellent calibre of apprentices on our books – I couldn't be prouder.

Amanda Towers, Managing Director of Gen2 said:

We were extremely proud to have been shortlisted for this category.

It's testament to the long standing collaboration and partnership between Gen2 and Sellafield Ltd and our shared purpose to ensure we provide high quality training for many hundreds of Sellafield apprentices.

We believe the success of the partnership is due to the shared understanding of nuclear sector, passion for training development and delivery and a flexible and responsive approach that enables training solutions which are high quality and fit for purpose.

[Energy Bills Support Scheme explainer](#)

Published 1 April 2022

Last updated 29 July 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 29 July 2022

Full details explaining the design and delivery of the Energy Bills Support Scheme have now been published in the government's official government response to this year's technical consultation.

2. 30 May 2022

Following the recent announcement from the Chancellor, the financial support for energy bills has been doubled to £400 and payment will now be made as a grant, which will not be repayable.

3. 11 April 2022

Updated with an additional question following the launch of the Energy Bills Support Scheme consultation.

4. 1 April 2022

First published.

[ICIBI Inspection Plan 2022-23](#) [Published](#)

News story

The Chief Inspector publishes his Inspection Plan 2022-23.



Commenting on the publication of his Inspection Plan for 2022-23, Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration David Neal said:

I have today published my second Inspection Plan, outlining the work that I intend to carry out over the upcoming year. For completeness, the Plan also includes reports that are with the Home Secretary awaiting publication and inspections that were started in 2021-22 and will report shortly.

I am grateful to the ministers, officials and external stakeholders with whom I consulted while developing this Plan, which includes a range of topics from across the Home Office's immigration, asylum, nationality, and customs functions.

My programme for 2022-23 will build on themes that have emerged from, and return to some of the areas examined in, the inspections that I have conducted over my first year in office. The Plan includes a small number of inspections that were originally planned for 2021-22 but whose commencement was delayed in order to accommodate priority additions to last year's programme. At a time of great challenge and change, I intend to retain the capacity and flexibility to launch inspections into emerging areas of interest or concern. In line with the UK Borders Act 2007,

it is also open to the Home Secretary to commission me to carry out an inspection on any topic during the course of the year.

I look forward to working closely with the Home Office to deliver this programme and to driving improvements in the operation of the UK government's border and immigration functions through independent scrutiny and objective, evidence-based recommendations.

[ICIBI Inspection Plan 2022-23](#)

David Neal

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, April 2022

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