

Spectators at Matlock's raft event urged to spare a thought for the environment

Press release

This year's Matlock Bath Boxing Day raft event is looking likely to go ahead, dependent on government guidelines.



The Environment Agency is urging spectators to leave their flour filled plastic bags and other missiles at home

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In previous years, spectators to the popular event have thrown eggs, flour, plastic or paper bags, and other products at the race rafters from various points along the 3.5 mile course of the race into the River Derwent, which poses a real threat to the environment and wildlife.

Paul Reeves, Environment Officer at the Environment Agency, said:

Whilst we realise the Matlock raft event is an important social event for the area, we are appealing to the many spectators to spare a thought for the local environment by not throwing flour-filled plastic bags or other objects at the raft racers and into the water.

If plastic or paper bags enter the watercourse, they pose a real threat to local wildlife and in previous years there have been sightings of water birds near the floating flour bags following the Boxing Day event.

Whilst we are happy for the event to go ahead, we are strongly encouraging spectators to enjoy the Raft Event without endangering

the environment.

Historically the Matlock Bath Boxing Day raft event has attracted a large number of local residents as well as visitors from further afield, which has a positive impact on the local economy. The event also raises funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

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[Making Christmas magic for everyone](#)

Our employees and supply chain have been supporting local charities both in West Cumbria and the Warrington area by donating toys to make sure every local child wakes up with a gift on Christmas Day.

The West Cumbrian charity, Family Action has worked with local councils and charities to distribute gifts to families in need in both the Allerdale and Copeland area.

Kerry Jewell from Family Action, said:

We are overwhelmed with the contribution of gifts and toys from the community. The gifts donated will make a huge difference to children who would have received very little or nothing at all on Christmas morning.

This support is not about a quick fix at Christmas, it's about finding out what issues families are facing and offering help or referring them to relevant agencies, to make sure they get the support they need.

Sellafield Ltd has also given funding to Family Action to support 50 families in Copeland and Allerdale with gift vouchers for Christmas, and to support 100 families with vegetable hampers and meat vouchers, so that they have fresh food for the Christmas period.

A further grant has also been made to West Cumbria Community Action Trust for their winter support project. This will provide an essential food hamper and Christmas lunch for 30 people and a winter falls prevention hamper for 100 elderly people in our community.

Tracey West, social impact manager, Sellafield Ltd said:

The support towards this appeal has been brilliant, it has been a real team effort. Our Sellafield Ltd Graduate Council has also been supporting it as well as many of our supply chain companies and local stores in our community.

We have worked closely with our local authorities and Family Action to ensure the gifts reach the right people and make a difference on Christmas Day.

Toys collected by our teams in Warrington have been donated to the Neighbourhoods' in Warrington Christmas Toy appeal, helping to ensure that no child goes without a gift or pyjamas at Christmas.

Last year they were able to give 641 children a present, but this has increased to over 800 children this year.

The toys will be distributed across the town by Warrington Borough Council Neighbourhoods Team.

Toiletries and food are also being donated to local charity Room at the Inn and the Y project, which supports homeless and isolated people in Warrington.

Sellafield Ltd's interim head of Warrington offices Alan Wharrier said:

The company has a proud tradition of supporting the town's charities and it's great that our workforce has supported these appeals.

Mitie has also provided support by collecting and delivering all the donations.

Cllr Tony Higgins, executive lead member, leisure and community at Warrington Borough Council said:

The gifts will make a huge difference to the families we work with and make Christmas extra special for struggling families. The additional support we give these families will hopefully mean they won't be in the same position next year.

[UK regulator approves use of](#)

Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in 5 to 11-year olds

Press release

A new paediatric formulation of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for children aged 5 to 11 after meeting the required safety, quality and effectiveness standards.



A new age-appropriate formulation of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) for use in children aged 5 to 11 years old has been approved today by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) after finding that it is safe and effective. This approval was given following a robust review of safety data that shows a positive benefit-risk profile for this vaccine to be used in this age group.

“Parents and carers can be reassured that no new vaccine for children would have been approved unless the expected standards of safety, quality and effectiveness have been met.

“We have concluded that the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for 5 to 11-year olds, with no new safety concerns identified. We have carefully considered all the available data and reached the decision that there is robust evidence to support a positive benefit risk for children in this age group.

“Our detailed review of all side-effect reports to date has found that the overwhelming majority relate to mild symptoms, such as a sore arm or a flu-like illness. We have in place a comprehensive safety surveillance strategy for monitoring the safety of all UK-approved COVID-19 vaccines and this includes children aged 5 to 11 years old.”

Today’s approval is for a formulation specially designed for 5-11 year olds and given at a lower dose compared to that used in individuals aged 12 and above (10 micrograms compared with 30 micrograms).

As with other age groups, it is given as two injections in the upper arm. It

will be for the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to make the final recommendation on the dosing interval.

In coming to this decision, the MHRA has liaised closely with other international regulators and public health bodies and carefully considered global data on use in 5-11-year olds. These data demonstrate a favourable safety profile compared with that seen in other age groups. Over 5.5 million dosages of the vaccine in 5-11s have now been administered in the US alone.

Notes to Editor

1. This new authorisation to the Conditional Marketing Authorisation (CMA) granted by the MHRA is valid in Great Britain only and was approved via the [European Commission \(EC\) Decision Reliance Route](#). This is when the marketing authorisation application made by the company references the decision made by the EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP). The MHRA reviews this application, together with due consideration of the EC decision, before making an independent decision on the quality, safety, and effectiveness of the vaccine.
2. [The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK. All work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits justify any risks.
3. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency ('the agency') has three centres. The MHRA, the [National Institute for Biological Standards and Control \(NIBSC\)](#) and the [Clinical Practice Research Datalink \(CPRD\)](#). The agency is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care.
4. [The Commission on Human Medicines \(CHM\)](#) advises ministers and the MHRA on the safety, efficacy and quality of medicinal products. The CHM is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the [Department of Health and Social Care](#).

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[SSRO accepts application for a determination](#)

News story

On 3 December 2021 the SSRO accepted an application from a party to a qualifying defence contract for a determination under the Defence Reform Act 2014.

SSRO

Single Source Regulations Office

The SSRO has been asked to determine the extent to which research and development costs are allowable, including consideration of Research and Development Expenditure Credit.

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[SSRO closes its investigation of a matter referred to it](#)

News story

The SSRO has closed its investigation of the appropriate step 2 (cost risk) adjustment to be used in calculating the contract profit rate for two amendments to a qualifying defence contract.

SSRO

Single Source Regulations Office

Before closing the investigation, the SSRO noted that:

- the parties to the contract resolved their dispute and agreed the cost risk adjustment for the contract amendments; and
- both parties indicated a preference for the SSRO not to proceed with the referral.

No determination will be made in this case.

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