

IPO staff answer SOS from Newport Sea Cadets

The day before Christmas Eve last year brought heartbreak for the local charity, as 18 inches of floodwater poured into their HQ, undoing recent renovations to the building overnight. Uniforms, office equipment, kitchen amenities and a great deal of the training and sporting equipment were ruined, leaving the cadets' facility just off the newly built Riverbank Avenue unable to open and in need of significant work.

When Trustees from Newport Sea Cadets put out a call for help, staff at the IPO jumped at the chance to offer their assistance, initially offering to donate some surplus chairs and desks from the IPO premises in Newport.

But that was just the beginning. When the IPO staff members learned the full extent of the damage, they seized the chance to help get the building open again and help restore a degree of normality for the cadets, aged from 10 to 18.

It was then 'all hands on deck', as a squad of volunteers from the IPO grabbed paint-brushes and donned their overalls, helping make things ship-shape again with a full repaint of the building's exterior.

With the weather fortunately on their side, the team managed to get the whole job done during just one day in September.

Newport Sea Cadets Group Secretary and Treasurer Ann Bowen said:

We acquired the building in 1953 and trace our history back to 1900, making us one of the oldest – if not the very oldest – Sea Cadet units in the country. Being run entirely by volunteers, we are totally reliant on our own fundraising to cover the costs of maintaining our building and purchasing equipment for the cadets. It was an enormous effort in the first place to secure the funding we need to carry out our renovations. When we suffered such dreadful damage and losses in the flood, we feared our insurance would never cover all of it. It just couldn't have come at a worse time.

When the IPO first got in touch with the kind offer to donate some old office equipment we were naturally delighted. But they've gone so much further than this, and I cannot begin to thank the volunteers from the IPO enough – their efforts have been truly amazing. This work has really transformed the way our building looks, so it's something we can take pride in again.

The IPO says that encouraging staff to embrace local volunteering projects is a central part of what helps make a brilliant place to work. Previous

volunteering projects have seen IPO staff carry out litter-picks in and around Newport, helping with conservation work in the Brecon Beacons, and doing work to support the Prince's Trust.

IPO Chief Executive Tim Moss said:

This is a great example of a project that will make a real difference to wellbeing within the community. Encouraging our people to get involved in projects such as this one and 'give something back' is a big part of helping make the IPO a brilliant place to work. I am thrilled to see volunteers from the IPO making a such a positive impact, and I'd like to congratulate all our people who came to the aid of Newport Sea Cadets at a time of need.

IPO staff member Julia Appleby, who volunteered on the project said:

I am proud to have given something back to the local community and so pleased that I had the chance to do this through my job. We're all very grateful to Ann and the team at Newport Sea Cadets for keeping us stocked up with cups of tea – I'm pretty sure that helped us manage to smash painting the whole building in one day! I'll definitely be looking for other opportunities to volunteer through work in the future and will encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Notes to editors:

1) Newport Sea Cadets come from a range of backgrounds and are united by the goal of becoming the "best version of themselves" through activities and adventures that promote "teamwork, respect, loyalty, self-confidence, commitment, self-discipline and honesty", in a safe environment. They are supported by 11 volunteer staff and 6 committee members, who according to the Sea Cadets' website share a commitment to "helping young people launch well in life today". Sea Cadets offers youngsters a wide range of activities not all confined to the water – from sailing, windsurfing and powerboating – to rock climbing, camping, and music.

2) Newport Sea Cadets dates back to 1900, originally under the name of Maindee Church Lads' Brigade. It acquired its current HQ in 1953.

3) [The Intellectual Property Office \(IPO\)](#) is an executive agency of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It currently employs around 1,600 staff, mostly based at the Newport HQ.

4) The [IPO's published strategy 2018-21](#) sets out a range of measures with a goal of making the IPO a brilliant place to work. This forms part of the IPO's overall strategy to make the UK the most innovative and creative country in the world.

5) More information about [Newport Sea Cadets](#) is published online.

[UK-Swiss Decarbonising Cities Conference a success](#)

World news story

Cities play a central role on decarbonisation and the energy transition. In the lead-up to COP26, we brought together thought leaders in decarbonisation.



It is with great pleasure that we look back on the Decarbonising Cities Conference, which we organised in collaboration with Swisspower. More than 300 people from science, innovation and business joined us in person and online to discuss how we can decarbonise our cities and make them more climate friendly.

Our speakers gave insight into topics in the run up to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which the UK will host in October-November. Scientists and leaders discussed the impacts of climate change and cooperation between the public and private sectors. In addition, 14 clean tech start-ups from Switzerland and the UK presented their ideas and sustainable solutions for our cities.

David Moran, the COP26 Regional Ambassador for Europe, highlighted that to make COP26 in Glasgow a success, we need commitment to reduce emissions by a significant amount and a long-term strategy, and how states are going to get to a net-zero balance of carbon emissions by 2050. Furthermore, we need the ambition to keep the global temperature under control. Finally, we need to deliver and act now in terms of energy transition, moving to electric vehicles, moving out of coal and much more.

Thomas Stocker, President of the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research and Professor of Climate and Environmental Physics at the University of Bern spoke about responsibility for the global heating that we are experiencing

now, and the importance of cities leading the way in adopting net zero policies. Weather extremes as we have experienced this summer, Stocker highlights, will increase in intensity and frequency in the future. One way in which we can achieve our climate goals in cities was presented by Kristen Panerali from the WEF. She points out that clean electrification should be the top priority for any city decarbonisation strategy, which requires a dramatic system change. Massive clean electrification and efficiency could help reduce global energy demand at the same time it serves a larger economy and population of the future.

Numerous personal climate goals, which the participants posted on a wall at the conference, rounded off the event and gave each individual cause to continue to think about climate goals and to shape the path towards a sustainable future for our cities.

Published 22 September 2021

[Scottish Secretary comments on July GDP figures](#)

Press release

Reacting to the latest GDP figures, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack says we must build back better, stronger and greener.



Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

Today's figures underline that there are challenges ahead, and that our focus must remain on a sustainable recovery.

Our Plan For Jobs is helping people in all parts of the United Kingdom get back to work and we've invested £1.5 billion in growth

deals across Scotland, while communities all over the country will see great benefits from our new Levelling Up and Community Renewal Funds.

This all comes on top of the UK Government's unprecedented package of support which has seen an additional £14.5 billion funding provided to the Scottish Government.

Thanks to the UK Government funded vaccine programme, including the new booster vaccine and rollout of jobs for 12-15 year olds, we will build back better, stronger and greener for the benefit of generations to come.

Background:

- The UK Government's furlough scheme, extended until the end of September 2021, paid up to 80 percent of wages. The self-employed support scheme, was also extended to the end of September 2021. The furlough scheme in Scotland supported cumulatively more than 900,000 jobs alone.
- More than 100,000 businesses in Scotland have been supported from UK Government business loans worth £4 billion.
- The UK Government has provided billions in extra funding for the welfare system for those unable to access other forms of support.
- This direct support is on top of the additional £14.5 billion provided to the Government since the start of the pandemic.
- Our new Health and Social Care Levy will help provide the Scottish Government with up to £1 billion a year in additional funding for health from 2022-23
- The UK Government is investing billions to help people of all ages back into work, including our £2 billion Kickstart scheme for young people, sector work programmes and recruitment of thousands of additional Work Coaches.
- The UK Government continues to provide the bulk of Covid testing in Scotland and has moved quickly to buy vaccines for distribution across all parts of the UK. The UK Government is providing all Covid testing in Scotland outside of the NHS.

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[County lines drug dealer to serve jail time](#)

News story

Teric Aroriode-Francis has been sent to prison after his original sentence was referred to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.



A drug dealer has been sent to prison after his original sentence was referred to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.

Teric Aroriode-Francis, now 25, participated in a county lines drug enterprise supplying cocaine, heroin and cannabis to people in the Ipswich area from a base in London. He was also convicted of perverting the course of justice after reporting his car stolen to the police on two occasions after he became aware it had been used to commit a drug related robbery.

On 14 July, Aroriode-Francis was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment, suspended for 2 years at Preston Crown Court.

On 22 September the Court of Appeal found his original sentence to be unduly lenient and increased it to 3 years and 10 months' immediate imprisonment.

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

"The original sentence failed to take account of the seriousness of these crimes and the devastating impact drugs have on lives and communities. I welcome the decision of the Court of Appeal to increase the sentence."

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[**Forestry Commission simplify felling licence applications to protect trees and people**](#)



In response to pests and disease outbreaks, and public safety risks, the Forestry Commission has today (Wednesday 22 September) announced it is taking action to simplify part of the felling licence application process in certain circumstances.

A limited number of felling licence applications directly related to the management of tree pests and diseases may be exempt from being included on the Public Consultation Register before the trees are felled, where the Forestry Commission deem that tree felling needs to be expedited for an overriding biosecurity or public safety benefit.

The change will come into effect from 8 November 2021 and will be applied by the Forestry Commission to very specific situations, for example to prevent the spread of quarantine pests or diseases, such as *Ips typographus* (spruce bark beetle), or to facilitate the prompt removal of ash trees infected with ash dieback and growing within falling distance of roads. It does not impact on other conditions related to the issuing of felling licences, such as the need to restock. The outcome of all felling licence applications will continue to be published on the [Forestry Commission Decision Public Register](#), for public record.

Prof Nicola Spence, the UK's Chief Plant Health Officer, said:

To protect trees and woodland cover, tree felling is a carefully controlled activity. This change has been made to accelerate a small number of applications where swift action is required to deal with specific tree pests and diseases as part of our strong response to the management of these threats.

Everyone involved in the felling of trees must always ensure that a felling licence or other permissions are in place before any felling is carried out. It is an offence to fell trees without a felling licence where one would have been required, and anyone involved (the owner, agent and timber merchant or contractor) can be prosecuted.

You can [apply online for a felling licence](#).

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Last updated 5 November 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 5 November 2021

Changes will come into effect on 8 November 2021

2. 22 September 2021

First published.