

Essex man ordered to pay almost £400 for fishing illegally

Thomas Ross, of Forest Terrace in Chigwell, was caught fishing without a licence last New Year's Eve at Heybridge Basin in Maldon.

The case was heard at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court where Ross pleaded guilty. The court fined the 39-year-old £360 and imposed a £36 victim surcharge. At a total of £396, this is almost 10 times more than the current price of a £45 fishing licence*.

Lesley Robertson, Enforcement Team Leader for the Environment Agency in East Anglia, said:

This case shows we pursue offenders through the courts and will not hesitate to take enforcement action where anglers flout the rules. Anyone found fishing illegally may face prosecution and a fine of up to £2,500.

All anglers need a valid Environment Agency rod licence. The money raised through the sales of rod licences is re-invested and enables us to improve all fisheries, including rivers, for anglers.

Our Fisheries Enforcement Officers routinely undertake licence checks and we urge anyone with information about illegal fishing to contact us on 0800 807060.

Licences now run 365 days from the day of purchase offering 12 full months of fishing.

Any angler aged 13 or over, fishing on a river, canal or still water needs a licence. A 1 day licence costs from just £6, and an annual licence costs from just £30. Concessions are available. Junior licences are free for 13- to 16-year-olds.

Check [GOV.UK for more information or to buy a rod licence](https://www.gov.uk) or call the Environment Agency on 0344 800 5386 between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively you can purchase a licence from your local Post Office branch.

The Environment Agency carries out enforcement work all year round and is supported by police forces and the [Angling Trust](#). Fisheries enforcement work is intelligence-led, targeting known hot-spots and where illegal fishing is reported.

[Operation Lungfish](#), a month long enforcement campaign ran during the summer, which targeted poachers and those fishing without a licence. In just the first 2 weeks in East Anglia 33 offences were reported by our Fisheries Enforcement Officers.

Anyone with information about illegal fishing activities can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Thomas Ross pleaded guilty of breaching Section 27(1)(a) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. He was sentenced at Chelmsford magistrates' court on 1 September 2021.

*£45 is the cost of a 12-month trout and coarse 3-rod fishing licence.

[New Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Government](#)

News story

Andrew Goodall has been appointed as the new Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Government.



Andrew, who is currently Director General Health and Social Services and NHS Wales Chief Executive, was chosen following an open competition. The appointment has been made by the First Minister of Wales in agreement with the Cabinet Secretary. Andrew will take up the post in November 2021.

The First Minister of Wales, Rt Hon Mark Drakeford said:

“I’m delighted that Andrew Goodall will be taking up the role of Permanent Secretary as we build a stronger, fairer and greener Wales together beyond the pandemic.

He has been a leading figure in Welsh public service for many years, so I warmly welcome his appointment to this role.

I would like to thank Shan for her leadership of the Welsh civil service during these most challenging of times, and wish her well for the future”.

The Cabinet Secretary, Simon Case, said:

I would like to congratulate Andrew on his appointment. Andrew's breadth of experience across the Welsh Government and NHS Wales makes him well placed to play a key leadership role across Welsh public services as we rebuild from the pandemic. I very much look forward to working with him as part of the senior leadership of the UK Civil Service.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Shan Morgan for her outstanding contribution to the UK Civil Service over four decades and wish her all the best in the future.

Commenting on his new role, Andrew said:

It is a great honour to take up the role of Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Government. I look forward to working with staff across the civil service and the wider Welsh public sector workforce.

There are major challenges ahead but I am confident that we can rise to them by working together, and building on the foundations that Shan has laid over the last five years.

Notes to Editors

- Andrew has been DG Health and Social Services and Chief Executive NHS Wales since June 2014.
- Prior to that he was Chief Executive of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board from 2009 to 2014.
- His other posts include Transition Director at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Community, Joint Chief Executive at Neath and Bridgend Local Health Boards and Head of Performance Improvement at Cardiff and Vale NHS Trusts.

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[Shearwater and Agem One report published](#)

News story

Immobilisation and flooding of a dredger after repeated collisions with an

unmanned barge near Kinlochbervie, Scotland.



Our investigation report into the immobilisation of the dredger Shearwater, after its propeller shafts were fouled by its own towline while towing the barge Agem One on 9 April 2020, is now published. Shearwater was damaged and holed, resulting in flooding, after repeatedly colliding with the unmanned barge during the accident.

The report contains details of what happened, actions taken and recommendations: [read more](#).

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[Numbers on furlough fall to lowest level since start of pandemic](#)

- around 340,000 people have moved off furlough across the UK over the course of July, according to the latest data
- a total of 1.6 million people were on furlough as of 31 July, down from almost two million on 30 June, in a sure sign the government's Plan for Jobs is getting people back to work
- around 800,000 people have claimed the latest self-employment scheme grant

The number of people on furlough has fallen to the lowest level since the start of the pandemic as the UK economy continues to rebound and businesses reopen, according to new statistics.

Figures published today show the number of people on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) in July stood at 1.6 million – down 340,000 from almost two million at the end of June and a peak of nearly nine million at the height of the pandemic in May last year.

The figures also show a striking fall in the number of young people on

furlough, showing that our Plan for Jobs is continuing to support young people back into work. A total of 121,600 people between the ages of 18-34 came off the CJRS during the months of June and July.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

It's fantastic to see furlough levels at their lowest since the start of the pandemic with young people in particular getting back to work and kickstarting their careers as the UK gets back to business.

With furlough naturally unwinding and coming to a close at the end of the month we are doubling down on our Plan for Jobs – focusing our support on giving people the skills and opportunities they need to succeed in the jobs of tomorrow.

The number of people on furlough in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, as well as accommodation and food services have seen particularly large reductions in the number of jobs on furlough over the course of the summer, with numbers furloughed from these sectors declining by 26,200 and 96,700 in July respectively.

The latest statistics for the Self Employment Income Support Scheme show a consistent fall in demand since the beginning of the scheme. Across all five grants, 9.9 million claims have been made and more than £27 billion has been claimed by almost three million people.

The furlough scheme has protected nearly 12 million jobs over the last 18 months, with nearly 2 million fewer people now expected to be out of work than was previously feared. Last summer, the OBR forecast that the unemployment rate would reach nearly 12%, but they now think it will peak at just over half that number. The scheme is naturally unwinding as the economy rebounds and businesses reopen and will come to a close at the end of this month.

This comes after the announcement of a Government-backed insurance scheme for the live events sector, which will help them plan events with confidence through to next year, and boost a sector that supports more than 700,000 jobs.

In another positive sign for the economy and jobs, the latest Insolvency Service figures also show that fewer potential redundancies were notified in August than any other month in 2020-2021.

Furlough was the right thing to do at the height of the pandemic, when necessary health restrictions were in place – this way we were able to protect lives and livelihoods. As the economy reopens and businesses trade again it's right that employees can get back to work. The Government is doubling down on its Plan for Jobs as the UK economy rebounds – focusing our support on giving people the skills and opportunities they need to succeed in the jobs of tomorrow through schemes including Kickstart, Restart and

apprenticeships.

Further information:

[Consultation on mandatory vaccination for frontline health and care staff](#)

- Consultation launches today on making vaccination a condition of deployment for frontline workers in health and care settings
- Staff may be required to have COVID-19 and flu vaccines to protect patients from infection, serious illness or death
- 92% of NHS staff have had their first dose and 88% both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, and Ministers urge remainder to take up offer now to keep themselves and those they care for safe

The government is seeking views on plans for staff in health and care settings in England to be required to have COVID-19 and flu vaccines to protect vulnerable people.

A six-week consultation will be launched today, looking at whether requirements should apply for health and wider social care workers: those in contact with patients and people receiving care. It would mean only those who are fully vaccinated, unless medically exempt, could be deployed to deliver health and care services. The consultation will also seek views on whether flu vaccines should be a requirement for health and care workers.

There is a longstanding precedent for vaccination requirements in NHS roles. Workplace health and safety and occupational health policies are already in place requiring the Hepatitis B vaccine for those undertaking exposure-prone procedure – such as surgeons.

The percentage of NHS trust staff who have received one dose of a Covid vaccine is around 92% nationally, with 88% of staff having received both doses. However, there is variation in uptake with new data due to be published today showing that between NHS trusts, uptake rates can vary from around 78% to 94% for both doses.

National flu vaccination rates in the health service have increased from 14% in 2002 to 76% last year. In some settings, however, rates are as low as 53%.

Flu vaccination has been recommended for staff and vulnerable groups in the UK since the late 1960s, with the average number of estimated deaths in England for the five seasons 2015 to 2020 at over 11,000 deaths annually. During the 2019/2020 winter season, 86% of deaths associated with flu were people aged 65 and over.

As well as protecting vulnerable patients, the proposals will protect staff,

which is particularly important for hospital trusts where extensive unexpected staff absences can put added pressure on already hardworking clinicians providing patient care during busy periods like winter.

Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Many patients being treated in hospitals and other clinical settings are most at risk of suffering serious consequences of COVID-19, and we must do what we can to protect them.

It's so clear to see the impact vaccines have against respiratory viruses which can be fatal to the vulnerable, and that's why we're exploring mandatory vaccines for both COVID-19 and flu.

We will consider the responses to the consultation carefully but, whatever happens, I urge the small minority of NHS staff who have not yet been jabbed to consider getting vaccinated – for their own health as well as those around them.

The government recently consulted on making COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for staff working the adult social care sector. To protect care home residents, workers will now need to be double jabbed as a condition of deployment in CQC-regulated care homes in England by 11 November, unless exempt.

The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) Social Care Working Group has also advised there is a strong scientific case to have similar approaches to vaccination offers and support in NHS inpatient settings as there will be in care homes, given the similarly close and overlapping networks between residents or patients and workers of all kinds in both.

The COVID-19 vaccine has already had a significant impact on reducing hospitalisations and deaths, with Public Health England estimating that over 112,000 lives have been saved so far.

The Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised this winter will be the first in the UK when SARS-CoV-2 is expected to co-circulate alongside other respiratory viruses such as flu. This could significantly contribute to the NHS's winter pressures, with more vulnerable people expected to be admitted into hospital over the coming months.

The consultation will seek views on the proposals, its scope, and any potential impact it could have on staffing and safety such as reducing staff sickness absence. Findings will then help inform decision-making around how the change could be implemented and who could be exempt – if a decision is taken to introduce this requirement. Staff, healthcare providers, stakeholders, patients and their families are being urged to take part to have their views heard, with a final decision expected this winter.

Since the COVID-19 vaccination rollout began in December 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care has partnered with NHS England to make vaccines as

accessible as possible for health and social care workers. NHS England continues put on hundreds of COVID-19 vaccination centres across the country to make vaccinations as easy as possible, and has been providing information at every turn to address concerns staff may have on vaccine safety and efficacy for different groups.

For example, extensive real-world data showing vaccines are safe and highly effective for vulnerable groups, including pregnant women – a group we know can have some hesitancy around getting the vaccine. However, research shows pregnant women are more likely to become seriously ill from COVID-19 and 98% of those in hospital due to COVID-19 are unvaccinated – while no pregnant woman who has had two doses of the vaccine has ever been hospitalised from COVID-19 in the UK.

Every year NHS organisations are expected make sure staff can also easily access the flu vaccine, and encourage staff to get vaccinated, for example by opening easy access drop in clinics on hospital sites, or offering 24-hour mobile vaccinations.

We continue to do all we can to protect NHS patients and prevent hospital transmission. As part of the £5.4 billion package announced on Monday to support the NHS over the next six months, £2.8 billion will cover costs for enhanced infection control measures to keep staff and patients safe from the virus.

Background

- The consultation will be published on gov.uk later today.
- The consultation will consider three risks in clinical settings and how they can be mitigated by vaccination: the level of interaction in a clinical setting between staff, patients and visitors; the vulnerability of patients; and high-risk procedures.
- Some individuals have an allergy or condition where the Green Book or the JCVI advises seeking medical advice before proceeding with vaccination, on whether the individual should be exempt. We will ensure that any regulations allow for exemptions on medical grounds. Any future regulations will be in line with the Green Book on Immunisation against infectious disease (COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a) and the JCVI which reflect clinical advice.