

Chief Inspector's thoughts on Maritime Safety Week 2021

News story

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As our recent Annual Report highlights, the industry continues to face a number of persistent safety challenges. For MAIB there are three main areas of concern that we'll be highlighting this week along with reiterating the important safety learning uncovered through our investigations. We'll be discussing safety issues involving ultra large vessels and container ships; recreational craft and fishing vessel safety.

I welcome the efforts being made by all parts of the industry this week to raise safety awareness through a variety of engaging events and I look forward to participating in constructive discussions with many industry colleagues.

Read more about [World Maritime Week from the Department for Transport and Maritime Minister Robert Courts](#).

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[UK Minister for the Middle East marks Jordan Centenary in Amman](#)

Press release

The Minister for the Middle East, James Cleverly, has reaffirmed the importance of the historic relationship between the UK and Jordan on his first official visit to the country.



Minister Cleverly met Yousef Bataineh, Secretary-General of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, to discuss regional issues, including the UK's position on illegal Israeli settlements and a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. With the Syria conflict now in its 10th year, the Minister thanked Jordan for its generosity in hosting more than 600,000 Syrians who have fled the conflict.

The Minister visited a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) community centre in Amman to see how UK aid is helping Jordan to care for its refugee population. He also saw first-hand how UK support to the Jordanian National Aid Fund is helping vulnerable Jordanians whose lives have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The support goes to those who have lost jobs and livelihoods in the informal sector, and households where women are the sole income-generators.

Minister for the Middle East, James Cleverly, said:

On my first visit to the Hashemite Kingdom, I discovered how the UK-Jordan partnership is growing in strength during this landmark centenary year. We celebrated long-standing cooperation on defence, regional security, and economic stability, as we build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UK is a committed partner, providing assistance to Jordan as it generously hosts refugees fleeing regional conflicts. I saw how the UK is helping to strengthen Jordan's social protection system, ensuring those most affected by the pandemic can get back on their feet.

Ahead of the COP26 Summit in the UK later this year, the Minister met some of Jordan's renewable energy sector investors and representatives of companies with a high energy use. The group discussed how Jordan can transition to renewable energy as its primary source of electricity, with the Minister pressing companies to participate in the 'Race to Zero' initiative.

Notes to Editors:

- UK has provided £25m to support the Jordanian National Aid Fund expansion programme providing cash transfers to 293,000 economically vulnerable Jordanian households.
- The UK's pledge of at least £205 million to the Syrian crisis in 2021 will ensure the UK continues to support the most vulnerable in Jordan. The UK has contributed over £726m in bilateral development assistance to Jordan since 2012. This has supported economic development, access to quality education, social protection, humanitarian support and the stability of a key ally.
- As one of COVAX's largest donors, the UK has committed £548 million to help supply more than a billion Covid-19 vaccine doses for up to 92 developing countries this year, including Jordan.

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[HMCTS opens new Service Centre in Salford Quays](#)

Today (Monday 5 July) a new Courts and Tribunals Service Centre opens in Salford Quays, Greater Manchester.

Since 2019, we've opened Service Centres in Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham and Loughborough, handling more than one million queries and giving people better access to the information and assistance they need.

Each centre brings expert staff together under one roof to provide support and guidance about cases. They're the first port of call for anyone who wants more information on their case – from legal professionals to public court users.

Una Bennett, HMCTS National Services Director, is positive about the opening of the new site:

Our new Salford Quays Courts and Tribunals Service Centre will provide a more streamlined and consistent service for our users. Our team will be able to answer incoming enquiries more quickly, access specific case details so that callers do not have to keep explaining why they are contacting us, and provide the right information first time.

New technology, new ways of working and modern offices will provide staff with the tools they need to provide a better service to those who need our support and guidance.

Service Centre staff are dedicated to handling queries, making responses more efficient and consistent. Staff at courts and tribunals, who were previously handling these queries, will be freed up to support the public and legal professionals during more complex hearings that happen in person.

The Salford site will provide a home for much of our Common Platform work, including providing specialist support for the magistrates' courts. Examples of the types of queries staff in this Service Centre will handle include calls and emails about social security, child support, probate and divorce.

The existing Service Centres have already helped to improve efficiency. They provide a quicker service that is easier for people to understand and navigate. For example, a divorce carried out digitally can now be completed in 20 weeks on average from start to finish. If carried out on paper this would take around 75 weeks.

The Salford Service Centre will also include a Digital Hub, hosting software and support teams. These teams are responsible for software being used across courts, tribunals and Service Centres, as well as by members of the public. Basing this team in the new Salford Service Centre will enable closer collaboration between the software developers and the people actually using the systems.

This is the fourth Service Centre to open as part of HMCTS's £1bn reform programme, modernising services since 2016.

Yorkshire builder sentenced for breaching bankruptcy terms

Steven Bernard Kerrigan, 59, from Pontefract, West Yorkshire, was a director of Steven Homes Building Contractors Limited (SHBC), incorporated in August 2008.

In October 2011, Kerrigan was made bankrupt however he continued as director of SHBC, which was an offence under the terms of his bankruptcy.

In February 2017, Kerrigan dissolved his company, at which point he was required to inform all creditors. Companies House contacted Kerrigan on multiple occasions requesting he confirm the details of creditors he had contacted. Kirklees Magistrates Court heard that this did not happen, leaving any creditors unable to pursue SHBC for funds owed.

His accountants, who were owed over £2,000, did not find out until June 2017 and so Companies House referred him to the Insolvency Service for a criminal investigation. Kerrigan pleaded guilty to acting as a company director whilst bankrupt, and failing to inform creditors when he dissolved his company.

He was sentenced to a 12 month community order and 150 hours of unpaid work at Kirklees Magistrates Court on 22 June. He has also been disqualified as a company director for 2 years meaning he cannot directly or indirectly, become involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Julie Barnes, chief investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

Steven Kerrigan was an experienced company director and was aware of the restrictions his bankruptcy came with. Despite this, he failed to follow the rules and left a firm out of pocket when he refused to tell them about the striking off application, threatening to bump them when they refused to provide further services.

We work closely with our partners to find unscrupulous directors and will always pursue prosecutions against company directors where they fail to meet the standards expected of them.

Steven Kerrigan is from Pontefract, West Yorkshire and his date of birth is June 1962

Steven Homes Building Contractors (company no 06675788)

Bankruptcy restrictions are wide ranging. The effects are the same whether you are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or to an undertaking. Guidance on the main statutory consequences flowing from a [bankruptcy](#)

[restrictions order or undertaking.](#)

[Information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct.](#)

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: