

Airline suit work restarts in redundant laboratories

News story

Airline suit work has restarted at Dounreay after more than a year's delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Wearing an airline suit is cumbersome and the wearer needs to be dressed and undressed by a dedicated team of helpers who then provide support throughout the task. Work was put on hold in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in social distancing being introduced, and the safety of Dounreay's workforce became of paramount importance. Now, as restrictions are being lifted, the site is able to restart projects where hazardous conditions require the wearing of airline suits.

The team that has been decommissioning the redundant low level effluent treatment plant is supporting the refresher training of their colleagues. Project Manager Mick O'Donnell said:

They are supporting the practical airline suit training by running through the physical training, including the use of tools, to simulate the arduous working conditions that you would have when doing physical work in an airline suit.

Project Manager Jason Simpson's team is decommissioning the redundant laboratories in the Fuel Cycle Area (FCA). Much of the work is carried out in airline suits due to the radiological hazards in the cluster of 40 cells designed to analyse and test materials used in reactors and reprocessing plants.

Jason explained that before the work restarted, the team went through the airline suit refresher training and procedures were updated to take account of the changed conditions caused by the COVID-19 virus. He added:

We are grateful for the help of other departments, who delivered the refresher training and revisited the safe systems of work to ensure all safety aspects of the work had been considered.

The latest laboratory to be cleaned up is Lab 103. Although it is one of the smaller laboratories, the operators still size reduced and removed over 40 bins (approximately 8 tonnes) of waste and redundant equipment from the laboratory.

Becky Ruddy, Head of FCA Decommissioning, said of the teams recent return to airline suit work:

Jason, Mick and the wider teams have worked extremely hard to develop a safe way of working which incorporates COVID-19 requirements as well as all the other requirements we need to consider as part of any decommissioning project on a daily basis.

This hard work and determination has enabled us to resume progress against our company mission of working together to responsibly deliver the Dounreay programme efficiently and effectively. Well done and thanks to everyone involved.

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[Five-yearly review of the Office of Tax Simplification](#)

News story

HM Treasury has published a call for evidence as part of its five-yearly review of the OTS.



On 12 May 2021, HM Treasury published a [call for evidence](#) seeking views from interested stakeholders to inform the first [statutory five-yearly review](#) of the effectiveness of the OTS. The closing date for the call for evidence is 6 July 2021.

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[UK signs up to global alliance to protect our oceans and at-risk communities](#)

The UK has today (Wednesday 26 May) announced its membership of the [Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#).

The alliance aims to drive \$500 million of global investment by 2030 into nature-based solutions to climate change. The investment will be used to enhance marine and coastal ecosystems such as reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds to increase resilience to climate change and mitigate its impact on coastal communities.

The UK becomes the second G7 country after Canada to become a full member of the Alliance. Through the UK's G7 and COP26 Presidencies, ORRAA will be uniquely placed to bring the financial sector, governments and NGOs together to drive investment in nature-based solutions and to build resilience in vulnerable coastal communities.

The announcement was made by International Environment Minister Lord Zac Goldsmith at the World Economic Forum's Virtual Ocean Dialogue, in a discussion on the importance of ocean recovery in tackling climate change.

It follows last week's [meeting between the Climate and Environment Ministers of the G7 ministerial](#) under UK leadership, at which historic commitments putting climate, biodiversity and the environment at the heart of worldwide COVID-19 recovery were agreed.

All G7 members signed up to the global '30x30' initiative to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of the world's land and at least 30 per cent of the world's ocean by 2030 and agreed to strengthen support for ORRAA.

International Environment Minister Lord Zac Goldsmith said:

I am delighted the UK is moving to full membership of the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance. Our shared ocean is critical to the economic, social and environmental well-being of people and

the planet but is currently facing unprecedented pressures.

Ocean action is climate action. This is why we continue to champion global efforts towards marine protection, committing to increasing support for the Alliance as well as our existing 30by30 campaign.

Chip Cunliffe, Co-Chair of ORRAA, said:

Working more closely with the UK as it becomes a full member of ORRAA is hugely important – especially given the UK’s current global leadership through the G7 and COP26 presidencies. Our Alliance is uniquely placed to bring public and private stakeholders together to drive investment in nature-based solutions and to build resilience in vulnerable coastal communities.

Having the UK actively involved will help boost our multi-sector collaboration of governments, the finance and insurance sectors, NGOs and civil society – all working together to accelerate action, innovation and capital to secure positive outcomes for the Ocean.

The UK government recognises the importance of sustainable resilience for coastal communities and marine ecosystems as well as the vital role our ocean can play in wider climate change recovery. Speaking at the Virtual Ocean Dialogue, Lord Goldsmith outlined the link between climate recovery and ocean recovery, highlighting how the UK’s new £500m Blue Planet Fund will aim to help countries protect and restore critically important marine ecosystems.

Lord Goldsmith also discussed the role ocean science will play and how the UK is scaling up efforts to find collaborative solutions and share scientific expertise with other nations to drive ocean action throughout the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. To meet this aim, G7 countries have agreed an ambitious [‘G7 Ocean Decade Navigation Plan’](#) which provides a framework for G7 collaboration towards transformative ocean science for ocean action throughout the Decade.

During last week’s environment and climate ministerial, G7 countries also committed to step up international action to tackle ghost fishing gear, including agreement to support organisations such as the Global Ghost Gear Initiative and to carefully consider the recommendations of the UK-commissioned OECD report [‘Towards G7 Action to Combat Ghost Fishing Gear’](#).

ORRAA are also planning a roundtable at COP26, hosted by the UK this year, to secure concrete actions for ocean resilience.

Climate action needed from fashion and beauty industries to reduce emissions

When most of us look at pictures from the past, it is style, more than anything else, that identifies the era.

Whether it is frock coats, or flapper dresses, or pink punk hair.

The fashion and beauty industries absolutely define each age.

And today, we need your help to define this one, as the age when the world gets a grip of the climate crisis.

The situation is absolutely critical.

The world has dithered and delayed for far too long.

We are heading for temperature rises of three degrees, with a real risk of higher warming.

The science is very clear, that would mean catastrophe:

Crop failures. More than a million species pushed into extinction. And entire countries lost to the seas.

We simply must change course.

And we know what we are aiming for.

When the countries of the world signed the Paris Agreement in 2015, they committed to limit global temperature rises to two degrees.

And aim to a rise of only 1.5 degrees.

And that it is to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

But because of those years of delay, to keep the 1.5 degree target within reach, we must now halve global emissions over the next ten years.

Of course, this requires action from governments.

And as President of the next UN climate conference, COP26, I am pushing our world leaders to respond with the urgency the crisis demands.

But governments alone cannot sufficiently reduce emissions.

That requires action across the real economy.

We need business, we need investors driving companies, sectors, and the entire global economy towards its clean, green future.

And action from the fashion and beauty industries is a really vital ingredient as well.

Let's take the fashion industry.

According to Global Fashion Agenda and Mckinsey, worldwide, the industry produced over 2 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2018.

That is 4 percent of total global emissions.

That's well over the annual emissions of France, Germany and the UK, combined. Put together.

And, demand is on course to grow.

Globally, clothing and footwear consumption is set to rise by 63 percent over the next ten years.

So, I want to be frank: with today's ways of working, the planet simply cannot take it.

I want to be clear with you friends, this is not a dig at the industry in itself.

As the owner of multiple identical white shirts, I cannot pretend to be a fashion follower.

But I am a strong supporter of business. A very strong supporter.

I was the Business Secretary in the UK government over the past year and, as a team, the UK government worked hard to support businesses through the Covid-19 pandemic.

We supported lives and livelihoods.

I certainly don't want to curtail your industries. But I do want to see them move to even more sustainable ways of working.

And that, ultimately, is better for your bottom line.

I know that this is a growing movement within the sector, which is great news.

From brands built on more sustainable ways of working.

To innovations to reduce waste and increase the lifetime of garments:

Now, whether that is fashion rental companies and repair services.

Or big brands like Cos selling second hand pieces.

By the way it is a favorite brand of both my daughters', as well.

All this is fantastic. But, for the sector as a whole, there is much further

to go.

Because, on the fashion industry's own current trajectory, by 2030, its emissions will be almost double the level required to keep the 1.5 degree target within reach.

The sector would miss the 1.5 degree pathway by 50 percent.

So, we need a fundamental shift.

Sustainability cannot be the preserve of certain brands or discreet collections.

Nods to climate action are absolutely not enough.

We need the whole sector to embrace the goals of the Paris Agreement.

And to build clean ways of working into the heart of the fashion and beauty industries.

What does this mean in practice?

Most importantly, it means companies and investors joining the Race to Zero campaign.

This is a United Nations campaign that commits you to reaching net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.

And, crucially, it requires short-term targets, based on science to take you there.

So that net zero is not just some vague aspiration but a concrete plan.

This is vital to the Paris Agreement.

To keep the 1.5 degree target within reach, we need to reach net zero emissions by the middle of the century.

So it is fantastic that well over 2000 companies have already signed up to Race to Zero.

Including the likes of L'Oreal, Chanel, Artistic Milliners, Unilever, Natura and Co, Stella McCartney, and Ralph Lauren.

You can join through initiatives like the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action.

This is the principal route for the fashion industry to join.

Other businesses can sign-up through the "Business for 1.5 degrees" initiative as well.

And investors and financial institutions can join through the Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero.

The UK's COP2 presidency will celebrate new recruits on social media.

And I urge all companies and investors that have not yet signed up to absolutely do so.

And if you are already on board, lobby others to join you, including through your trade associations.

Signing-up is not only good for the planet.

It is actually very good for business too.

Consumers are increasingly concerned about the environment.

More and more companies are joining the Race to Zero campaign.

The transition to clean ways of working is, unfortunately, moving too slowly, but it is going in the right direction.

And when a critical mass of firms have changed how they work, entire industries will shift.

The default will change, and sustainable ways of working will rapidly become the norm.

And if individual companies do not take action now, they risk being left behind.

Trying to catch up with your competitors sailing ahead, into the clean, green future.

So, please, act now.

Sign up to the Race to Zero campaign.

Move your business towards 100 percent clean energy through the RE100 campaign.

Play your part in pushing fashion towards greater circularity.

UK firms can sign up to the new Textiles 2030 initiative, for example.

And, finally, please clean up your supply chains.

This is vital in both fashion and beauty.

Common cosmetics ingredients like palm oil, can drive deforestation.

While McKinsey and Global Fashion Agenda estimate that 70 percent of fashion's emissions come from supply chain activities like material production.

So please, work with your suppliers to reduce impacts.

Commit to eliminate deforestation from your supply chains.

And use your purchasing power to drive change across the whole of the global economy.

In short, do what you do. And define this age.

Help to make this the era we get on track to make the goals of the Paris Agreement a reality.

Fashion and beauty have shaped the world.

Now you need to help save it.

And I am counting on you. Indeed, the world is counting on you. Let's make this happen, together.

Thank you.

[London arms dealer jailed for longer](#)

News story

A London man has had his jail sentence increased following an intervention by the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP.



A London man has had his jail sentence increased following an intervention by the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP.

Darren Dixon, 32, was involved in the importation, conversion and sale of prohibited firearms over the internet. On 9 October 2019 police raided his home and found an arsenal of weapons including 102 rounds of live ammunition, 26 firearms (of which 16 were prohibited) and gunpowder.

Police also found forged Metropolitan Police and Interpol warrant cards in different names with his photograph. His laptop revealed a vast number of

emails negotiating sales of weapons and demonstrating detailed knowledge of firearms.

On 5 March 2021, Dixon was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment at Southwark Crown Court.

Following the Court's decision, the Solicitor General referred Dixon's sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme.

On 26 May 2021, the Court ruled that the sentence was unduly lenient and increased it to 11 years' imprisonment.

After the hearing at the Court of Appeal the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP, said:

"The scale of Dixon's criminal enterprise was truly terrifying, and the weapons that he sold have the capability to inflict tremendous damage. I am glad that the Court of Appeal has seen fit to increase his sentence."

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