

Commission welcomes sentencing of children's cancer charity founder for fraud and theft

Press release

The Charity Commission today welcomed the 20-month custodial sentence handed down to Colin Nesbitt for fraud and theft from a children's cancer charity.



The regulator first identified and reported concerns about the charity's finances in 2015, which led to his arrest.

Mr Nesbitt, the founder and director of a former children's cancer charity, Little Heroes Cancer Trust, was sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment after he was found guilty in March 2021. He stole £87,000 from the charity and transferred £181,000 into a bank account in his name between July 2014 and May 2015.

Judge Gibson, when sentencing today, said the defendant "betrayed the public and the public confidence in this charity and the charity sector."

Little Heroes Cancer Trust was set up to help children suffering with cancer and to provide support to their families. It made activity books for children in hospitals and donated toys to children's cancer hospitals.

The charity received funding from the public and once featured on Channel 4's programme Secret Millionaire, receiving a £100,000 donation.

Little Heroes Cancer Trust was removed from the charity register in 2018. Some of the funds were recovered by the police. A separate proceeds of crime hearing, to determine what should happen to these funds, is scheduled for December.

Tim Hopkins, Assistant Director for Investigations and Inquiries at the Charity Commission, said:

The very serious criminal actions of Mr Nesbitt had devastating consequences, damaging the charity, its good work and name, as well as impacting significantly on the lives of those connected to it – including its former staff, volunteers and of course the children and their families who once benefitted from its services. The money the public generously donated to Little Heroes Cancer Trust was intended to make a crucial difference to children and their families and we understand why those who supported this charity will also feel let down by his actions. Through our work the Commission was able to help expose his criminal actions and I'm glad that some of the funds were recovered, which should go back to the causes they were intended for.

ENDS

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[New commissioners appointed to the Commission on Human Medicines](#)

Press release

Four new Commissioners will join the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) on 1 May 2021.



Professor Amanda Adler, Professor Sandosh Padmanabhan, Professor Steve Cunningham and Professor Yvonne Perrie have been appointed as Commissioners of the CHM for four years, in accordance with the Cabinet Office Code of Governance for Public Appointments.

The [CHM](#) provides independent expert advice to ministers on the safety, quality and efficacy of medicines, and on adverse reactions including those

reported under the Yellow Card Scheme. It is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the [Department of Health and Social Care](#).

Sandosh Padmanabhan, Professor of Cardiovascular Genomics and Therapeutics at the University of Glasgow and the University of Toledo, said:

I am delighted to be appointed as a Commissioner of the CHM. I look forward to working with the Commission on its independent and scientific assessments related to licensing new medicines and monitoring their safety. I hope to contribute to the broad remit of the CHM, along with my expertise in precision medicine, pharmacogenomics and cardiovascular medicine.

Professor Steve Cunningham, Consultant in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine at the Children's hospital in Edinburgh, said:

I am delighted to be appointed to the CHM as the principal representative of paediatric medicines. There are novel opportunities to enhance the safe, efficient and effective delivery of medicines for children and young people within the UK. I look forward to helping shape the environment that will encourage this.

Yvonne Perrie, Professor in Drug Delivery at Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, said:

I am delighted to be appointed to the internationally respected CHM as a Commissioner. I am looking forward to providing my pharmaceutical knowledge to support the CHM in their role in advising ministers on the safety, efficacy and quality of medicinal products.

- The appointments will involve a time commitment of approximately 22 days per year, including 11 meetings and any ad-hoc meetings based on need. Remuneration for the roles will be at a rate of £325 per meeting
- These appointments are made in accordance with the Cabinet Office Code of Governance for Public Appointments. The regulation of public appointments against the requirements of this Code is carried out by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
- The appointments are made on merit and political activity played no part in the decision process. However, in accordance with the Code, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be

made public. None have declared any political activity.

- Professor Amanda Adler is Professor of Diabetic Medicine and Health Policy at Oxford University, and Director of the Diabetes Trials Unit within the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism. Trained in economics, medicine, and epidemiology in the US, and pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacovigilance in the UK. She has advised the UK National Screening Committee and the World Health Organization (WHO) as a technical expert.
- Professor Steve Cunningham is a Consultant in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine at the Children's hospital in Edinburgh, having worked at Great Ormond Street and Australia's Sydney Children's Hospital. He is currently Vice Chair of the MHRA's Paediatric Medicines Expert Advisory Group and Chair of the European Respiratory Society Clinical Research Collaboration. Steve was Chair of the NICE Bronchiolitis guideline and Chief Investigator of Bronchiolitis of Infancy Discharge study.
- Professor Sandosh Padmanabhan is a professor of Cardiovascular Genomics and Therapeutics at the University of Glasgow and the University of Toledo, Ohio, USA, and an Honorary Consultant Physician at the Western Infirmary in Glasgow. He has led on a genome wide association analysis of hypertension. He was a visiting fellow to the Broad Institute of Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the British Hypertension Society and the American Heart Association, and examiner for the Royal Colleges of Medicine.
- Professor Yvonne Perrie is a professor in Drug Delivery at Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, a role she also held at Aston University. She is also Associate Dean (Research) within the Faculty of Science. Her previous roles include Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching, Director of the Medicines Research Unit and Head of Pharmacy. Professor Perrie has also worked within the newly established drug delivery company, Lipoxen Technologies Ltd, developing their liposome drug delivery platform technology.
- More information on the [Commission for Human Medicines](#).

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Surge testing to be deployed in Redbridge

Press release

Additional surge testing and genomic sequencing deployed in Redbridge where 2 confirmed cases of a variant of concern have been identified.



Working in partnership with Redbridge Council, NHS Test and Trace is providing additional testing and genomic sequencing in targeted areas within the IG1 and IG6 postcode areas and small parts of the IG5 and IG7 postcode areas. It follows the identification of 2 confirmed cases of the variant first identified in South Africa (B.1.351), although the 2 are not thought to be linked.

The confirmed cases are self-isolating and their contacts have been identified. There are no links between these cases and the cluster of cases recently identified in the South London area.

Everybody aged 11 years and over who resides or works in these postcodes is strongly encouraged to take a COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, whether they are showing symptoms or not.

Enhanced contact tracing will be used for individuals testing positive with a variant of concern. In these instances, contact tracers will look back over an extended period in order to determine the route of transmission.

By using PCR testing, positive results can be sent for genomic sequencing at specialist laboratories, helping us to identify variant of concern cases and their spread.

People with symptoms should [book a free test online](#) or by phone so they can get tested at a testing site or have a testing kit sent to them at home. Those without symptoms should visit the [London Borough of Redbridge website](#) for more information.

People in this area should also continue using twice-weekly rapid testing alongside the PCR test as part of surge testing.

Statement: G7 Digital and Tech Ministerial, Day 2

These four countries, which share the G7's open and democratic values, were invited by the Prime Minister to attend the G7 Summit as guests. UK Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden welcomed their support as he chaired the second day of the G7 Digital and Tech Ministerial meeting.

It comes as the [G7 signed a Ministerial Declaration yesterday](#) which includes new agreements on internet safety, digitising trade, data free flow with trust, competition and digital technical standards.

The [declaration](#) sets out an ambitious vision for the role of technology in the world, including how it can support human rights and fundamental freedoms and address pressing challenges, such as the global recovery from COVID-19.

It includes new principles on how to tackle the global challenge of online safety, including that online firms have a corporate responsibility for their users' safety and should have systems in place to reduce illegal and harmful activity, while prioritising the protection of children and human rights.

The UK Presidency has welcomed input and support from like-minded partners to this work.

Today, the G7 and invited guests enjoyed a positive discussion on the global role of governments in the digital environment.

There was agreement among guests on a broad range of issues facing governments in protecting and empowering their citizens, including the need to:

- Build trust, which is fundamental to unlocking the value of the digital economy;
- Ensure the competitiveness, transparency and accountability of online platforms, and uphold media freedom as the cornerstone of a functioning democracy; and
- Address the shared global challenge of disinformation and continue to champion a free, open and secure internet.

The G7 and invited guests also discussed areas to collaborate together in a way that reinforces our open and democratic values, acknowledging that there is far more that joins us together than sets us apart.

UK Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

I welcome the support from the G7's like-minded global partners for the ambitious vision we agreed yesterday. Together we will create a safer and more competitive online world that serves the needs of our citizens, businesses and economies.

Attendees also heard from the Secretary-General of the OECD, Angel Gurría, who noted that the COVID-19 crisis is placing digital technologies at the centre of building a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future. The Chair of the Business 7 Digital Group, Rob Shuter, also contributed and highlighted the importance of global digital leadership by the G7 and welcomed leadership and cooperation between business and the G7.

The next key milestones will be the G7 Leaders Summit in June and the Future Tech Forum in September, where we will continue to address the longer-term issues facing the tech ecosystem.

[The dedication of carers during the pandemic](#)

Good morning and thank you for inviting me to your spring conference today.

As Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, every day I hear stories of the incredible dedication our carers have shown throughout this time of crisis.

Care colleagues who've been moving into their care homes, to protect the most vulnerable.

Getting to grips with the latest technology to keep residents connected to their loved ones.

Taking on extra shifts – especially in the peak – so colleagues could self-isolate.

Doing all the testing, the regular testing that is so important for keeping people safe.

And even setting up outdoor heaters so visits could take place safely outside.

I know that getting the rules around visiting right is so important and so sensitive, and such a delicate balance between the vital importance of visiting and of course the importance of keeping those over whom we have a duty of care safe from coronavirus.

This has been a tough time for all our carers and I'm so grateful for the

work that you have been doing.

And we have been doing everything we can to support you too, including over a billion pounds of support for infection control, and that free PPE.

And now, thanks to your hard work, and the long-term protection given by our vaccination programme, we can have this spring conference, in a much stronger position than we were the previous spring.

We know so much more about this virus and how to manage it. And we work, I think, more closely together than at almost any point before, and that is incredibly important for getting these decisions right.

Of course, every care home has now had the offer of vaccinations for residents and staff and those vaccinations have been taken up in very large numbers.

And we prioritised unpaid carers in the roll-out as well, so we could protect not just them, but crucially the people that they care for. But we know that there's more to do to drive uptake, especially among care home colleagues.

And I'm grateful to everyone at ADASS for your consistent advocacy of vaccinations and for encouraging your colleagues to come forward. This is so important.

We've just launched a consultation on whether we should require care home providers that care for older adults to deploy only workers who've received their COVID-19 vaccination, unless of course they have a medical exemption.

This is an approach that is taken in other areas where there is a duty of care – for instance, surgeons need to have the Hepatitis B vaccination.

I'm pleased that ADASS has welcomed the consultation.

We've already had thousands of responses and I'm looking forward to hearing your views.

Thanks to the progress we've made with the vaccines, we're able to restore visits by 2 named visitors, backed by testing and PPE.

I know that this milestone, which reunited people with their loved ones, I know it has brought so much happiness and hope to our care homes.

And I'd like to thank you for what you've done to make sure these visits happen safely.

As we keep moving down our roadmap to recovery, we can keep restoring more of these experiences and also look at what we've learnt from this pandemic to make the long-term changes that we all know are so urgently needed.

We've already published our Health and Care white paper, and I'm very grateful for the engagement we've had with ADASS so far.

It shows how we'll improve oversight of how social care is commissioned and delivered.

How we'll get better data, which has been one of the huge strides forward during the pandemic. But we need to make sure that is embedded so that we have better data about what is happening at a local level.

And improving how we can make health and care even more integrated between the national and local level and between the NHS and social care through integrated care systems.

This white paper is incredibly important, and I am very grateful for your support.

But this is just a fraction of our plans.

In our manifesto, we made a clear commitment to set out the reforms that are needed for the long-term future of social care and to fix a system that has been unreformed for far too long.

Our shared experience of the past year shows that these reforms are more important than they've ever been, and we'll be bringing forward our proposals later this year.

Caring for others, in my view, is one of the most noble vocations of all.

And during this pandemic, the work you've done has protected so many people who've been at greatest risk from this deadly disease.

You have my word that we will back you throughout the rest of this pandemic and we'll make the reforms that are needed to put social care on a firm footing for the years to come.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy today's conference.