

[Life Raft for missing fishing vessel Nicola Faith recovered](#)

News story

Nicola Faith investigation update



The life raft for fishing vessel Nicola Faith which went missing off the coast of Colwyn Bay on 27th January has been recovered. The raft was found off the coast of Kirkcudbrightshire by HM Coastguard and has been positively identified by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch as being from the Nicola Faith. The raft will be transported to the MAIB in Southampton for further investigation and analysis.

The investigation into the causes and circumstances surrounding the vessel's loss is ongoing. The search for the vessel which is being co-ordinated by the MAIB is continuing. MAIB has been working with underwater search experts to cover a wide area including all of the vessel's historic operating area.

The next of kin have been informed of this development.

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[Mandatory form for international travel launched to prevent illegal trips](#)

News story

From 8 March 2021, passengers travelling abroad will need to carry a new form stating that their trip is permitted under national lockdown rules.



Passengers travelling internationally from Monday 8 March 2021 will need to carry a new form that sets out their trip is permitted under the [stay at home restrictions](#).

The [simple form](#) must be downloaded, signed before travel, and carried or downloaded onto a mobile phone.

Carriers will be checking the forms have been completed before boarding, either at check-in (online or at the check-in desk) or the departure gate. Passengers who do not have a valid form may be denied access to their booked service. Carriers will also be legally obliged to set out on their website that the form must be completed before travelling.

Police have been stepping up their presence at ports and airports in recent weeks. Officers will be conducting spot checks and have the power to ask travellers to produce a completed form. It will be an offence to fail to produce a completed form and individuals could face a £200 fine.

Stay-at-home rules are still in place, which means it is illegal to travel abroad without a [permitted reason, such as for education or work](#).

The police will undertake spot checks at UK ports across the country to ensure passengers are complying with domestic lockdown rules. Passengers who are identified by police as attempting to travel internationally for reasons that are not currently permitted will be asked to return home and risk receiving a fixed penalty notice for breaking stay-at-home rules. These fines start at £200 and ladder up to a maximum of £6,400.

The [Home Office announced an additional £60 million for police in February](#) – including £2 million to cover the costs of extra activity by police at airports and ports – which brought the total amount of funding available to forces since the start of the pandemic to nearly £200 million.

The government has already put in place a range of tough measures to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission at the border, including the:

All international arrivals must also [take a COVID-19 test on both day 2 and day 8 of their self-isolation period](#) – with genome sequencing included within the cost of the testing bundle.

All measures will be kept under review and further action may be taken to protect the public.

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[New UK Government Covid testing site opens in Glenrothes](#)

The UK Government has today, Friday 5 March, opened a new drive-through coronavirus testing centre at Bankhead Park in Glenrothes (KY7 6GH).

The test centre is part of the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in British history. In Scotland, this comprises 8 drive through sites, 33 walk-through sites, 42 mobile units, plus the Glasgow Lighthouse Lab which is working round the clock to process samples.

In Scotland, the UK Government is providing all COVID testing and test processing outside of the NHS. Around two thirds of all daily tests are provided by the UK Government, in support of Scotland's health services.

Tests must be booked in advance at: [NHS Inform](#) or by calling 0800 028 2816. People should only book a test if they have coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature, a new and continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste).

Health Minister Lord Bethell said:

To respond to the coronavirus, we have built a major testing and tracing system from scratch. We are constantly working to expand and improve it with new technologies and innovations so everyone with symptoms can get a test.

New drive-in sites like this one make it even easier to get a test no matter where you live. If you have symptoms of coronavirus, I urge you to book a test today and follow the advice of NHS Test and Protect if you are contacted to protect others and stop the spread of the virus.

Baroness Dido Harding, Interim Executive Chair of the National Institute for Health Protection, said:

Drive-through sites offer communities better access to coronavirus testing, so everyone with symptoms can get a test. This new site is

part of our ongoing work to expand our testing network across the UK which now has the capacity to process more than 700,000 tests a day. We will continue to expand capacity to improve test turnaround times and push forward testing innovations to make sure anyone who needs a test can get one.

Please book a test if you have coronavirus symptoms: a new continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss or change in sense of smell or taste, and follow the advice of NHS Test and Protect if you are contacted.

UK Government Minister for Scotland, Iain Stewart said:

The UK Government is doing everything it can to support people in all parts of the UK through the pandemic.

Testing continues to play an important role in how we manage the virus alongside the roll out of vaccines, helping to identify local outbreaks, slow down the rate of transmission and protect communities. I would like to thank the public for continuing to do the right thing and come forward to be tested when they display symptoms.

The UK Government continues to provide the bulk of testing in Scotland, with this new drive-through centre in Glenrothes just the latest in our extensive network. We have also secured and paid for millions of doses of the Pfizer and Oxford vaccines for all parts of the UK.

Hope is on the horizon, but we can't let up on our efforts to contain the virus.

NHS Fife Director of Public Health, Dona Milne, said:

While the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Fife is moving at considerable pace, testing still remains a crucial part of the effort to suppress the virus locally and prevent its transmission. The new site in Glenrothes is another welcome addition to the expanding network of testing sites here in Fife, improving access for those in the town and the surrounding villages.

Simon Venn, Mitie Chief Government & Strategy Officer, said:

Our priority during the pandemic is to support the nation's efforts to fight COVID-19 and help keep the country running. Testing is a critical part of the UK's strategy to combat coronavirus and we're proud to support the UK Government with this vital task. A big

thank you to all the NHS staff, Mitie employees and other frontline heroes in Glenrothes, who are working tirelessly to keep us all safe.

Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter extended in post

News story

The Prime Minister has asked Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter, to continue in his role until the end of November.



Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Nicolas Patrick Carter GCB CBE DSO ADC Gen.

The Prime Minister and [Defence Secretary Ben Wallace](#) are pleased to confirm that Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Nicolas Patrick Carter GCB CBE DSO ADC Gen will be extended in his post until the end of November 2021.

Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter said:

It is a great honour to be asked to stay on as Chief of the Defence Staff. There is much to do. Last year's substantial settlement of £24.1-billion for defence, announced by the Prime Minister in November, gives us the stability and confidence to modernise the armed forces to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities that will be laid out in the Integrated Review.

It is a great privilege to be at the heart of this and to play my part in ensuring that our soldiers, sailors, aviators, space and cyber warriors have the skills and equipment they need to win.

General Sir Nick Carter has been central to setting the vision for our future armed forces. The Prime Minister has asked General Carter to remain in post to ensure continuity and stability while the conclusions of the Integrated Review are implemented following the £24.1-billion settlement for defence announced last year. The Integrated Review will be published on 16 of March and the Defence Command Paper will be published on 22 of March. The selection of General Carter's successor as Chief of the Defence Staff will begin in the autumn.

The Chief of the Defence Staff is the professional head of the armed forces and the principal military adviser to the Defence Secretary and the Prime Minister. The average tenure of a Chief of the Defence Staff has been 3 years, although several have served less, and a small number have served for 4 years. The longest any Chief of the Defence Staff has served is 6 years, when Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten held the role from 1959 to 1965.

[General Sir Nick Carter](#) has been in post since June 2018, when he took over from Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach GBE KCB ADC DL. Prior to his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter was Chief of the General staff, Head of the British Army, for four years. Joining the Army in 1977, he commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into The Royal Green Jackets and has served in Germany, Cyprus, Bosnia, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.

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[Sheffield man has sentence increased after robbery](#)

News story

Amaraze Khan has had his sentence increased following intervention by the then Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP



A man who robbed a disabled victim has had his sentence increased following intervention by the then Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.

Derek Brian, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, left his front door slightly open after letting his cat out on 18 November 2019. A few seconds later, Amaraze Khan, 34, entered the property through the front door and questioned Mr Brian as to what he could steal.

Mr Brian manoeuvred his wheelchair towards his side table, attempting to reach his mobile phone. Khan quickly leaned over him and took the mobile phone. He then tipped Mr Brian out of his wheelchair and onto the floor before leaving the property. Mr Brian managed to call the police who assisted him back into his wheelchair and Khan was later arrested.

On 7 January 2021, Khan was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months' imprisonment at Sheffield Crown Court. Following a referral to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme by the then Solicitor General, on 5 March the sentence was found to be unduly lenient and has been increased to a sentence of 5 years' imprisonment with a 3 year extended licence.

After the hearing at the Court of Appeal, the now Attorney General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP, said:

Khan targeted a vulnerable victim who could not defend himself. His cowardly actions have caused psychological harm to the victim and I welcome the Court of Appeal's decision today.

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