

[UKHO announces the release of the Seabed Mapping Service](#)

The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) has launched a new Beta version of its Seabed Mapping Service, now available via the [ADMIRALTY Marine Data Portal](#).

The ADMIRALTY Marine Data Portal is the UKHO's portal for a wide range of marine data sets ranging from the seabed to the coast, offshore and beyond. This includes extensive data on bathymetry, wrecks and obstructions, along with a range of apps and APIs, to enable users to help inform a wide range of decisions to support a safe, secure and thriving future for the blue economy.

The Seabed Mapping Service provides access to data that has been collated, processed and validated by UKHO experts. The service has been developed using agile project management principles and launched as a beta service, meaning that the service will be continually tested and improved, ensuring it fulfils user needs.

As a beta service, it is fully available to use, however we invite users to submit feedback about the service's usability and suitability to meet their needs. This feedback will form part an iterative approach and enable us to align the service closer to the user needs and supporting a more seamless user journey.

Commenting on the launch of the beta Seabed Mapping Service, UKHO Product Manager Paul Marks commented:

At the UKHO, we pride ourselves on helping meet the evolving needs of existing customers as well as users in new markets. We encourage feedback and input from users on our Seabed Mapping Service. Through this, we will help people make better use of the marine environment and our blue economy through sustainable decision-making based on detailed seabed information.

The UKHO is a member of the [Marine Environmental Data and Information Network \(MEDIN\)](#), a partnership of UK organisations committed to improving access to UK marine data. In addition to the Beta Seabed Mapping Data Service, which provides bespoke data sets, users can also explore and download the extensive UK bathymetry holdings within our MEDIN accredited archive and download bathymetry data which is freely available under an Open Government Licence.

North-East restaurateur banned for tax abuse

Church View Restaurant Ltd was incorporated in July 2014 and traded as Ministers Restaurant on Church View, Sedgfield, in Stockton on Tees.

Abdul Amin (51) was the sole director of the company and was required to register Church View Restaurant for tax purposes.

The restaurant boss, however, failed to register the company and in 2016 was subject of enquiries by the authorities for unpaid taxes.

Despite the scrutiny placed on Church View Restaurant, the company didn't pay its tax liabilities, totalling more than £133,000, and this resulted in the tax authorities petitioning for Church View Restaurant's liquidation.

Church View Restaurant was liquidated in August 2019 before being referred to the Insolvency Service, who pursued disqualification proceedings against Abdul Amin for director misconduct.

On 13 October 2020, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Abdul Amin after he did not dispute that he failed to ensure Church View Restaurant Ltd complied with its statutory tax obligations.

Effective from 3 November 2020, Abdul Amin is banned for 7 years from directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Rob Clarke, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

Directors have statutory requirements to ensure their companies pay taxes. But our investigations uncovered that Abdul Amin's behaviour was deliberate, putting Church View Restaurant at an unfair advantage over their competitors by not paying taxes.

Seven years is a substantial amount of time to be removed from the corporate arena and Abdul Amin's ban should serve as a warning to other rogue directors that if you neglect your obligations you could lose the privilege of limited liability trading.

Abdul Amin is from Sunderland and his date of birth is June 1969.

CHURCH VIEW RESTAURANT LTD (Company number 09142185)

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of](#)

[restrictions.](#)

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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

MAIB Investigation Support and Data Manager – Southampton

News story

We have an exciting new vacancy at MAIB and are looking for someone to join our investigation support team.



Your responsibilities will include but not be limited to:

- managing the provision of support to four teams of accident inspectors to include carrying out some operational support duties as part of a rota with the other Investigation Support Officers.
- ensuring the quality of accident data recorded within our case management system, as well as the information and statistics to be provided to internal and external stakeholders.
- working with the Database Support Officer to maintain the integrity of the data held and managing the process whereby it is retrieved.

We are looking for someone who:

- will bring strong leadership skills to this role. Having the ability to coach and mentor your team, ensuring that all strategic objectives are met and the quality of standards continue to improve.
- has an analytical mind and is solutions focused. You will be comfortable working with data, you will have the ability to explain complex, technical information in a non-technical, easy-to-understand way, using your skills to provide your recommendations on improvements to systems.

For further information about this position and how to apply see [Civil Service Jobs, MAIB Investigation Support and Data Manager, Ref: 83572.](#)

Closing date: Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

Published 20 November 2020

[Free flu vaccinations rolled out to over 50s from December](#)

- Individuals will be able to get free flu jab from their GP or pharmacist
- Centrally secured supply of vaccines available to GPs and pharmacies for newly eligible group

Adults over the age of 50 will be able to get their free flu vaccine from 1 December in the next phase of this year's expanded flu vaccination programme, the government has confirmed.

Individuals aged 50 to 64 will be able to get a vaccine from their GP or pharmacy. This significant new group can now be included in the flu programme, with the initial phase of flu vaccinations well under way.

Flu vaccine uptake is higher in all vulnerable groups except pregnant women compared with this time last year. Provisional data published by Public Health England on Thursday 20 November suggests 72.9% of those aged 65 and over, 45.0% of 2 year olds and 46.8% of 3 year olds have had their vaccine.

GPs, trusts and pharmacists can order additional stock to vaccinate this new group from the centrally secured government supply of over 7 million vaccines.

This has been secured amid high global demand for more flu vaccine and now means vaccines can be provided to this group over December and into the New Year. There is enough flu vaccine supply to vaccinate 30 million people throughout this year's flu season in England.

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock said:

This winter is like no other, and we have to worry about the twin threats of flu and COVID-19.

COVID means getting a flu jab is more important than ever this year. So we are delivering the largest ever flu vaccination programme. Free vaccinations for 50 to 64 years olds will now be available from GPs and pharmacies starting from 1 December.

Public Health Minister Jo Churchill said:

To prepare for this challenging winter, we committed to protect as many people as possible from the flu, to keep those at risk safe and reduce the strain on our NHS. I am pleased we are now able to deliver on that commitment with those aged 50 to 64 invited to get their free flu vaccine from the start of December.

These vaccinations are already being given to our existing priority groups and that vital work will continue. More vaccine is flowing into GPs and pharmacies throughout the next few months, and I would urge anyone eligible for their flu vaccine to get one, including all health and social care workers.

The extended offer comes as part of the most comprehensive flu vaccination programme in the UK's history this winter, alongside plans to support the NHS as it continues to respond to coronavirus, and to relieve winter pressures on A&E and emergency care.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England Professor Jonathan Van-Tam said:

Influenza vaccination is a critical tool this and every winter to prevent severe illnesses and potential hospitalisations for thousands of people.

I urge all those who are eligible for the flu vaccine, including the new group of 50 to 64 year olds, to book their appointments as soon as they can.

The roll-out of the flu vaccine to over 50s is separate to any future COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and people will be able to receive the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations in parallel. The NHS is well equipped to administer both.

Further details on the COVID-19 vaccination deployment plan will follow.

The flu vaccine will be offered to 30 million people in England this year, our largest ever flu vaccination programme. The groups now eligible are:

- adults aged 65 or over
 - pregnant women
 - those with certain pre-existing conditions
 - NHS and social care workers
 - all children up to year 7
 - household contacts of those who are clinically extremely vulnerable
 - adults aged 50 to 64
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[Charity regulator criticises Buddhist charity for putting students at risk of harm](#)

An official inquiry has found misconduct and mismanagement at the London-based Buddhist charity, Rigpa Fellowship, where students were put at risk of harm as a result of serious safeguarding failures.

The Charity Commission [disqualified one former trustee](#) and [removed another trustee](#) during the course of its inquiry. Today's report heavily criticises institutional failings to provide a safe culture and environment.

The regulator opened a regulatory case into the charity when serious allegations of abuse towards its students by the charity's Spiritual Director, Sogyal Lakar, surfaced. An independent investigation (commissioned by Rigpa Fellowship and Rigpa Fellowship US) found that, on the balance of probabilities, some of Lakar's 'inner circle' were "subjected to serious physical, sexual and emotional abuse by him". The Commission's engagement escalated to a statutory inquiry after it found that the charity was not making sufficient progress in addressing the safeguarding concerns.

Trustees failed to take appropriate action

Former trustees, Patrick Gaffney and Susan Burrows, both failed to take appropriate action despite having knowledge of instances and allegations of improper acts and sexual and physical abuse against students.

During a meeting with the inquiry, Gaffney appeared unable or unwilling to recognise the serious nature of the allegations that had been made and the lack of appropriate action taken. Evidence seen by the inquiry also did not support claims from Burrows that she had no prior knowledge of instances of abuse involving Lakar.

The inquiry says that both former trustees "failed to recognise or sought to downplay" the seriousness of the allegations.

Investigators also found that the charity failed to report incidents relating

to physical or sexual abuse to the Commission, as would have been expected.

Failure to provide a safe environment for students, staff and volunteers

The inquiry criticises safeguarding policies that the charity previously linked to on its website. It says that these blurred the distinction between consent and submission and placed too much responsibility for safeguarding on the student rather than the teacher. These policies were developed by the international Rigpa body – the inquiry found that the former trustees were insufficiently rigorous in their consideration and analysis of the policies and procedures produced by the international Rigpa body. The former trustees should have ensured that any international policies referred to were sufficient for UK regulations and law.

The inquiry concluded that former trustees and senior management figures at the charity were responsible for mismanagement and misconduct, particularly around how former trustees responded to safeguarding concerns. The report says that their inability to create a safe culture within the charity exposed some beneficiaries to harm.

The current trustees have now implemented new safeguarding policies and procedures tailored specifically to the operations of the UK charity and have taken steps to sever the governance link between the UK charity and its international counterparts. The regulator expects the new trustees to comply fully with these safeguarding policies and procedures, and to monitor their effectiveness in protecting people.

Helen Stephenson CBE, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, said:

Today's findings make for very difficult reading. The fact that students were subjected to abuse by somebody in a position of power is shameful, and I am appalled that this was able to happen in a charity where people should have felt safe. People were let down because senior figures not only failed to listen and act on concerns, but also failed to properly address the problems with the charity's safeguarding culture once these came to light.

I hope that our findings bring some comfort to those so badly affected by what went wrong at Rigpa Fellowship. The charity is now a safer place, and that must continue.

The Commission has repeatedly warned charities that safeguarding should be a governance priority. Earlier this year it [launched a new register of charities](#) which allows the public to see clearly whether a charity has safeguarding policies in place.

Helen Stephenson added:

Charities should be spaces in which all people are free from harm. This is not a tick box exercise. Having the right policies and

procedures must be combined with the right cultures, vital to building trust, sending an important signal to everyone connected to a charity that it prioritises keeping people safe.

[Read the full report of the Commission's inquiry into Rigpa Fellowship.](#)

Ends.

Notes to editors:

1. [View the charity's entry on the register of charities.](#)
2. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.