

# Dstl staff member receives coronavirus honour

News story

James (Jamie) Taylor, of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), has been recognised in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours 2020.



Mr Taylor has been made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his support to the national effort to combat the coronavirus pandemic. He was instrumental in meeting an urgent request from the NHS to Dstl to manufacture the crucial fluid required for the fitting and use of masks by front line health workers, enabling the production of PPE equipment to be increased.

Mr Taylor, a group leader within the Chemical Biological and Radiological Division at Dstl, where he has worked for seven years, said: "I am honoured and privileged to receive the award which represents a massive team effort by my colleagues and I am delighted to accept this on their behalf. Dstl has provided support across UK Government such as deploying microbiologists who went into NHS hospitals to increase testing capacity, and analysts and modellers. I'm pleased that the contribution made by Dstl staff in helping to keep people safe has been recognised."

Gary Aitkenhead, Chief Executive at Dstl added: "I am immensely proud of Jamie and all our colleagues in their efforts to combat coronavirus. Dstl's world-class scientific research and development helps save lives, and I congratulate Jamie on an award which reflects great dedication and selfless commitment."

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# Payroll director banned for £2.7m of contentious payments

Jonas Stankevicius, from Doncaster, was appointed the sole director of S Jonas Solutions Limited in July 2018, at the same time the payroll services company was incorporated.

S Jonas Solutions started trading shortly after incorporation from premises in Stockhill Road, Doncaster, but only a few months later entered into creditors voluntary liquidation in December 2018.

The payroll company's liquidation and the length of trading, however, brought S Jonas Solutions to the attention of the Insolvency Service who conducted further enquiries into a series of contentious payments.

Investigators uncovered that Jonas Stankevicius failed to ensure payroll company maintained and/or preserved adequate accounting records. This failure has meant that neither the liquidators nor investigators could verify the legitimacy of £2.73 million worth of payments made from the payroll company's bank account between August and October 2018.

The failure to maintain proper records also meant that it has not been able to determine the true amount of tax liabilities owed by S Jonas Solutions after the tax authorities claimed just over £500,000 in the liquidation.

On 15 September 2020 the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Jonas Stankevicius, after he did not dispute that he failed to ensure that S Jonas Solutions maintained and/or preserved adequate accounting records, or alternatively failed to deliver up such records to the Liquidator.

Effective from 6 October 2020, Jonas Stankevicius is banned for 8 years from directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Mark Bruce, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

All directors have a statutory requirement to maintain company accounting records. Jonas Stankevicius, however, completely disregarded his responsibilities and as a direct consequence of his actions, he couldn't explain the legitimacy of £2.7 million of payments paid out of the payroll company's accounts over just two months.

But his misconduct has caught up with him and Jonas Stankevicius has been banned for eight years, which should serve as a warning to other rogue directors that your misconduct could see you being removed from the business environment for a substantial amount of time.

Jonas Stankevicius is from Doncaster and his date of birth is July 1993.

S Jonas Solutions Limited (Company Reg no. 11444175).

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 other restrictions](#).

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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

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## [Are you ready for our new relationship with the EU?](#)

News story

An urgent message from the Business Secretary.



There will be guaranteed changes from 1 January for businesses as we start our new relationship with the EU, and there are many actions you can take today to prepare. Find out what you need to do by visiting [gov.uk/transition](https://gov.uk/transition) and using the checker tool.

I know these are challenging times, however it is vital that your business prepares now for our new relationship with the EU, outside of the single market and customs union.

There are 80 days until the end of the transition period and there will be no extension, so you need to act now.

Regardless of whether we reach a trade agreement with the EU, from 1 January there will be guaranteed changes to:

- the way businesses import and export goods
- the process for hiring people from the EU
- the way businesses provide services in EU markets

Unless you take action, there is a risk business operations will be interrupted. You should also check with your suppliers and customers that they are taking action.

Businesses will play an essential role in ensuring a smooth end to the transition period, and the government and I will be there to support you as we embark on the UK's new start.

Yours sincerely,

[Alok Sharma](#)

Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

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## [MDP Superintendent Trevor Clark awarded Queen's Police Medal](#)

News story

MDP's Force Firearms Officer, Superintendent Trevor Clark, has been awarded the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished service in the delayed 2020 Birthday Honours, announced on Saturday 10 October 2020.



Superintendent Trevor Clark Queen's Police Medal. Photo by Paul Kemp, Crown Copyright.

Trevor has been a police officer for over 35 years and was appointed as an MDP Superintendent in 2017, with responsibility for firearms capability

development and training.

Before joining MDP, Trevor served for 32 years in the Metropolitan Police Service, with over 2 decades of continuous service in the force firearms unit as an operational Authorised Firearms Officer, firearms commander and Instructor.

He remains one of a small number of officers nationally who have served in these disciplines in all ranks to Chief Inspector. He has been commended many times for his involvement in operational deployments, the delivery of firearms officer training and the development of national armed capabilities.

Commenting on his award, Trevor said:

I am extremely honoured but also quite stunned to receive this award. I can only thank colleagues who deemed me worthy of nomination and acknowledge the many fantastic people I have worked with over the years and continue to work with today.

Chief Constable Andy Adams said:

I'm delighted to see Trevor recognised for the contribution he has made to policing over three decades. He is one of the most influential police leaders of his generation, particularly when it comes to police use of firearms.

Trevor has been involved in the delivery of many high-profile operations and he has assisted in a range of developments in that area of policing, which have benefitted the service as a whole. He has also been directly involved in training and developing many colleagues, so that they can deliver their roles safely and lawfully.

His contribution on the national stage and at a Force level, with us and the Metropolitan Police Service, has been outstanding and I know I speak for everyone in the Ministry of Defence Police as I congratulate Trevor and encourage him to savour the recognition he justly deserves.

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# UK and Kenya to host major education summit in 2021

The United Kingdom and Kenya will co-host a high-level summit next year to lead global action to educate every child, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Uhuru Kenyatta announce today (Monday 12 October).

Coronavirus has worsened the global education crisis, with 1.3 billion children – including 650 million girls – out of education at the peak of school closures. Experts warn that many children will never return, particularly as countries experience an economic contraction in the wake of the pandemic.

Missing out on education does long term damage to individuals and communities, with girls particularly at risk. The benefits of schooling are transformative and multi-generational – a child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of five and twice as likely to attend school themselves. With just one additional school year, a woman's earnings can increase by a fifth.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has championed girls education as the key to preventing exploitation and unlocking potential around the world, and the UK is the top donor to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Next year's summit will raise funds for GPE's vital work in developing countries helping to get children into school, lift communities out of poverty and prevent girls being forced into child marriage.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Since coronavirus struck, the number of children out of school around the world soared past 1.3 billion. It is a toll of wasted potential and missed opportunity that is a tragedy not just for those children, but for each and every one of us.

Education unlocks doors to opportunity and prosperity. It offers girls a ticket out of poverty and exploitation to chart their own futures.

That's why I am delighted that the UK will co-host the replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education in 2021. I urge the global community to come together, dig deep and ensure we fund their vital work to give every child the chance at an education.

The Government of Kenya has made education a central part of their strategy to become a newly industrialised nation by 2030. A GPE partner since 2005, Kenya has made impressive gains, achieving universal primary education and breaking down gender barriers to get as many girls as boys enrolling in

school.

Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya said:

An educated population is a country's most valuable resource. GPE has been a key partner in helping us invest in innovative solutions to get all our children, especially girls, learning.

We must use the opportunity of GPE's financing conference to make ambitious pledges to invest in quality education so our children and young people have the skills and knowledge they need to seize the opportunities of the 21st century.

Even before the pandemic, 9 in 10 school children in low income countries were unable to read proficiently by the age of 10. Since its creation in 2002 GPE has already contributed to getting 160 million more children in school and doubling girls' enrollment in the countries they work in, and is today announcing a \$5 billion funding target for next five years. It is calling on governments, businesses and individuals to invest in children's futures.

This funding will help ensure that 175 million children can learn in 87 lower-income countries. In the longer term, this investment could add \$164 billion to economies in the developing world, lift 18 million people out of poverty, and protect two million girls from early marriage.

Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia and GPE Board Chair said:

An investment in GPE is an investment in the world's most powerful asset – its children and youth. By refinancing GPE, leaders can send a clear message that the world is serious about creating a brighter future for all girls and boys through education.

Today, we're launching our most ambitious and urgent campaign yet. We must seize this opportunity to make sure that no child is left behind. Our message to world leaders is simple: Raise your hand. Fund education.

The summit will take place in the UK in mid-2021 and will convene key global players and decision makers, with the aim of getting all children into school and learning.