

CMA demands StubHub fix concerns or face court action

As part of regular monitoring, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has identified issues with the information provided about some tickets for sale via StubHub's UK website.

The CMA is now concerned that the firm is not complying with commitments it made to clean up its site following a [CMA consumer law investigation](#). New issues have also been identified, which the CMA has told StubHub to resolve.

The CMA is concerned that StubHub has been:

- failing to adequately warn people that tickets may not get them into an event
- using misleading messages about ticket availability
- targeting UK consumers with tickets for events listed on overseas versions of their websites, which may not comply with UK law
- failing to ensure people know exactly where they will sit in a venue
- failing to take sufficient steps to ensure that the full addresses of business sellers are displayed

StubHub has already told the CMA that it will make changes to its website and the CMA now expects these updates to be made swiftly. If the changes do not go far enough to address its concerns, the CMA will consider taking action through the courts.

Andrea Coscelli, Chief Executive of the CMA, said:

StubHub had previously committed to make important changes to the information on its site, so anyone buying a ticket would know what they were getting before parting with their money. It's therefore unacceptable that we have now found these concerns.

We have demanded swift action to resolve these problems and are pleased that StubHub has said it will make changes in response. We will closely monitor the firm's efforts and, if it does not quickly implement changes that satisfy us, we will take further action – potentially through the courts.

As we continue to examine these consumer cases, it is now imperative that the CMA is given stronger powers to rule on whether a company has broken the law and impose fines if needed. We will continue to work with the Government on the most effective way to achieve this.

The CMA is also continuing to monitor resale site viagogo. As part of this, it has published an update from the latest independent review of the firm's compliance with a court order secured to overhaul the way the site does business. This review, carried out by Deloitte, did not find concerns about the site's compliance with the court order.

Regular monitoring of viagogo will continue, including of any new evidence or complaints, should any be received. The CMA will act if it finds evidence that the site might not be complying with consumer protection law.

A separate investigation is ongoing into viagogo's anticipated purchase of StubHub. All the latest from that CMA investigation can be found on the [dedicated webpage](#).

[Fines for captain and owner of party boat which collided with police dock and vessel](#)

Daniel Wakefield, 38, of Wellington Road, Tilbury, pleaded guilty to a charge of conduct endangering ships, structures or individuals under section 58 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

He was handed a fine of £1,120 and ordered to pay costs of £1,200 on 24 January 2020 when he appeared before Southwark crown court.

Mr Wakefield was skipper of the Jewel of London on 13 December 2018. That night, the catamaran had been booked to host a private party for 135 passengers on the Thames.

After the party goers had disembarked at Canary Wharf shortly before 11pm, the Jewel of London began to travel back towards its mooring at Festival Pier on the South Bank.

Six bar staff were on board, along with Mr Wakefield and the mate Jason Foster.

At 11.05pm the boat hit the Metropolitan Police service marine unit workshop pontoon, causing considerable damage to the dock and to the vessel itself.

It then reversed out of the pier, hitting a moored police vessel with two officers on board.

The incident was caught on police CCTV.

Mr Wakefield later admitted to having fallen asleep.

The court heard that the owner of the boat, London Party Boats, had failed to ensure there was a dedicated lookout, something required by the Passenger Safety Certificate of the Jewel of London.

The company was charged under section 100 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 for being liable for the unsafe operation of a ship and was this morning ordered to pay a fine of £5,000 and will pay costs of £15,225.

The collision caused such considerable damage to the pontoon that the lift that hoists boats in and out of the water is now unsafe to use. More than a year after the incident it's still inoperable and it's estimated that the total cost for investigations, repairs and replacements needed after the damage will be between £1.25million and £1.6million.

Police vessels, responsible for policing 47 miles of the River Thames and providing an around-the-clock response to marine incidents, have been unable to use the lift. As the pontoon was also used to maintain and repair other vessels, the RNLI, London fire brigade and London city airport have also been greatly affected.

In passing sentence, Judge Philip Bartle QC said: "Fortunately no one was injured although two police officers were on board the police launch and the crew were on board the Jewel. Had passengers been on board the Jewel it is highly likely that some would have been injured, possibly seriously."

Maritime investigations manager at the Maritime & Coastguard Agency Paula Evans said: "This was an entirely avoidable incident which has had very serious consequences which could have been even more severe. It is lucky that nobody was hurt in the collision.

"Keeping people safe is at the heart of what we do and we are committed to working with our partner agencies to protect those on the water by stopping dangerous practices and vessels, and to hold accountable those responsible."

Creditors entitled to receive £500k following compensation order

This was after he abused customers' trust and removed funds, of which a large part was due to be paid to customers after selling their wine stocks or not

fulfilling their orders.

The case focuses on the conduct of Kevin William Eagling, a company director who received the maximum 15-year directorship disqualification from the courts in May 2019 as a result of his actions.

Having passed down the maximum directorship disqualification, in November 2019 Judge Prentis then ordered the 57-year-old, who now resides in Northern Cyprus, to payback £559,484 to the creditors of the company he was director of – Noble Vintners Limited

Creditors entitled to receive money back include customers and this was as a result of the Insolvency Service's investigation and disqualification action, including submitting the first Compensation Order application against a disqualified director.

The Insolvency Service tackles financial misconduct and in 2018/19, secured more than 1,200 directorship disqualifications. To further strengthen the enforcement regime, an additional power was granted in 2015 allowing the Insolvency Service to seek compensation from a disqualified director of an insolvent company.

To consider using the power, the misconduct had to have taken place after the introduction of the legislation and after the company entered into insolvency proceedings.

Until the introduction of this legislation, the insolvency office holder has the option to take action for recovery against directors for their actions and debts due to the company. But where the liquidator does not do so, and there is a clearly identifiable amount lost to creditors through the actions of a director who is then disqualified as a result of those actions, this additional power helps the Insolvency Service seek redress for those who have lost out.

Having been incorporated in June 2011, Noble Vintners traded as a wine broker. The company's clients were seeking to acquire stocks of valuable wines for investment purposes.

In May 2015 Kevin Eagling, who had been a manager at the company previously, became sole shareholder of Noble Vintners and was appointed as a director. Just over two years later, however, Noble Vintners entered creditors' voluntary liquidation in June 2017 with an estimated deficiency of more than £1.6 million.

A liquidator was appointed to wind-up the company's affairs before reporting to the Insolvency Service. Investigators then uncovered transactions which showed that for just under a year between November 2015 and October 2016, Kevin William Eagling authorised company funds worth £559,484 to be transferred to a second company of which he was also a sole director and shareholder.

Kevin Eagling, never explained the legitimacy of the transaction and the Insolvency Service is now trying to force Kevin Eagling to make payment.

David Brooks, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

“Kevin Eagling, abused his clients and creditors, denying them of hundreds of thousands of pounds. In passing down the compensation order, the judge noted that clients were hit particularly hard as they thought they would benefit from their investments, which ultimately came to nothing.

“This case illustrates that compensation orders can be a valuable tool for the Secretary of State in seeking recompense for creditors to supplement the recovery actions available to office-holders who have been unable to take recovery action within the insolvency regime.”

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[UK and Bangladesh launch Climate Action towards COP26 and beyond](#)

On 27 January, the British High Commission in Bangladesh invited government, academic and civil society representation to the High Commissioner’s residence to convey the UK’s ambition for this year’s UN climate change conference (COP26) and its growing collaboration with Bangladesh for advancing the climate agenda towards COP26 and beyond.

British High Commissioner HE Robert Chatterton Dickson opened the discussion by reflecting on the global outcomes of COP25 and setting out the UK ambition for COP26.

The High Commissioner said

“Climate change is the defining issue of our time. The UK and Bangladesh can form a great partnership to lead global efforts to tackle it. Our combined expertise and leadership mean we can work together to raise the world’s ambition before and during COP26, seeking global commitment on adapting to climate impacts and building resilience for the future.”

Mr Ziaul Hasan ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Focal Point for Bangladesh, delivered the keynote speech.

Mr Ziaul Hasan ndc was joined by four distinguished participants of COP25: Sultana Afroz, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Dr Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD) and Adviser to the Least Developed Countries Group in UNFCCC; Mohammed Malik, Infrastructure Development Company Ltd.; Sharaban Tahura Zaman, Lecturer, Department of Law, North South University, and LDCs group negotiator at COP25. The panellists reflected on the process and

outcomes of COP25, the journey to COP26, and opportunities for the UK and Bangladesh to raise global ambition to reduce the emissions gap.

DFID Country Representative Judith Herbertson, delivered the closing remarks on UK-Bangladesh cooperation beyond COP26. She said that DFID is planning a new programme to support adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change as well as environmental management in Bangladesh.

The DFID Country Representative said

“Our vision is that through our partnership and our programming, we can show what can be done to clean up growth and build resilience across the country; and share this expertise with other countries.”

The UK, in partnership with Italy, will host COP26 this year in November in Glasgow. More than 30,000 people are expected to attend the conference, including heads of state and government; experts; and campaigners. Delegates will be discussing ambitious ways in which the world can lower emissions to keep global temperatures below 1.5 degrees of warming. While the UK is gearing up for the presidency of COP26, Bangladesh is advancing its preparation to lead the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Locally-Led Adaptation Action Track of the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA). And leading up to COP26, the UK intends to build a stronger partnership with countries like Bangladesh; a vulnerable country but increasingly resilient to climate impacts. As the leading voice against climate impacts, Bangladesh can play a more significant role in the global climate change discourse through COP26.

The UK is already a key partner to Bangladesh on disaster management and resilience building. Since 2008, UK and Bangladesh jointly helped over 27 million people gain access to early warning systems for floods and cyclones, and provided emergency assistance and recovery support after disasters to more than 900,000 people.

Further information

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Elizabeth Elaine Grieve appointed as Lord-Lieutenant for Orkney



The Queen is pleased to appoint Ms Elizabeth Elaine Grieve as Her Majesty's twenty-first Lord-Lieutenant for Orkney to succeed William Spence (Bill), who retired on 19 January. She is the first woman to hold the office in Orkney.

Although she was born in Aberdeen, Ms Grieve's parents were from Orkney and she has lived there for most of her life. After university she worked for 34 years at Orkney Islands Council, initially as a primary school teacher, followed by a period as Assistant Head then Head Teacher. She then became Assistant Director of Education and finally Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services. She retired in 2011.

Since her retirement Ms Grieve has supported many local organisations and served on many local boards. She has been Chair of Orkney Folk Festival; Director of the Pier Arts Centre; Director of the Orkney Housing Association; and Vice-Chair of Voluntary Action Orkney.

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