

[Leonardo AW189, G-MCGT, 26 July 2021: Anniversary Statement](#)

News story

Terrain warning sounded during go-around due to rising ground ahead, Ballintoy, County Antrim, 26 July 2021.



This statement provides an update on the AAIB investigation into a serious incident involving a Leonardo AW189 helicopter, G-MCGT, at Ballintoy, County Antrim, on 26 July 2021.

At 2002 hrs the duty crew at Prestwick Airport were tasked by the Aeronautical Rescue and Co-ordination Centre with recovering a casualty who was receiving cardiopulmonary resuscitation. While making an approach to the site of the casualty, who was situated just inland from the edge of the coast, the crew initiated a go-around during which a terrain warning sounded due to rising ground ahead.

The investigation is ongoing and publication of the report is expected in early 2023.

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[Sheffield robber receives increased sentence after referral to the Court of Appeal](#)

News story

The offender carried out two robberies, stealing over £1000 worth of goods and cash while threatening members of the public.



A man who carried out two robberies in Sheffield has received an increased prison sentence after his case was referred to the Court of Appeal by the then Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP.

Jonathan Ashton, now 34, carried out the robberies in January 2021, aided by two accomplices. During the first robbery, Ashton stole from a shop cash to the value of £100-200 and £500-600 worth of cigarettes while wearing a balaclava and carrying a machete.

The next day, the three offenders went on to steal cigarettes and tobacco valued at over £1,000 at a separate shop. During both robberies, Ashton used threatening behaviour towards the staff and customers of the shop.

Ashton was also seen driving a stolen car four days later, within which police found an air pistol.

On 5 May 2022, Ashton was sentenced at Sheffield Crown Court to 4 years 9 months' imprisonment for two counts of robbery, one count of handling stolen goods and one count of possessing a firearm.

Following the sentencing, the then Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP, referred Ashton's sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme as he felt that the original sentence was too low.

On 26 July 2022 the Court found Ashton's original sentence to be unduly lenient and increased his sentence to 8 years 8 months' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the now Solicitor General Edward Timpson CBE QC MP said:

Ashton stole thousands of pounds worth of goods and cash while threatening members of the general public. I welcome the decision to increase his sentence, to better reflect the serious nature of these offences.

UKHSA reminds visitors to stay healthy during the Birmingham Commonwealth Games

Visitors from around the UK and across the world will be travelling to take part in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games from 28 July to 8 August.

Advice for hot weather

Stay hydrated, drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol.

If you need to travel, make sure you take water with you.

Avoid extreme physical exertion. If you can't avoid strenuous outdoor activity, try to keep it for cooler parts of the day, for example in the early morning or evening.

Seek shade during the hottest parts of the day, especially from 11am to 3pm, when UV radiation is strongest.

If you go out in the heat :

- wear UV sunglasses (preferably wraparound)
- apply sunscreen of at least SPF15 with UVA protection
- wear a wide-brimmed hat and light, loose-fitting cotton clothes

On car journeys, ensure babies, children or older people are not left alone in parked cars, which can quickly overheat.

If you feel dizzy, weak or have intense thirst and a headache, move to a cool place as soon as possible and drink some water or diluted fruit juice.

If you have painful muscular spasms (particularly in the legs, arms or abdomen) rest in a cool place and drink electrolyte drinks. If you don't start to recover within 30 minutes, call 111.

Call 999 if a person develops any signs of heatstroke, as this is a medical emergency.

Symptoms are:

- feeling unwell (after 30 minutes resting in a cool place and drinking plenty of water)
- not sweating even while feeling too hot
- a high temperature of 40°C or above
- fast breathing or shortness of breath

- feeling confused
- a fit (seizure)
- loss of consciousness
- being unresponsive

Advice to prevent transfer of stomach bugs

Stay at home if you have any symptoms of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Don't go to work or school or mix outside until 48 hours clear of symptoms.

Stay hydrated.

Wash hands regularly and thoroughly in soap and water, especially after visiting the toilet or before preparing food.

Try not to prepare food for others while infectious.

In any areas where a person has had an episode of illness, use a bleach-based cleaning fluid to clean any surfaces.

Boil wash any laundry soiled during an episode of illness.

Advice for safe sex

Use condoms, especially with a new partner.

Get tested if you've had unprotected sex. Make an appointment at a sexual health clinic and don't have sex until you've been tested and know you are clear of any sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Advice to prevent spread of infectious diseases

Stay at home if you have any symptoms of an infectious disease, including:

- diarrhoea or vomiting
- raised temperature and generally feeling unwell
- symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or any other respiratory disease
- monkeypox, chicken pox, measles or scarlet fever

Follow the public health advice for the illness you have – [check at NHS.UK for information](#) and call 111 if you are concerned for your or another's health.

Try to make sure you are up to date with vaccines for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), MenACWY and COVID-19 before mixing with large groups of people.

Be aware of the signs and symptoms of monkeypox, which can spread through close personal contact, including sex, and contact a sexual health clinic if you suspect you may have the infection.

Wash hands regularly and thoroughly with soap and water and use hand sanitiser.

Wash hands, especially before eating, after going to the toilet, and after blowing your nose or sneezing – making sure you dispose of any tissues in a bin after use.

If you are indoors mixing with a lot of people or on public transport, you may choose to wear a face covering.

Caryn Cox, Health Protection Consultant with UKHSA West Midlands, said:

The Met Office is forecasting a sizzling few weeks during the Games, so we all need to slap on the sun cream, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, seek shade at the hottest times of the day (11am to 3pm) and stay hydrated. Having so many people coming together to watch the Games and enjoy the celebratory events taking place across the region, there is a greater risk of spreading infections, whether it's a stomach bug that can spread by poor hand hygiene or infections including COVID-19 – in both instances, it's best to stay at home if you're ill. Also, it's advisable that you're up to date with your routine vaccinations, like MMR, MenACWY and COVID-19 before mixing with lots of people.

With a party atmosphere and lots of people visiting the region, it's really important to practise safe sex, to prevent possible spread of sexually transmitted infections. So, remember to use condoms, and if you've had unprotected sex, get tested for STIs.

While monkeypox isn't an STI, it can be transmitted through close physical contact, so look out for any symptoms and contact a sexual health clinic if you suspect you may have that or any sexually transmitted infection.

[Sentencing Council: Appointment of non-judicial member](#)

News story

The Lord Chancellor has announced the appointment of Elaine Freer as a non-judicial member of the Sentencing Council.



The Lord Chancellor has announced the appointment of Dr Elaine Freer as a non-judicial member of the Sentencing Council for a tenure of three years. The new term commenced on 1 July 2022 and will run until 30 June 2025.

The Sentencing Council for England and Wales was set up by Part 4 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to promote greater transparency and consistency in sentencing, whilst maintaining the independence of the judiciary. The Sentencing Council's responsibilities include; developing sentencing guidelines and monitoring their use; assessing the impact of guidelines on sentencing practice; and promoting the understanding of and increasing public confidence in sentencing and the criminal justice system.

Appointments and re-appointments are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and, have been made in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Dr Elaine Freer

Dr Elaine Freer is a self-employed barrister who prosecutes and defends criminal cases. She also acts for registrants in cases brought by regulatory bodies such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council and Health and Care Professions Council, and is a Panel Clerk for the Bar Tribunals and Adjudication Service. During 2019 she worked as a Lawyer on the Criminal Team at the Law Commission of England and Wales, involved in the hate crime project. She also holds an academic post at Robinson College in the University of Cambridge, where she teaches Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure and Evidence, and Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System.

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[£1 million available for innovations that rapidly diagnose biological and](#)

chemical agents at the front line

- DASA has launched a new Themed Competition: Point of Care Diagnostics at the Front Line: Phase 2
- Funded by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)
- Up to £1 million funding available for innovative technologies that help diagnose and treat individuals exposed to biological or chemical agents on the front line

The [Defence and Security Accelerator](#) (DASA) is pleased to launch [Point of Care Diagnostics at the Front Line: Phase 2](#), a Themed Competition which follows on from Phase 1. Run on behalf of the [Defence Science and Technology Laboratory](#) (Dstl), this competition seeks cutting-edge technologies that enable clinicians to diagnose and treat individuals following exposure to biological or chemical agents.

Exposure to biological or chemical agents still represents a key issue for deployed personnel. Outputs from this competition that rapidly detect agents and enable quicker treatment will help improve UK capability to manage and treat personnel affected by virulent infectious agents or toxic chemicals.

Key dates and funding

£1 million (Exc. VAT) funding is available and DASA expects to fund two proposals of up to £500k (Exc. VAT) each in value. However, DASA reserves the right to fund one outstanding bid up to £1M (Exc. VAT).

The deadline to submit a proposal is midday (BST) 22 September 2022.

Do you have an idea? [Read the full competition document and submit a proposal](#).

Enabling rapid diagnosis of biological and chemical agents in approximately 1 hour

Current technologies that enable diagnosis of individuals exposed to biological or chemical agents are time-consuming, resource intensive and can only provide limited identification capability. They often rely on laboratory facilities, where sufficient infrastructure and expertise are available to interpret complex data.

This themed competition seeks to address current limitations of diagnostic technologies through the development of novel, enhanced point of care diagnostic devices, which provide a result in approximately 1 hour. The technology should also be able to be used in proximity to the patient, and in demanding austere locations.

Improved point of care solutions will enable clinicians to make informed, high confidence, diagnoses that optimise the management of affected

individuals.

Challenge areas

This competition has one challenge area.

Challenge 1

PoC diagnostic devices submitted to this competition should support one or more of the following requirements:

- Minimal or no requirement for manual sample preparation (blood, serum, plasma, saliva etc).
- Provide a rapid (c. 1 hour or less) time to answer, to facilitate delivery of timely information to clinicians to inform treatment options.
- Provide high confidence information outputs with a minimal level of false positives and negatives.
- Flexible and adaptable to integration of new assays for additional analytes to facilitate identification of a broad spectrum of agents.

To learn more about the challenge area of the competition [read the full competition document here](#).

Webinar

3 August 2022

This webinar will provide more information on the challenge areas and how to submit a proposal. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions in the Q&A. If you would like to get involved, please register on the Eventbrite page.

[Register now](#)

Submit a proposal

Do you have a solution or novel approach to improve our ability to rapidly diagnose and treat front line exposure to chemical and biological agents? Submit an idea and help DASA and Dstl ensure diagnoses capabilities are informed by the latest research and development.

[Learn more and submit a proposal](#).