

# Companies hit with fines after sewage kills thousands of fish

Anglian Water and a contractor have been fined a total of £60,000 after raw sewage leaked into a river killing more than 2,400 fish.

On 27 December 2018, a sewer owned by Anglian Water collapsed in Stanground, Peterborough.

The water company employed contractors Danaher and Walsh to come in and fix the problem temporarily.

Danaher and Walsh set up an over-pumping system to pump the sewage back into the drainage system. However, it became blocked with rag; items that shouldn't be flushed, like baby wipes. A few days later, it failed, leading to sewage ending up in Stanground Lode.

Neither company reported the incident to the Environment Agency; instead, a concerned member of the public called the agency's incident hotline.

Environment Agency investigators found that the watercourse had been polluted for 1.6 kilometres and that at least 2,413 fish died. Among the species killed by the sewage were roach, bream, pike and European eel. This species is currently listed as a "critically endangered" species under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

## Fish recovered from Stanground Lode

It's believed that untreated sewage could have been discharging into the river for up to 10 hours. Levels of ammonia monitored downstream from the discharge were found to be 200 times higher than average water quality standards.

In mitigation, Danaher and Walsh said it would have been unable to predict how much rag would be flushed in this time. It said that it had never come across a blockage like that seen at Stanground in 30 years of operating.

Both companies appeared at Peterborough magistrates' court on 1 June 2022, where they both pleaded guilty. They were charged with causing an illegal sewage discharge between 5 January and 8 January 2019 which polluted Stanground Lode. This is contrary to regulations 12(1)(b) and 38(1)(a) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

The judge deemed there was a low level of culpability from both defendants. Anglian Water was fined £50,000 and told to pay £24,387.58 in costs. Danaher and Walsh was fined £10,000 and told to pay £5,000 in costs.

Yvonne Daly, an environment manager at the Environment Agency in

Cambridgeshire, said:

The Environment Agency takes such devastating pollution incidents incredibly seriously.

Anyone caught breaching environmental laws faces enforcement action, up to and including prosecution.

We are disappointed with the fine issued in this case and would like to see higher penalties to really deter polluters from future offences.

Both companies in this case failed in their environmental duties, leaving to a devastating impact on the local biodiversity. Moreover, they failed to notify the Environment Agency when something had gone wrong.

We are grateful to the vigilant members of the public that did report the pollution. Anyone with any concerns about pollution should contact us on 0800 807060.

- The Environment Agency does not decide the fines handed out to companies and individuals who pollute our rivers. This is down to the courts.
- We will always ensure the courts have all the information they need to impose appropriate sentences.
- In 2021, the courts fined water companies £102,490,000 for pollution incidents following our prosecutions.
- Anglian Water was recently prosecuted by the Environment Agency following the deaths of more than 5,000 fish in Essex. Read more: [Anglian Water fined £300,000 after pollution killed 5,000 fish – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/anglian-water-fined-300000-after-pollution-killed-5000-fish)
- Only pee, poo and toilet paper should go down the toilet.
- Individual actions count. Small steps such as not pouring fats and oils down the sink or flushing wet wipes and other plastic products down the loo can help to protect water quality.

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## **Ed Anderson's term as National Savings and Investments (NS&I) Chair extended for 18 months**

News story

Ed Anderson's term as Chair of the board of National Savings & Investments

has been extended for a period of 18 months, from December 2022 to the end of June 2024.



- The Treasury has extended Ed Anderson's term as Chair of the board of National Savings & Investments for a period of 18 months, to the end of June 2024
- This will ensure continuity of leadership over an important period for NS&I
- Mr Anderson was appointed as Chairman in January 2017 and reappointed on 1 January 2020

Mr Anderson was first appointed as Chair in January 2017, having originally joined NS&I's board as a Non-executive Director in February 2016. He was reappointed as the Chair as of 1 January 2020 on a three-year term.

NS&I has recently embarked on a major re-procurement of its outsourced business services through its Rainbow Programme, and this extension is to ensure strong continuity of leadership over an important period for NS&I.

Non-Executive members of NS&I's Board ensure a sound strategy is in place to meet the organisation's remit of raising cost-effective debt financing for the government. They also act as an external source of advice, have oversight of risk control and ensure NS&I's links with its outsourcing partner, Atos, remain open and transparent.

NS&I is one of the largest savings organisations in the UK, offering a range of savings and investments. All products offer 100% capital security because NS&I is backed by HM Treasury.

Ed was appointed as Chairman in January 2017, having originally joined NS&I's board as a Non-executive Director in February 2016. Ed has held a number of senior executive and non-executive roles. He was previously the Chairman of the Yorkshire Building Society from 2007 to 2015 and Managing Director of Leeds Bradford Airport for 10 years.

### **Further information**

The reappointment was made in accordance with the Code of Practice published by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan

recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Ed Anderson has confirmed that he has not engaged in any political activity in the last five years.

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## [VMD Pharmaceutical Industry Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022](#)

News story

Summary of the final results of our pharmaceutical industry customer satisfaction survey.



The VMD would like to thank those who took time to respond to our recent independent customer satisfaction survey. We greatly appreciate your time in completing the survey and in providing us with feedback on our performance. We value your feedback as this enables us to further improve.

This survey was undertaken on our behalf by Mo Gannon and Associates Ltd – they are an independent company who provide marketing consultancy and market research, both in UK and internationally, specialising in the agricultural and veterinary industries. The survey was conducted in two parts, the quantitative questionnaire phase was completed in November 2021 and the qualitative phase was completed at the beginning of 2022.

There were 88 responses and of those companies responding, 86% showed there was a similar level of overall satisfaction or satisfaction had increased compared to the last survey.

We have now received the final results, a summary of which can be seen in the attached slide deck. Over the coming months we will be analysing this feedback to see what further improvements can be made, as well as ensuring

that we maintain the high standards reflected within the results.

## [VMD Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022 results summary](#)

MS Powerpoint Presentation, 2.75 MB

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## [UK – Malaysia climate ties strengthened with new Climate Partnership](#)

FCDO Minister for the Pacific and International Environment, Lord Zac Goldsmith, has today (7 June), signed a new Partnership with the Malaysian Environment and Water Minister, Dato Sri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, to strengthen co-operation on climate action.

The [‘UK-Malaysia Climate Partnership’](#) will see both countries work together to step up action on climate and biodiversity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sharing knowledge and technical expertise to build capacity and increase ambition.

The Partnership covers five main areas: collaboration on climate and biodiversity issues, knowledge sharing, promoting scientific and technical collaboration, supporting private sector involvement, and promoting outreach activities.

The Partnership will further deepen ties between the UK and Malaysia following the agreement of a new bilateral Strategic Partnership in November 2021.

Minister for the Pacific and the International Environment, Lord Zac Goldsmith, said:

Action to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss requires

commitment and collaboration. The UK-Malaysia Climate Partnership marks an important step in building on the progress made at COP26, and will further deepen the strong ties and knowledge-sharing between our countries to address this global challenge.

Malaysia has taken significant action on clean growth, sustainable urbanisation, green finance, forest and biodiversity protection, supply chains and carbon markets, and by continuing to share our experiences and expertise we can work together to limit carbon emissions and protect precious natural ecosystems.

At COP26, hosted by the UK in Glasgow last year, Malaysia, which has around 54% forest cover and is home to some of the oldest and most biodiverse forests in the world, committed to the Global Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, and the Global Methane Pledge, as well as the FACT Dialogue Roadmap for Action, and the Global Action Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture (ClimateShot).

The UK is delivering several projects in Malaysia which are contributing in practical ways including strengthening nature-based solutions in the forested state of Terengganu, supporting low-carbon city planning in Iskandar, promoting sustainable urbanisation in Kuala Lumpur, renewable energy generation in off-grid villages in Sabah, and mobilising green finance by working with Malaysian financial institutions including the Central Bank (Bank Negara Malaysia).

At COP26, the UK also announced new support to Southeast Asian countries, including Malaysia. The [£110 million ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility](#) will support new sustainable infrastructure projects and the £274 million fund, under the [UK Climate Action for a Resilient Asia \(CARA\) programme](#), will strengthen climate adaptation across the Indo-Pacific.

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## [Mission for fairer, greener jobs market agreed at UK-led International Employment summit](#)

- UK Work and Pensions Secretary, Thérèse Coffey, chairs first OECD Ministerial meeting on employment and labour markets since 2016
- Ministers from all 38 countries agree to ambitious pledge to focus on sustainability, equality and young people
- Members condemn Russian aggression, whose participation with the OECD was suspended in March this year

Supporting careers for young people was at the heart of the agreement adopted

by ministers from all OECD countries, as part of their commitment to create more diverse, sustainable, and robust labour markets.

Led by UK Work and Pensions Secretary, Thérèse Coffey, the discussion focused on the impacts of the pandemic as well as recent challenges, such as the rise in the cost of living triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The UK minister addressed her counterparts with insight into the UK's successful experience of building a strong labour market post-pandemic. Latest data shows the UK currently has a national unemployment rate of 3.7% – the lowest since 1974 with over a million more disabled people in work since 2017.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Thérèse Coffey said:

The importance of focusing on decent, sustainable and high-quality work for all was shared by international ministers around the table today, along with a commitment to promote life-long learning and build inclusivity in our workforce.

As we move on from the pandemic, and face common issues in our labour markets, we must continue to work together to find united solutions and build a fairer and greener global economy.

Delegates also condemned the ongoing Russian aggression, as countries stood in solidarity with Ukraine, after a decision was taken to suspend Russia's participation in OECD activity in March 2022.

Last year, the UK's G7 Presidency made it a priority to get people back into quality and more sustainable jobs and invest in skills to boost economic recovery.

Today's Employment and Labour Ministerial, which was held with an official theme of looking beyond the COVID-19 crisis to a better labour market that works for all, reflected the UK's ongoing commitment to building a strong and inclusive labour market, including working internationally to tackle gender pay gaps.

Ministers also agreed to put environmental challenges at the heart of their plans, and support workers to transition to sustainable sectors, aligning with a key ambition set out by the UK Prime Minister at the COP26 Climate Change summit in Glasgow to create millions of green jobs by unlocking both public and private sector cash.

## **Further information**

The OECD is a group of 38 like-minded countries. It was formed in 1961, as a permanent body for taking forward the reconstruction of post-war Europe, following the Marshall Plan.

[Media enquiries for this press release – 0115 965 8781]

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