

[UK Space Command marks one-year anniversary](#)

Over the past year, [UK Space Command](#) – the Ministry of Defence’s lead for space operations, space workforce, and space capability – has taken command of RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire and the UK Space Operations Centre at RAF High Wycombe.

As the Command celebrates its first anniversary, it also reaches Initial Operating Capability (IOC), marking the completion of its initial development as an operational military command. This follows a year of rapid capability and workforce growth within UK Space Command.

In future, UK Space Command will command and control all of Defence’s space capabilities, including SKYNET satellite communications, the National Air and Space Operations Centre, and the ISTARI programme.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, the Chief of the Air Staff, said:

We are all dependent on space. It is fundamental to our security and to our way of life. Formed one year ago, UK Space Command has now achieved Initial Operating Capability, and is working 24-7-365 to make space safe, sustainable and accessible for the benefit of all.

Air Vice-Marshal Paul Godfrey, Commander of UK Space Command, said:

Space Command’s first year has been exceptionally busy, and our staff have been superb. Every one of them should be proud of their role in enabling us to declare Initial Operating Capability as part of our first anniversary. We will continue to develop our workforce and capabilities to ensure the UK and our allies continue to have access to space and the services derived from it.

The Command works closely with several allied nations in the Combined Space Operations Initiative (CSpO), Five Eyes, NATO, and other bilateral relationships, to collectively promote the free, responsible, and sustainable use of space.

Its first year has also seen close collaboration with the UK Space Agency to deliver joint civil and defence space policy as outlined by the [National Space Strategy](#). The two organisations have worked closely together since the Command’s formation, especially throughout incidents like the [re-entry of](#)

[Long March-5B](#) in May 2021, and the Russian anti-satellite missile test in November 2021.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the missile-tracking capabilities of UK Space Command have been a contributor to the UK and international response. Personnel at the UK Space Operations Centre and RAF Fylingdales have been monitoring this crisis continually since its outset having tracked more ballistic missiles in the last six weeks alone than in the whole of the previous year.

Now in its second year, UK Space Command will continue to deliver on the UK's Space Programme outlined in the [Defence Space Strategy](#) from February 2022, setting out the government's vision for Defence as a global actor in the space domain.

[Part time and postgraduate students in Wales invited to sign up to SFW mailing lists](#)

Press release

The Student Loans Company (SLC) is asking part-time and postgraduate students in Wales to start planning their student finance for next academic year.



The student finance application service for part-time and postgraduate students will open in the summer, but students can sign up now to the Student Finance Wales (SFW) [part-time](#) and [postgraduate](#) mailing lists to receive an email when the services are live.

SLC advises students to apply as early as possible for their student finance, even if they don't have a confirmed place on their course. This helps to ensure that their funding is in place at the start of term.

Part-time and postgraduate Master's students in Wales can apply for a combination of loans and grants to help with their course and living costs. Postgraduate Doctoral students can apply for a loan to help them with their course and living costs.

Chris Larmer, SLC Executive Director, Operations said:

"SLC is committed to enabling opportunity through access to higher and further education, and we want to support as many students as possible to apply for student finance early, to ensure they have their funding in place at term start.

"By signing up to the mailing lists part-time and postgraduate students can be assured that they won't miss the application window opening."

To help students stay up to date with the latest student finance news and information, SLC's top tips include:

- Sign up to the SFW [postgraduate](#) and [part-time](#) mailing lists to be one of the first to know when the application service opens.
- Visit the Student Finance Wales website to find out more about what funding is available
- Follow SFW on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Full-time undergraduate students can apply now for student finance at <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/discover-student-finance/>

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[Nuclear skills showcased at industry awards ceremony](#)

News story

Hundreds of nuclear professionals gathered at the 14th UK Nuclear Skills Awards at the Kimpton Clocktower Hotel in Manchester.



Corhyn Parr, CEO of Nuclear Waste Services, addresses guests at NSAN Nuclear Skills Awards

Sponsored by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the event was organised on behalf of the nuclear industry and Cogent Skills.

The NDA group was heavily represented with six finalists from Sellafield, Magnox and Energus.

Winners of the night included Megan Robertson from Sellafield, who was named 'Intermediate Apprentice of the Year'. In addition, the five other finalists were named runner up, including:

- Ellie Rosewell, Magnox – Intermediate Apprentice of the Year
- Luke Doran, Sellafield – Higher & Degree Apprentice of the Year
- Luke Crampton, Sellafield – Graduate of the Year
- Ross Simpson, Sellafield & Energus – STEM Ambassador of the Year
- Sellafield and Gen2 – Best Employer & Provider Partnership Award

Corhyn Parr, CEO of Nuclear Waste Services, opened the event on behalf of the NDA:

We are celebrating the younger members of our sector tonight and all the fantastic work they do, it is a good opportunity to think to the future and how we set ourselves up as an industry of choice for long term opportunities, exciting challenges and plenty of personal and professional development.

Across the NDA businesses including Sellafield, Magnox, Dounreay and the newly created Nuclear Waste Services, we have some of the most complex challenges in decommissioning and waste management in the world. Our programme is over 100 years to clean-up the UK's legacy sites. We invest in skills because it gives us an energized and committed workforce now and in the future.

Hosting the event, attended by representatives from across the nuclear industry, was Chris Hollis, Sports & Factual Entertainment Presenter, and main presenter for BT Sport.

Three men fined for Alston illegal waste sites

Father and son Keith and Paul Liverick pleaded guilty when they appeared at Carlisle Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 30 March.

Keith, 74, of Station Road, Alston, pleaded guilty to two charges of operating illegal waste sites, while Paul, 51, of the same address, pleaded guilty to one charge of the same offence, and two charges of illegally depositing waste.

Their associate Frank Shepherd, 77, of Leadgate, Alston, had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to a charge of operating an illegal waste site, and a second charge of burning waste on land.

Waste stored at the Clarghyll Colliery site

The court heard that each of the four sites; Clarghyll Colliery, land at the rear of Moredun Garage, Old Foundry Yard, and Rotherthorpe Old Mine, had varying environmental permits and permit exemptions in place to allow for restricted waste deposits and activities.

None of the sites had an environmental permit to allow for the importing, depositing, treatment or sorting of mixed waste. Environmental permits impose conditions on waste operators to govern the type of waste and the type of activity permitted on a given site.

These conditions are designed to reduce the risk of pollution and harm to the environment arising out of the site activities. Environmental permits are designed to protect people and the environment and failure to comply is a serious offence that can damage the environment, undermine legitimate businesses, put jobs and risk and cause misery for local communities.

Between August and November 2018, Environment Agency officers made visits to each of the sites, where they saw illegal deposits of large amounts of mixed waste, which included scrap vehicles, skips of household waste, plastics, timber and construction waste.

Waste stored at the Clarghyll Colliery site

Over the ensuing two years, officers tried to work with the operators to

bring the sites into compliance, but advice and notices were largely ignored.

In mitigation, Shepherd was remorseful, while both Paul and Keith Liverick said it was caused by poor management of the sites.

Andrew Turner, Area Environment Manager for the Environment Agency in the North East, said:

All three showed a blatant disregard for the environment over a great length of time and seemed to think the rules did not apply to them.

They deliberately and persistently allowed the deposit and storage of waste on these sites knowing the activity was illegal and presented a risk of harm to the environment. They did this in the face of officers working hard to encourage compliance.

We work hard to prevent and disrupt waste crime and we're pleased all three have admitted wrong-doing.

Shepherd was fined £666 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £67 and costs of £400; Keith Liverick was fined £1,980 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £190 and costs of £1,350, while Paul Liverick was fined £2,566, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £190 and costs of £2,200.

Environmental incidents can be reported to the Environment Agency 24/7 on 0800 807060.

Waste crime can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers online or on 0800 555111.

[P&O ferries: update from the Insolvency Service](#)

News story

The Insolvency Service has provided an update following its enquiries into the circumstances surrounding the recent redundancies made by P&O Ferries.



Following its enquiries, the Insolvency Service has commenced formal criminal and civil investigations into the circumstances surrounding the recent redundancies made by P&O Ferries.

As these are ongoing investigations, no further comment or information can be provided at this time.

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