

Press release: PM call with NATO Secretary General: 22 January 2017

From:

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Part of:

Prime Minister Theresa May spoke to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and discussed the continued importance of the Alliance.

A Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister spoke to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg this afternoon.

They discussed the continued importance of the Alliance as the bulwark of our defence, and agreed on the need for the Alliance to continue to evolve to be able to effectively counter the biggest threats of the day, in particular terrorism and cyber attacks.

The Prime Minister said she would be taking these messages to Washington later this week where she is expected to discuss NATO with President Trump.

It is completely unacceptable that the Prime Minister chose to side-step questions on the Trident test – Griffith

Nia Griffith MP, Labour's

Shadow Defence Secretary, commenting on the Prime Minister's failure to explain when she knew about the Trident test blunder, said:

"This report of a Trident missile veering off course during a test is clearly a very

serious matter indeed, and we need to know exactly what happened.”

“Furthermore,
it is completely unacceptable that today the Prime Minister chose to side-step
questions on the test, and would not even tell us when she knew about the
incident.

“I am demanding the Prime Minister come to
Parliament tomorrow to give a full explanation to MPs.”

[News story: Boost for motorists as government proposes no MOT test for first 4 years](#)

New cars and motorcycles could no longer require an MOT for the first 4 years on the road under plans to save motorists more than £100 million a year.

Proposals unveiled today (22 January 2017) by Transport Minister Andrew Jones would extend the period before the first MOT test is needed from the current 3 years to 4.

The [government is consulting](#) on the plans which will bring England, Scotland and Wales in line with Northern Ireland and many other European countries including France, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Denmark and Norway.

In 1967 the MOT-free period was reduced from 10 to 3 years. Now, safer technology and improved manufacturing means new vehicles stay roadworthy for longer.

Andrew Jones said:

We have some of the safest roads in the world and MOT tests play an important role in ensuring the standard of vehicles on our roads.

New vehicles are much safer than they were 50 years ago and so it is only right we bring the MOT test up to date to help save motorists money where we can.

It is a legal requirement that all vehicles are roadworthy, regardless of whether they have passed an MOT test and the content of the tests will not be changed.

More than 2.2 million cars each year have to undergo their first MOT test,

which costs owners a maximum of £54.85.

In the last 10 years, the number of 3 or 4-year-old cars involved in accidents where a vehicle defect was a contributory factor has fallen by almost two thirds, from 155 in 2006 to 57 in 2015.

The most common reasons for cars to fail their first tests are faulty lights, according to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

In addition, almost half of faults found during all MOT tests could be avoided by carrying out simple checks and maintenance, including replacing bulbs, checking tyres and oil as well as ensuring windscreen wipers work, and the DVSA is running an ongoing campaign to help motorists ensure their vehicles are safe at all times.

Subject to the public consultation, the changes could come into effect in 2018.

[Tyre checks](#)

[The steps you need to take when checking the tyres of your car](#)

[The steps you need to take when checking the oil levels of your car](#)

[Brakes, lights, indicators and horn checks](#)

[News story: Government takes action on county line drug gangs](#)

Drug gangs using mobiles and couriers to deal remotely in rural areas, including coastal and market towns, will have phones shut down, under new plans announced by the Home Secretary.

The so-called county lines operations involve urban dealers expanding their crack and heroin business into small town markets, operating remotely through the use of specific mobile phone numbers.

The gangs then exploiting children and vulnerable people as couriers to move drugs and money between the new market and their urban hub. The model means dealers can peddle class A drugs without having to visit their markets – cutting the risk of being picked up and arrested by local police.

Now the gangs face having their so-called ‘deal lines’ shut down by the police under new laws being proposed by Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

The use of dedicated mobile phone lines has been identified by the National Crime Agency (NCA) as a key tactic by the drug gangs.

To counter this, the government will table an amendment to the Digital Economy Bill tomorrow (Monday 23 January). If passed, the law will compel the relevant communications provider to disconnect a mobile, SIM card or phone number where it can be proved they are being used in connection with drug offences.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

Gang violence, drug dealing and exploitation have a devastating impact on vulnerable young people, their families and local communities. And they have no place in a Britain that works for everyone.

Taking action to shut down these phone lines demonstrates this government's determination to crack down on gangs and sends a very clear message that we will not tolerate this despicable criminal activity.

The National Crime Agency published their second report into the county lines drug distribution in November last year. It found that over 70% of police forces in England and Wales are now reporting activity within their area.

Tony Siggers, NCA Head of Drugs Threat and Intelligence, and co-author of the county lines report, said:

Urban street gangs operating under the county lines model have become a nationwide problem that relies heavily upon anonymously acquired mobile phones, used as deal lines, branded to particular gangs and their reputation. The numbers have a high value in their own right to crime groups, who can't simply replace them quickly and start over, so taking them out of service is a powerful disruptive tool.

These lines are at the very heart of high volume drug supply, which in turn leads to the daily exploitation of young and vulnerable people. A typical line will likely generate in the region of £2,000 to £3,000 per day. Due to the high number of lines, this has the potential to aggregate to over £2 million per week in illicit revenue.

We welcome the proposal to table an addition to the Digital Economy Bill to disrupt these lines. The proposed legislation will add significant value to law enforcement initiatives to combat gang activity and remove confidence in their operating model.

The government is working with key partners, including law enforcement, local authorities and the voluntary sector to bring a new focus to tackling county lines gangs and to produce a coordinated response.

Last July, the government launched a new partnership with the Institute for Community Safety (ICS), providing funding to support communities facing new gang-related threats.

It brings together frontline professionals such as teachers, police officers and youth workers to identify problems in their local areas, then use this information to develop tailor-made plans to tackle gang violence and exploitation.

[Certification Officer: forthcoming hearings](#)

Published 18 November 2016

Last updated 27 September 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 27 September 2022

Dawes v Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom: hearing adjourned

2. 2 September 2022

Hearing listed: Dawes v RCN

3. 24 September 2021

Hearing listed: Watkins v British Medical Association

4. 12 July 2021

Date for a new hearing

5. 7 December 2020

Certification Officer Hearing in the case of Hussain v CWU to be held on 15 December 2020

6. 3 December 2020

Simpson v Unite the Union: rescheduled hearing date

7. 13 November 2020

Kidd v MU -Adjourned

8. 18 September 2020

new hearing dates

9. 15 September 2020

update of page

10. 24 August 2020

new hearing date

11. 16 March 2020

new hearing date

12. 12 March 2020

C0 hearing – Hussain v CWU

13. 20 January 2020

postponement of hearing

14. 23 December 2019

Two new Certification Officer hearings listed: St John v Unite the Union on 7 January 2020; Hussain v CWU on 29 January 2020.

15. 8 November 2019

New hearing added (Crew v Aegis the Union) and new date for Dinsdale v GMB (2)

16. 15 October 2019

new hearing date

17. 4 September 2019

Three new hearings added, Watkins v British Medical Association, Parlour v NASWUT and Dunham v Society of Radiographers

18. 6 June 2019

new C0 hearing

19. 24 May 2019

Cancellation of hearing – Dosanjh v POA

20. 4 April 2019

New Certification Officer hearings listed: – Dosanjh v POA and Oley & Others v Unite the Union

21. 4 March 2019

new hearing date

22. 11 January 2019

Hearing for McFadden v Unite the Union on 16 January 2019 cancelled

23. 3 January 2019

McFadden v Unite the Union – hearing added

24. 3 January 2019

Kelly v Musicians' Union – hearing added

25. 26 November 2018

Robinson v GMB – hearing added

26. 12 November 2018

A new Certification Officer hearing has been listed – Lascelles v Prospect

27. 9 November 2018

Blackledge v UCU – hearing listed

28. 6 November 2018

Hussain v CWU – remedy hearing listed

29. 24 July 2018

New Certification Officer Hearing

30. 15 June 2018

Start time for Coyne & Brooks v Unite the Union (25 June) changed to 2:00pm and Thursday 28 June as an afternoon only hearing

31. 15 June 2018

Gates v Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists – hearing listed for 4 July 2018

32. 7 June 2018

Coyne & Brooks v Unite the Union – 5 day hearing listed for 25-29 June.

33. 7 June 2018

cancellation of hearing – Dawson v UCU

34. 23 April 2018

new hearing date added

35. 28 March 2018

Added hearing in the case of Dinsdale v GMB on 19 April 2018

36. 2 March 2018

Added preliminary hearing in the case of Coyne & Brooks v Unite the Union

37. 22 February 2018

Rolfe v POA: hearing listed for Friday 2 March 2018

38. 14 February 2018

Pollock v Accord: the hearing set for 15 February 2018 is cancelled

39. 19 January 2018

The hearing set for Wednesday 24 January 2018 has been cancelled

40. 17 January 2018

Added directions hearing for Coyne & Brooks v Unite the Union on 26/01/18

41. 10 January 2018

New hearings announced for Markham v GMB and for Pollock v Accord.

42. 29 November 2017

1. The hearing for Pollock v Accord set for 30 November 2017 has been cancelled 2. Hearing listed for Chisholm v Unite the Union on 18 December 2017

43. 8 November 2017

Pollock v Accord hearing

44. 7 October 2017

McFadden v Unite the Union: the hearing set for Monday 9 October and Tuesday 10 October 2017 has been cancelled

45. 18 August 2017

Announcement of forthcoming hearings.

46. 6 February 2017

hearing date

47. 12 December 2016

Details of restricted seating at venue.

48. 18 November 2016

hearing postponed

49. 18 November 2016

First published.

50. 24 October 2016

New Certification Officer hearing dates

51. 3 October 2016

A number of cases have been listed for hearings.

52. 3 August 2016

Brough v Union of Construction, Allied Trades & Technicians (UCATT) (No. 2) has been listed for a hearing on 15 August 2016.

53. 12 May 2016

Forbes v Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association: the hearing scheduled for 25 May 2016 in Edinburgh has been postponed.

54. 17 March 2016

Three cases listed by the Certification Officer for hearings.

55. 22 February 2016

Henderson v GMB has been listed for a hearing on 1 March 2016.

56. 3 November 2015

The case of Mills v Unite the Union has been listed for a hearing on 11 November 2015 at Fleetbank House, London.

57. 30 September 2015

Forthcoming hearings

58. 25 September 2015

Forthcoming hearings

59. 24 September 2015

Forthcoming Certification Officer hearing

60. 29 April 2015

Stevens v Union of Democratic Mineworkers will be heard before the Certification Officer on 7 May 2015.

61. 17 April 2015

Beaumont (4) and Mansell v Unite the Union: venue confirmed

62. 2 April 2015

New venue for the Mills v Unite the Union hearing on 9 April 2015.

63. 26 March 2015

New venue for the Street and Street (2) v UNISON hearing on 1 April 2015.

64. 5 March 2015

Forthcoming hearings before the Certification Officer.

65. 12 February 2015

The hearing date of 25 February 2015 for the case Stevens v Union of Democratic Mineworkers has been postponed. A new hearing date will be announced shortly.

66. 23 January 2015

The hearing scheduled for 28 January 2015 in the case Barton v UNISON will not now go ahead. A decision will be placed on the website in due course.

67. 15 January 2015

The hearing date of 19 January 2015 for Street and Street (2) v UNISON has been postponed. A new hearing date will be announced shortly.

68. 9 January 2015

Details of forthcoming hearings published on the Certification Officer's website.

69. 1 December 2014

Notice of three new public hearings.