

GOVERNMENT

# Watch out for a host of new laws this year

New laws on the gender pay gap, drones and classic cars are to be introduced in 2018 – potentially affecting thousands of people throughout Burton and South Derbyshire.

The changes, already approved, could send out shockwaves for many people once the new laws go live.

For example, from April 4, businesses with more than 250 employees will have to publish the differences in pay between men and women under its employment.

Meanwhile, classic cars will no longer require an MOT and police will have more powers to seize drones.

Some things to watch out for include:

● May – UK Data Protection Bill

Matt Hancock, Minister of State for Digital, said the measures are designed to “give consumers the confidence that their data is protected and those who misuse it will be held to account”.

If passed, the Data Protection Bill will bring British law into line with the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will become enforceable from May 2018.

It will be easier to withdraw



Flying a drone is set to come under tighter control in 2018. Picture by Getty

your consent for the use of your personal data, you will be able to ask for your personal data held by companies to be erased, and companies will have to gain your “explicit” consent before processing your sensitive personal data”, among other points.

● April – gender pay gap  
England, Wales and Scotland employers with at least 250 employees will be required to publish information about the differences in pay between men and women in their workforce, based on a pay bill ‘snapshot’ date of

April 5, 2017, under the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

The first reports must be published by April 4, 2018.

● April – termination payments  
The Government plans to

make changes to the taxation of termination payments from April 2018.

The proposals include: making all payments in lieu of notice taxable and subject to Class 1 NICs – ensuring that the first £30,000 of a termination payment remains exempt from income tax.

● April – Minimum Energy Performance Ratings

From April 1, 2018, there will be a requirement for any privately rented properties to have a minimum energy performance rating of E.

May – MoT scrapped on classic cars

From May 2018, 293,000 cars in Britain will be exempt from having an MoT test.

● TBC – Drones  
Drones – unmanned aircraft – are becoming increasingly regulated following health and safety fears.

In 2018, the UK Government is introducing new laws which mean users will need to take a basic online safety test and register their drone in order to lawfully use it.

Police will also be able to search and seize drones if they have grounds for suspicion.

The test has been described as “similar to a driving theory test”.

FUND-RAISING

## Lyndsey is top of the tree with design

A festive competition and raffle held at Queen’s Hospital in Burton to find the most creative Christmas tree design raised much-needed funds to fight the most common male cancer.

Around £350 was raised by staff alone, paying for tickets and entering the competition, with the money going to Inspire Health – Fighting Prostate Cancer, a group led by Jyoti Shah, a consultant urological surgeon at the Belvedere Road hospital.

The competition saw workers around the hospital put their thinking caps on and design Christmas trees with a twist.

The winning entry was ‘Guardian Angel’, designed by theatre support worker, Lindsey Argent-Matthews, with the tree appearing to form the shape of a woman, including a dress and ribbon.

To raise further funds, a raffle was held, taking the total fund-raising pot to £350, which will go towards funding the cancer screenings held by the group in familiar surroundings in the community.

COURT

# Drug-fuelled man attacked two taxi drivers

By Helen Krefit  
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A 22-year-old man was high on drugs when he sprayed two taxi drivers with a fire extinguisher he had just stolen from an ambulance station, a court heard.

Connor Gardner, of High Street, Woodville, embarked on a drug-fuelled rampage, launching a “nasty attack” on the two drivers after he had broken into Swadlincote Ambulance Station, in Alexandra Road, in the town. He also used the fire extinguisher to damage taxis parked outside.

Now East Midlands Ambulance Service bosses have slammed his actions, saying the cost of replacing the fire extinguisher could have been used to treat its patients instead.

Gardner appeared at South-east Derbyshire Magistrates’ Court where he denied some of

the charges against him, but he was convicted of all offences.

The court heard that in the early hours of March 30 last year, Gardner was high on drugs and had been drinking when he broke into East Midlands Ambulance Service’s station in Swadlincote where he stole a fire extinguisher. He then used the item to damage two taxis parked outside.

Gardner’s vandalism prompted two taxi drivers to confront him but he sprayed them with the liquid from the fire extinguisher, the court was told.

He also launched into a tirade of racial abuse before police were called. Officers were forced to chase him on foot for a short distance before he was finally arrested.

At his trial Gardner was found guilty of assaulting the two men. He was also found guilty of damaging a vehicle belonging to one of the victims.

The defendant was also found guilty of using threat-

ening or abusive words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour within the hearing or sight of a person likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress, and the offence was racially aggravated.

At a previous hearing before this trial Gardner had admitted damaging the rear window of a car belonging to the second victim.

He also admitted stealing the fire extinguisher, and failing to attend court on November 23.

Gardner avoided an immediate jail sentence when he was given a 26-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months, with magistrates saying they felt it was a particularly “nasty attack using a weapon on public servants while ‘in drink’ and high on drugs”.

He must also complete a drug rehabilitation requirement and complete 100 hours unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation, a £200 fine, £620 court costs and a £115 victim surcharge.

**WIN**  
**AN AMAZON FIRE TABLET**



The Amazon Fire 7 tablet has a crisp vivid 7” display, a powerful quad-core processor and long-lasting battery. Seamlessly stream your favourite entertainment with dual-band Wi-Fi or enjoy offline with up to 256Gb of expandable storage. Shop for movies, TV shows, songs, Kindle eBooks, Android apps and games including Facebook, Spotify, BBC iPlayer and more. Choose from thousands of videos to download with a Prime membership, Netflix subscription, or other services. To be in with a chance of winning this amazing tablet simply answer the question, fill in the entry form and send to Amazon Fire Tablet Competition, Burton Mail, Worthington Way, Burton on Trent DE14 1BQ.

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS NOON MONDAY JANUARY 15 2018.**

**QUESTION: WHICH BAND SANG DISCO INFERNO**

A) Deep Purple B) The Trammps C) Fleetwood Mac

Answer .....  
Name .....  
Address .....  
Postcode ..... Tel No .....  
Email address .....

**Terms and conditions:** Trinity Mirror rules apply, see burtonmail.co.uk/rules for details. The first correct entry drawn at random from all received before the closing date of noon on Monday January 15 2018, will win an Amazon Fire 7 tablet. Photo is for illustration purposes only. Prize includes the device only, streaming services and other subscriptions are not included. There is no cash or alternative prize offered. Photocopied, damaged or defaced entry forms will not be accepted. When you respond you agree that we may offer you products and services by post, SMS and telephone. See our privacy policy on our website for details. Trinity Mirror would also like to occasionally allow selected third parties to contact you – if you object to receiving third party communications please tick here [ ]