# Britannia Jinky Jersey Ltd charged with corporate manslaughter over Pontins ceiling collapse



A significant court case has emerged involving the parent company of Pontins holiday parks, Britannia Jinky Jersey Ltd, which faces charges of corporate manslaughter. This follows a serious incident from February 2019 at the Brean Sands resort in Somerset, where part of a ceiling collapsed, injuring eighteen guests.

The collapse occurred inside an entertainment area known as the Fun Factory, when a 40-metre section of structural ducting and ceiling fell. Among those injured was 68-year-old grandmother Wendy Jones, who was hospitalised due to the incident. Tragically, she passed away in August 2019, prompting legal scrutiny regarding the circumstances surrounding her death.

Britannia Jinky Jersey Ltd is accused of gross negligence in its duty of care. The charges specify that the company "managed and organised its activities in such a way so as to cause the death of Wendy Jones," exposing her to life-threatening risks linked to the fallen ducting, which was located at height within the holiday resort.

In addition to the corporate charge against the company, Stephen Bennison, aged 59, of Farington, Lancashire, has been charged under Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The accusation claims he failed to ensure the safety of non-employees while carrying out contracting work related to sound-prodding in the same premises. Specifically, he is alleged to have not safeguarded members of the public, including Jones, from risks associated with overloaded ductwork.

Both defendants appeared at Bristol Magistrates’ Court, where District Judge Lynne Matthews decided to transfer the case to Bristol Crown Court for trial, with their next appearance scheduled for 9 June. Neither party entered a plea to the charges during the court proceedings. Bennison has been released on unconditional bail.

The Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service confirmed that they responded to reports of the collapsed ducting, highlighting that the fall had also exposed live damaged electrics in the area, raising further concerns over safety practices at the resort.

As the case proceeds through the legal system, it raises significant questions about corporate responsibility and health and safety compliance within commercial operations.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-68243138> - This article discusses the incident at Pontins Brean Sands, where a ceiling collapse injured 18 people, including 68-year-old Wendy Jones, who later died in August 2019. It also mentions concerns raised by staff about the safety of the ceiling prior to the incident.
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2024-04-26/prosecutors-considering-charges-against-pontins-after-death-of-grandmother> - This report details the Crown Prosecution Service's consideration of charges against Pontins' parent company, Britannia Jinky Jersey, following the death of Wendy Jones after the ceiling collapse at Brean Sands resort in 2019.
3. <https://www.bailiwickexpress.com/news/family-woman-who-died-after-ceiling-collapse-demanding-answers-jersey-registered-firm/> - This article highlights the family's demand for answers from the Jersey-registered company, Britannia Jinky Jersey, regarding the incident at Pontins Brean Sands, where a ceiling collapse led to the death of Wendy Jones.
4. <https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/pontins-brean-ceiling-collapse-update-3867058> - This piece provides an update on the investigation into the ceiling collapse at Pontins Brean Sands, which injured 18 people, and mentions the involvement of Sedgemoor District Council and Avon and Somerset Police in the ongoing inquiry.
5. <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/the-corporate-body-the-question-of-corporate-responsibility-and-criminal-liability-in-the-wake-of-two-recent-cases-/19863.article> - This article discusses corporate responsibility and criminal liability, referencing cases under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, which is relevant to the charges considered against Britannia Jinky Jersey in the Pontins incident.
6. <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/pontins-brean-sands-wendy-jones-3899008> - This report covers the investigation into the death of Wendy Jones following the ceiling collapse at Pontins Brean Sands, including the police's efforts to determine if her death was caused by the injuries sustained in the incident.
7. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/pontins-parent-company-accused-of-corporate-manslaughter-IIFJ4GEDDBPCPGYAM4CRTF6ZQA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data