

Unqualified Hull immigration adviser receives suspended sentence

Press release

Found guilty of giving unlawful immigration advice



A Hull man has received a suspended prison sentence after pleading guilty to providing unregulated immigration advice.

Gary Pounder, 59, of Orchard Park Estate, Hull, was sentenced three months' imprisonment (suspended for 12 months) and ordered to repay costs to the victims at Hull & Holderness Magistrates Court on December 10.

In September 2020, Mr Pounder admitted to providing illegal immigration advice or services following an investigation by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) in which three unrelated individuals confirmed Mr Pounder gave them unregulated advice for which he charged fees.

Mr Pounder's actions meant that the victims had their immigration status put at risk, including one victim who following advice from Mr Pounder, found he inadvertently applied for a travel document rather than seeking leave to remain. Another had been incorrectly informed of the fees required by the Home Office to cover his application which was subsequently rejected. The third victim's application was refused as insufficient evidence had been supplied.

Immigration Service Commissioner John Tuckett said, "Gary Pounder was not regulated and misled his clients. The impact on the victims and sentence given to Mr Pounder clearly demonstrates the importance of only providing immigration advice if you are lawfully qualified to do so."

Notes to editor

1. The OISC is an independent public body, established under the Immigration and Asylum Act (IAA) 1999, to regulate the provision of immigration advice and services in the UK.
2. Section 91 of the IAA 1999 creates a criminal offence of providing

immigration advice, contrary to section 84 of the IAA 1999.

3. Media queries to Cornelius Alexander, Corporate Communications Business Partner on 0207 211 1167 or communications@oisc.gov.uk.

Published 16 December 2020

Growth & Apprenticeship Hub Support project call in Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (OC12S20P1794)

Call to run a project providing help to employers to increase apprenticeships, intern and work experience uptake, as well as supporting skills development.

New Inspiration for the Commonwealth Games and City of Culture project (OC50S20P1795)

Call to run a project to support unemployed/Inactive people move closer to employment via participation in sports coaching & leadership, leisure & creative skills; volunteering; stewarding & marshalling.

British Embassy in Santiago receives Civil Service Award

The Embassy won the Civil Service Award for having received the “EquidadCL Certification” for promoting the LGBTI+ talent in the workplace.

[British Embassy in Santiago receives Civil Service Award](#)

In a year when the pandemic has taken up so much of the Embassy's agenda, 2020 has brought excellent news for Diversity and Inclusion in Santiago. After many years of continued work to make the Embassy a good place to work for LGBTI+ talent, on 4 December we proudly received the [Advancing LGBTI+ Inclusion Award](#), a recognition given by the UK Civil Service to showcase the best outcomes in the Civil Service's aspiration to attract greater diversity and be the most inclusive employer.

Out of 297 nominations in 12 categories, the Embassy won the D&I Civil Service Award for having received the "[EquidadCL Certification](#)" in July 2020, a local recognition that placed the Embassy in Santiago among the twenty best employers in Chile for LGBTI+ talent. This, in turn, allowed the Embassy to become the first diplomatic mission and public sector employer in Chile, and the only British Embassy in the region, to receive accreditation as a workplace committed to LGBTI+ inclusion.

EquidadCL Certification

The "Equidad CL Certification" is given each year by [Fundación Iguales](#) (one of the leading organisation for LGBTI+ rights in Chile), [Pride Connection Chile](#) (a business network that promotes inclusive workplaces) and the [Human Rights Campaign](#) (HRC; one of the Americas largest LGBTI+ civil rights organisations).

In 2020, a total of 63 companies and organisations participated in the certification process and were assessed in three core areas of LGBTI+ inclusion: adoption of non-discriminatory policies; the creation of employee resource groups/diversity and inclusion committees; and engagement in public activities supporting LGBTI+ inclusion. And the Embassy scored well in all those key areas.

UK Civil Service Awards

Part of the team who received the Award.

On its part, the UK Civil Service awards showcase the strong public service ethos of civil servants all across the Government departments in tackling demanding and important issues with innovative solutions, through collaboration and effective actions, to produce real impact for the people both in the UK and abroad. In this context, the Embassy's efforts working with the LGBTI+ community in Chile put into action the UK's wider commitment to make equality a reality for LGBTI+ people the world over.

Receiving the Civil Service Award was a recognition to the Embassy pulling

together its public diplomacy, corporate policies, learning and development, and local outreach, to transform them into a strategic effort, working towards contributing to eradicating discrimination and setting a standard for LGBTI+ inclusion in Chile for the public and private sector alike.

The work ahead

From the first time our Embassy flew the rainbow flag above its building in 2012, becoming the first foreign mission to do so in Chile, until 2020 when we flew the transgender flag to mark the Transgender Day of Remembrance, our team in Santiago has worked permanently to make the Embassy a good place to work for LGBTI+ talent and to advocate for the protection and promotion of LGBTI+ rights and values at a local level.

What about the future? Our Embassy is committed to continue demonstrating what can be achieved through a truly inclusive workplace that celebrates diversity, and we hope that other British Embassies around the world can get a similar certification to make our organisation a better place to work for all.

Further information

If you want to know more about the D&I Civil Service Awards , please contact [Pamela.Gallardo](#), GREAT Campaign Manager.

For more information about the activities of the British Embassy in Santiago, follow us on: