

# Conman sentenced for selling forged exam certificates



A conman found to be selling fake certificates for qualifications online was sentenced on 14 January. The individual was sentenced to 80 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay costs of £567.97, including a £60 victim surcharge, after knowingly selling fake certificates for qualifications.

He also illegally used Ofqual's and exam boards' branding and logos to make the certificates seem more likely to be genuine.

Ofqual discovered this website and investigated. We monitored conversations online and purchased a number of certificates. We also discovered the address linked to the website and referred the matter to Trading Standards officers there at Darlington Borough Council. We contacted all the exam boards involved for them to take necessary action.

Michelle Meadows, Executive Director for Strategy, Risk & Research at Ofqual said:

Fake certificates for qualifications will not be tolerated and we have ensured that the website no longer provides these. We want people to feel secure in the knowledge that a qualification accredited by Ofqual is valid. People who are found to be selling fake certificates for qualifications or using the Ofqual logo illegally will face legal action.

Chris McEwan, Darlington Council's Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration said:

I commend Trading Standards for bringing this important case to court. The jobs market is tough and it may be tempting to make false claims but anyone using a fake qualification certificate to get a job will be found out and ruin their employment chances. It is also a stark reminder to all businesses that employee fraud is a real threat which can have a significant financial and reputational

impact. Qualification claims should always be verified.

Anyone wanting to report the sale of fake qualification certificates can contact Ofqual directly on 0300 303 3344.

Published 15 January 2015

Last updated 21 August 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 21 August 2019 The name of the individual has been removed as their conviction is now spent and a request was made under GDPR.
2. 15 January 2015 First published.

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## July 2019 Transaction Data

In July:

- HM Land Registry completed more than 1,898,280 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 437,867

HM Land Registry completed 1,898,283 applications in July compared with 1,662,826 in June and 1,794,855 last July, of which:

- 364,709 were applications for register updates compared with 321,490 in June
- 998,656 were applications for an official copy of a register compared with 870,019 in June
- 229,294 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 205,027 in June
- 19,471 were postal applications from non-account holders compared with 17,729 in June

## **Applications by region and country**

<b>Region/country</b>	<b>May applications</b>	<b>June applications</b>	<b>July applications</b>
South East	390,642	374,229	437,867
Greater London	318,243	321,774	349,605
North West	203,002	194,062	220,424
South West	164,417	160,310	182,925
West Midlands	155,019	140,325	169,363
Yorkshire and the Humber	138,521	131,021	147,593
East Midlands	125,246	118,557	134,194
North	81,397	77,136	88,654
East Anglia	70,692	67,536	78,143

<b>Region/country</b>	<b>May applications</b>	<b>June applications</b>	<b>July applications</b>
Isles of Scilly	89	43	62
Wales	84,932	77,750	89,375
England and Wales (not assigned)	80	83	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,732,280</b>	<b>1,662,826</b>	<b>1,898,283</b>

## Top 5 local authority areas

<b>Top 5 local authority areas</b>	<b>May applications</b>	<b>Top 5 local authority areas</b>	<b>June applications</b>	<b>Top 5 local authority areas</b>	<b>July applications</b>
Birmingham	27,284	Birmingham	25,418	Birmingham	28,964
City of Westminster	23,530	City of Westminster	21,935	City of Westminster	24,100
Leeds	20,600	Leeds	20,243	Leeds	22,097
Cornwall	17,452	Manchester	18,168	Manchester	19,642
Manchester	17,036	Cornwall	16,673	Cornwall	19,010

## Top 5 customers

<b>Top 5 customers</b>	<b>May applications</b>	<b>Top 5 customers</b>	<b>June applications</b>	<b>Top 5 customers</b>	<b>July applications</b>
Enact	48,609	Enact	45,886	Infotrack Limited	59,675
Infotrack Limited	46,242	Infotrack Limited	45,347	Enact	53,372
O'Neill Patient	24,797	O'Neill Patient	22,915	O'Neill Patient	26,849
Optima Legal Services	24,643	WSP Management Services Ltd	22,000	Optima Legal Services	24,422
My Home Move Limited	19,964	Optima Legal Services	21,029	TM Group (UK) Ltd (Search Choice)	21,309

[Access the full dataset on data.gov.uk](#)

## Next publication

Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The August data will be published at 11am on Friday 20 September 2019.

## Highly Commended Business Advice and Support Partnership

At the Regulatory Excellence Awards in June 2019 the judges awarded the Business Advice and Support Partnership the highly commended award in the Primary Authority category.

The partnership was established in 2017 and consists of East Sussex County Council, Kent County Council, Hampshire County Council and Slough Borough Council. The partnership focuses on sharing expertise, knowledge and resources across geographical boundaries quickly and effectively to provide high level support to businesses.

The Business Advice and Support Partnership delivers over 120 Primary Authority partnerships including 16 co-ordinated partnerships and in sectors as diverse as hot tub suppliers, food manufacturers and toy importers. It provides advice on devolved matters in Wales and all Primary Authority Advice goes through cross authority peer review process before it is issued.

The partnership uses different communication methods to ensure that intelligence, expertise, experience and learning are shared. Currently it is focusing on the growth of Primary Authority partnership numbers and engagement, especially with co-ordinated partnerships, to maximise the number of businesses receiving regulatory support and advice.

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## Legia Warszawa vs Rangers FC – travel advice



British Embassy  
Warsaw

Glasgow Rangers will be playing Legia Warszawa on 22 August, 8pm CET, at the Legia Stadium in Warsaw.

## Getting to the stadium

The Legia Warsaw Municipal Stadium (also known as the Polish Army Stadium) is located on 3 Łazienkowska street in Warsaw.

The nearest bus stops are Legia Stadion and Rozbrat. Information on public transport connections is available on the website of the [Warsaw Public Transport Authority](#).

If you are travelling from Modlin Airport you would have to take a train or a taxi.

If travelling by taxi, you are advised to use major taxi companies, such as Sawa Taxi (+48 22 644 44 44) or Ele Taxi (+48 22 811 11 11). If you do pick up a taxi on the street, always check the per kilometre price, which should be clearly marked on the side of the taxi, before getting in. Some taxis operating in areas frequented by tourists can charge highly inflated price.

## Safety tips

If you are a UK National and you plan to travel to Poland to watch the match, it is advisable to:

- Keep your passport safe, fill out the last page (emergency contacts) and keep plenty of copies of the data page.
- Consider having adequate travel insurance while travelling.
- Obey Polish laws, regulations and instructions from local authorities. If you are arrested, the British Embassy cannot get you out of police detention until the Police proceedings are completed. The British Embassy do not provide legal advice.
- Ask for a receipt from taxi drivers so your belongings can be retrieved if left in a taxi.
- If you drink alcohol, drink responsibly and be aware that alcoholic drinks may be stronger in Poland than in the UK. Don't leave drinks or food unattended and beware of accepting drinks from casual acquaintances.
- Check your bill carefully when buying drinks in bars and nightclubs.
- As in any other city, beware of pickpockets and bag snatchers at airports, railway stations, around the town centre and when using public transport. Only carry what you need, leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposits.

Read more in the [Poland travel advice](#).

## Emergency service numbers

All Emergencies – 112

## Contact the Embassy

British Embassy Warsaw ul. Kawalerii 12 00-468 Warsaw Tel: +48 22 311 0000  
Fax: +48 22 311 0311 Opening hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri from 9am-12.30pm. Wed

– closed.

If you are in Poland and you need urgent help (for example, you've been attacked, arrested or someone has died), call +48 22 311 00 00. If you are in the UK and worried about a British national in Poland, call 020 7008 1500.

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1. 21 August 2019 We have added information on getting to the stadium and safety tips
2. 21 August 2019 First published.

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## Seminar for planners on the Scottish coalfields

The Coal Authority will be talking about Britain's coal mining legacy and managing the environmental impacts of historical mining within the local planning process at a half-day event hosted by Glasgow City Council on Wednesday, 4 September 2019,

There will be a presentation by Melanie Lindsley and Deb Roberts from our Planning Development Team, before a question and answer session and an opportunity to view local coal abandonment plans and photographs from our archive.

If you are a planning officer with any council on the Scottish coalfield and would like to book a place at the seminar, which is CPD accredited, contact: [planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk)

Melanie Lindsley said the seminar, the latest in a series, will be a great opportunity to engage with local authority partners in Scotland and added:

The Coal Authority deals with more than 180 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in England, Scotland and Wales and we provide more than 9,000 consultation responses each year.

We began proactive engagement with LPAs last year to discuss and review the process, to better understand the issues planners face in the former coalfields and consider how we can improve our consultation processes.

LPAs are able to access our Development High Risk Area and Surface

Coal Resource data sets and we provide them with guidance, which we update every two years.

However, it is always good to speak to planning colleagues in person and these events are an excellent way of doing this and have been very well received.

**Event details:**

Venue: Glasgow City Council, Exchange House, 231 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1RX.

Time: Wednesday, 4 September 2019, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Book your place: [planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk)