

Press release: 'Reckless' skip company boss ordered to pay almost £25,000

Owner/operator Robert Walker of Bob's Skips in Basildon, Essex, failed to check the legitimacy of a haulier who claimed to be working for a genuine haulage company. The driver did not work for the company and was using fake waste transfer notices. The waste was later found fly-tipped at 4 different locations in Essex.

Chelmsford Magistrates' Court heard today that the rogue trader had made a cold call to Walker's company looking for something to fill his lorry for a return journey.

Mrs Sarah Dunne, prosecuting for the Environment Agency, told magistrates that Walker, 54, of Whitmore Way, Basildon, arranged 4 of these deliveries.

She told the court that Walker had asked for waste transfer notices but made no further enquiries about the legitimacy of the company and failed to notice the forms were not filled in properly.

He also had no idea where the waste was being taken nor did he check that it had arrived at its destination – all part of his duty of care. Due to the inaccurate nature of the paperwork, it was not possible to trace the lorry or the driver.

Mrs Dunne said Walker had been reckless and breached the duty of care he had when managing waste.

This unlawful waste disposal could have been prevented if the code of practice had been followed.

By breaching his duty of care, he avoided the costs and taxes involved in sending waste to a permitted site.

After the hearing, Environment Agency officer Tom Pickover said:

We hope this sends out a clear message to waste operators that they cannot take a cavalier approach to its disposal.

The duty of care rules are there to protect the environment and legitimate traders who want to do a good job of disposing of waste properly.

Walker was fined £10,000, ordered to pay £8,300 towards the costs of the clean-up of the fly-tipped rubbish and £6,532 in costs. There was also a £30 victim surcharge.

The defendant pleaded guilty to: Between 1 January 2018 and 31 January 2018 you failed to comply with the duty of care imposed by section 34(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in that, being a person that disposes of controlled waste, namely, a skip full of mixed waste, did fail to take such measures as were reasonable in the circumstances to prevent any contravention by any other person of section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 contrary to section 34(1)(a) and (6) Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Between 1 February 2018 and 28 February 2018 you failed to comply with the duty of care imposed by section 34(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in that, being a person that disposes of controlled waste, namely, a trailer full of mixed waste, did fail to take such measures as were reasonable in the circumstances to prevent any contravention by any other person of section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 contrary to section 34(1)(a) and (6) Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Between 1 January 2018 and 31 January 2018 you failed to comply with the duty of care imposed by section 34(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in that, being a person that disposes of controlled waste, namely, a skip full of mixed waste, did fail to take such measures as were reasonable in the circumstances to prevent any contravention by any other person of section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 contrary to section 34(1)(a) and (6) Environmental Protection Act 1990.

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[News story: Apprenticeships take centre stage](#)

[NAW2019 video](#)

The annual awareness week, now in its 12th year, brings together apprentices and employers from across the UK to celebrate the success of apprenticeships. It encourages people of all ages to choose an apprenticeship as a pathway to a great career.

Running until 8 March, NAW 2019 theme of 'Blaze a Trail' highlights how apprentices bring new energy and passion into organisations.

The NDA group has supported around 2,000 apprenticeships and hundreds more

are currently employed, training in the latest skills which include cyber, design, ICT, scientific, mechanical, electrical, project management and even firefighting.

Between now and 2021, the NDA group aims to support increasing apprenticeships in the nuclear sector from 2,000 to 4,000 per year. It will also focus on projects between civil and defence nuclear sectors.

Apprenticeships at supply chain firms will also increase by 20%, particularly at smaller companies.

The value of apprenticeships has long been championed: they providing students with vital on-the-job training as well as the chance to earn while they learn. They also form a crucial part of the NDA's commitment to the Nuclear Sector Deal which sets out the need to have a skilled workforce capable of tackling the future challenges of the nuclear industry.

Jacq Longrigg, Head of Skills at the NDA, said:

Apprenticeships are absolutely vital for us when it comes to making sure that we have the right skills in place to be able to complete the challenge of decommissioning our nuclear facilities.

Apprenticeships play a key role in bridging our nation's skills gap and play a part in our commitment to the Nuclear Sector Deal and the work of the Nuclear Skills Strategy Group.

[Find out more about Nuclear Skills Strategy Group](#)

[Find out more about the Nuclear Sector Deal](#)

[Apprenticeship guide](#)

Speech: Exchequer Secretary speech: Royal Bank of Scotland

Good morning.

Thank you RBS for hosting us. It's great to be back in Manchester and wonderful to see the buildings and the cranes and the sense of energy.

International Women's Day is a chance for us to celebrate the brilliant women who have shaped the modern world.

And it makes sense to mark the occasion in Manchester.

This, after all, is the home of Emmeline Pankhurst, Marie Stopes, Elizabeth Gaskell...

And today, some of our best businesswomen – Carol Kane of Boohoo, Angela Spindler of N Brown, Anastasia Kenyon, who, at just 24, founded Palette, the app that helps you find a make-up artist.

But it's also a Day to think about where we need to keep improving.

And business and entrepreneurship is one of those areas.

The UK is one of the best places to start and grow a business.

We have the lowest corporation tax in the G20, an encouraging regulatory environment, and the strong capital markets of our financial services industry – not just in London, but in cities like Manchester also.

Today, there are nearly six million businesses in the UK, a 25% increase since 2010. A new one is created every 75 seconds.

But women are not playing an equal role in this success story.

In the North West, the spiritual home of female empowerment, women make up just over a quarter of those starting businesses.

And across the country, only one-fifth of businesses are run by women.

That's despite the fact that there are almost one million more women than men living in the UK.

A report we commissioned from the British Business Bank last year revealed some shocking findings.

89% of UK VC deals involved founding teams with no women.

And for every £1 of VC investment in the UK, all-female founder teams get less than 1p.

This is a lost opportunity for those women. And having run businesses I know what an empowering and hugely rewarding life an entrepreneurial path is.

It is also a great lost opportunity for the economy.

The best estimates suggest we may be missing out on more than a million new enterprises and billions of pounds of economic activity...

...not to mention new inventions and innovations that would improve our lives.

And if anyone remotely thinks the economy is a zero-sum game, where you can only have so many enterprises...

We have to remind them that people said the same thing when women started entering male-dominated workplaces in the early 20th century.

In fact, it is a hundred years since my great grandmother became deputy manager of the Robertson jam factory here in Droylsden. She took a man's job during the war and turns out she was better than him.

The effect across the economy back then was simply to increase wages and productivity for everyone, In just the same way, increasing the number of female entrepreneurs will be a rising tide that lifts all boats.

But progress will not happen automatically. We must take positive action.

That's why we commissioned Alison Rose – CEO of commercial and private banking at the Royal Bank of Scotland – to lead a review into the challenges that women face in starting and growing their own business.

Alison's work will help us understand how we can assist women in all sectors and all parts of the country to realise their dream of becoming an entrepreneur.

She's found obstacles at all stages of the entrepreneurial journey.

- women have less of an appetite for risk, and less confidence in skills and ideas
- they have less time, with women setting aside 60% more of their day on childcare than men
- they have lower access to finance, with women's average starting capital 50% lower than men's
- finally, they have a lack of connections and role models, with fewer women than men knowing an entrepreneur

Alison's report has shown that each of these is a barrier to progress.

But while each is a reason for concern, we need to work across the private and public sector to address them.

I'm proud to say that the Treasury will play a leading role in this.

We're working with UK Finance to establish a new Treasury code, called Investing in Women, which asks banks, VC and other organisations to report – for our annual publication – the gender split of their investment.

I encourage all relevant financial institutions to sign up, so that we can all track annually how we are doing, benchmark themselves against the best in the business, and work out how to improve funding for female entrepreneurs.

I want this to be a mark that all want to have and entrepreneurs look out for.

I'm also going to be supporting a taskforce of private investors that will seek to drive more funding to female entrepreneurs.

If we had just a 50% increase in the number of female entrepreneurs, we would have an additional 600,000 female businesswomen, each bringing new ideas and energy to old markets.

And so today the PM has set that as our government ambition. Of course, it's stretching – but then the size of the prize ahead of us is huge.

And to grab it, all of us here have a role to play to make Britain more enterprising, innovative and prosperous.

Thank you Alison for your contribution.

News story: CoRWM and Radioactive Waste Management meeting with Waseda University

The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) and Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) met with a research team headed by Prof. Shunji Matsuoka from Waseda Resilience Research Institute (WRRI) of Waseda University, Tokyo, on 12 February 2019.

The Institute has conducted research on the social acceptance of High-Level Waste treatment and disposal activities since 2015.

The purpose of the meeting with CoRWM and RWM was to:

- discuss previous experience in the UK in engaging with the public and communities on these subjects
- understand the emerging approach for future engagement and consensus building through communications
- understand also citizen participation in the site selection of a geological disposal facility in the UK

RWM presented the history of higher activity waste management and siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), including outreach events and outputs from the National Geological Screening exercise.

The group discussed the importance of communication and challenges associated with public awareness and engagement around the GDF project.

Press release: Environment Agency day-

long sting confirms 11 illegal waste sites

Environment Agency officers made unannounced visits to 28 sites across Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire yesterday.