

# Foundry fined after workers exposed to lead dust

John Taylor Bell Foundry (Loughborough) Ltd was sentenced for safety breaches after workers were exposed to harmful lead dust during the repair and refurbishment of church bells at St Peter's church in Barton-Up-on-Humber.

Grimsby Magistrates' Court heard that, part of the planned maintenance project on 20 March 2019 involved stripping off rust and old paint from the metal bell frame and fittings. After work had already been underway for some time, the old paint was confirmed to contain lead.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the workers who had been stripping the paint had been exposed to harmful lead dust because they had been using power tools (which generate excess levels of dust). The company did not have proper cleaning techniques and personal protective equipment (PPE) in place.

John Taylor Bell Foundry (Loughborough) Ltd of The Bell Foundry Freehold Street Loughborough pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 5(1), of the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002. The company has been fined £13,000.00 and ordered to pay £6,469.90 in costs.

After the hearing HSE inspector, Jennifer Elsgood, commented: "The company's procedures for identifying lead, protecting workers from lead exposure during works and providing information and instructions to workers regarding lead were inadequate and resulted in a real risk to the health of those workers.

"This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices."

## **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/)
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. Please visit our website to find out the link below to work safely with lead:  
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardous-substances/lead.htm>

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