

[Press release: Joint statement by US Secretary of Homeland Security and the Home Secretary](#)

The Digital Forum, led by a US interagency task force, brings together technology experts and community leaders to improve terrorism prevention activities.

Secretary Nielsen and Home Secretary Rudd released the following joint statement:

Over the past 2 days, we have had the opportunity to meet with tech industry leaders in Silicon Valley to discuss our shared fight against terrorist use of the internet. Terrorists utilize social media to radicalise and recruit individuals around the world. We want to expand understanding of violent radicalisation and terrorist recruitment so more people can identify it—and more importantly—prevent it. At the Digital Forum on terrorism prevention, credible community voices learned directly from startups, researchers, and the technology sector how to deliver messages to disrupt terrorist narratives.

While in California, we had the opportunity to meet with the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism. This group represents the first time major companies have come together to work on research and technology solutions to combat the exploitation of the internet by terrorists. These companies have made notable progress on fighting back against the threat, and we look forward to engaging with them to continue advancing concrete action that will make it harder for terrorists to reach our people.

We believe that, by combining the talents and resources of government, community organizations, researchers, and industry, we can combat terrorist use of the internet, and make our communities more resilient against radicalisation to violence.

[News story: MOD submits final Typhoon proposal to Belgium](#)

A Typhoon F2 fighter jet pilot from 29 Squadron applies the afterburners as the aircraft takes off from RAF Coningsby. Crown copyright.

The proposal comes with the full support of the governments of the four Eurofighter nations – Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK – as partners in Europe’s largest collaborative military aircraft programme.

The proposal includes 34 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft, underpinned by the offer of a deep strategic, defence and industrial partnership between the Governments of Belgium and the UK.

Speaking in Brussels, Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

These proven jets offer Belgium a formidable capability which forms the backbone of European air power, as well as a comprehensive long-term defence and industrial partnership with the UK. A unique partnership with the RAF and integration with our world-leading support service mean Belgium’s selection of the Typhoon would be a powerful demonstration of us working together to support security across the continent in the face of intensifying threats.

Speaking at the press conference in-country, Air Vice Marshal Keith Bethell said:

Our world-class Typhoon has led the way in combat air power and this demonstrates the continued confidence in the capability the Typhoon has to offer. With more than 20,000 flying hours on global operations to date, the Typhoon offers unparalleled reliability and proven interoperability with our allies

As well as the jets, the UK are offering Belgium the opportunity to benefit from the RAF’s experience of over ten years operating the Typhoon, and to further strengthen over 70 years of co-operation between the two forces. It proposes integration with the RAF’s Typhoon support arrangements which is considered the most cost-effective next generation combat aircraft support service. The proposal also includes a comprehensive package including a training partnership which would see personnel from Belgium and the UK jointly train and exercise together.

The UK MOD is leading the proposal on behalf of the Eurofighter Typhoon partner nations and companies. The invitation from Belgium to submit a final offer demonstrates the strong confidence in the jet. The proposal to Belgium represents the most inclusive international equipment partnership presented to another European partner by the Eurofighter Typhoon programme.

The proposal also offers Belgium the opportunity to establish a National Network Cyber Centre, a Cyber Innovation Centre and a Cyber Research Partnership, all underpinned by a partnership between the UK and Belgian governments.

As ‘the true European solution to meet Belgium’s Air Combat Capability Program’, the selection of the Typhoon would also act as a catalyst for

greater aerospace and defence industrial cooperation across Europe. There would be opportunities for Belgian industry to work more closely with the Eurofighter Typhoon industrial partners which include some of Europe's largest defence companies. Through closer industrial cooperation Belgium and Belgian industry would also be positioned for partnership in the development of next generation combat air capabilities.

The Typhoon is a highly capable, combat proven, air defence and ground attack aircraft with full swing-role capabilities. In addition to supporting RAF operations protecting the UK in the skies above Britain and globally, the Typhoon has already been purchased by nine nations around the world. Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson was in Qatar at the end of last year to witness Qatar's purchase of 24 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft which will help sustain thousands of jobs in the UK and across Europe.

[News story: Letter from International Development Secretary to NGOs](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content] Penny Mordaunt has written to UK charities who work overseas about tackling sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector.

[News story: CIC Survey on Filing Annual Reports & Accounts](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content] We are currently developing a new service to allow Community Interest Companies (CICS) to file their annual reports and accounts online.

[Press release: Newcastle father and son banned from running companies for](#)

18 years

The disqualification means that Alan Bertram (70) and his son, Mark Bertram (36), both from Newcastle, cannot control or manage a limited company without leave of the court.

Bespoke Orangeries Limited was incorporated on 8 June 2012 and Mark Bertram was appointed as a director.

But the company, which supplied and built orangeries, went into liquidation on 25 November 2014 owing at least £101,422 to its creditors.

Following the liquidation, the Insolvency Service conducted an investigation and found that Mark Bertram had allowed his father to act as a director of Bespoke Orangeries between October 2013 and November 2014.

However, this breached the restrictions of Alan Bertram's three and a half-year disqualification, which began in March 2013 following the failure of Orangeries.com Ltd.

Further investigations found that between 22 April 2013 and 25 November 2014, Alan and Mark Bertram failed to pay around £43,000 worth of tax to HM Revenue and Customs, despite paying more than £56,000 to other creditors.

And Mark Bertram had also failed to maintain, preserve and deliver adequate accounting records for Bespoke Orangeries.

Robert Clarke, Head of Insolvent Investigations North at the Insolvency Service, said:

While Mark Bertram was the only registered director of Bespoke Orangeries, our investigation clearly showed that his father was also acting as a director and this was in direct breach of an earlier disqualification.

These lengthy bans for father and son send a clear message that if you breach disqualification orders or allow others to do so – even if it's a family member – then we will investigate you and you could lose the protection of limited liability.

Alan Bertram signed a disqualification undertaking preventing him from acting as a company director for a period of 11 years with effect from 9 February 2018.

Mark Bertram signed a disqualification undertaking preventing him from acting as a company director for a period of 7 years with effect from 11 April 2017.

Mr Alan Bertram's date of birth is February 1947 and he resides in Newcastle

Upon Tyne.

Mr Mark Bertram's date of birth is June 1981 and he resides in Newcastle Upon Tyne.

Bespoke Orangeries Limited (CRO No. 08097875) was incorporated on 8 June 2012 and traded from Algernon Industrial Estate, New York Road, Shiremoor, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE27 0NB

Alan Bertram was not appointed as a director but was found to have acted as a director from at least 10 October 2013 to 25 November 2014 when the company went into liquidation. The estimated deficiency at the date of Liquidation was £101,422.

Mark Bertram was appointed as a director from 8 June 2012 to 25 November 2014 when the company went into liquidation. The estimated deficiency at the date of Liquidation was £101,422.

Mr Alan Bertram – specifics of disqualification undertaking

On 19 January 2018, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Alan Bertram, effective from 9 February 2018, for a period of 11 years. The matters of unfitness, which Alan Bertram did not dispute in the disqualification undertaking, were that:

Alan Bertram (Mr A Bertram) contravened Section 13 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 by acting as a director of Bespoke Orangeries Limited (Bespoke) from 18 March 2013 to 25 November 2014, the date of liquidation, while he remained subject to a disqualification undertaking.

Discriminatory treatment of crown creditors

That Mr A Bertram caused or allowed Bespoke to operate a policy of discriminatory treatment of HMRC in respect of PAYE and NIC from 22 April 2013 at the latest and the date of liquidation on 25 November 2014 in that Bespoke made no payments towards HMRC liabilities totalling £43,088 whilst paying at least £56,915 to trade and expense creditors. HMRC liabilities remained outstanding in full at liquidation, while trade creditors had increased from £136 in the accounts to 31 June 2013 to £2,300 at liquidation. There is no liability recorded in the Statement of Affairs at liquidation in relation to an intercompany creditor recorded as being owed £19,193 in the accounts to 31 June 2013.

HMRC has submitted an integrated claim in Bespoke's liquidation for £48,642 comprising £43,088 PAYE/NIC; £4,310 VAT; £600 PAYE penalties and £644 accrued interest.

Bespoke submitted a P35 return for the tax year 2012/13. For tax years 2013/14 and 2014/15 information was submitted monthly via the Real Time Information system by Bespoke. During the period from incorporation on 08 June 2012 to cessation of trade on 25 November 2014 HMRC's records show that PAYE/NIC liabilities were incurred of £43,088 (exclusive of penalties and interest totalling £1,244), although no returns were submitted for 2 months

of each of the tax years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

No payments were made to HMRC in respect of PAYE/ NIC by Bespoke from incorporation on 8 June 2012 to cessation of trade on 25 November 2014.

Discriminatory treatment

The professionally prepared, unaudited accounts for year ended 30 June 2013 show that PAYE/NIC increased by £25,765 from £18,567 to £44,332 at liquidation while trade and expense creditors increased by £5,342 from £436 to £5,778 at liquidation. In the same period amounts owing to an intercompany loan decreased by £19,193 to nil at liquidation, and amounts listed to a connected creditor reduced from £2,121 to nil at liquidation.

The director, Mr M Bertram was listed in the accounts to 31 June 2013 for £10,000 and was listed on the Statement of Affairs for £25,000; an increase of £15,000. Neil Bertram, the registered director's brother, was also listed on the Statement of Affairs for £25,000. Despite requests for confirmation by The Insolvency Service these creditors have not proved their claims in the liquidation, nor offered an explanation for how these debts were incurred by the company and the absence of records delivered to the Liquidator means that these debts have not been verified.

The available bank statements for Bespoke's current account show that between 22 April 2013 and closure of the account on 7 April 2014 payments totalling £199,292 were paid into the account and £200,880 paid out. Of this amount, £56,915 was paid out in trade expenses and suppliers; £32,629 was paid to unknown recipients via cheque; £53,880 was withdrawn in cash; £11,870 was paid to a connected company; £40,032 was paid out in unexplained expenditure (including mortgage and finance payments) and £846 was paid in respect of bank charges and interest. No bank statements have been provided for the period of time between the closure of the account on 7 April 2014 and Liquidation.

Bank analysis shows no payments made to HMRC in the period.

Mr Mark Bertram – specifics of disqualification undertaking

On 23 March 2017, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Mark Bertram, effective from 11 April 2017, for a period of 7 years. The matters of unfitness, which Mark Bertram did not dispute in the disqualification undertaking, were that:

Allowing contravention of Section 13 CDDA

Mr Mark Bertram (Mr M Bertram) allowed Mr A Bertram to act as a director of Bespoke during the period 18 March 2013 to 25 November 2014 whilst Mr A Bertram was subject to a Disqualification Undertaking for a period of three years and 6 months commencing on 18 March 2013, in contravention of section 13 CDDA.

Failure to deliver up company records

Mr M Bertram failed to ensure that Bespoke maintained adequate accounting records, or in the alternative, he failed to preserve and/ or deliver up to the liquidator such records as were maintained. As a result it has not been possible to verify: The total extent of sales made by Bespoke between 1 July 2013 and the date of liquidation on 25 November 2014 and whether all income has been realised and utilised for the benefit of Bespoke.

Unexplained payments from the bank account between 1 July 2013 and the date of liquidation on 25 November 2014 amounting to £87,601, notably cash withdrawals totalling £42,900; 51 cheque payments to unidentified payees totalling £19,398; payments to Cheshire Mortgages totalling £17,927; payments to Premium Credit Limited totalling £1,419 and unexplained expenditure totalling £6,590. No bank statements are available thereafter; therefore no explanations or records are available for the period from closure of the account on 7 April 2014 to Liquidation.

The movement of the director's loan account (DLA) of Mr M Bertram and a third party loan from 1 July 2013 onwards, when professionally prepared draft accounts record Mr M Bertram as a creditor of Bespoke in the amount of £10,000, to the date of liquidation, when Mr M Bertram and the third party were listed on the signed Statement of Affairs as creditors of Bespoke in the amount of £25,000 each, and as a result verify the balance of any DLA or third party loan outstanding at that date.

The movement of monies to and from connected company Orangeries & Conservatories Limited between 1 July 2013, when professionally prepared draft accounts record the company as a creditor for £19,193 and the date of liquidation.

Bespoke's full liability for PAYE and NIC due for years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 inclusive. Given the absence of payroll records and the failure to make returns to HMRC, it is not possible to verify the extent to which Bespoke was indebted to HMRC at liquidation in respect of unpaid PAYE/NIC liabilities.

Bespoke's liability for VAT in respect of quarters ending May 2014 to November 2014 inclusive. Given the absence of sales or purchase invoices, and the failure to submit returns to HMRC, it is not possible to verify the extent to which Bespoke was indebted to HMRC in respect of VAT for the period from 1 March 2014 to liquidation on 25 November 2014.

Discriminatory treatment of crown creditors

Mr M Bertram also caused discriminatory treatment of crown creditors in the same specifics as Mr A Bertram.

Additional information

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

BEIS' mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy that works for all, in particular by creating the conditions for business success and promoting an open global economy. The Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team contributes to this aim by taking action to deter fraud and to regulate the market. They investigate and prosecute a range of offences, primarily relating to personal or company insolvencies.

The agency also authorises and regulates the insolvency profession, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7674 6910 or 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: