

Press release: Tax avoidance marketing directors banned

Timothy Richard Edmunds has been disqualified from acting as a director for five years and Annette Edmunds has been disqualified for four years.

On 17 July 2017, the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted disqualification undertakings from Timothy Richard Edmunds and Annette Edmunds, with effect from 7 August 2017.

Mr and Mrs Edmunds were directors of ESP Strategies Ltd, which went into liquidation on 25 November 2015.

The investigation found that ESP Strategies Ltd had entered in to a tax avoidance scheme involving the issue of shares totalling £240,000 to directors which were only partly paid for.

Mr and Mrs Edmunds agreed to a number of transactions ending with the surrender of the shares, which resulted in £230,400 of uncalled share capital becoming unavailable. The transactions took place at a time when the directors knew that the company had an outstanding debt to HMRC, the sole creditor in the liquidation, with a claim of £133,245.

Commenting on the disqualification, Sue MacLeod, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

If your business engages in transactions in the run up to liquidation which are detrimental to any of its creditors, the Insolvency Service may investigate you, leading to your removal from the business environment.

Notes to editors

ESP Strategies Limited (Company number 05497483), was incorporated on 3 July 2005. Its registered office and trading address was at 718 Gower Road, Upper Killay, Swansea SA2 7HQ.

Timothy Richard Edmunds' date of birth is 20 May 1965. Annette Edmunds' date of birth is 13 January 1965. Both directors are of Swansea.

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

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.

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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[News story: VPC and VMD Open meeting 2017](#)

The Veterinary Products Committee and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate will hold their annual open meeting on Friday 29 September 2017.

The VPC and VMD will hold their Open Meetings on Friday 29 September 2017 at the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Weybridge, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB.

The VMD Open Meeting will begin at 10.30am followed by the VPC Open Meeting and close by 1pm.

Admission is free but will be by ticket only.

VMD staff will give presentations based on the advance questions received followed by presentations by the VPC members, and then an open question and answer session.

Tea and coffee will be available before and after the meeting.

Questions and requests for tickets should be sent by Friday 25 August 2017 to Chris Abbott; openmeeting@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Please include the names of all attendees.

Press release: Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire: Robert Voss

Mr Robert Voss has been appointed Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Hertfordshire.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Mr Robert Voss CBE DL as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Hertfordshire to succeed the Countess of Verulam who stepped down on 31 July 2017.

Further information

Robert Voss has recently retired after a long and distinguished career in the metal industry, having also chaired the European Metal Federation in Brussels for 16 years. He has a special interest in young entrepreneurs, through his involvement with Hertfordshire Young Enterprise, as a venture partner investing in a number of young companies and as a trustee of the Young Person of the Year charity.

He also established a Young Entrepreneurs Challenge. He is a governor of The University of Hertfordshire and a member of the of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation survivors testimony committee. He was awarded the CBE in 2014 for "services to British Industry and voluntary work in the UK".

Mr Voss lives in Loudwater with his wife, Celia. They have two adult sons, a daughter and two grandsons.

News story: Charitable recycling company wins Sellafield contract

A waste recycling company will open a new facility and create local jobs in West Cumbria, having won a contract with Sellafield Ltd.

'Recycling Lives' will recycle metal from the nuclear site, offering jobs and training opportunities at a new depot in Workington.

The company will also set up a food distribution charity with centres throughout Cumbria, which will also need staff and volunteers.

This follows the success of a similar community programme they have delivered throughout Lancashire.

Martin Chown from Sellafield Ltd said:

We want to ensure our local communities benefit from the money we spend and we do this by insisting that companies that win work with us invest to support local growth.

I'm excited by the plans Recycling Lives has to create jobs and support disadvantaged people in west Cumbria.

It demonstrates the unique power of Sellafield Ltd to attract new businesses to the area

The scrap buying and processing facility in Workington, has brought an empty site back into use, and will be open to the public and other businesses from September.

William Fletcher from Recycling Lives, said:

We are pleased to have been chosen as the preferred contractor for scrap metal collection and processing from Sellafield Ltd.

We're really excited to be able to use this contract to create social value across Cumbria.

The benefits will be more than just environmental and economic, as we create social impact through job creation and food redistribution.

Their food redistribution service operates on behalf of national organisation, Fareshare. It diverts surplus food from manufacturers, suppliers and supermarkets, that would otherwise go to landfill, and distributes it to charities and community groups in deprived areas.

Find out more about [Recycling Lives](#)

[News story: Real Madrid vs Manchester United – Travel Advice](#)

Fixture information

Date: Tuesday 8 August 2017

Venue: National Stadium Philip II, Skopje

Kick off time: 8:45pm (local time); 7:45pm (UK time)

Man Utd supporter meeting point/UEFA fan zone: Mother Theresa Memorial House, Macedonia Street

As well as this advice, check out our [travel advice for Macedonia](#)

Passports and visas

Please check your passport and visa details:

- you don't need a visa to travel to Macedonia if you have a British Citizen passport; but your passport should be valid for at least three months from the date you enter the country
- if you have a different type of British nationality (other than 'British Citizen'), check entry requirements with the Macedonian Embassy in London before you travel
- make sure you take out good travel insurance even if you're only going for one night – it could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties
- the British Embassy have been advised you may need your passport (and your match ticket) to gain entry to the stadium
- if you lose your passport, or have it stolen, contact the British Embassy on +389 2 3299 299 or by e-mail at consular.skopje@fco.gov.uk to book an appointment to apply for an Emergency Passport

Getting to National Stadium 'Philip II'

- Philip II National Stadium is located in the city centre; you can find a map showing the location of the stadium [here](#). The stadium holds 33 460 supporters fully seated
- The Stadium is located near the city centre, in the city park, 15 minutes walking distance from the Main Square and the city centre. It can be reached by bus No 8 and No 15a (get off at the City Park Stop. There is a paid parking lot next to the stadium.
- there will be a Manchester Utd fan zone at the Mother Theresa Memorial

House in Macedonia Street ([map](#))

- it is an 18 minute walk to the stadium from Mother Theresa Memorial House; you can find a map showing the route [here](#)
- taxis are plentiful and cheap by UK standards, although some vehicles may not be in very good condition. Most taxis are metered. Vehicles may vary in colour.
- avoid taxis parked outside hotels or in tourist areas; ask your hotel to call a taxi or flag down a passing taxi with a green 'available' light in the window
- a licensed taxi company operates at Skopje airport and has an official rank. Details are available at <http://skp.airports.com.mk/default.aspx?ItemID=384>

At the match

- Man Utd fans are seated in East Sector and blocks 5 & 6 in South Sector; All gates have disabled access
- access to the stadium can be slow, there will be ticket checks and body searches at three check points before entrance to the stadium
- to avoid missing the start of the match, you should get to the stadium early – entrances will open at 5:45pm
- anyone who is obviously drunk won't be allowed into the stadium
- weapons, flares, fireworks, alcohol, cans, glass, bottle tops aren't allowed in the stadium
- smoking is allowed at the stadium; lighters will be permitted
- beer in plastic containers will be available at the stadium

Helpful tips for local area

You should leave your passports in a hotel safe and use another form of ID: e.g. driving licence or the passport photocopy.

You should maintain at least the same level of personal security awareness as in the UK. 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 and leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposits.

Tap water in Skopje is drinkable.

Contact the British Embassy in Skopje in case of a consular emergency:

British Embassy Skopje, Todor Aleksandrov No.165, Skopje 1000, Macedonia

Tel: +389 (2) 3299 299 (also for out of hours emergencies)

Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 8am to 4:30pm, Friday, 8am to 1pm

For more information please visit our website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/macedonia>

Emergency services numbers

Police: 192

Ambulance: 194

Fire brigade: 193

Further information

Follow the British Embassy on Twitter [@ukinmacedonia](https://twitter.com/ukinmacedonia) for up to the minute travel advice.

Tourist information about [Macedonia](#)

Information about the city of [Skopje](#)