

News story: Store Twenty One: information for employees and creditors

Store Twenty One was the trading name of Grabal Alok (UK) Limited (company registration number 04246489).

Information for employees

If you are an employee of Grabal Alok (UK) Limited you will be entitled to redundancy pay and compensation in lieu of notice.

Grabal Alok (UK) Limited entered into a Company Voluntary Arrangement on 15 July 2016. This is the first insolvency date. If you are still owed any arrears of pay or holiday prior to this date you will be able to make a claim for this, but the Insolvency Service cannot pay any arrears of pay or holiday pay accrued after 15 July 2016. If you have an entitlement to wages or holiday pay accrued after 15 July 2016 you will become a creditor in the liquidation.

Claims will be paid by the Redundancy Payments Service. The liquidator will provide you with the information you need to make your online claim.

If you were self-employed and provided services to Grabal Alok (UK) Limited you are not entitled to a redundancy payment. You will be a creditor in the liquidation.

Information for creditors

If you have supplied goods or services to Grabal Alok (UK) Limited for which you have not been paid you will be a creditor in the liquidation.

To make a claim for the money you are owed email the [Official Receiver](#) providing your company details and the amount you are owed. Please put ''Grabal Alok (UK) Limited – creditor'' in the subject line of your email. If you do not have access to email you can telephone the Insolvency Enquiry Line.

Information for suppliers

Any purchase orders issued by the company before the winding up order should be considered cancelled with immediate effect. Any monies owing in relation to previous orders will rank as an unsecured claim in the liquidation. Please do not supply any goods ordered prior to the winding up order without the authorisation of the liquidator or one of his authorised representatives.

Goods and services supplied during the period of the liquidation will be paid

for out of the assets coming into the hands of the liquidator provided that the order is in writing and signed by one of the authorised representatives. The liquidator is currently reviewing purchase orders issued by the company before his appointment and is in the process of contacting relevant suppliers about those orders and providing them with details of the authorised representatives.

News story: Ministry of Defence Police awarded a gold banding in the Business in the Community Diversity Benchmark

This is the UK's most comprehensive benchmark for workplace gender and race diversity where organisations are assessed on a range of key areas, including:

- career progression
- recruitment
- supplier diversity
- senior management and board representation of ethnic minorities and women

Business in the Community (BITC) said:

Congratulations to Ministry of Defence Police on being awarded gold for both gender and race diversity in the workplace in the Business in the Community Diversity Benchmark.

They have demonstrated a strong commitment to creating inclusive workplaces where employees are valued and rewarded for their contribution to the organisation, regardless of gender or race.

I hope other employers will learn from their example and use it to drive real change within their own organisations.

Business in the Community Diversity Benchmark: Gender gold award. All rights reserved

The gold banding marks a significant leap in the force's progress as they were previously awarded a Bronze banding for their 2016 submission.

The Force's Gender Champion, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Adams is delighted with the result and said:

A gold banding recognises our achievements and commitment to diversity, inclusion and wellbeing. This benchmark helps us identify what we are doing well and where we need to improve.

Our workforce is the key to our success therefore it is critical we recruit and retain the best people. This accomplishment will support our efforts to further diversify the force and create an environment where all our staff can contribute to providing the best service.

The benchmark measures age, gender and race workplace diversity. It is a management tool to help organisations evaluate their performance, including peer comparisons, and inform evidence-based decision-making around workplace diversity.

BITC works with organisations to ensure that age, gender, race and wellbeing do not limit an employee's engagement and success in the workplace.

Press release: Nearly-new car buyers advised to check tax rates

DVLA is reminding those thinking of changing their car this summer to find out if new tax rates could affect them.

New vehicle tax rates came into force for all cars and some motorhomes registered from 1 April 2017. Those looking to buy a nearly-new car can check online to make sure they know what they'll need to pay.

The amount of tax to pay will depend on the type of vehicle. The standard rates are:

- £140 a year for petrol or diesel vehicles
- £130 a year for alternative fuel vehicles (hybrids, bioethanol and LPG)
- £0 a year for vehicles with zero CO2 emissions

There is an additional payment of £310 per year for 5 years (from the second time the vehicle is taxed), if the vehicle has a list price of more than £40,000 at first registration.

More information on the tax rates can be found at www.gov.uk/newvehicletaxrates.

These changes do not affect cars registered before 1 April 2017.

News story: Sports Grounds Safety Authority Board Member Extended

The Culture Secretary has extended the term of Peter Rowley OBE as a Board Member of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority until 12 November 2017.

Peter Rowley retired as a director and Chief Executive of Darlington Building Society in 2009. Since then Peter has developed a portfolio of interests in sport administration. He is Chairman of The Sports Council Trust Company, Chairman of British Weightlifting, the lead non-executive director of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority, Vice Chairman of StreetGames UK, a trustee of Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and a trustee of Tees Valley Community Foundation. He has served previously as a board member of Sport England, an independent member of UK Sport's Audit Committee, chairman of SkillsActive UK and a director of Coachwise Ltd. Peter believes passionately in the power of sport to change lives and communities for the better and received the OBE for services to sport administration in the New Year Honours List 2017.

The role is remunerated at £265 per day and the Board meets approximately 6 times per year. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Peter has declared no such political activity.

News story: Ministers step up engagement with small businesses

At a roundtable with small businesses today, Government Ministers reiterated their determination to have a two way dialogue with small businesses throughout the process of EU exit.

Hosted by the Federation of Small Business, the event was attended by Robin Walker, Minister for Exiting the European Union and Margot James, Minister for Small Business as well as representatives from the FSB and various small businesses.

During the roundtable attendees discussed the important part that the UK's five million small businesses play in the economy and looked at issues such as the Repeal Bill, market access and skills.

It follows a conference held at Chevening House, during which Ministers from the Department for Exiting the EU, the Treasury and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy came together with business leaders to discuss EU exit.

Robin Walker, Minister for Exiting the European Union, said:

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and we want to ensure that they continue to flourish long after we leave the EU.

That is why we are stepping up our engagement with businesses throughout the exit process, ensuring we can help them to capitalise on the opportunities that arise and address the challenges that they may face.

We have been clear that providing businesses with certainty is a key priority and the forthcoming Repeal Bill will give Britain's businesses confidence that they won't face unexpected changes on the day we leave the EU.

Margot James, Small Business Minister, said:

We want the UK to remain the best place in the world to start and grow a business. This is why we are working closely with Britain's small businesses to ensure that the interests of small and medium sized businesses are well represented during the Brexit negotiations.

FSB is helping to ensure that that they play a key role as we deliver a long-term Industrial Strategy that builds on our strengths, as well as ensuring the voice of small businesses are heard loud and clear in our Brexit negotiations.

Mike Cherry, National Chairman of the Federation of Small Business, said:

We are delighted to be hosting Ministers from the Department for Exiting the European Union and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

This is an opportunity for key Ministers, who will be playing a vital role in the exit process, to engage directly with FSB members and discuss their needs in a post-Brexit UK.

FSB has conducted a thorough series of research reports underpinned by in-depth member consultation as to what small businesses want

from Brexit, from trade and exports, to jobs and skills, to the replacement of EU funding. And we know that Ministers and civil servants across the Government will be listening and responding to our findings, which will help inform a deal that works for small businesses and so fosters economic growth and job creation.

We will continue to be a constructive partner in these negotiations and ensure that the voice of the UK's 5.5 million small businesses and self-employed is heard loud and clear.

Since last June the Government has been engaging extensively with businesses across the UK, travelling across the country for visits, roundtables and meetings. The Government will continue to have an open dialogue with the FSB and its members throughout the Brexit process.