

Brothers banned for failing to pay £173,000 in taxes

Brothers Carlos Enrique De La Cruz Vidal (51), from South East London, and Fernando De La Cruz Vidal (52), from Granada in Spain, are now banned from acting as directors or directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Carlos' 6-year ban became effective on 5 November, while Fernando's 6-year ban is effective from 30 December.

The brothers were appointed directors of Santo Limited in April 2007 on the same date as the company was incorporated.

Santo Limited traded as a restaurant called Santo on Portobello Road, West London, but the company entered into creditors voluntary liquidation in December 2018 before the brothers' conduct was referred to the Insolvency Service for further enquiries.

Investigators established that Santo Limited was subject to enquiries by the tax authorities in November 2017 after issues were discovered relating to the company's tax returns.

The tax authorities found that from September 2014 to September 2017 the brothers had suppressed the company's takings by more than £173,000 and overstated the amount of takings that were non-taxable.

By the time the company had gone into liquidation in December 2018 the tax authorities claimed almost £200,000 in the liquidation.

Carlos Enrique De La Cruz Vidal had his undertaking accepted by the Secretary of State on 15 October, while Fernando De La Cruz Vidal had his undertaking accepted on 9 December.

In their undertakings, the brothers did not dispute that they caused inaccurate tax returns to be submitted to the tax authorities by suppressing their sales income.

Lawrence Zussman, Deputy Head of Insolvent Investigations at the Insolvency Service, said:

Customers have a right to expect that the tax they pay on their food is given to the tax authorities. Instead, Carlos and Fernando De La Cruz Vidal substantially underdeclared the tax due and in doing so both failed to take their responsibilities as directors seriously.

Carlos and Fernando have now been removed from the business

environment for 6 years and these bans should further serve as a warning to other directors that if you do not pay the correct taxes you run the serious risk of being disqualified.

Carlos Enrique De La Cruz Vidal is from South East London and his date of birth is August 1969.

Fernando De La Cruz Vidal is from Grenada, Spain, and his date of birth is April 1968.

Santo Limited (Company Reg no. 06222263).

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](#).

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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

Carrier Strike Group hits important milestone

Press release

The UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) has achieved a major milestone ahead of its first operational deployment this year.



HMS Queen Elizabeth has achieved Initial Operating Capability (IOC). Crown copyright.

The CSG has reached Initial Operating Capability (IOC), meaning all elements

of the group from fighter jets to radar systems to anti-ship weapons have been successfully brought together and operated.

Both the air and naval elements of the CSG have now met this milestone, which includes qualified pilots and ground crews being held at short notice for carrier-based operations and trained to handle weapons and maintain the equipment.

Another marker of success at this stage includes the ability to deploy Anti-Submarine Warfare capabilities such as frigates and destroyers, as well as both fixed and rotary wing aircraft including Merlin helicopters to operate alongside the carrier.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said:

This is a hugely significant milestone for HMS Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Navy and the whole country. This achievement is a testament to the determination of our service personnel and industry workforce who have delivered this first-rate military capability, a capability held by only a handful of nations. I wish the entire Carrier Strike Group well ahead of their first operational deployment this year.

Following the success of the NATO Joint Warrior Exercises last autumn, the Carrier Strike Group capability has reached the key IOC milestone for the programme on schedule.

The multinational deployment in 2020 focussed on incorporating all elements of the CSG with 13 of the UK's allies including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey, Japan, UAE and the US. Exercise Joint Warrior saw the largest number of aircraft on a British Royal Navy carrier since 1983, as well as the most F-35B jets at sea across the globe.

Full operating capability for the CSG is expected by December 2023.

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New Disability and Access Ambassadors to support rights of disabled

consumers

News story

The Cabinet Office opens recruitment today for 14 Disability and Access Ambassadors.



The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, is seeking fourteen new Disability and Access Ambassadors to help to ensure businesses are doing all they can to support their disabled customers.

They will join existing Ambassadors who have been helping industry and the Government in their management of the COVID-19 crisis, and supporting work to develop the National Strategy for Disabled People.

The ambassadors are industry leaders who help to drive improvements in the accessibility and quality of services and facilities in their sector for disabled people, as consumers and employees.

There are 14 posts being recruited, which includes four new sectors which have been added to the existing programme. These additional posts will work within the pubs and restaurants, private housing, universities and energy industries.

They will join colleagues already representing the financial sector, the transport sector, the arts, the built and natural environment, technology and web design, and others.

The posts being recruited are for:

- Airports
- Arts and Culture
- Banking
- Buses
- Creative Industries
- Energy
- Hospitality (Pubs and Restaurants)
- Housing (Private)
- Insurance

- Rail Travel
- Retail
- Sports and Physical Activity
- Tourism
- Universities

[Read the full details of the application process.](#)

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Childcare providers: telling Ofsted about significant events

News story

From the end of January 2021, childminders, nurseries and all other childcare providers must use an online notification form to tell us about significant events.



From 28 January, all childcare providers must use the [online notification form to notify Ofsted of significant events](#). Providers should no longer notify us by phone or email.

We want to make sure we can act on the information that is shared with us as quickly as possible, without any undue delay. The form is accessible and can be used on mobile and tablets, so that you are able to submit information swiftly and at ease.

When notifying us using this form, you will need to have to hand:

- your unique reference number (URN)
- the childcare address
- details of the incident and details of those involved

We will confirm receipt of the information and you can also download a copy for your records. We may contact you for further information.

You should notify Ofsted as soon as practical, and in any case within 14 days of a notifiable event happening. For full guidance on what is classed as a notifiable event or serious incident, you should refer to our [early years and childcare compliance handbook](#).

We understand that some people may have different needs and may not be able to use a form. You can find further information about [accessibility for this service](#).

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Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Somalia: Kate Foster

Press release

Ms Kate Foster OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia in succession to Mr Ben Fender OBE.



Ms Kate Foster OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia in succession to Mr Ben Fender OBE who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Ms Foster will take up her appointment during February 2021.

Curriculum vitae

Full name: Kate Foster

Year	Role
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2018 to Present	Cabinet Office, Deputy Director, International Affairs, National Security Secretariat then UK Defence Academy Higher Command and Staff Course
2017	Department for International Development, Head, Africa Strategy
2015 to 2017	Department for International Development, Head, Africa Conflict and Humanitarian Unit then Head, Yemen
2014 to 2015	UK Ebola Response, Chief of Operations, Sierra Leone
2012 to 2014	Crown Agents, Deputy Director, Department for International Development Conflict & Humanitarian Operations Team
2011 to 2012	Save the Children, Programme Director, Emergency Response
2008 to 2011	International Rescue Committee then Save the Children, Programme Director South Sudan
2006 to 2008	International Rescue Committee, Governance Programme Co-ordinator
2004 to 2005	UNHCR/Right to Play, Head Refugee Youth Engagement, Sierra Leone and Liberia
1999 to 2004	Appointments in the Private Sector

Further information

All the latest news is available on the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office page of the [gov.uk website](#).

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