

Press release: Countrywide crackdown continues – 20 directors of 16 more companies disqualified for employing illegal workers

In all, 20 directors in 16 separate businesses across the United Kingdom have been disqualified recently, following investigations by the Insolvency Service, all of whom were already fined for employing illegal workers. Eighteen people have been banned from being company directors or being involved in the management of companies for six years each, whilst two have been disqualified for 7 years.

The businesses, which include 11 restaurants, four takeaway/fast food establishments, and a shop, are based in London (4), Sussex (3), North West (3) South Wales (2), Glasgow, Antrim, Frome and High Wycombe.

Between them, they employed 41 illegal workers and were fined a total of £505,000 by the Home Office, none of which was paid. Two of the companies have now entered into liquidation, with a further two having been dissolved.

The Insolvency Service is continuing to work very closely with Home Office Immigration Enforcement to take action in cases where the company is still active and not subject to insolvency proceedings.

The matters leading to all of the disqualifications are that the directors failed to ensure that the companies complied with statutory obligations under The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to ensure that relevant immigration checks were completed and copy documents retained, resulting in the employment of illegal workers.

Following visits from Home Office Immigration, during which the breaches were discovered, the companies were issued with penalty notices ranging from £10,000 to £15,000 per worker, which remain unpaid.

All were directors of the companies at the time of the Home Office visit.

Commenting on the disqualification, Cheryl Lambert, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

Employing illegal workers is not consequence free, either for the employer, the employee or the consumer.

These directors sought an unfair advantage over their law abiding competitors by employing people who were not entitled to work legally in the UK. By definition this is a set of people who are

without the protection of the law and knowledge of the authorities, and thereby extremely vulnerable to exploitation in all its forms.

It is bad for business and bad for society as a whole.

If a company is found to be employing illegal workers and not carrying out the checks they are required to by law, then the Insolvency Service will continue to liaise with the Home Office to ensure that not only the workers, but the employers will be removed from the market place. This is regardless of whether the company remains trading or is in Liquidation

These actions are a warning that the Government is pursuing bad employers.

A Home Office spokesperson said:

Illegal working is not victimless. It undercuts honest employers, cheats legitimate job seekers out of employment opportunities and defrauds the taxpayer.

Businesses should be aware that they have a duty to check that their staff have permission to work in the UK.

We are happy to work with employers who play by the rules but those who do not, should know that they will not go under our radar.

The disqualified directors are:

London

- Mohammed Aleem Tayyab and Mohammed Waseem Tayyab directors of Tayyab & Sons Limited which traded as a restaurant known as Tayyabs, 83 Fieldgate Street, London, E1 1JU were disqualified for 7 years each on 4 September 2017. Eight illegal workers were found in two separate Home Office raids and fines totalling £95,000 were levied
- Naqibullah Azizi, a director of Ameen Foods Ltd which traded as a restaurant/takeaway known as Bella Pizza, 101 Church Lane, Kingsbury, NW9 8JU, disqualified on 5 May 2017. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied
- Mohammed Qahhar Choudhury, a director of Majestic Romford Limited which traded as a restaurant known as Indian Fusion, 27 Station Road, Chadwell

Heath, Romford, RM6 4BE, disqualified on 6 July 2017. One illegal worker was found resulting in a fine of £15,000 being levied

- Ashim Kumar Saha, a director of Save & Pick Limited, which traded as a shop known as Savers, 372-374 High Road, Leyton, E10 6QE, disqualified on 4 August 2017. One illegal worker was found resulting in a fine of £10,000 being levied

Sussex

- Muhammad Furqan, director of Hsg Capital Ltd which traded as a pizza takeaway known as Slicebox, 6 Broadwalk, Crawley, RH10 1 HQ, disqualified on 27 July 2017. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied
- Sujon Miah, a director of Jaipur Restaurant (Worthing), which traded as a restaurant known as Royal Jaipur, 35 Brighton Road, Worthing, BN11 3EF, disqualified on 11 August 2017. Three illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £45,000 being levied
- Saleha Hussain Lucky, director of Curry Direct Limited, which traded as restaurant known as Cardamom Bay, 43 Queensway, Bognor Regis, PO21 1QN, disqualified on 8 September 2017. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied

North West area

- Mohammad Seraz Ullah, director of Blue Cloud Limited which traded as a restaurant known as Last Monsoon, 54 King Street West, SK3 0DY, disqualified on 11 July 2017. Two illegal workers were found and a fine on £30,000 was levied
- Abbas Rashid Ahmed, director Aa Foods (UK) Limited, which traded as a takeaway known as K2 Taj, 32 Hamilton Road, M13 4PD, disqualified on 6 April 2017. One illegal worker was found and a fine of £15,000 was levied
- Helena Tohamy, and Mohammed Fathelbab, directors of Old Swan Grill Limited, which traded as a takeaway known as The Charcoal Hob, 379 Prescot Road, Old Swan, Liverpool, United Kingdom, L13 3BS, were disqualified on 14 September 2017 and 3 October 2017 respectively. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied.

South Wales

- Sazzadur Rahman. A director of The 3 Mughals Restaurant Ltd, which traded as restaurant known as The 3 Mughals, 7 Western Valley Road, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9DS, disqualified on 30 June 2017. Two illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £20,000 being levied
- Bunyamin Hurum, a director of BH Catering Limited, which traded as a takeaway known as Best Kebabs, 3 Caerlon Road, Newport, NP19 7BU, disqualified on 14 August 2017. One illegal worker was found resulting in a fine of £15,000 being levied

Glasgow

- Manoj Barua and Vipran Kumar Sharma, directors of MV Hospitality Limited

which traded as restaurant known as Café India, 29 Albion Street, Glasgow, G1 1LH, disqualified on 18 July 2017 and 23 June 2017 respectively. Four illegal workers were found and a fine of £40,000 levied

Northern Ireland

- Wen Qing Chen and Guanda An, directors of China Express (N.I.) Limited which traded as restaurant known as China Express, 76 Main Street, Crumlin, Antrim, BT29 4UU, disqualified on 24 July 2017 and 30 June 2017 respectively. Four illegal workers were found and a fine of £60,000 was levied

Somerset

- Abdul Rahim, director of Jhalmuri Limited which traded as a restaurant known as Jhalmuri, 14 Palmer Street, Frome, BA11 1DS, disqualified on 18 April 2017. Three illegal workers were found and a fine of £30,000 was levied

High Wycombe

- Mohammed Zinuk Khan, director of Royel Taj HW Limited, which traded as Memsaab Indian Restaurant, London Road, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, HP10 0NJ, disqualified on 14 September 2017. Three illegal workers were found resulting in a fine of £30,000 being levied

Notes to editors

All disqualifications take legal effect 21 days after the date shown.

The personal details of the directors and current status of the limited companies are shown below, in the same order as presented as above.

London

- The directors of Tayyab & Sons Limited (CR0 06816002) were Mohammed Aleem Tayyab (born September 1973 and residing in London, E1 1JU) and Mohammad Wasim Tayyab born January 1975 and residing in London
- Naqibullah Azizi, a director of Ameen Foods Ltd (CR0 08930382) was born July 1974 and resides in Colindale
- Mohammed Qahhar Choudhury, a director of Majestic Romford Limited (CR0 08876907) was born August 1993 and resides in Southampton. Majestic Romford Limited entered liquidation on 13 July 2017 with Stephen Gordon Franklin, Panos Eliades Franklin & Co, Olympia House, Armitage Road, London, NW11 8RQ appointed liquidator
- Save & Pick Limited (CR0 09367312) was dissolved 21 March 2017. Ashim Kumar Saha, the director was born February 1981 and resides in London

Sussex

- Muhammad Furqan, director of Hsg Capital Ltd (CR0 09154310) was born August 1979 and resides in Greenford

- Sujon Miah, a director of Jaipur Restaurant (Worthing) Limited (CRO 07147296) was born December 1972 and resides in Worthing
- Saleha Hussain Lucky, director of Curry Direct Limited (CRO 08421972) was born on 7 March 1983 and resides at 3 Sandymount Avenue, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO22 9ET. Curry Direct Limited entered liquidation on 18 July 2017 with Muhammad Usman Nazir, 1 Friary, Temple Quay, Bristol, Avon, BS1 6EA appointed a liquidator

North West area

- Mohammad Seraz Ullah, director of Blue Cloud Catering Limited (CRO 09584282) was born June 1968 and resides in Oldham
- Abbas Rashid Ahmed, director Aa Foods (UK) Limited, (CRO 09271804) was born August 1992 and resides in Manchester
- The directors of Old Swan Grill Limited (CRO 10232862.) were Helena Tohamy (born March 1987) and Mohammed Fathelbab (born January 1986) both reside in Liverpool

South Wales

- Xia Cua Xia, a director of Tin Sang Treham's Limited (CRO 10306416), was born January 1985 and resides in Treharris
- Sazzadur Rahman, a director of The 3 Mughals Restaurant Ltd (CRO 07481949) was born August 1959 and resides in Newport
- Bunyamin Hurum, a director of BH Catering Limited (CRO 07231445) was born February 1988 and resides in Uxbridge

Glasgow

- MV Hospitality Limited (CRO SC458793) was dissolved on 25 April 2017. Manoj Barua was born on 27 July 1963 and resides in Glasgow and Vipin Kumar Sharma was born August 1975 and resides in Glasgow. Northern Ireland
- The directors of China Express (N.I.) Limited (CRO NI635323) were Wen Qing Chen (born March 1978 and resides in Belfast) and Guanda An (born August 1979 residing in Crumlin, Antrim) Somerset
- Abdul Rahim, director of Jhalmuri Limited (CRO 07499776) was born February 1987 and resides in Frome, Somerset

High Wycombe

- The director of Royel Taj HW Limited (CRO 09415059), Mohammed Zinuk Khan, was born on December 1989 and resides in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

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.

All public enquiries concerning the affairs of the companies should be made to: Cheryl Lambert, Head of Outsourced Investigations, Investigations and Enforcement Services, The Insolvency Service, 3rd Floor, Abbey Orchard Street, London SW1P 2HT. Tel: 0207 596 6117. Email: Cheryl.Lambert@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[News story: Budget delivers devo deal and transport boost for North of Tyne](#)

Those living North of the Tyne will benefit from £600 million of new government investment to spend on local priorities to boost growth after the area agreed a historic devolution deal.

Details of the deal were unveiled today by Treasury Minister Andrew Jones, who visited the region and was joined by the Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry and local leaders.

The 815,000 people living in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland will vote for a new directly-elected mayor who will have exciting new powers in housing, planning and skills.

The deal, announced by Chancellor Philip Hammond on Wednesday, will generate huge rewards for the area – boosting the local economy by £1.1 billion, creating 10,000 new jobs and attracting £2.1 billion in private investment.

As well as receiving devolved powers, the North of Tyne area will also get:

- full control over the adult education budget
- an Inclusive Growth Board to coordinate skills and employment
- collaboration with government to boost trade and investment, digital infrastructure and rural growth across the area

The Chancellor's Budget also revealed the area will benefit from a further £337 million of government investment in the Tyne & Wear Metro to replace its 40-year-old trains with a new fleet. Mr Jones visited the area in the summer where he heard representations from local business leaders. He returns today having delivered on his pledge to ensure investment is found to ensure the Metro system is fit for the future.

To mark this occasion, the ministers were joined by the Mayor of North Tyneside, Norma Redfearn, Leader of Northumberland County Council, Cllr Peter Jackson and the Leader of Newcastle City Council, Cllr Nick Forbes.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Andrew Jones, said:

This government is delivering for the North East. We have been clear in our commitment to ensure that opportunity is shared across the country as we create an economy fit for the future. Today represents a big step in achieving this – giving the people of the North of the Tyne a bigger voice and greater power over their future.

This historic deal, including £600 million of government investment is yet another example of how we are backing the North. It will bolster the local economy in the North of Tyne and generate thousands of new jobs.

This deal comes on top of a Budget that delivers brand new trains for the Tyne and Wear Metro, freezes fuel duty for the eighth year running and supports business with a cut in business rates.

Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry, said:

This ground-breaking, multi-million pound deal – sitting alongside the Metro funding boost – truly passes power to the people, and is a pivotal moment for the Northern Powerhouse.

With a strong voice in a new mayor, a new Wear crossing and the globally-significant Great Exhibition of the North, this is a new golden era creating jobs, growth and prosperity for the resurgent North East.

Councillor Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle City Council, said:

The devolution deal we have negotiated is our region's next step towards creating a North East economy with above average wages and below average unemployment.

We now have a real opportunity for our region to come together and turn our ambition for more and better jobs into reality.

Newcastle is already home to national centres of excellence, and this deal builds on our strengths as we look to confirm our place at the heart of modern Britain.

Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor for North Tyneside said:

This is a very exciting deal that will help us to develop our economy and give us access to a wide range of new opportunities.

I am extremely proud of North Tyneside and am confident this deal will allow us to build on the strengths of our people and businesses.

It provides people with the chance to retrain, gain new skills and secure jobs at all levels in growing economies in our area. We will be able to invest in our infrastructure to support existing businesses and attract new ones, and make the North of Tyne an even better place to live.

It's vital that the North of Tyne has a strong voice as the country makes important decisions about its future. This deal gives us a seat at the table with other mayors, where we can fight for the needs of our residents.

Councillor Peter Jackson, Leader of Northumberland County Council, said:

The detailed negotiations with government ministers have resulted in an ambitious deal with many exciting opportunities for the County.

There are some significant issues for us to tackle over the next few years and this deal will give us the tools with which to make a real positive difference to the whole of Northumberland.

In particular, we have been asking government to help us significantly improve the educational attainment in our schools and I am delighted that we have been given the opportunity to introduce an Education Improvement Challenge for the area. This will be the first outside London. We've also been asking central government to devolve powers to our region so we will become a rural growth pilot

for England to develop ways in which we can improve prosperity, job opportunities and housing delivery in all of our communities.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to make a step change to improve the prospect of every single person living in Northumberland.

Further information

The deal sets out a range of powers and funding which will enable investments in infrastructure, skills, entrepreneurship, innovation and business growth. In addition to interventions which will be funded locally through the Investment Fund, the government will commit to review business cases brought forward for further investment in areas where the North of Tyne hosts nationally or regionally significant innovation assets science and research strengths – including in offshore and energy, digital (including data, 5G and Building Information Modelling), culture and creative industries, and life sciences and ageing.

More information on the powers North of Tyne will have:

- an Inclusive Growth Board to take forward skills and employment reforms across the area, including a pioneering North of Tyne Education Improvement Challenge to address disparities and drive excellence in schools across North of Tyne, ensuring that no one is left behind
- full control of the Adult Education Budget to allow North of Tyne to shape local skills provision to respond to local needs
- collaboration on an Employment Support Framework Agreement to drive better coordination of employment, skills and health services across the North of Tyne, increasing the number of residents moving into work
- a Rural Productivity Plan, with North of Tyne becoming a Rural Business

A decision on the funding of any projects will be taken following full assessment.

The deal signifies that government is minded to agree these terms with North of Tyne. Once the consultation process is complete and all seven constituent authorities of the existing North East Combined Authority consent to the deal, the minded-to deal will become a binding agreement and the new Combined Authority will be established.

[Press release: Extended bankruptcy for Coventry woman from who failed to](#)

disclose large online gaming win

This money was won during a period that Mrs Holtom was undischarged from bankruptcy while she had a duty to notify the Official Receiver that she had acquired the money, but she failed to do so.

A bankruptcy order was made against Mrs Holtom on 7 October 2015 and an investigation by the Insolvency Service found that Mrs Holtom won the £46,100 between 19 July 2016 and 22 July 2016. Mrs Holtom then disposed of the winnings between 19 July 2016 and 1 August 2016 and by not disclosing this to the Official Receiver it caused a loss to her creditors.

Mrs Holtom had explained to the Official Receiver leading up to the Court hearing in November 2017 that a third party had access to her online account and that they won the money but no evidence was provided to the Official Receiver or the Court to verify this.

The Bankruptcy Restriction Order, made by the Court on 3 November 2017, means Mrs Holtom will be bound for nine years by the restrictions set out in insolvency law that a bankrupt is subject to until they are discharged. Bankruptcy normally lasts for 12 months, but Mrs Holtom will now not be discharged until 2026. In addition, she cannot manage or control a company during this period without leave of the court.

Commenting on the case, the Official Receiver, Kevin Read at the Insolvency Services said:

The Insolvency Service always looks very closely at individuals who demonstrate dishonesty and takes action where wrongdoing is uncovered.

Notes to editors

Susan Holtom at the time of her bankruptcy was residing at Coventry and her date of birth is June 1971.

If the Official Receiver considers that the conduct of a bankrupt has been dishonest or blameworthy in some other way, he (or she) will report the facts to court and ask for a Bankruptcy Restrictions Order (BRO) to be made. The court will consider this report and any other evidence put before it, and will decide whether it should make a BRO. If it does, the bankrupt will be subject to certain restrictions for the period stated in the order. This can be from 2 to 15 years.

The bankrupt may instead agree to a Bankruptcy Restrictions Undertaking (BRU) which has the same effect as an order, but will mean that the matter does not go to court.

Restrictions are set out in insolvency law that bankrupts are subject to

until they are discharged – normally after 12 months – and these include that bankrupts:-

- must disclose their status to a credit provider if they wish to get credit of more than £500
- who carry on business in a different name from the name in which they were made bankrupt, they must disclose to those they wish to do business with the name (or trading style) under which they were made bankrupt
- may not act as the director of a company nor take part in its promotion, formation or management unless they have a court's permission to do so
- may not act as an insolvency practitioner, or as the receiver or manager of the property of a company on behalf of debenture holders

Additionally, a person subject to a Bankruptcy Restrictions Order/Undertaking or a Debt Relief Restrictions Order/Undertaking may not be a Member of Parliament in England or Wales.

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[News story: New THINK! road safety campaign launched to help cut child](#)

deaths

Road Safety Minister Jesse Norman has launched a new road safety campaign aimed at teachers and schools to help cut child fatalities.

A recent survey revealed that 67% of children get fewer than 2 hours of road safety education in their whole time at school and the new THINK! campaign will help schools and teachers highlight the dangers of the road and encourage best practice for children.

The government's iconic THINK! campaigns have helped reduce child road deaths by 90% since records began in 1979.

Road Safety Minister, Jesse Norman, said:

We have some of the safest roads in the world and in the last ten years child road deaths have fallen by more than half. But there is no room for complacency.

Teachers are already doing great work but it's important we in government do everything we can to help teach our children these important safety skills. These new resources should make that easier than ever.

The latest THINK! campaign will feature a wide range of brand new education resources, including easy to follow lesson plans, 2 new films co-created with school children and a song in a bid to make teaching road safety lessons easier and more accessible.

The first documentary-style film follows a group of school children as they act out how to cross the road safely after learning to use the Stop, Look, Listen, Think code. The second film follows another 6 children on their different journeys to school, including walking, cycling and scooting. They explain their top tips for getting to school safely in the form of a new road safety song.

THINK! has been running campaigns for more than 50 years and has successfully challenged a number of behaviours and attitudes to improve road safety, including drink driving, drug driving and using handheld phones while driving. THINK! campaigns have helped reduce the number of deaths from 22 a day in 1960 to current levels of 5.

These new resources follow a long and a proud tradition of hugely successful child road safety campaigns spanning several generations and featuring much-loved icons such as, the family of Hedgehogs, Kevin Keegan, James Earl Jones (the voice of Darth Vader) and David Prouse as the Green Cross Code Man.

The first phase of resources, aimed at 3 to 6 year olds, are [on the Think! website](#). The next 2 phases for ages 7 to 12 and 13 to 16 will follow in the

new year.

To be the first to hear about the new resources, register your interest at: think.direct.gov.uk/signup

[News story: £30 million to improve road safety for communities along HS2 route](#)

- government today (November 24 2017) confirms allocation of £30 million to improve road and cycle safety in towns and villages along the HS2 route between London and the West Midlands
- funding will help provide improved road safety for generations

A cash boost of £30 million will be handed out to towns and villages along the route of the new High Speed Two railway to help improve road and cycle safety.

Funding for 13 areas along the Phase One route of the new rail line between London and the West Midlands has been revealed by HS2 Minister Paul Maynard today as part of [National Road Safety Week](#).

The cash can be used for traffic calming measures, safer pedestrian crossings or safer junctions for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers.

Today's announcement highlights the government's determination to ensure HS2 is more than building a new railway. It will be a catalyst for economic growth, driving regeneration as well as improving the transport landscape around the track.

Paul Maynard, HS2 Minister, said:

This significant investment will mean a legacy of road and cycle safety improvements for people who live and work along the HS2 route between London and the West Midlands.

HS2 will become the backbone of our national rail network – supporting growth and regeneration and helping us build a Britain fit for the future. As part of Europe's biggest infrastructure project, we are minimising the effects of building the new railway as much as possible.

This money will see areas up and down the route benefit from high quality road and cycle safety projects to ensure that England's roads remain among the safest in the world.

Mark Thurston, HS2 Chief Executive, said:

Safety, environmental protection and being sensitive to the impact of our work on local communities are at the heart of HS2's approach to construction. That's why we welcome today's announcement and we look forward to working with local highways authorities along the route. We all have a responsibility to ensure that the new funding leaves a positive local legacy of improved road safety for communities once HS2 is complete.

Once local authorities have agreed plans for projects, they will agree the release of funds with HS2 Ltd. Authorities must ensure that improvements made leave a lasting legacy of road safety.

[Royal Assent was granted for Phase One of HS2](#) on February 23 2017 and preparatory works have been underway since then, including archaeological surveys and the creation of new wildlife habitats.

On November 9 2017 HS2 Ltd [announced a £5 million Woodland Fund](#) to help local landowners create new native, broadleaf woodlands and restore existing ancient woodland sites along the HS2 Phase One route.