

# Jeremy Corbyn statement on US air strikes on a Syrian air base

**Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party,**

speaking in response to the US air strikes on a Syrian air base, said:

“The US missile attack on a Syrian government air base risks escalating the war in Syria still further.

“Tuesday’s horrific chemical attack was a war crime which requires urgent independent UN investigation and those responsible must be held to account.

“But unilateral military action without legal authorisation or independent verification risks intensifying a multi-sided conflict that has already killed hundreds of thousands of people.

“What is needed instead is to urgently reconvene the Geneva peace talks and unrelenting international pressure for a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

“The terrible suffering of the Syrian people must be brought to an end as soon as possible and every intervention must be judged on what contribution it makes to that outcome.

“The British government should urge restraint on the Trump administration and throw its weight behind peace negotiations and a comprehensive political settlement.”

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## Press release: Director of Gosport take-away banned for employing illegal workers

The disqualification from 13 March 2017 prevents Mr Ahmed from directly or indirectly becoming involved in the promotion, formation or management of a company until March 2022.

Mr Ahmed’s disqualification follows an investigation by the Insolvency Service which found he had failed to ensure relevant immigration checks were

completed and documents retained, resulting in the employment of an illegal worker and which resulted in a penalty notice of £30,000 being issued by the Home Office.

Aldona O'Hara, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service said:

The Insolvency Service rigorously pursues directors who fail to pay fines imposed by the government for breaking employment and immigration laws. We have worked closely in this case with our colleagues at the Home Office to achieve this disqualification.

The director sought an unfair advantage over his competitors by employing an individual who did not have the right to work in the UK in breach of his duties as a director.

The public has a right to expect that those who break the law will face the consequences. Running a limited company, means you have statutory obligations as well as protections. If you fail to comply with your obligations then the Insolvency Service will investigate you.

## **Notes to editors**

Unique Flavours Limited (Company Registration No. 08348016) was incorporated on 4 January 2013 and traded from 121 Stoke Road, Gosport, Portsmouth P012 ILR.

Mohammed Zahed Ahmed (date of birth 24 April 1985) was the sole registered director from 4 January 2013, the date of incorporation, until liquidation.

The company went into liquidation on 13 May 2016. On 20 February 2017, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted a Disqualification Undertaking from Mr Ahmed, effective from 13 March 2017, for a period of five years.

The matters of unfit conduct being that: Mohammed Zahed Ahmed failed to ensure that Unique Flavours Limited complied with its obligations in accordance with The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and employed illegal workers.

This led to a penalty of £30,000, which materially contributed to the insolvency of Unique Flavours Limited in that:

- Mohammed Zahed Ahmed was sole appointed director of Unique from 4 January 2013, the date of incorporation, until the date of liquidation
- on 9 October 2015 Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) officers visited the company's trading premises and the company was found to be employing two illegal workers

- on 24 November, 2015 H0IE issued a Notification of Liability for a Civil Penalty to Unique in respect of a suspected breach of section 15 of the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, in the sum of £30,000 in respect of the company's employment of two illegal workers, payment of which was due on or before 24 December 2015
- as the sole registered director of Unique, Md Zahed Ahmed was responsible for ensuring that the company complied with all relevant legislation, including legislation relating to the employment of persons eligible to work.
- no payments were made against the civil penalty and this sum remained outstanding at liquidation.

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

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## [Business rates mess intensifies as firms forced to wait extra month for appeal](#)

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- Business rates mess intensifies as firms forced to wait extra month for appeal

7 Apr 2017



Businesses seeking to overturn crippling rises in rates will be forced to wait an extra month before their appeals are considered, it has emerged.

The Scottish Government has changed the legislation to state firms must now wait at least 105 days before a decision is made on their rates bill.

Previously, the limit was just 70 days, meaning those affected will have an additional 35 days of being out-of-pocket.

It's the latest set-back for the SNP as it struggles to address the business rates fiasco.

Earlier this week, it emerged finance secretary Derek Mackay's 12.5 per cent cap on increases was in fact a 14.75 per cent one, as he'd forgotten to factor in inflation.

### **Scottish Conservative shadow finance secretary Murdo Fraser said:**

"This is yet more evidence of the SNP's business rates fiasco unravelling.

"Not only was the cap announced by Derek Mackay found to be misleading, but now firms are being forced to wait more than a month extra to get their appeals heard.

"Considering finances for many of these organisations affected will already be tight, they can hardly afford to wait an additional 35 days.

"This is just another indication of an anti-business SNP government, that would rather hit firms in the pocket than help them boost growth, jobs and the economy."

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- An appellant can request that the Valuation Appeal Committee hear the appeal within a time period that the appellant requests, but this cannot be less than 105 days (previously 70 days) from the date they make the request in question.
  - The “70 day” mentioned was changed very recently (16 March and coming into force on 1 May 2017) when The Valuation Appeal Committee (Procedure in Appeals under the Valuation Acts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 was laid (*Legislation.Gov.UK, Scottish Statutory Instruments, [link](#)*).
  - Previously, Section 8 (4 and 7) of The Valuation Appeal Committee (Procedure in Appeals under the Valuation Acts) (Scotland) Regulations 1995 stated (*LegislationGov.UK, Scottish Statutory Instruments, [link](#)*):

‘(4) The secretary shall give to each party not less than 70 days’ notice of the date, time and place set for the hearing of the appeal.’

‘(7) If an appellant considers that his appeal has not been or is not to be heard within a reasonable period of lodging it, he may request the Committee to hear the appeal within such a period as he may specify, being a period not less than 70 days from the date of his request, and if the Committee declines to hear the appeal within such a period-

(a) It shall state its reasons for so declining; and

(b) The Secretary shall notify both parties accordingly’.

- The Valuation Appeal Committee (Procedure in Appeals under the Valuation Acts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 “70” for “105” in both these paragraphs 4 and 7 of regulation 8. It states: (*Legislation.Gov.UK, Scottish Statutory Instruments, [link](#)*)

‘(4) In regulation 8 (arrangements for hearing by the Committee)-

(a) in paragraphs (4) and (7), for “70” substitute “105”;

(b) in paragraph (5)([6](#)), for “giving such information” to the end substitute “to be published on an appropriate website”; and

(c) in paragraph (6), for “name a place” to the end substitute “include a list of the appeals to be heard at that hearing”.’

- Therefore as of 1 May 2017 the period covered by these sections will no longer be 70 but 105 days. Therefore the minimum time that an appellant can ask is 105 days, and if the Committee declines to hear the appeal within such a period, it must state why and notify both parties that this is the case.
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# “Culture of steady and sustained improvement in NHS Wales” – NHS Wales Chief Executive Dr Andrew Goodall

Every year in the NHS:

- there are 30,000 births
- one million A&E attendances
- three million outpatient appointments
- an estimated 18 million contacts in GP practices, community clinics and other primary care settings

The report describes some of the improvements and innovations in the health service in the last year, as well as highlighting areas for future improvement.

Innovations detailed in the report include:

- A unique form of plastic surgery is helping to improve quality of life for lymphoedema patients. Wales is the only UK nation to offer the procedure, funded through the Welsh Government's Health Technology fund. The surgery means patients no longer require compression garments, reducing costs to the NHS.
- Over 150 new staff have been recruited and new services created to improve Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services across Wales. New crisis intervention teams are now operating outside of normal working hours and early intervention in psychosis teams are caring for 15 to 24 year-olds experiencing severe mental illness.

NHS Wales Chief Executive Dr Andrew Goodall said:

“We have seen several years of sustained improvement in diabetes outcomes for children and young people. Cancer survival rates continue to improve despite increasing numbers of people requiring treatment. Waiting times to access diagnostic services continue to fall and we have seen a steady decline in people experiencing delays in their hospital discharge thanks to improved links between hospitals and social care.

“Our new clinical response model has vastly improved ambulance response times and has attracted interest from across the UK and the world.

“Passionate and committed NHS staff are leading improvements in healthcare services across Wales, services used by thousands of people every week; the Annual Quality Statement takes a look at just some of these improvements, but also looks at what we need to do next.

“I want to challenge the NHS to keep on improving; to work to provide care that is truly centred on the individual patient, and to ensure health and care are delivered to the same high standards consistently across Wales.”

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## **Press release: Facilities management company director disqualified for 6 years**

Natalie Rimondi, director of Full Circle Facilities Management Limited, has been disqualified from acting as a company director for 6 years after transferring company funds of £103,600 to an associated company when she was aware the company was insolvent.

On 1 August 2014, a County Court Judgement was made against the company, and on the same day HM Revenue & Customs wrote to warn the company of potential winding-up proceedings.

Full Circle operated two bank accounts. On 4 August 2014 Natalie Rimondi authorised payments from each of these accounts, for £94,400 and £9,200, to an associated company. Following these payments there was less than £50 left in each of the accounts.

Three days later, on 7 August 2014, the company formally appointed a liquidator. In taking this action, Natalie Rimondi deprived Full Circle's creditors of funds that should have been available for the Liquidator to distribute.

Full Circle entered liquidation on 3 September 2014 owing £236,871 to creditors.

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

By 4 August 2014, Natalie Rimondi was aware that insolvency proceedings were inevitable. In transferring the majority of the company's funds to an associated company she deliberately put these monies out of the reach of creditors.

Her disqualification will prevent a repeat occurrence of this and act as a deterrent to any other directors who are thinking of putting their own interests before that of their company's

creditors.

## Notes to editors

Full Circle Facilities Management Limited was incorporated on 22 March 2013 and traded from Full Circle House, Lakeside, Llantarnam Business Park, Cwmbran, South Wales NP44 3XS.

Natalie Rimondi was appointed as a director from 15 April 2014 to 3 September 2014, the date of liquidation.

Natalie Rimondi is of Newport and her date of birth is January 1984.

On 28 February 2017 Deputy District Judge T D C Jowett sitting at the County Court at Cardiff ordered that Natalie Rimondi should be disqualified from acting as a director for 6 years from 15 March 2017.

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

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