

Promoting trade with Scotland in the US

The US is Scotland's biggest inward investor and one of our major export markets. It's also where many of our tourists and international students come from.

Press release: Disqualification extended for director who breached ban

Mr Brown, 68, of Cirencester in Gloucestershire provided a disqualification undertaking for 6 years from 3 March 2011, to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills regarding a previous company, Richard Brown Homes Limited (RBH). RBH, which built new homes for residential purposes, entered liquidation on 10 June 2009.

Despite knowledge of the restrictions he was subject to, Mr. Brown continued to act as a director of Door Stores (Swindon) Limited (Door Stores), a retailer of doors and related fixtures, without leave of the Court, in breach of the restrictions.

An investigation by the Insolvency Service also found that Door Stores traded to the detriment of HMRC, who were owed £198,942 at liquidation.

Mr Brown has now given a director disqualification undertaking to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for 11 years, which prevents him from managing or controlling a company without leave of the court until 2027.

Mr Brown's co directors Richard Edward Brown (33) and Alan Roche (52) the de jure directors, have each given disqualification undertakings for 3 years and 6 months for causing Door Stores to trade to the detriment of HMRC.

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

This result should make it very clear to disqualified directors who ignore their disqualification undertakings and continue to act as directors that they will be vigorously pursued by the Insolvency Service.

The length of the undertaking in this case, sends a clear message to the business community that such actions will not be tolerated.

The Insolvency Service will also take action against directors who cause or allow a company to trade to the detriment of HMRC.

Notes to editors

Door Stores (Swindon) Limited (CR0 No. 05887116) was incorporated on 26 July 2006. The company traded from its registered office, Unit 5, Headlands Trading Estate, Headlands Grove, Swindon, SN2 7JG.

Richard David Brown was a formally appointed director between 26 July 2006 and 1 December 2008. He is of Cirencester and his date of birth is December 1948.

Richard Edward Brown was appointed as a director on 1 December 2008. He is of Swindon and his date of birth is October 1983.

Alan Roche was appointed as a director on 27 June 2014. He is of Swindon and his date of birth is September 1964.

The company went into liquidation on 7 August 2015. On 12 December 2016 the Secretary of State accepted an undertaking from Mr Brown, effective from 2 January 2017, for a period of 11 years. On 7 March 2017 the Secretary of State accepted an undertaking from Richard Edward Brown, effective from 28 March 2017 for a period of 3 years and 6 months. On 2 December 2016 the Secretary of State accepted an undertaking from Alan Roche, effective from 23 December 2016, for a period of 3 years and 6 months.

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

In addition that person cannot act as an insolvency practitioner and there are many other restrictions are placed on disqualified directors by other regulations. Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Further information on director disqualifications and restrictions is [available](#).

The Insolvency Service administers the insolvency regime, investigating all compulsory liquidations and individual insolvencies (bankruptcies) through the Official Receiver to establish why they became insolvent. It may also use powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK. In addition, the agency authorises and regulates the insolvency profession,

deals with disqualification of directors in corporate failures, 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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: * [Twitter](#) * [LinkedIn] (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/3226944?trk=tyah&trkInfo=clickedVertical%3Acompany%2Cidx%3A2-2-5%2CtarId%3A1437038215788%2Ctas%3Ainsolvency%20service>) * [YouTube] (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcLiLoFYKt6sLLafxk1AplQ>)

[Wales hits target for maximising £1.8bn EU Funds](#)

And Wales has invested £1.33bn – 65% – of the £2bn EU structural funds allocation as part of the 2014-20 programmes.

The Welsh Government has submitted its final claim to the European Commission of £95m, in relation to the 2007-13 programmes, bringing the total amount drawn down to the maximum £1.8bn allocated during that funding round, driving a total investment of £3.4 billion.

This makes Wales one of the best performing EU regions.

Projects supported by the 2007-13 EU programmes in Wales helped 72,700 people into work; 234,300 people to gain qualifications and created 11,925 businesses and 36,970 jobs.

The programmes exceeded key targets, including more than doubling those for helping people into work, gaining qualifications and creating new businesses.

Professor Drakeford said:

“Between 2007 and 2013, EU funding supported a wide range of projects, benefiting people, businesses and communities across Wales.

“The programmes were delivered in particularly challenging times, during which Wales was hit by a global financial and economic crisis.

“To deliver these results is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank our partners in making a success of these programmes.

“EU funding has also helped to narrow the gap between Wales and the UK in areas such as employment, economic activity, skills and investment in research and innovation.”

Some of the flagship initiatives supported during the 2007-13 EU funding round include:

- £40m for Swansea University’s Innovation Campus where 5,000 students are currently studying. It is expected to attract thousands more in the coming years;
- £85m for more than 79,600 apprenticeships and more than 12,400 traineeships across Wales at employers including Airbus, Admiral and GE Aviation;
- £3m for the restoration of the Lido Ponty, which has so far attracted almost 100,000 visitors;
- £13.5m for the collaborative research and innovation ‘SEACAMS’ project to support Wales’ marine science sector;
- £4.3m for Plas Heli Wales’ National Sailing Academy and Events Centre in Pwllheli;
- More than £130m for the development of major roads, including the Heads of the Valleys A465 and Harbour Way in Port Talbot as well as improvements to train stations across Wales.

Investments to date in the current 2014-20 funding round include:

- £64m for major upgrades to the A40 in Pembrokeshire and the A55 in North Wales;
- £4.6m to support the development of Cardiff University’s new world-leading Brain Research Imaging Centre, CUBRIC;
- £76m for the Wales Business Fund which is helping Welsh SMEs to grow by providing loans and equity investments;
- £1.7m for the STEM Cymru 2 project to promote careers in STEM industries to young people in Wales;
- £27.7m for the Attractor Destinations scheme, led by Visit Wales, to create 11 must-see destinations across Wales, including Porthcawl Maritime Centre and the Caernarfon Town and Waterfront Regeneration initiative.

Professor Drakeford added:

“I am confident we will be equally successful in investing the EU funds allocated to Wales for 2014–20 before the UK leaves the EU.

“It is vital Wales receives replacement funding from UK sources after 2020 at the same level we currently receive from the EU so we can continue to address long-term challenges and support our economy to grow.”

[Cost of Scottish schools vermin crisis revealed](#)

- [Home](#)
- [All News](#)
- Cost of Scottish schools vermin crisis revealed

10 Apr 2017



Hundreds of thousands of pounds is spent each year dealing with vermin infestation across Scottish schools, research has revealed.

The analysis shows that between 2011-2016, more than £1.5million was spent controlling the likes of cockroaches, flies, rats and ants in schools.

Glasgow was shown to have paid out the most on pest control – spending £132,919 during 2012 alone – and £460,893 between 2011-2015.

The Scottish Conservatives have called for ministers to do more to ensure every child in Scotland can receive education without worrying about pest infestation.

Scottish Conservative schools spokesman Ross Thomson said:

“Given how much is spent each year, these statistics reveal a genuine problem with vermin in Scottish schools.

“Parents and teachers will quite rightly be disgusted at the thought of children being educated in unhygienic environments.

“It’s important for youngsters to be attending a school that is both clean and suitable if they are to reach their true potential during their time in education.”

Full spreadsheet of pest control stats by council area:

[Copy of Pest Control](#)

Bill Nighy joins guests for 'red carpet' Welsh premiere of Their Finest hosted by the Welsh Government and BAFTA Cymru

Economy Secretary Ken Skates will welcome guests to the event, which will be attended by actor Bill Nighy who will join the film's producer Amanda Posey, screenwriter Gaby Chiappe and Lissa Evans, author of the original book 'Their Finest Hour and a Half', in conversation with Owen Sheers following the screening.

The film was funded by the Welsh Government's Media Investment Budget alongside BBC Films and Pinewood Group, with Pinewood Pictures a sponsor of the Welsh Premiere. Wales Screen, part of the Welsh Government's creative industries team, played a key role in finding the perfect locations and hosted numerous recces before filming began.

The locations in south west Wales feature Swansea's Guildhall – which doubles as the Ministry of Information and Whitehall – alongside a number of locations in Pembrokeshire including Trecwn Valley, Freshwater West, Porthgain Harbour, Haverfordwest's Palace Cinema and the Cresselly Arms in Cresswell Quay.

Economy Secretary Ken Skates said:

"Their Finest is a great example of the widespread benefits that TV and film production can bring to Wales – providing work and experience for crews, sustaining a range of specialist support businesses, boosting the hospitality sector and highlighting the expertise we have within Wales.

"Film and TV production is one of our priority sectors and I am particularly pleased that the extensive use of locations around Wales is playing a key role in supporting regional economies and jobs while also providing an invaluable promotion for our tourism industry."

Their Finest opens in cinemas across the UK on 21 April and sees director Lone Scherfig reunite with producer Amanda Posey (An Education) and collaborate for the first time with award-winning producer Stephen Woolley.

The film follows the misadventures of a British film crew struggling to make a patriotic film to boost morale during the London Blitz in World War II. Alongside lead Gemma Arterton, the cast members include Sam Claflin as her fellow fellow screenwriter and Bill Nighy as a fading matinee idol who

reluctantly joins their production in a supporting role. Richard E Grant, Rachael Stirling, Jeremy Irons and Helen McCrory round out the cast.

Hannah Raybould, Director of BAFTA Cymru said:

“We are thrilled to host this event to celebrate a film which was shot extensively in Wales with Welsh crew and showcases our stunning Welsh locations alongside such a star-studded cast. The event promises to be a special highlight in our events programme and we’re delighted to offer our members the chance to be among the first to see the film.”

The evening includes a networking reception for guests that will include members of the Creative Industry Advisory Panel, broadcasters, production companies from Wales and London, facility companies, BAFTA members and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama MA students.