



Aug 21, 2015 16:35 BST

Essex accountant jailed for tax fraud

An Essex accountant, who doctored his clients' tax returns to steal £170,000 which he used to gamble, has been jailed after HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) investigated him.

Melvin Moore, 30, from Canvey Island completed tax returns on behalf of his clients before sending them to HMRC. Unknown to his customers he inflated the turnover and expenses on their returns to create fake repayment claims. To avoid his clients becoming suspicious he altered the addresses so that all contact from HMRC was diverted to other unrelated addresses.

Paul Barton, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“Moore abused his position of trust as an accountant, using his professional status as a front for his illegal activities. He has now lost his reputation and his business.

“Tax fraud is a serious crime that deprives the country of funds for public services. HMRC will continue to pursue those individuals or businesses who attack the tax system and ask anyone with information about those who may be involved in tax fraud to contact the Tax Evasion Hotline on 0800 788 887.”

Moore was sentenced to two years. He will serve one year in prison and one year on licence.

His Honour Judge Lodge, said:

“You abused your position as an accountant. Knowing how to use Revenue systems enabled you to put in claims and you took the money to pay off your gambling debts.”

Notes for Editors

1. Melvin Stephen Moore, (DOB 06/10/1984) of Briarswood, Canvey Island, Essex.
2. Moore was charged with cheating the public revenue. He pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing on 16 April 2015 and was sentenced today (21 August) at Basildon Crown Court.
3. Moore was the sole director and owner of Rubix Accounting Ltd based in Canvey Island, Essex.
4. Between November 2011 and March 2013 Moore made 44 amendments to his clients' tax returns resulting in fraudulent repayment claims of £259,761.11. HMRC stopped a number of the claims, resulting in £170,000 being paid to Moore.
5. HMRC's flickr site www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk
6. Follow HMRC's press office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice

Issued by HM Revenue & Customs Press Office

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is the UK's tax authority.

HMRC is responsible for making sure that the money is available to fund the UK's public services and for helping families and individuals with targeted financial support.

Contacts



HM Revenue
& Customs

HMRC Press Office

Press Contact

news.desk@hmrc.gov.uk

03000 585018

HMRC Regional Press Officer - South West

Press Officer

Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire,
Devon, Cornwall, Bristol & Somerset

03000 518067