



HM Revenue
& Customs



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Payback time for security company director

Jul 18, 2018 14:56 BST

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A Gloucester security services company director, who was jailed for stealing almost half a million pounds in tax, must pay back £67,424 or face another two years in jail and still owe the money.

Jonathan Schofield, 32, of Kingsway, Gloucester, and director of Cheltenham based J S Facilities Group Ltd, was found guilty of committing tax fraud totalling £497,000 and jailed for three years in February 2018. An investigation by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) revealed he made

fraudulent declarations of Income Tax and National Insurance, under the PAYE system, and VAT between 2011 and 2016.

On 18 July 2018, at Gloucester Crown Court, he was ordered to pay back £67,424.47 within three months, or face more time in prison.

The confiscation hearing concluded that Schofield had benefited by more than £526,147 from his criminal conduct, but his current realisable assets are less than that. HMRC will be able to pursue any future wealth.

Zoe Ellerbeck, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“Schofield knew he was breaking the law but thought he could get away with ripping off honest taxpayers. He’s already in jail and now he’s facing the financial consequences of his criminal behaviour. Our work doesn’t finish when a fraudster is jailed, we stop criminals profiting from their crimes and recover the money to fund public services.

“If Schofield doesn’t pay back what he owes, he faces even more time behind bars - and will still owe the money. Tax fraud is a serious crime and I ask anyone with information about possible fraudsters to report it online or contact our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.”

Notes for Editors

1. Jonathan Benjamin Schofield, (DOB 24/7/1985) previously of Staxton Drive, Kingsway, Quedgeley, Gloucester, was found guilty following a trial at Gloucester Crown Court.
2. He was sentenced on 13 February 2018 to three years imprisonment for being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of VAT, contrary to section 72 of the VAT Act 1994, and two and a half years for the fraudulent evasion of Income Tax and National Insurance deductions. The sentences are to run concurrently. The total value of the fraud was £497,000.
3. On 18 July 2018 at the same court he was ordered to payback £67,424.47 within three months or face a further two years behind bars, under the Proceeds of Crime Act.
4. There is no appeal against default jail sentences issued in confiscation orders and the order for repayment remains in place

- after the default sentence is served by the fraudster. If the assets held by the convicted criminal at the time of the order are less than the benefit derived from the fraud, then any future assets can be confiscated up to the value of the benefit of the fraud.
5. Anyone with information about people or businesses involved in tax fraud can report it online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-unregistered-trader-or-business>, or call our HMRC Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.
 6. Follow HMRC's press office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice.

Issued by HM Revenue & Customs Press Office

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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



HMRC Press Office

Press Contact
news.desk@hmrc.gov.uk
03000 585018



HMRC Press Office Out Of Hours Contact

Press Contact
07860 359544