



A bundle of cash seized by HMRC

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£1.5m cash seized and 13 arrested on suspicion of money laundering

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has arrested 13 people and seized £1.5 million in cash during a UK-wide operation targeting suspected money laundering.

150 officers from HMRC executed 28 warrants across London, Bedfordshire, Wiltshire, Kent, County Armagh and Deeside, and arrested eleven men and two women on suspicion of laundering tens of millions of pounds.

In addition to the arrests, officers also seized four high value cars, worth approximately £400,000, and were granted nine bank account freezing orders, worth a total of £520,000.

Simon York, Director of HMRC's Fraud Investigation Service, said:

“Money laundering and the organised crime it supports is hugely harmful to businesses, citizens and society as a whole. That is why it is a priority for HMRC and this large scale operation demonstrates we will not hesitate to investigate those suspected of being involved.

“We are determined to cut off the funds that are the lifeblood of serious crime in the UK and in the last year alone, HMRC has recovered more than £192 million of illicit proceeds using its civil and criminal proceeds of crime powers. Tax crime and money laundering deprive public services of vital funds and I would urge anyone with information on this type of fraud to report it to HMRC online, or call our fraud hotline on 0800 788 887.”

This investigation is part of HMRC’s broader efforts to tackle Money Laundering in the UK. Last week HMRC and the Metropolitan Police Service together focused on laundering through the regulated sector in London.

All those arrested on 26 June 2019 were questioned by HMRC and have been released pending further enquiries. Investigations are ongoing.

Notes for editors

1. Details of those arrested on suspicion of money laundering:

- A 37 year old man from and a 31 year old woman from two addresses in Bedford, Bedfordshire
- A 54 year old man from Flitwick, Bedfordshire
- A 20 year old woman from Dunstable, Bedfordshire
- A 27 year old man from Swindon, Wiltshire
- A 47 year old man from Shotton, Deeside
- A 47 year old man from north Finchley, London
- A 54 year old man from Southgate, London
- A 51 year old man from Queens Park, London
- A 42 year old man from Hackney, London

- A 38 year old man from County Armagh
- A 34 year old man from Beckenham, Kent
- A 35 year of man from Ashford, Kent

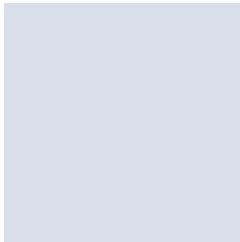
2. Follow HMRC's Press Office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice

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

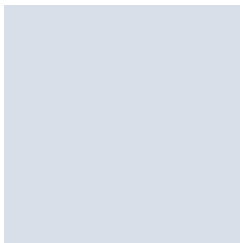


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