



HM Revenue & Customs

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Sandwich bar family jailed for tax fraud

Three members of the same Hull family have been sentenced after committing a £1 million tax fraud involving their sandwich bar businesses.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) investigators arrested Amy Louise Baker, 27, in January 2012 after discovering she had failed to pay tax for her business, Amy's Sandwich Bar, since 2006.

During searches of her business premises, HMRC found documents and records relating to a second sandwich business, John's Sandwich Bar, owned by her father and his partner. John Richard Baker, 62, and Tracey Walmsley, 50, were subsequently arrested by HMRC in August 2012. Investigations into

their business revealed they had failed to register for tax since 1995.

Jo Tyler, Assistant Director, Criminal Investigation, HMRC, said:

“These three knew full well they were breaking the law, yet chose to overlook it to get what they wrongly assumed would be easy money. They lived a very comfortable lifestyle, driving performance cars and regularly travelling abroad on holiday, all at the expense of the taxpayer,

“There are no excuses for this type of criminal activity, as paying tax is not an option – it is a legal and moral obligation. This family manipulated a system that exists for the benefit of legitimate traders and honest taxpayers and they are now paying the price.

John Baker was jailed for two years for his role in the fraud at Hull Crown Court yesterday after HHJ Mettyear said he had been at the forefront on a long standing deliberate fraud in which his family had become involved.

Notes for editors

1. Amy Baker, DOB 08/12/1987, of Barleigh Road, Hull, pleaded guilty to two counts of cheating the public revenue of Income Tax, National Insurance and VAT. She was sentenced to six months in prison suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 250 hours of unpaid work when she appeared at Hull Crown Court yesterday.
2. John Richard Baker, DOB 09/12/1952, of Main Road, Thorngumbald, Hull, pleaded guilty to four counts of cheating the public revenue of Income Tax, National Insurance and VAT. He was sentenced to two years in prison on each of the four counts when he appeared at Hull Crown Court yesterday.
3. Tracey Walmsley, DOB 21/03/1964, also of Main Road, Thorngumbald, Hull, pleaded guilty four counts of cheating the public revenue of Income Tax, National Insurance and VAT. She was sentenced to 15 months in prison suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 280 hours of unpaid work when she appeared at Hull Crown Court yesterday.
4. The businesses: Amy’s Sandwich Bar, Craven Court, Hedon Road, Hull, and John’s Sandwich Bar, Marfleet Avenue, Hull.
5. Anyone with information about people or businesses involved in

tax fraud can contact HMRC through the Tax Evasion hotline on 0800 788 887 or at <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-unregistered-trader-or-business>

6. Follow HMRC Press Office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice
7. Photographs are available at HMRC's Flickr channel www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk

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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.

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