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## Seven arrested for suspected £12m VAT fraud

Six men and one woman have been arrested in a series of raids across Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Greater London as part of an investigation into a suspected £12 million VAT fraud.

Around 50 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) investigators, assisted by Thames Valley police officers, searched more than a dozen residential and business premises in Watford (Hertfordshire), Chesham (Buckinghamshire) and the London boroughs of Barnet and Harrow on Tuesday 25 March.

Colin Spinks, HMRC Assistant Director Criminal Investigation, said:

“HMRC and police officers made a series of arrests across three counties. We will continue to work together to crack down on suspected tax fraud, which deprives the UK of vital public funds. People with information about suspicious VAT activity can contact the Customs Hotline on 0800 59 5000.”

All seven people arrested have been interviewed and released on bail until the week commencing 7 July 2014.

### **Notes for editors**

1. Those arrested are:

- A male and female in Buckinghamshire;
- Three men in Hertfordshire;
- Two men in Greater London (one in the borough of Barnet; one in the borough of Harrow).

2. They were all arrested on suspicion of being involved in VAT fraud / false representation contrary to the Fraud Act and money laundering offences.

3. Investigations are continuing and no further details can be given at this stage.

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### **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](mailto:news.desk@hmrc.gov.uk)

03000 585018

### **HMRC Regional Press Officer - Northern Ireland**

Press Officer

Northern Ireland

03000 550 493

07870 863 498