



Cash found at Williamson's house

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Tax stealing duo jailed

A pair of company bosses, who spun a web of lies so they could steal more than £360,000 through various tax frauds, have been jailed.

Mark Creswell, 52, of Ingham, Lincoln, and Craig Williamson, 44, of Rastrick, West Yorkshire, both made a series of false VAT repayment claims between 2008 and 2014 to steal money that funded their lifestyles. Creswell also failed to declare income from properties he rented, while Williamson lied about his earnings when claiming tax credits.

The duo spent the money from the fraud on parties, going for extravagant meals, trips abroad, clothes and home improvements.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) uncovered the frauds after discovering the pair's spending was way beyond their declared incomes.

Richard Paris, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“This was a pre-planned, deliberate attempt by these men to steal public money, in a bid to line their own pockets.

“HMRC will pursue people like Creswell and Williamson who attempt to defraud the system and take money away from our vital public services. Anyone with information about people who may be involved in tax fraud can report it to HMRC online, or contact our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.”

During the investigation HMRC officers found that while Creswell claimed to earn up to just £8,000 a year, his monthly outgoings were regularly about £3,500. And Williamson said his annual income was £14,000, but he paid £1,200 per month in rent alone.

Creswell's letting company submitted 25 false VAT returns worth £148,154 in stolen tax. He also failed to declare that he rented out five properties, meaning he should have paid £16,823 Income Tax on the rental income.

Williamson and Creswell jointly ran Lincoln Car Sales Ltd. Williamson admitted making up the company's VAT figures and submitting 23 false returns to fraudulently claim £179,423. He also stole £17,356 in tax credits by under-declaring his income on application forms.

The men were arrested in October 2014 when HMRC officers raided their homes. £3,450 in cash was found in Creswell's property while £11,900 and 885 euros were discovered in Williamson's house. The money has been forfeited.

Williamson was jailed for 18 months and Creswell for 12 months at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday (3 October 2018), having previously admitted guilt at the same court.

HMRC has now begun proceedings to reclaim the stolen tax.

Notes to Editors

1. Mark Creswell. DOB: 29/11/1965, of The Green, Ingham, in Lincoln, was charged with fraudulent evasion of VAT for submitting false VAT returns to HMRC between 2008 and 2014, and fraudulent evasion of Income Tax by failing to declare his true income between 2009 and 2014.
2. Craig Williamson. DOB: 14/09/1974, of Crow Tree Lane, Rastrick in West Yorkshire, was charged with two counts of fraudulent evasion of VAT for submitting false VAT returns to HMRC between 2008 and 2014, and one count of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent activity undertaken with a view to obtaining payments of tax credits by failing to declare his true income between 2005 and 2015.
3. Follow HMRC Press Office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice.
4. HMRC's Flickr channel: www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk.

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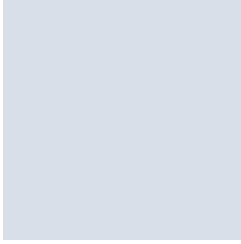
HMRC is responsible for making sure that the money is available to fund the UK's public services and for helping families and individuals with targeted financial support.

Contacts



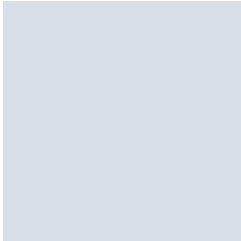
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