

[Press release: Creating a 'zero tolerance' culture for disclosure failings across the criminal justice system](#)

The Attorney General, Geoffrey Cox QC MP, has today published the Government's Review of the efficiency and effectiveness of disclosure in the criminal justice system

[Press release: Injury claims boss jailed after removing company funds before closure](#)

Bury-based Darren Christopher Bullough appeared at Bolton Crown Court on Wednesday 14 November after he pleaded guilty to one count of fraudulently removing funds and another count of failing to provide company books and records to the liquidator.

The court heard that Direct Assist Ltd was first incorporated in June 2007 and was a personal injury claims management company with two registered offices in Bury and Bolton.

Darren Bullough (46) was the sole director but seven years later, the company struggled financially after they lost a client who was their main source of business. This resulted in a petition being lodged at court to wind-up Direct Assist in September 2014 in relation to a £658,000 unpaid tax bill.

However, following the petition to wind-up the company, a substantial amount of money was removed from the company's accounts.

The company bank account was frozen to stop any more funds being removed, as well as preventing creditors losing out further, and after Direct Assist formally entered into compulsory liquidation in March 2015, an investigation was launched by the Insolvency Service.

Enquiries were made difficult as investigators could not find any evidence of company records from July 2013 onwards and this would have covered the period when the funds were taken.

However, investigators were able to discover that in the months before a

winding-up order was made by the court resulting in the closure of Direct Assist, Darren Bullough fraudulently removed close to £51,000 between September and December 2014.

Around £28,000 went to family members, £3,600 worth of cash was removed from the company's bank account and £18,500 was spent on Direct Assist's credit card. Darren Bullough even made his first removal just one day after the winding-up petition was presented to the courts.

At court, Judge Stead also made a Disqualification Order for 7 years. The ban prevents Darren Bullough from directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

John Fitzsimmons, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

"Darren Bullough was well-known as someone who led an extravagant lifestyle, spending money on expensive property and fast cars. But he recklessly removed funds from his business knowing that Direct Assist was in financial difficulty.

"We welcome the courts substantial sentence and their recognition of the severity of Darren Bullough's offences as not only was this money not his to do with as he pleased but by removing the funds, he denied payment that was rightfully owed to the company's creditors."

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service administers the insolvency regime, investigating all compulsory liquidations and individual insolvencies (bankruptcies) through the Official Receiver to establish why they became insolvent. It may also use powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK. In addition, the agency deals with disqualification of directors in corporate failures, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7674 6910 or 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

Press release: Injury claims boss jailed after removing company funds before closure

Personal injury claims boss jailed for 21 months after fraudulently removing company funds in the months before the courts would make a winding-up order resulting in the closure of the business.

News story: New online service launched for PIP appeals

Rollout of the new digital service in England and Wales will make the application process simpler, and reduce uncertainty while waiting for a decision by enabling people to track the progress of their case.

More than 2,600 applications have been received by the service so far. The number of appeals rejected because of errors in paperwork completed by appellants fell by 45%.

Throughout the development process, HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) has worked alongside the judiciary, with members of the public and with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to make sure users' needs are met. Applicants who used the new service report back that it's easy to use and straightforward.

Comments from people lodging an appeal have included:

This is a totally new experience for me, and I never thought I could do it by myself, but I am so pleased at how easy it was." – Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) service user, September 2018

So straightforward and easy to use." – SSCS service user, July 2018

No glaring issues, all in all a pleasant and easy experience.” –
SSCS service user, August 2018

Regional Tribunal Judge Jeremy Bennett, Social Security and Child Support, London Region, said:

Those that have so far appealed online seem to find the system straightforward. The information provided on the online appeal form seems to be of a standard that allows judges to progress the appeals. The challenge is to find ways to make the online appeal form accessible to as many appellants as possible and to make it the appeal route of choice for SSCS appellants.

The service is part of HMCTS’s ambitious £1bn programme of reform, which aims to bring new technology and modern ways of working to what is – and will remain – the best justice system in the world.

[News story: Singapore marks 100th Anniversary of the Armistice](#)



On Sunday 11 November 2018, the British High Commission, Singapore along with partners from the Singapore Armed Forces Veterans’ League and with the support of the Inter-Religious Organisation hosted the annual Remembrance Day service at the Kranji War Cemetery. The day also marked the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I, which is also the day the Armistice was signed by the Allied Forces and Germany.

Some 1,800 members of the public, the diplomatic corps, the UK and Singapore military, religious groups and students attended the ceremony, paying heartfelt tribute to all who died in war. To mark Armistice Day and the five years of the war, a bell on loan from The Battlebox at Fort Canning in Singapore was rung by an officer from HMS Argyll.

Media covered the event with the main local English newspaper noting High Commissioner's remark 'urging people to never forget the sacrifice and suffering of those who had died in the war'.

[Link to article](#)

[Link to full speech](#)

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