

# Company fined after worker loses top of finger

Llanharan Concrete Co. Limited has today been fined after a worker was injured when his glove got entangled with the moving blade of a table saw.

Cardiff Magistrates' Court heard how the employee of the company was cutting wood with a table saw when his glove got entangled, pulling his finger into contact with it. The injured worker was rushed to hospital where he underwent surgery to amputate the top of his left index finger to the first knuckle.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found there was a lack of supervision, no risk assessment or safe system of work was in place for using the table saw, and no training was given to the worker before using the saw. This was despite the company having previously been advised by a HSE inspector, and their own health and safety consultants, to implement safe systems of work for their machinery.

Llanharan Concrete Co. Limited of Llanharry Road, Llanharan, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and Regulation 3(1) of the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999 and has been fined £6,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,889.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Lee Jones said, "This injury could have easily been prevented had the risk been identified.

"Employers should make sure they properly assess and apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery."

## **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk)
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [legislation.gov.uk/](http://legislation.gov.uk/)
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

Journalists should approach HSE press office with any queries on regional press releases.

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# Glottal stops and fluency in non-native English speakers

PhD placement student, Rowan Campbell, writes:

If you've been listening to our [podcast](#) (Shameless Plug #378902), you just might have noticed that I, the Scottish one, love glottal stops. This is the sound that's often written as an apostrophe where you would usually see a /t/ – for example, *wa'er* instead of *water*. But it actually has its own super-cool symbol in the International Phonetic Alphabet, and looks a bit like a question mark: ʔ

That's the first of many fun things I could write about the glottal stop, but rather than descending into a clickbait listicle (You Won't BELIEVE These Seven Facts About Glottals!), I'm going to focus on something interesting that I've noticed in the Evolving English VoiceBank: non-native English speakers using glottal stops. Have a listen to these three clips – the first recording is of a young RP speaker, the second is a speaker from Cardiff, and the third is a woman whose native language is Czech.

[C1442 uncatalogued female speaker](#)

[C1442X5884 Cardiff female \(b.1982\)](#)

[C1442X5843 Czech female \(b.1986\)](#)

As you can hear, all three speakers use glottal stops, but the main difference is that the RP speaker only uses them before consonants and pauses, where they often go unnoticed:

*... opened the biscuiʔ tin, took out a biscuiʔ, brought iʔ back upstairs ...*

Compare this with the Cardiff and Czech speakers, who replace every word-final /t/ with a glottal stop:

*... opened the biscuiʔ tin, took ouʔ a biscuiʔ, broughʔ iʔ back upstairs ...*

This is something that is now quite common among young British speakers, but we might not expect to hear it from a non-native speaker – the glottal stop is a stigmatised and often-criticised variant of /t/ when it occurs between vowels, and as such is not generally taught to language learners.

Presumably, this Czech speaker has noticed the people around her using the glottal stop and has incorporated it into her own linguistic repertoire. But why has she picked up on this feature in particular?

Some recent research on sociolinguistic variation amongst Polish-born teens in Edinburgh suggests that t-glottaling may be a relatively easy native-like feature to acquire. In *Sociolinguistics in Scotland* (2014), Miriam Meyerhoff and Erik Schleeff examine two features that can vary phonologically and sociolinguistically:

- T-glottaling, or using the glottal stop /ʔ/ instead of /t/
- Apical (ing), commonly referred to as ‘g-dropping’ – for example, pronouncing the last syllable of ‘walking’ as ‘kin’ rather than ‘king’. These are represented phonetically as /kɪn/ and /kɪŋ/ respectively, as the ‘ng’ sound has its own (also super-cool) phonetic symbol: ŋ

Without wanting to overload you with new terminology, you might notice that these features also vary in linguistic complexity. T-glottaling is only phonological, in that it just requires knowledge of the phonological variants /t/ and /ʔ/. Both of these sounds can easily be substituted for the other at the end of any word. However, to ‘g-drop’ in a native-like manner requires additional knowledge, as not all ‘ings’ are created equal – compare the ‘ing’ in ‘king’ versus ‘walking’. We can pronounce the last syllable of ‘walking’ as either /kɪn/ or /kɪŋ/, but we can’t pronounce /kɪŋ/ as /kɪn/ without changing the meaning of the word. Learning where we can and cannot ‘drop the g’ requires knowledge of both the phonological variants and the grammatical difference between these two types of ‘ing’.

As such, it’s harder to learn the relevant linguistic constraints for ‘g-dropping’ than t-glottaling, making the glottal stop a great candidate for non-native speakers to pick up – and that could be partly why the Czech speaker’s English sounds very fluent and native-like!

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## [Presentation of letters of credentials to the President of the European Council Donald Tusk](#)

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## [Press release: £95 million for local full-fibre broadband projects](#)

Thirteen areas across the UK are set to benefit from the first wave of funding from the Government's £190 million Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN), the Chancellor has announced in today's Spring Statement.

Armagh City, (including Banbridge & Craigavon), Belfast, Blackpool, Cambridgeshire, Cardiff, Coventry (including Solihull & Warwickshire), The Highlands, London, Manchester, Mid Sussex, North Yorkshire, Portsmouth, and Wolverhampton have been announced as the successful bidders for the £95 million allocated to successful projects.

Whilst 95% of UK premises can now get superfast broadband, only 3% have access to gigabit-capable full fibre infrastructure. With the need for faster connectivity expected to dramatically increase over the coming years, the LFFN programme aims to leverage local and commercial investment in full fibre across the whole of the UK landscape. It will do this through funding a series of projects that seek to stimulate the market by making the deployment of gigabit-capable full fibre infrastructure more commercially viable.

The successful projects include:

- Using hospitals, health centres and GP surgeries as “anchor tenants” – providing a full-fibre “hub” which surrounding homes and businesses can then also be connected to.
- Upgrading schools, libraries and emergency response buildings to gigabit-capable full fibre connections.
- Strategic re-purposing of existing infrastructure, allowing full fibre to be rolled out at a fraction of what it would otherwise cost.

Creating “fibre spines” along major transport routes and public building networks. These extend a supplier's fibre footprint, making full fibre connections more available to surrounding homes and businesses.

The LFFN programme is part of the government's £31 billion National Productivity Investment Fund aimed at improving productivity, which is key to raising living standards. A main focus of the government's Industrial Strategy is ensuring the right connectivity is in place for the for the UK's digital economy to thrive, and the LFFN programme forms a vital part of this work.

## Notes to Editors

- The LFFN Challenge Fund is a £190 million government capital grant programme that aims to help deliver the fastest and most reliable digital communications network available. Funding will be allocated in successive competitive waves, and bidding is open to local bodies. The aim is for local bodies to harness public sector connectivity and aggregate private sector demand to stimulate the market to build new and extend existing fibre networks in their local areas.
- The first wave of the Challenge Fund closed on January 26th 2018.
- We anticipate that the next wave of the Challenge Fund will open in Summer 2018.
- The amount of funding requested by each bid is as follows. Please note these are the amounts of funding bid for, not the final amount that will be awarded – all successful bids will be subject to a due diligence before their final funding amount is confirmed. If you are referring to these figures in a story please refer to each bid as being awarded 'up to' the specified amount of funding.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon – £2.4m

Belfast – £11.5m

Blackpool – £3.0m

Cambridgeshire – £4.0m

Cardiff – £6.0m

Coventry, Solihull & Warwick – £5.7m

Highlands – £4.5m

London – £8.5m

Manchester – £23.8m

Mid Sussex – £2.2m

North Yorkshire (NYNet) – £15.1m

Portsmouth – £3.9m

Wolverhampton – £4.9m

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## [My response to the Spring Statement](#)

The Spring Statement was a non-event.

The OECD gave us the clearer picture – that the economy is bumping along the bottom of the G20, well behind the likes of Australia, Canada and the Euro area.

[Go to Source](#)

Author: