

Demolition company fined after nearby worker injured

G O'Brien & Sons (Nationwide Demolition Contractors) Limited has been fined after a nearby worker was seriously injured on a demolition site in Durham.

Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court heard that on 22 February 2018 the company was demolishing two semi-detached properties as part of a project to renovate a residential street. The injured person, the director of a loss assessor company, had attended his client's property adjacent to where the work was taking place. Demolition waste had spread into the garden of the neighbouring property, and the injured person stood on a broken window panel, cutting through his ankle and Achilles tendon, whilst attempting to take photographs of the waste.

PR-6



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company failed to suitably ensure that demolition work within its grounds was carried out in such a manner as to prevent danger. The work had not been thoroughly planned to ensure that demolition waste was fully enclosed within the site boundary, and there was no secure fence to prevent unauthorised access to the site.

G O'Brien & Sons (Nationwide Demolition Contractors) Limited of Durham Road, Birtley was found guilty of breaching Regulation 20(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company was fined £3,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1419.40.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Phil Chester said, "An important message to the industry is to suitably plan work and ensure that site documentation is followed throughout the duration of the work. Paperwork and planning are not just a tick box exercise."

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. www.hse.gov.uk^[1]
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Demolition company fined after nearby worker injured](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Company director and two construction companies sentenced after worker falls from height](#)

A company director has received a Community Service Order and two construction companies have been fined after a worker suffered life changing injuries following a fall from a scaffold tower during the refurbishment of an old pub in Reading.

Reading Magistrates' Court heard how on 2 December 2016 Samuel Goemans of Cedar Ridge Construction Limited suffered a serious head injury after falling from a tower scaffold onto the street below (London Road). His injuries have led to long term brain and memory problems and have resulted in him suffering

from seizures and losing the ability to care for himself.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the principal contractor failed to control the safety and planning on site and the sub-contractor carried out unsafe working practices.

The principal contractor, Turnkey Contractors Limited of Ethelburt Avenue, Bassett Green, Southampton pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company has been fined £40,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3184.00.

The director of Turnkey Contractors Limited, Santokh Dhanda, of Ethelburt Avenue, Bassett Green, Southampton pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and has received a Community Service Order for 100 hours.

The subcontractor, Cedar Ridge Construction Limited of Waterloo Road, Wokingham pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 (1) of The Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company has been fined £40,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3184.00.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Ian Whittles said: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work-related injuries in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known.

"The case highlights the importance of following industry guidance and in order to design and erect scaffolding in a safe manner, which does not raise risk to members of the public and workers using the scaffold."

Further information about safe techniques can be found at:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/scaffold.htm>

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[Waste and recycling company fined after employee injured during machinery maintenance](#)

A waste and recycling company has been fined after an employee suffered a broken arm and crush injuries whilst carrying out maintenance work at a site in, Llandow, Vale of Glamorgan.

Cardiff Magistrates' Court heard how on 28 February 2018, an employee was tracking a running conveyor when his arm became entangled between the conveyor belt and the roller, causing a broken arm and crush injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had failed to undertake a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks posed by maintenance work on the conveyor and failed to draw up a safe system of work for the procedure, including adequate isolation. The company also failed to report the incident under RIDDOR within 10 working days.

Siteserv Recycling (Waste Paper) Ltd of Llandow Trading Estate, Llandow, Cowbridge pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and Regulation 4(1) of the Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences, Regulations 2013. The company was fined £25,333 and ordered to pay £8,882.15 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Matthew Hamar commented:

“This injury was easily preventable. Employers should make sure they properly assess risk and apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery, especially during maintenance work.”

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[New Chief Executive for HSE](#)

Britain’s workplace health and safety regulator has announced the appointment of its new Chief Executive.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has revealed the current Inspector General and Chief Executive of the Insolvency Service, Sarah Albon will join the organisation on 1 September.



HSE new CEO Sarah Albon

Ms Albon joined The Insolvency Service in February 2015, implementing its strategy to improve service to its customers, lower its costs, and further

strengthen the UK's insolvency regime.

She will be replacing outgoing Acting Chief Executive David Snowball who has held the post since June 2018 and will be retiring from HSE at the end of the year.

Sarah said: "I am honoured to have the opportunity to lead the executive of this important and hugely respected regulator. Working together with my new colleagues across HSE, I'm looking forward to getting to grips with the vital mission we deliver on behalf of Great Britain's workplaces. My focus will be on continuing to deliver improvements in health and safety performance as our workplaces move into a future with new challenges, new technologies and new opportunities."

Sarah's previous roles in Government include, Director of Strategy and Change at Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service, Director of Civil Family and Legal Aid Policy at the Ministry of Justice, Deputy Director of Criminal Legal Aid Strategy, Ministry of Justice and has also served as principal private secretary to two Lord Chancellors.

Martin Temple, HSE's Chair welcomed the appointment: "I am delighted to welcome Sarah Albon to HSE as our new chief executive and look forward enormously to working with her.

"Sarah's CV speaks for itself and her valuable experience in leading organisations through change and planning for the future will stand her in good stead leading this world-class regulator of workplace health and safety."

The appointment was made following an open recruitment process.

HSE is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Further information about the HSE and its Board can be found at:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/people.htm>

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2. The Commissioner for Public Appointments regulates all appointments made by the Secretary of State to SSAC. All such appointments are made in accordance with the Code of Practice published by the commissioner. The code is based on three core principles – merit, openness and fairness.

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Watchdog wants councils to get behind commitment to H&S

Britain's workplace health and safety regulator is urging local authorities (LAs) across the country to make a statement of commitment to work with others to improve health and safety standards in the sectors they regulate.

Figures collected by The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show failures in the management of occupational health and safety in LA enforced business sectors result in more than 100,000 new cases of ill health, 5000 major injuries and the deaths of around 10 workers each year.

LAs predominantly cover the retail, consumer services, entertainment and warehousing/supply chain sectors which account for two thirds of all business premises, around half of the total GB workforce.

Many of those harmed are vulnerable workers not provided with reasonable workplace protection, and around 15 members of the public, including children are killed each year in avoidable incidents because of workplace activity.

Many LAs in Great Britain face a challenging environment that impact on the way they deliver a wide range of regulatory services and statutory duties so a Statement of Commitment (SoC) has been developed by the HSE and LA representative bodies across GB.

It has been designed to strengthen and maintain long term senior commitment to delivery of their legal duty as enforcers of workplace health and safety and asks that LAs collaborate with other bodies to deliver effective and correctly targeted solutions to keep workers safe.

The SoC has been endorsed by HSE's Board, the Local Government Association (LGA), the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland (SOCOEHs).

Councillors, Chief Executives and Heads of Regulatory Services in LA's are also being encouraged to publicly commit to the SoC and embed the principles within their service plans.

The SoC recognises that:

- LAs must target and prioritise regulatory resources to meet their legal duties;
- Continued delivery of effective co-regulation will require ongoing evolution in both the LA and HSE approaches to regulatory delivery, and
- The HSE and LA co-regulatory partnership plays a vital role in delivering the 'Help GB Work Well' strategy.

HSE launched the SoC on its website in April 2019. It is available to view at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/statement.htm>

HSE will be working with LAs to develop further supporting materials which will be made available in due course.

LA Chief Executives and Heads of H&S regulatory services are encouraged to publicly endorse the SoC and HSE are seeking opportunities to promote it via articles in appropriate publications and via newsletters etc.

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. We also work with local authority co-regulatory partners who enforce in the entertainment, leisure, commercial and consumer service sectors. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. www.hse.gov.uk

2.For more information please contact lau.enquiries@hse.gov.uk

The post [Watchdog wants councils to get behind commitment to H&S](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).