

Restaurant boss banned for hiding takings to avoid tax

Sadikur Rahman Chowdhury (50), from Kenilworth in Warwickshire was the director of Simla Restaurant Ltd, incorporated in December 2002.

The company traded as a restaurant called Simla Tandoori from premises on West Street in Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Simla Restaurant, however, entered into liquidation in August 2019 and this triggered an investigation by the Insolvency Service into Sadikur Chowdhury's conduct.

Investigators uncovered that the business traded without issue until June 2008 when it was discovered that Sadikur Chowdhury had caused Simla Restaurant to submit inaccurate returns to the tax authorities.

Enquiries established that Sadikur Chowdhury owed over £48,000 in VAT and almost £113,000 in Corporation Tax from 2009 to 2017.

It was found that Sadikur Chowdhury had underdeclared sales to avoid paying the correct taxes and, at liquidation, owed the tax authorities more than £266,000. An additional penalty of over £104,000 was levied by the tax authorities for the under declaration of corporation tax.

On 13 January 2021, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted an undertaking from Sadikur Rahman Chowdhury banning him for 5 years after the director did not dispute he failed to ensure Simla Restaurant Limited had submitted accurate VAT returns from June 2008 and Corporation Tax returns from October 2009.

The disqualification will commence from 3 February 2021 and he is banned from directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Lawrence Zussman, Deputy Director of Insolvent Investigations at the Insolvency Service, said:

Sadikur Rahman Chowdhury suppressed the takings of his restaurant for almost eight years so that he could avoid paying the correct taxes.

This director's actions meant the public purse was deprived of the funds he should have been paying whilst benefitting from years of good sales. The Insolvency Service will not tolerate behaviour such as demonstrated by Sadikur Chowdhury and we have removed him from the business environment for five years.

Sadikur Rahman Chowdhury's date of birth is May 1970.

Simla Restaurant Ltd (Company Reg no. 04620253).

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](#).

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