

Scarborough security boss ordered to pay a £164,000 confiscation order from proceeds of crime

Press release

Christopher Browne of Scarborough was ordered to pay a £164,000 confiscation order within three months.



Security Industry Authority

On Tuesday 5 July, Christopher Browne of Scarborough was ordered by York Crown Court to pay a £164,000 Confiscation Order within three months or face an 18-month jail sentence following a Proceeds of Crime action. The amount is the realisable funds from the sale of his Scarborough house which is currently subject to a Proceeds of Crime Act Restraint Order. The court also sentenced him to a £200 fine and a £20 victim surcharge.

Tuesday's sentencing follows Browne's conviction on 9 February 2021 at Scarborough Magistrates' Court for working as an unlicensed company director of Scarborough based, Coastal Security Ltd. The prosecution was brought by the Security Industry Authority (SIA).

Browne held a valid SIA security guard licence up until 15 February 2016. After his licence expired, he refused to apply for a new security guard licence even after repeated attempts by the SIA to help him to engage with the SIA's licensing process. He continued to work as an unlicensed director of a company supplying security for more than four and half years between 15 February 2016 and 21 August 2020.

He responded to a request for information when he gave a full and frank account during an interview under caution on 20 August 2020 and admitted that he had knowingly acted as a director of a company supplying private security industry services without an SIA licence.

Browne was a director of Scarborough's Coastal Security Ltd for 21 years from December 2000. The business supplied CCTV, security equipment as well as security guards but the company has been put into liquidation during the last

two months.

Jenny Hart, one of the SIA's Criminal Investigation Managers, said the court order reflects the seriousness of Browne's failings to engage with the SIA and get licensed.

We did everything possible to engage with Mr Browne, but he failed to renew and apply for a licence to operate. He was negligent and put the public at risk as he refused to get licensed. His non-compliance has exacerbated the situation which could have easily been avoided. The purpose of the SIA's licensing regime is to protect the public. He has incurred a significant court order which reflects four years' worth of greed. His business has subsequently been liquidated and it has cost him deeply.

Notes to editors:

1. The offence relating to the Private Security Industry Act 2001 that is mentioned above is as follows: Section 3 – unlicensed security operative. By law, security operatives working under contract must hold and display a valid SIA licence.
2. [The Private Security Industry Act 2001](#) is available online.
3. The [Proceeds of Crime Act](#) (POCA) sets out the legislative scheme for the recovery of criminal assets with criminal confiscation being the most commonly used power. Confiscation occurs after a conviction has taken place.
4. If a person has a POCA Order against them they have to pay it regardless of if they serve a jail sentence.
5. Information about [SIA enforcement and penalties](#) can be found on GOV.UK.

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the [Private Security Industry Act 2001](#). The SIA's main duties are the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
- For further information about the Security Industry Authority or to sign up for email updates visit: www.gov.uk/sia. The SIA is also on [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook \(Security Industry Authority\)](#) and [Twitter \(@SIAuk\)](#).

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland speaks with Northern Ireland political parties

Press release

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shailesh Vara MP, has pledged to work tirelessly to restore the Stormont institutions.



Following his appointment, the Secretary of State has spoken with Party leaders and reiterated the Government's commitment to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. He said that his first priority is to restore the Executive and Assembly at the earliest possible moment.

The Secretary of State stressed the importance of a stable and accountable devolved government that is delivering for the people of Northern Ireland and he committed to remain in close contact with all the parties in the days and weeks ahead.

The Secretary of State also had discussions with Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney focusing on their shared desire to restore the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland and joint commitment to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

The Secretary of State returns to the Northern Ireland Office having previously served as Minister from January to November 2018.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Shailesh Vara MP said:

"I am looking forward to returning to Northern Ireland and have fond memories of the people and the place from my time there as a Minister.

“I was very pleased to speak with Michelle O’Neill, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, Doug Beattie and Colum Eastwood yesterday afternoon following my appointment, and I’m looking forward to speaking with Naomi Long and engaging with others in the coming days and weeks ahead.

“My immediate priority, and that of the Government, remains restoring the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Executive as soon as possible.

“By working together we can create a more prosperous Northern Ireland with a strengthened and growing economy, as well as reconciling issues of the past and taking decisive action on the issues that matter most.

“I look forward to playing my part, along with my ministerial team, to make Northern Ireland a better place to live, to work and to invest, and to strengthen its place within the United Kingdom.”

Published 8 July 2022

[UK public urged to stop using heated hairbrush and dryer model](#)

News story

Urgent product safety warning to the public.



The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is urging the public to stop using a heated hairbrush and dryer which can catch fire during normal use.

The product, originally branded ‘One Step model SM-5250’, was initially recalled in 2020 but OPSS has since identified a number of similar models that are still being sold through online marketplaces.

As a result, the public are being asked to check the design of any heated

hairbrushes in their home. If they are similar in design to the recalled product, even if under a different brand, they must stop using them immediately and contact the seller for a refund.

OPSS is issuing this urgent warning to the public following its own tests of models it purchased through online marketplaces in recent weeks. All were found to be non-compliant, and a number caught fire during testing.

In the meantime, OPSS is in contact with suppliers to require them to stop the sale of these or similar dangerous models.

OPSS Chief Executive Graham Russell said:

OPSS is issuing this urgent warning to the public because we believe there is real danger that these products will cause serious harm if used. The fact that they are still available for sale two years after the initial recall is a matter that we are currently investigating.

[Read the initial recall details in 2020](#) – Safety Gate

Published 8 July 2022

[The Planning Inspectorate publishes its 2021/22 Annual Report and Accounts](#)

The report demonstrates progress in many key areas over the last year despite the continued challenge of keeping casework moving during the pandemic.

Some of the key achievements from 2021/22 include:

- publishing the new three-year [Strategic Plan](#)
- recruiting more than 50 new inspectors and apprentices
- adopting our first Environmental Policy
- developing our Customer Strategy to become more customer-focused
- formalising the way that we assure the quality of our decisions and reports
- designing and developing our Digital Public Services
- improving data protection
- improving equality, diversity, and inclusion
- establishing health and safety working groups

The Inspectorate decided more than 17,400 appeals, issued 34 reports on Local Plans, and continued to hold hearings and inquiries using a blend of virtual

and face-to-face events.

Planning appeals are our largest area of work and we decided 8,971. New planning appeals being submitted increased, back to pre-pandemic levels, and were 4% higher than 2020/21. The number of new planning appeal cases submitted needing to be heard by inquiry rose by 38%.

Continuing to plan for the country's infrastructure needs has been a focus for us, to aid economic recovery and to provide certainty for communities. We made recommendations to a Secretary of State on 12 national infrastructure applications on time and provided advice on 70 potential infrastructure projects.

Despite still working with a reduced capacity caused by COVID-19, we received 21,300 appeals in 2021/22, 6% more than in 2020/21, and close to the pre-pandemic level. As restrictions reduced, we increased the number of decisions we made and decided more cases in 2021/22 than 2020/21. This involved running virtual hearings and inquiries (which took longer than face-to-face equivalents), on top of lockdown measures impacting both employees and customers.

While some decisions were faster than previous years, on average decisions took longer last year. However, a focus was placed on casework with the most community interest and those key to supporting the nation's economic recovery, such as national infrastructure applications, local plan examinations and appeals needing a hearing or inquiry. We are working hard to decide more appeals so our decisions can become consistently faster.

In October 2021 we published our rolling Strategic Plan outlining the objectives we will be delivering to achieve our vision to:

'Provide our customers with high quality, timely and efficient services that support the nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by engaging, empowering, and equipping our workforce and by delivering ambitious policy changes'.

We also saw the successful establishment of the new Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales service after transferring our Wales-based team to the Welsh Government.

Sarah Richards, Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate, said:

"Through our use of technology, planning effectively for the future, focused resource management and robust decision making we kept casework moving through the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the speed of decision making for our appeals service is now steady, and in some areas has improved. We have focused our efforts on the areas that are key to the economy."

She also highlighted ongoing work to make the Inspectorate a more inclusive and diverse organisation.

Trudi Elliott, Chair of the Planning Inspectorate Board, said:

“The second year of the pandemic has required us to dig deep. I am proud of the way the Inspectorate’s people and Board have stepped up. I’m also grateful for the constructive collaboration of our partners and stakeholders and the support and interest of Ministers.”

“We remained focused on improving the speed with which we determine cases and have agreed new measures with Ministers, which better reflect our customers’ needs.”

Work to support planning reform over the last year has now been given more focus and momentum with the progress of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill currently making its way through parliament.

This work is woven within the priorities the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has recently set for the Planning Inspectorate, which include improving digital services and cutting timescales for some infrastructure projects.

[Read the full report](#)

[Many children placed in homes far away from their families amid national sufficiency challenge](#)

Press release

An Ofsted report published today suggests that there are too few suitable places to keep children in care close to home.



Children in the care system are often placed in homes far away from their families because of a lack of suitable places near to where they live, Ofsted research published today suggests.

Ofsted's report, ['What types of needs do children's homes offer care for?'](#) finds that children with mental health problems, or experience of abuse and neglect, are likely to be living the furthest away from their home prior to coming into care, and above the average distance of 36 miles.

The research suggests that children are living far away from their families because homes are not evenly distributed across the regions of England, meaning supply does not match demand. For example, just 5% of England's children's homes (7% of places) are located in London, but London local authorities placed 11% of all children living in homes. In contrast, local authorities in the North West placed 19% of children living in children's homes, but 25% of all homes (23% of places) are located in the region.

Yvette Stanley, Ofsted's National Director for Children's Social Care, said:

Today's research shows that this is a national challenge. It suggests that Local Authorities are making a difficult choice between placing a child either in a home close by, or in one that is far away but relevant to their needs.

Children need provision of the right care, in the right place, at the right time. And for some children, it is only through a better needs analysis and planning across health and social care at a national level, that they will be able to stay closer to their family and friends.

Ofsted's research, which is based on data up to 31 March 2020, aims to contribute to the wider conversation around why there may be barriers to achieving sufficiency of places in children's homes.

Other findings in the report include:

- there was no link between the types of needs that homes said they could accommodate and their Ofsted inspection grades.
- a very high proportion of children living in children's homes had special educational needs (80%) compared with all children looked after (52%) and all children (around 15%)
- the majority of homes (80%) said they could accommodate 2 or more areas of need, with one fifth (20%) saying they could accommodate only one area
- providers that stated they could accommodate children with complex needs were the most common (93%), while sensory impairment (4%) and complex health needs (5%) were the least common
- the majority (83%) of children's homes included in the report were privately owned on 31 March 2020, which marked an increase from 69% on the same date in 2016

Published 8 July 2022