

[News story: Improving health and food: apply for business funding](#)

Businesses can apply for a share of up to £15 million for projects that tackle health, agriculture and food challenges.

Innovate UK has up to £15 million to support innovative business projects in the field of health and life sciences.

Reducing the burden

A growing, ageing and increasingly wealthy global population is placing a burden on health systems and increasing the demand for food.

There are significant opportunities for UK businesses to develop new and sustainable ways of producing food as well as innovative treatments and therapies to diseases.

We will fund a variety of small and large projects in:

- increasing agricultural productivity
- improving food quality and sustainability
- advanced therapies (cell and gene therapies)
- precision medicine
- medicines discovery
- preclinical technologies
- advanced biosciences

Bringing in new knowledge

Innovate UK is also accepting applications for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships in health and life sciences as part of this competition.

Competition information

- the competition opens on 2 October 2017, and the deadline for applications is at midday on 6 December 2017
- projects should usually be led by a business and include at least one SME. Research and technology organisations may lead projects in certain circumstances
- we expect project costs to vary between £50,000 and £2 million
- projects of up to £100,000 are expected to last 6 to 12 months, and those of up to £2 million to last 1 to 3 years
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their project costs
- a briefing event will be held on 12 October 2017

[Press release: Music stops for Deep Purple copyright company director](#)

Dipak Rao, former director of Deep Purple (Overseas) Limited (DPO) and HEC Enterprises Limited (HEC), has been disqualified from acting as a director for a period of 11 years for misappropriating company funds of at least £2 million.

An investigation by the Insolvency Service found that Rao had made numerous payments from the company accounts to his personal accounts between 2008 and 2014.

Rao concealed what he had done by ensuring that the transactions did not appear in the financial accounts and by restricting access to the companies' bank statements. He resigned as a director from both companies on 24 November 2014, which went into administration on 19 January 2016.

He has now given a director disqualification undertaking to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for 11 years which prevents him from managing or controlling a company without leave of the court until 2028.

Commenting on the disqualification, Sue Macleod, Chief Investigator at The Insolvency Service, said:

Rao misappropriated company funds, causing detriment to the company and its creditors, to his own personal benefit.

Company directors should note from this enforcement result that actions of this kind will lead to serious censure.

This disqualification is a reminder to others tempted to do the same that the Insolvency Service will rigorously pursue enforcement action and seek to remove from them for a lengthy period, the privilege of trading with limited liability, in order to protect the public for a lengthy period.

Notes to editors

Dipak Rao's date of birth is 13 January 1948 and he resides in Worcester Park.

Deep Purple (Overseas) Limited (CR0 No. 01016257) was incorporated on 30 June 1971. HEC Enterprises Limited (CR0 No. 00928491) was incorporated on 8 March 1968. Both companies traded from 49 South Molton Street, London, W1K 5LH.

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, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

Contact Press Office

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[Press release: 8 year ban for dodgy property agency director](#)

Nicholas Constable has been disqualified for 8 years for failing to ensure the company dealt with its rental income in the correct manner or maintained or preserved adequate accounting records.

A disqualification undertaking given by Constable on 7 August 2017 prevents him from directly or indirectly becoming involved in the promotion, formation or management of a company for the duration of the term.

Xenex Developments Ltd traded as a property development company from a single site in Weybridge, Surrey.

An Insolvency Service investigation found Constable diverted rental income totalling nearly £900,000 into his personal bank account and that of a connected company. This action contravened the terms of a legal charge and resulted in missed interest of at nearly £400,000 for the charge holders.

Of the total diverted rental income, Constable has failed to provide accounting records which would verify whether £679,063 had ever been repaid or used for the benefit of the company's creditors.

The accounting records also failed to confirm the actual level of creditors of the company or the balance on the Directors Loan account from 31 October 2014 to the date of the administration on 17 November 2015.

Commenting on the disqualification, Robert Clarke, Group Leader of Insolvent Investigations at The Insolvency Service, said:

In this particular case, the director failed to act in the best interest of the company and its creditors and failed to ensure that the company operated in a transparent way by providing sufficient records to explain company transactions.

This disqualification should serve as a reminder to other Company Directors who are tempted to operate in a similar way that the Insolvency Service will rigorously pursue enforcement action and seek to remove the protection of limited liability from them.

Notes to editors

Nicholas Constable's date of birth is 2 May 1958 and he resides in Weybridge, Surrey.

Xenex Developments Ltd (CR0 No. 06295629) was incorporated on 28 June 2007 and traded from Cavendish Rd, St George's Hill, Weybridge,

Constable was an appointed director of Xenex Developments Ltd between 06 August 2007 and the date of the Administration. The Company went into Administration on 17 November 2015 with an estimated deficiency of £6,929,723.

Constable's undertaking was accepted by the Secretary of State on 09 August 2017 and his period of disqualification will commence on 30 August 2017

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

Contact Press Office

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[News story: Programme for fourth round of UK-EU Article 50 negotiations](#)

All times shown are in Brussels time

Monday, 25 September 2017

- Negotiating groups
- 17:30: David Davis, UK Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, and Michel Barnier, European Commission Chief Negotiator, meet at the Berlaymont (VIP corner).
- Principals' meeting

Tuesday, 26 September 2017

Wednesday, 27 September 2017

- Negotiating groups
- Coordinators' meeting

Thursday, 28 September 2017

- Plenary session with the Principals
- Press briefing

Note: There are three negotiating groups covering citizens' rights, financial settlement and other separation issues. The issues related to Northern Ireland will be addressed by the Coordinators. The governance of the withdrawal agreement will be also discussed at technical level.

News story: London Borough of Ealing wins prestigious Touchstone Award 2017

The Award, launched in 2012 to encourage education and enforcement of hallmarking and to reward the best initiative relating to hallmarking, was awarded by the British Hallmarking Council and the four Assay Offices for a hallmarking project which led to the successful prosecution of premises with non-compliance of hall-marking. In a well planned and executed series of inspections, Ealing carried out a range of activities in various high street premises, which revealed:

- Major non-compliance of the Hallmarking Act within the jewellers inspected.
- 82% of seized items not hallmarked
- 22% of items fraudulently described as 22 carat

Successful prosecutions followed with more than £11,000 in fines.

A hallmarking project is now embedded within the Ealing TS Annual Service Plan and Priorities. The joint expertise of the Trading Standards Service and the UK Assay Offices, working together, was essential in this successful hallmarking operation.

Applications from across the UK for the Touchstone Award reflected complaint intervention, enforcement and information operations. There was also encouraging evidence of positive long term activity in hallmarking operations from all applicants.

The award was made at the prestigious CTSI/Status International Awards Dinner held at the Royal Hall in Harrogate as part of CTSI's annual Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards Conference and Exhibition 2017.