

[News story: National Apprenticeship Awards 2017 – regional finalists announced](#)

91 employers and 84 individuals are competing for awards in ten categories in the regional stage of the [National Apprenticeship Awards 2017](#), after beating off competition from almost 800 entries.

[National Apprenticeship Awards 2017 – Regional Apprentice of the Year Finalists](#) (PDF, 92.9KB, 2 pages)

[National Apprenticeship Awards 2017 – Regional Apprenticeship Champion of the Year Finalists](#) (PDF, 73.4KB, 1 page)

[National Apprenticeship Awards 2017 – Regional Employer of the Year Finalists](#) (PDF, 84.1KB, 2 pages)

The 2017 awards, run by the National Apprenticeship Service and now in their 14th year, recognise employers and apprentices from across England. The awards recognise excellent businesses that grow their own talent with apprenticeships and apprentices, who have made a significant contribution to their workplaces.

The award categories are:

Employer categories

- Small Employer of the Year
- Medium Employer of the Year
- Large Employer of the Year
- Macro Employer of the Year
- Newcomer SME of the Year
- Newcomer Large Employer of the Year

Apprentice categories

- Intermediate Apprentice of the Year
- Advanced Apprentice of the Year
- Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year
- Apprenticeship Champion of the Year

The very best employer category entries will also feature in the prestigious Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers List 2017.

Sue Husband, director, National Apprenticeship Service said:

Our awards are an exciting opportunity to recognise the hard work and success of apprentices and the commitment of apprenticeship

employers. The regional finalists announced today demonstrate promise and drive and have a real enthusiasm for the apprenticeship programme.

Our finalists show clearly the impact of apprenticeships on skills and on how businesses perform. I applaud every finalist for getting this far and I look forward to celebrating the achievements and loyalty of winners. I wish everyone the best as we move into the next phase of this competition.

Winners and highly commended entries from all regions across England will be recognised at one of 6 celebration events held across the country this autumn. After the regional ceremonies, winners will progress to the next stage of the competition, where their applications will be assessed by a national judging panel. National finalists will be announced in December and will be invited to a national, final ceremony on 18 January 2018 at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Last year's Advanced Apprentice of the Year regional award winner Emma Goulding from Siemens concluded:

Every apprentice deserves the opportunity to showcase their achievements and be recognised for their contribution to both their business and industry which they work in. It's humbling to be recognised for my hard work and determination in the National Apprenticeship Awards 2016 as a regional winner. Good luck to all the finalists this year!

Share your #AppAwards17 success on social media: tweet [@Apprenticeships](#).

Press release: Demolition company directors buried under long ban

George Beattie (senior) signed a seven year disqualification undertaking on the 12 April 2017; Michelle Beattie signed a three years and six month disqualification and George Beattie (junior) was disqualified on 31 May 2017 from acting as a director of a limited company by Order of the Glasgow Sheriff's Court for seven years.

On 20 April 2015, George Hunter (Demolishers) Limited was placed into Liquidation with an estimated deficiency to creditors of £1,755,782.

An investigation by the Insolvency Service revealed the directors had caused or allowed the company to trade to their own benefit and incur further

liabilities to the risk and detriment of creditors in full knowledge that HMRC had presented a winding up petition to Court on 14 January 2015 and the company's liquidation on 20 April 2015.

Despite knowing this, the directors made net payments of at least £155,310.45 to the benefit of connected parties and further offset liabilities due to the company from the directors and connected companies of at least £457,395.72 against unverified charges to the detriment of creditors as liabilities increased by at least £359,097.33.

Rob Clarke, Head of Insolvent Investigations North, part of the Insolvency Service, said:

This was a cynical attempt by the directors, in the clear knowledge that their company was insolvent, to extract money that should have been paid to other creditors.

The Insolvency Service will take robust action against this sort of misconduct which is a clear abuse of limited liability

Notes to editors

George Beattie (senior) and Michelle Beattie were appointed as directors of George Hunter (Demolishers) Limited on 2 April 2003 and remained directors to the company's Liquidation on 20 April 2015.

George Beattie (junior) was appointed as a director of the company on 1 June 2012 and remained a director to the company's Liquidation on 20 April 2015.

George Hunter (Demolishers) Limited (company number SC032889) went into liquidation on 20 April 2015 with an estimated deficiency to creditors of £1,755,782. The company operated as demolition contractors.

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

BEIS' mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy that works for all, in particular by creating the conditions for business success and promoting an open global economy. The Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team contributes to this aim by taking action to deter fraud and to regulate the market. They investigate and prosecute a range of offences, primarily relating to personal or company insolvencies. The agency also authorises and regulates the insolvency profession, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7596 6187

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[Press release: Bubble bursts for wholesaler who failed to keep proper records](#)

Javid Mogra, aged 32 of Bolton, Lancashire, admitted that he had failed to keep sufficient company records and gave an undertaking to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy not to be a director of a limited company, for 9 years, from 7 August.

Mr Mogra was the sole director of Middleborough Ltd (Middleborough) which was wound up by the Court in the public interest on 14 November 2016.

The company owed creditors at least £2,119,589 despite filing accounts showing turnover of £2,321,657 for the period ended 31 August 2015.

In giving his undertaking, Mr Mogra did not dispute that he failed to ensure Middleborough Ltd kept adequate accounting records, and that as a consequence, it has not been possible to:

- verify his explanation for the shortfall of £54,229 paid to Middleborough by a customer in respect of beverages supplied between 29 June 2015 and 27 August 2015

- verify his explanation for an underpayment of £1,435,954 to the supplier, a shortfall of £1,235,302 received from the customer and an overall loss of £348,390 incurred on sales of car parts between 02 January 2015 and 16 September 2015
- verify his explanation regarding the sale of 6,136 sets of accident data and a debt due to a supplier of at least £624,929 incurred between 01 July 2015 and 16 September 2015
- determine the accuracy of financial statements filed at Companies House for the periods ending 28 February 2014, 10 February 2015 and 31 August 2015
- determine the accuracy of Middleborough's VAT returns submitted to HMRC in relation to the 03/2015 to the 03/2016 VAT periods
- determine the nature and extent of Middleborough's assets and liabilities
- verify the legitimacy of Middleborough's trading or show that all transactions have been carried out in the usual course of business and to the benefit of the company

Commenting on the disqualification, Ken Beasley, Official Receiver of the Insolvency Service's Public Interest Unit, said:

The Insolvency Service will not tolerate Directors who cannot show that their Companies are being run for legitimate purposes.

The director of this company has fallen far short of the standard of record keeping that can be reasonably expected and as a result, there were serious concerns over the true nature of this business.

Notes to editors

Middleborough Ltd (Company number 08384563) was incorporated on 1 February 2013. The registered office of Middleborough Ltd is currently situated at 2nd Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, Manchester, M1 3BN. The registered office and trading address of Middleborough prior to the liquidation was situated 9 Maplewood Gardens, BOLTON, BL1 3NR.

Javid Mogra gave an undertaking to the Secretary of State not to be a director for 9 years in respect of his conduct in Middleborough on 23 June 2017. The undertaking has been accepted and the period of disqualification commenced on 07 August 2017.

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Press release: Pizza company director takes away seven year disqualification

Mr Singh was the sole registered director of Charnwood Foods Ltd which traded as Papa John's Pizza in Bromsgrove from March 2014 to March 2015.

An investigation by the Insolvency Service found that Mr Singh unreasonably caused payments of at least £205,000 to the partnership he had a personal interest in.

On 5 July 2017, Balwinder Singh gave a disqualification undertaking to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), which prevents him from managing or controlling a company, until 30 July 2024.

Charnwood Foods Ltd went into liquidation on 26 August 2015, with no assets, owing an estimated £358,816 to creditors of which £308,233 was owed to a bank in respect of bank loans.

The misconduct accepted by Balwinder Singh, was that he:

- breached his fiduciary duties as director of Charnwood Foods Ltd in that he unreasonably caused payments totalling at least £205,000 to be made to a partnership in which he had a personal interest and that these payments, were at the risk of, and to the detriment of, Charnwood Foods Ltd and its creditors
- failed to deliver up adequate accounting records to show that such payments were reasonable.

Aldona O'Hara, Investigation Leader, -Insolvent Investigations Midlands and West at the Insolvency Service, said:

In investigating insolvent companies, the Insolvency Service always looks very closely at individuals who demonstrate a disregard for creditors and appropriate action is taken where wrongdoing is uncovered.

Directors have a duty to ensure that their companies maintain proper accounting records, and, following insolvency, deliver them to the office-holder in the interests of fairness and transparency. Without a full account of transactions it is impossible to determine whether a director has discharged his duties properly, or is using a lack of documentation as a cloak for impropriety.

This disqualification will prevent a repeat occurrence of this and act as a deterrent to any other directors who are thinking of

putting their own interests before that of their company's creditors.

Notes to editors

Charnwood Foods Limited (Company No. 08876092) was incorporated on 4 February 2014. The Company traded as a pizza restaurant franchise from March 2014 to March 2015 from 32 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0DD.

Balwinder Singh (date of birth: 1 June 1959) was the sole appointed director from incorporation on 4 February 2014 to the date of the Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation on 26 August 2015. Balwinder Singh was the sole shareholder of the company.

On 27 March 2014 and 17 July 2014 Charnwood Foods Ltd received bank loans of £169,000 and £164,000 from a bank. The loans were guaranteed by the government under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, Section 8 of the Industrial Development Act, 1982.

The seven year disqualification undertaking was signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 10 July 2017 to be effective from 31 July 2017.

The matters of unfitness, which Balwinder Singh did not dispute in the disqualification undertaking, were that:

- between 26 June 2014 and 27 March 2015, Balwinder Singh breached his fiduciary duties as a director of Charnwood Foods Limited (CFL) in that he unreasonably caused payments totalling at least £205,000 to be made to a partnership in which he had a personal interest and these payments were of at the risk of and to the detriment of CFL and its creditors; and/or Balwinder Singh failed to deliver up adequate accounting records to show that such payments were reasonable
- on 27 March 2014 and 17 July 2014, CFL received Bank Loans of £169,000 and £164,000, respectively. Balwinder Singh signed both loan agreements on behalf of CFL
- on 23 June 2014, Balwinder Singh personally entered into a partnership with a third party. On 18 July 2014, 11 August 2014 and 20 August 2014 three cheque payments totalling £125,000 were made from CFL's bank account to the partnership
- between 26 June 2014 and 27 March 2015, additional payments totalling £80,000 were made from CFL's bank account to the partnership
- inadequate records have been delivered up to show that such payments were in the best interest of CFL or its creditors, or that any benefit was received by CFL in respect of these payments
- on 26 August 2015 Balwinder Singh placed CFL into Creditors Voluntary Liquidation and submitted CFL's Statement of Affairs in the liquidation proceedings showing no assets and liabilities to a trade and expense creditor of £1,200 and to the Bank of £308,233
- Balwinder Singh failed to disclose to the Liquidator's of CFL that he made payments totalling at least £205,000 to the Partnership

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