

[Housing company fined after worker killed by concrete blocks](#)

A housing company has been fined more than £300,000 after a driver was crushed to death by falling concrete blocks at a construction site in South Lanarkshire.

Conor Joseph Morgan had been delivering materials to Shott Farm in High Blantyre, a construction site being operated by Avant Homes (Scotland) Limited, when the incident happened on 19 April 2017.

The 45-year-old, who was employed as a HGV driver for Regen Waste Limited, was crushed as the concrete blocks were being unloaded from the articulated flatbed trailer using an excavator with pallet fork attachment. However, the length of the pallet forks fitted to the excavator exceeded the width of the pallet being unloaded.

As the pallet was being lifted the forks caught a second pallet of concrete blocks causing them to topple from the edge of the trailer and onto Mr Morgan.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated and found that Avant Homes (Scotland) Limited as the principal contractor on site should have ensured there was a safe system of work for the unloading of the delivery vehicle driven by Mr Morgan. It also found Regen Waste Ltd had not carried out a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk for the drivers delivering to remote sites not under its control.

On 19 June at Hamilton Sheriff Court, Avant Homes (Scotland) Limited of Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and were fined £333,000. Regen Waste Limited of Newry, County Down pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 3(1)a of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and were fined £23,000.

Speaking after the case HSE principal inspector Graeme McMinn said: "This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident, caused by a failure of the principal contractor to implement a safe system of work. The employer also failed to carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk."

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

HSE website has guidance on the safe loading and unloading of vehicles at [Loading/Unloading activities – Workplace transport checklist – Section 6 \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)

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.
 2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
 3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.
-

[Man spared jail for carrying out unsafe work on his own home](#)

A man has been given a suspended sentence after he carried out unsafe work on an extension to his own home in Manchester.

Abdul Rehman engaged operatives to help him build an extension to the property on Kings Crescent in Old Trafford – which was in addition to replacing the roof on the existing semi-detached house.



Abdul Rehman carried out unsafe work on his own house in Old Trafford

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) served enforcement notices in relation to work being carried out from an unsafe scaffold at the property in August 2020. The scaffold was subsequently dismantled, and work put on hold.

However, in November 2021 the same inspector found that Mr Rehman was in control of and instructing operatives to re-roof his property. The work was being carried out without any form of fixed scaffolding or other equally effective measures to prevent the risk of a fall from height from the unprotected two storey roof.

A further prohibition notice was issued to prevent the unsafe work, but Mr Rehman continued to instruct, supervise and assist it. This went on for several weeks and included work during the hours of darkness and in breach of the prohibition notice while continuing to put the lives of the workers at risk.



Mr Rehman working on lower roof himself in November 2021

A fixed safe scaffold could and should have been erected around the perimeter of the roof, but Mr Rehman chose to put cost cutting at the expense of safety to ensure the replacement roof to his property was completed. cost-cutting at the expense of safety.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Abdul Rehman, from Manchester, chose to ignore the issue of an enforcement notice and continue to instruct operatives to work on the roof without any form of fall protection under the hours of darkness.

He pleaded guilty to breaching regulations 4(1) and 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, and section 33 1(g) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. He was given a custodial sentence of 12 months, but this was suspended for 18 months. During that time he must also complete 180 hours of unpaid work. He must also pay £6,450 in costs at a hearing at Manchester Magistrates' Court on 18 June 2024.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Phil Redman said: "This was a serious breach of the law, and it is fortunate nobody was seriously injured or killed as a result of Mr Rehman choosing to ignore the repeated requests of the inspector to provide a safe means for work from height.

"The case highlights the importance of following industry guidance by ensuring a suitable and sufficient safe scaffold was provided by a competent contractor."

The prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyers James Towey and Sam

Crockett.

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.
2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.
4. Guidance on [scaffolding](#) is available.

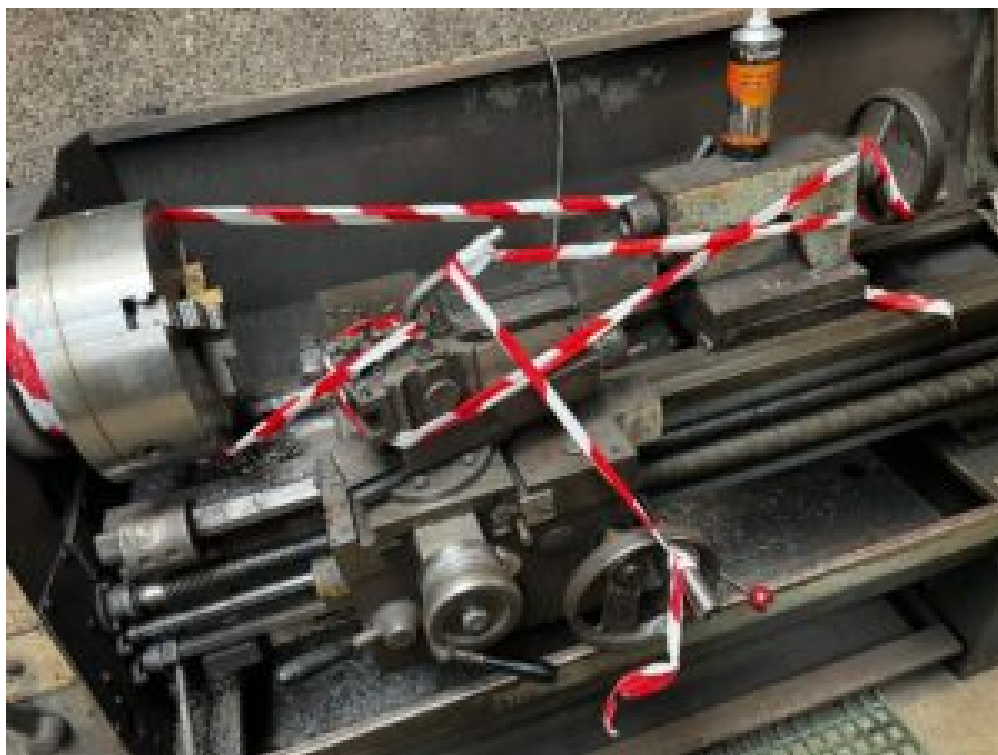
[Equipment supplier fined after worker injured](#)

A company in Aberdeen has been sentenced after an employee sustained serious injuries.

Mirosław Pancyzk fractured both of his wrists and sustained a fractured middle finger on his right hand while working for Harper UK (Aberdeen) Ltd at the firm's premises on 4 April 2022.

He had been using a piece of emery paper to polish a metal bar on a lathe when the paper snagged on the rotating workpiece.

This led to Mr Pancyzk's gloved hands being drawn into the machine.



The machine being used by Mr Panczyk.

As a result, both of his wrists were fractured and he wore casts for six weeks following the incident. The palm of his right hand required plastic surgery. He lost the part of his ring finger on his right hand and also fractured the middle finger.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found Harper UK (Aberdeen) Ltd, a supplier of equipment to a number of industries including oil and gas, failed to implement an adequate means of protection. At the time of the incident, there was no chuck guard in place, an absence of tooling to allow the task to be undertaken safely and no risk assessment for this particular lathe.

Harper UK (Aberdeen) Ltd, of Albyn Place, Aberdeen, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £10,000 at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on 18 June 2024.

HSE inspector Graham McEvoy said: "This incident was easily preventable and the risk should have been identified. Employers should make sure they properly assess and apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery."

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.
2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is

available.

3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.

[Construction company fined £2.345m after worker drowned in river](#)

A construction company has been fined following the death of a worker.

Gary Webster lost his life two days after drowning in the River Aire on 30 October 2017.

Mr Webster and another worker had been on a boat removing debris at the bottom of the weir gates at Knostrop Weir when their boat capsized. The boat had been pulled into turbulent water, caused by the considerable flow of water flowing over the top of the weir.

The 60-year-old was repeatedly pulled under the water and was eventually recovered by a diver 14 minutes later. The other worker managed to swim to safety.

Mr Webster was pronounced dead on 1 November 2017 at Leeds General Infirmary.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found BAM Nuttall Ltd had several operatives who were trained and authorised to control the weir gates so that the flow of the water could be slowed down. This would have allowed the debris to float away or be reached safely by boat. However, the company failed to carry out this task.

BAM Nuttall Limited, of Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £2.345 million and ordered to pay £25,770.48 in costs at Leeds Magistrates' Court on 12 June 2024.

HSE inspector Jayne Towe said: "BAM Nuttall Ltd failed to plan the work. It failed to carry out any assessment of the risks involved with the task. It failed to have any regard to the recognised hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk associated with removing debris from the water. It failed to ensure that suitable safety measures were in place and failed to put in place a safe system of work.

"This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices."

This prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Jonathan Bambro and supported by HSE paralegal officer Sarah Thomas.

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.
 2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
 3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.
-

[Car wash firm fined for failing to protect workers and the public](#)

A car wash firm in Devon has been fined £40,000 after it repeatedly failed to protect workers and members of the public from electrical safety risks.

Investigators from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out multiple visits to Best Car Wash Ltd in Tavistock between July 2021 and November 2022. They found employees were carrying out car washing outdoors, using electrical appliances such as pressure washers and vacuum cleaners. However, the company had failed to ensure the installation had been constructed or maintained to prevent danger to both the employees and members of the public. As a result of the electrical hazards identified, the company was issued with five enforcement notices.

Despite the notices, subsequent visits found they had not been complied with and it wasn't until April 2023 that a competent person inspected, tested and repaired the installation.

The HSE investigation found the failure of the employer to comply with the initial notice resulted in electrical safety risks to the vulnerable workers persisting for longer.

Best Car Wash Ltd of Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon did not provide representation at Plymouth Magistrates' Court and were found guilty in their absence of breaching Section 3(1) of the Electricity at Work Regs and Reg 33 (1)(g) of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974. They were fined £40,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,164 on 6 June 2024.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Principal Inspector Helena Allum said: "We can and will prosecute if companies fail to comply with enforcement notices.

"Those in control of work have a responsibility to ensure safe methods of working. The dangers associated with electricity in a work environment are well known and a wealth of advice and guidance is freely available from HSE."

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.
2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.