

Falsifying tax returns lands construction boss with ban

Hardip Singh Khaira's nine-year disqualification comes into effect on 6 August, after which the 43-year-old is banned from acting as a director or directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

HK Construction was incorporated in May 2011 and provided groundwork construction services, including drainage and concreting. The company traded from premises in Coatbridge until July 2019.

In September 2019, the construction firm was subject to a Creditors Voluntary Liquidation and this brought HK Construction to the attention of the Insolvency Service.

Investigators uncovered that between November 2011 and February 2015, Hardip Khaira knowingly caused the company to submit false tax returns. Some invoices had been brought down to zero rated sales to reduce the company's tax liability.

The tax authorities determined that just over £225,000 was owed by HK Construction, which increased to more than £426,000 when interest and penalties were applied for the deliberate concealment and failure to pay.

Aware of the liability owed to the tax authorities, Hardip Khaira placed the company into Creditors Voluntary Liquidation resulting in outstanding liabilities to the tax authorities of more than £426,000.

On 4 July 2020, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Hardip Singh Khaira after he did not dispute concealing tax to the detriment of the tax authorities.

Robert Clarke, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

It was clear from our investigations that Hardip Khaira deliberately caused the construction firm to submit false returns to reduce the amount of tax the company had to pay.

This is serious misconduct and a nine-year ban not only demonstrates the severity of what Hardip Khaira has done but also confirms that we will take action to remove the privilege of limited liability against those who think they can do the same.

Hardip Singh Khaira is of Coatbridge and his date of birth is April 1977.

HK Construction Limited (Company Reg no. SC400061).

A voluntary undertaking 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](#).

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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[AAIB Report: Airbus A320-214, contained engine failure and unnecessary emergency evacuation](#)

News story

Shortly after the takeoff roll of an Airbus A320-214 (OE-L0A) was commenced it was rejected, due to a contained engine failure, 1 March 2019. As the flight crew were about to taxi the aircraft off the runway, an evacuation was commanded by the Senior Flight Attendant. Ten passengers were treated for minor injuries that occurred during the evacuation.



The aircraft, an Airbus A320-214 (OE-L0A) was on a scheduled flight from London Stansted Airport to Vienna International Airport, Austria. Shortly after the takeoff roll was commenced it was rejected, due to a contained failure of the left engine, and the aircraft was brought to a stop on the

runway. Just as the flight crew were about to taxi the aircraft off the runway, an evacuation was commanded by the Senior Flight Attendant. Ten passengers were treated for minor injuries that occurred during the evacuation and there was a risk of serious injury due to one of the engines running during the evacuation. The operator has taken several safety actions, principally based around the training of its flight attendants. Two Safety Recommendations have been made in this report regarding passenger evacuation and the retrieval of carry-on baggage during an evacuation.

The investigation also found that the left engine experienced a contained failure following the rupture and release of several blades from the first stage of the high-pressure compressor. The blades fractured as a result of high-cycle fatigue loading which initiated in the dovetail, due to a once-per-revolution aerodynamic excitation. An inlet guide vane lever arm had been improperly assembled which led to aerodynamic excitation of the passing blades and the resulting forces exceeded the design loads of the blades.

[Read the report.](#)

Media enquiries call: 01932 440015.

Published 6 August 2020

[AAIB Report: Airbus A320-214 departure from incorrect runway intersection.](#)

News story

During pre-flight preparations, both pilots of an Airbus A320-214 (G-EZWE) completed a takeoff performance calculation based on the incorrect runway intersection, resulting in the aircraft becoming airborne with only 110m of the runway remaining, 16 September 2019.



During pre-flight preparations, both pilots completed a takeoff performance calculation for a takeoff from Runway 21 at Lisbon Airport. In calculating the performance, the crew believed they had selected the shortest runway length available but had, in fact, used the runway full length. The takeoff distance available was 1,395 m less than that used for the performance calculation, and the aircraft became airborne with only 110 m of the runway remaining.

As a result of this and previous, similar incidents, the airport operator renamed part of Taxiway S to have only one intersection on Runway 21 with the letter S. The aircraft operator moved onto a newer software version for performance calculations in December 2019 which gives a pictorial representation of the runway. They also worked with the data supplier to change the menu for intersection selections for Lisbon Airport to eliminate any confusion over which position refers to the full runway length.

[Read the report.](#)

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Published 6 August 2020

[Call for tender: rebuilding better: opportunities and risks in the context of COVID-19](#)



The British Embassy to France is seeking a partner organisation(s) to deliver an innovative and exciting research project, under our supervision, including papers and events for the period October 2020 to February 2021. The funding available for the project is in the region of £30,000 in total.

The project should consider the long-term international impact of and scenarios for COVID-19. The project should bring new insights on these issues that are relevant to both the UK and France.

Project proposals should be structured around the following cones:

- COVID-19 societies
- fair and sustainable recovery
- new geostrategic trends

We would expect the contracted partner(s) to consider the interdependencies that may exist between the three cones in their approach.

We have suggested a non-exhaustive list of themes that contracted partner(s) may wish to include in their proposal.

COVID-19 societies

- vulnerabilities and vulnerable groups
- digitalisation of work and education
- health: access to healthcare, vaccines, tests and treatments; R&D

Fair and sustainable recovery

- delivering the Paris Agreement and supporting COP26
- building long-term goals (climate, biodiversity, reduced inequalities) into shorter-term recovery plans

New geostrategic trends

- impact on great power relations
- multilateral responses
- vulnerable countries
- supply chain impacts

A British Embassy panel will select the successful partner organisation(s). The panel will look favourably on projects interested in the above themes and is particularly keen to see applications that foster UK-France cooperation and bring together a broad and diverse range of stakeholders e.g. NGOs, local associations, academia, government, industry.

The panel will also look favourably on bids with strong, impactful communications plans to maximise the reach of the project recommendations. We welcome bids from a consortium of organisations. If two or more project partners are selected, the panel may ask them to work together on a joint proposal.

Partners organisations will be required to follow British Embassy project management procedures.

Closing date for project bids	03 October 2020
Anticipated start date	early November 2020
Project completion date (papers and events) end	February 2021

Applicants should include the following in their bids

- presentation of project components: themes, researchers, formats of research papers and events, delivery including how the project respects equal opportunities and will be managed sustainably.
- detailed project costings.

Contact address: France.Enquiries@fco.gov.uk

Annex

1. Appropriate due diligence has been carried out on all current project implementing partners, with the findings, risks and recommendations recorded, signed off, retained on file (copied to PMO), and risks monitored during delivery.
2. The correct FCO Contract, Grant Agreement or MoU has been signed by both parties before any project activity takes place.
3. Payments to third party implementing partners have been made in arrears unless prior approval has been granted by the relevant programme central administrators.

[Call for tender/Appel à projet](#) (PDF, 546KB, 6 pages)

Published 6 August 2020

Last updated 2 September 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 2 September 2020

Extended deadline to apply

2. 6 August 2020

Added translation

[APHA launches first plant health apprenticeship scheme](#)

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has launched an exciting new apprenticeship scheme as a non-degree entry route to becoming a professional Plant Health and Seeds Inspector (PHSI).

Please take a look – whether you’re considering a change for yourself or have a family member or friend who’d be perfect for this opportunity, please spread the word.

PHSIs have a crucial role in maintaining and promoting a high plant health status in England and Wales. Their work is valuable to Defra group’s overarching purpose of protecting and promoting plant health within trade, agriculture and the natural environment.

The PHSI role is physical, diverse and interesting, and includes: checking imports for the protection of indigenous plants and ecosystem; ensuring exports comply with current legislation which may include examination and certification of plants and planting material; organising emergency measures to control outbreaks of specified quarantine and non-indigenous pests and diseases; and carrying out crop surveys and soil sampling to prevent the spread of notifiable plant pests and diseases.

Ian Hewett, APHA Service Delivery and EU Exit Director, encouraged people to apply:

“I am pleased to support apprenticeship opportunities in this vital work area. As well as making an important contribution to maintaining biosecurity standards and trade flows following the UK’s departure from the EU, apprentices are a vital part of our strategy to grow our future leaders and diversity within APHA”.

What it’s like being a PHSI: hear from APHA colleagues

Piers Harrington, Imports Inspector in North East London & Essex, shares his highlights:

“As part of a small team we plan and undertake inspections of fresh fruit, vegetables, plants and seeds as they arrive in the country. Ports and airports are fast paced environments that see a wide range of commodities passing through, and an equally wide range of potential pests and diseases. We also visit garden centres, commercial nurseries, glasshouses and farms to inspect plants as they are growing.

“The agency has staff from a wide range of backgrounds including those with scientific, horticultural or agricultural backgrounds among many others. However all the staff share the same enthusiasm for a role in which we can play an active role against the threats to the horticultural and agricultural industries and wider environment both in this country and in others.”

A Plant Health and Seeds Inspector based at Heathrow, added:

“My main work as an inspector at Heathrow, is going out and about to all the warehouses (we call them sheds!) around the airport, all 41 of them! I carry out inspections of controlled fruit and veg, cut flowers, seeds and live plants and cuttings.

“Recent changes to legislation as a result of EU exit has meant I have had to learn new inspection methods and adapt to new requirements but I am excited about the future of plant health in the UK following our full withdrawal from the EU.

“I love the shift working which gives me four days off in a row every four days. Even though I work four 11 hour days, it goes so quickly as I am always kept active and busy with all my work.”

Benefits of an apprenticeship

The scheme is offering 30 apprenticeships in 22 locations across England and Wales.

This is a two-year level 4 apprenticeship which is the equivalent of a first year undergraduate degree. Apprentices will work alongside experienced staff, gain job-specific skills, earn a wage and get holiday pay. Throughout the programme, 20% of contracted hours will be allocated to focus on apprenticeship training. Following successful completion of the apprenticeship, there will be the potential for extension or permanency.

The application process

The scheme is open to internal and external applicants.

You don't need to have any previous experience but APHA is looking for people with an interest in horticulture and who are analytical and confident using data. You don't need a degree, but there is a minimum requirement for qualifications (please see the links below for more details).

Further information and how to apply for the apprenticeships can be found on [Civil Service Jobs](#):

The closing date is Wednesday 26 August.

For further information about these roles not covered in the job adverts, please email PHSIJobs@apha.gov.uk.

More opportunities with APHA

PHSI is currently recruiting a number of roles with applications closing on Thursday 6 August. Find out more from the [news story](#).

To make sure you don't miss future opportunities, sign up for job alerts on [Civil Service Jobs](#), selecting APHA as the organisation.