

Portsmouth restaurateur banned for tax offences

The Rancho Steak House (Fareham) Limited was incorporated in January 2013 and traded as a licenced restaurant in Fareham.

Mohamed Giash Uddin (48), from Portsmouth, was appointed the director of the company at the same time as Rancho Steak House (Fareham) was incorporated but for more than three years, failed to submit accurate information to the tax authorities.

The restaurateur under-declared more than £42,000 worth of VAT contributions between December 2013 and August 2017.

This omission by Mohamed Uddin resulted in the company making additional profits, which meant the Portsmouth-based restaurateur should have paid increased Corporation Tax contributions totalling more than £27,000.

Mohamed Uddin's misconduct was investigated after the Official Receiver was appointed as Liquidator of Rancho Steak House (Fareham) in December 2018. This followed a petition submitted by one of the company's creditors for Rancho Steak House (Fareham) to be wound-up.

During their enquiries, investigators from the Insolvency Service also discovered that the company owed a further £21,000 in tax on loans to the directors, while also failing to pay outstanding penalties issued by the tax authorities.

On 23 December 2019, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Mohamed Giash Uddin after he did not dispute that he failed to ensure that Rancho Steak House (Fareham) submitted accurate information to the tax authorities.

Effective from 13 January 2020, the Portsmouth restaurateur cannot, without the permission of the court, be involved in the formation, promotion or management of a company, directly or indirectly, for 6 years.

Dave Elliott, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

It wasn't a one-off event when Mohamed Uddin failed to submit accurate information to the tax authorities but something he continued to do over several years, depriving the exchequer of statutory tax contributions.

This disqualification means that Mohamed Uddin will not be able to run a limited company for six years and this will help to protect the tax authorities from future losses.

Mohamed Giash Uddin is from Portsmouth and his date of birth is April 1971.

Rancho Steak House (Fareham) Limited (Company Reg no. 08376112).

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of restrictions](#).

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

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

New contracts will improve condition and security of courts

- New contracts to provide speedier, consistent and better services
- ENGIE to carry out facilities management works while OCS will provide security services
- Contracts will start in April and are worth a combined £1.1bn over nine years

From 1 April 2020, ENGIE will be responsible for vital facilities management work such as cleaning, maintenance, waste management and pest control while OCS will provide security services covering guarding and alarm monitoring.

These two contracts are part of a series of steps HMCTS is undertaking to modernise and improve the experience of all those using courts and tribunal buildings.

Justice Minister, Chris Philp MP, said:

These new contracts will modernise and enhance the experience of all those using our courts and tribunals, delivering more user-friendly services.

Our justice system is one of the most advanced in the world and this Government is committed to ensuring it stays that way.

Under the new arrangements, facilities management work will focus more on the people who use courts and tribunals, including victims and witnesses, with new objectives based on the experience of court users. This includes quicker response times for repair and improvement works, to ensure they match industry standards, and penalties when suppliers fail to carry out work to an adequate standard.

The new security contract will provide staff with increased training on how to work with the public and professionals in courts and place more focus on search-on entry, ensuring a safe and secure environment. Nicola Lovett, CEO ENGIE UK & Ireland, said:

We are excited to have been awarded this important contract to provide facilities management for HMCTS. We look forward to working closely with them, the judiciary and the regional teams throughout the country to understand the challenges they face and to drive improvements to both services and user experience across the estate.

Bob Taylor, CEO OCS UK Ireland and Middle East, said:

We are delighted to be awarded the contract to provide security services across the estate and are excited to work with HMCTS to transform and modernise the security service and enhance the experience of courts and tribunals users.

Previous security and facility management contracts were split between the north and south of the contract. Separate, nationwide contracts for the two services will ensure consistency across the estate.

Notes to Editors:

1. The two contracts were awarded following a competitive 12-month tendering process, undertaken in line with the Public Procurement Regulations
2. Transition of contracts to the new suppliers is underway. ENGIE and OCS are working closely with HMCTS Facilities Management team to ensure a successful transition to the new contracts on 1 April 2020.
3. During the transition period, ENGIE and OCS representatives will be meeting staff transferring from the existing suppliers under the provisions of the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment Regulations)
4. During the process of transition, HMCTS' current suppliers will continue to maintain their services and meet contractual obligations.
5. For more information please contact FMRP_PMO@justice.gov.uk

[Why we do research at Ofsted](#)

Introduction

Since joining Ofsted and taking on a role in our Research and Evaluation team, I have from time to time been asked 'why does Ofsted do research?'. It is a fair question. After all, as some have noted, Ofsted is not a research organisation.

The first answer is that we want to be as sure as we can be that we are looking at the right things when we inspect and regulate. To do so, we need to follow the best evidence on what good and effective provision is. That means looking at the existing evidence base, but also carrying out our own research when necessary.

When we developed the education inspection framework (EIF), for example, we started by reviewing existing research on educational effectiveness. However, we discovered that there was a lack of current research on curriculum and curriculum quality in England. So, we carried out our own research to complement that evidence base. This meant that we were able to develop a valid concept of quality of education, which has informed what we inspect.

We also use research to test new methodologies, such as the deep-dive approach we are using as part of EIF. This ensures that how we inspect as well as what we inspect are evidence based.

Acting on our evidence

For us, being research-informed is a necessary factor in doing our job well. We need to make sure that we are basing our judgements on the things that matter to the life chances of children and young people. When we have evidence of what works, it is imperative that we act on this. This is a social justice issue, because the quality of education and care matter most to the disadvantaged and vulnerable in society. They are the ones who benefit most from high-quality provision.

As a force for improvement, we also have a role to play in informing others about the quality of education and social care. Indeed, part of our statutory duty is to inform the Secretary of State on exactly this. At Ofsted, we are in a unique position to provide a birds-eye view of the system and we would not be doing our duty if we did not make productive use of this.

Doing research also allows us to inform providers on good (and not so great) practice. We have, for example, been able to provide evidence for social care providers on effective working with older children suffering from neglect and for schools and colleges on factors that most impact teacher well-being.

Our research also allows us to make an evidence-based contribution to national debates. We did this in commenting on what schools and colleges can, and importantly cannot, do in helping to reduce knife crime.

The culmination of this work is our Annual Report, which summarises what we have found out through our inspections, regulatory activities, analysis, research and evaluation.

As a responsible organisation, we also need to know whether our frameworks and methodologies are being implemented as intended and are having the outcomes we expect. That is why we now evaluate all our new frameworks and methods. We are committed to doing so in a transparent way, so we publish our evaluation work as well as our research reports. Our evaluation work is there to make sure that our frameworks and methods are fit for purpose. However, it also allows us to tweak and adapt elements that are working less well and to check for any unintended consequences of what we are doing. We aim to highlight the positives as well as where we can do better, as our recent [review of the inspection of local authority children's services \(ILACS\) framework](#) in social care demonstrates.

Our research aims

Research and evaluation lie at the heart of what we want to achieve as a regulator and an inspectorate. However, we cannot do just any research and evaluation work, of course. We need to make sure that we align what we do to our role and goals, and that we link everything we do to our strategy.

We aim for our work to have an impact either on our own future work or on the remits that we inspect. Our role is not to do fundamental research or to rack up academic publications. We intend for our work to be practical, policy-focused and accessible, and that is reflected in how we publish our findings. Although we may in future publish some of our work in academic journals, this is not our primary aim.

Research methodology

We also do not hold a particular view on research methodology. We are pragmatic and eclectic in the methods we use, valuing both quantitative and qualitative research for the different insights that they can bring. Methods follow questions in our approach.

We commission some of our research, such as our [off-rolling survey](#), from other organisations, though we do most in-house. We typically, though not exclusively, draw on the insights from our inspectors and on inspection evidence, but we have also used questionnaires and analysis of existing data.

In our coming research and evaluation programme, we are looking to expand our methods toolbox further. Across research and evaluation projects, we are committed to transparency on methods, rigour in how we work and full adherence to ethical guidelines.

Future projects

So, what are our plans for the next 2 years?

In social care, we are continuing our existing 'good decisions' programme, where we look at how decisions are made. This includes, for example, looking at how children are matched with foster carers. We are also carrying out more joint targeted area inspections (JTAs). The first one will be on children's

mental health. All these projects will help us to inform the sector on good practice. We will also be looking at the impact that the ILACS framework and social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) have had in the social care sector.

In schools, we will be continuing our programme of work on behaviour. This follows on from the first phase of work we reported on in [our recent commentary](#). Our biggest new programme will be the re-introduction of thematic subject reviews. For this, we will be using data from inspection deep dives to look at the state of the nation in different subject areas across key stages. The first subjects we will be researching will be mathematics and languages. We will be looking at financial decision-making on inspection, to see whether this gives us more insight into the quality of leadership and management. We will also be carrying out research on alternative provision and doing further work on stuck schools.

In further education and skills (FES), we are doing a research project on work-based learning and carrying out an evaluation of apprenticeship subcontracting. We will also be looking at the reliability of inspection and will continue our work on reviewing the literature on effective practice in FES.

In early years, we are looking at how providers develop the 3 prime areas of learning in the early years foundation stage (EYFS). We will also look at the role of chains of providers and regulation. Both of these projects will also include cross-remit work with social care.

And, of course, we are evaluating the implementation and, later, the impact of the EIF in schools, early years and FES. This will be alongside doing a study on the impact of grading providers across our remits.

Next steps

As you can see, we are planning a varied programme of work. What all these projects have in common is that they will continue to contribute to the main aims of research and evaluation at Ofsted:

- informing our inspection and regulatory work
- evaluating what we do
- providing a birds-eye view of the system in the remits that we inspect and regulate

To be a force for good in the lives of children and young people means knowing what works and what does not work in order to provide them with the best possible education and care. It also means acting on that information in our inspection and regulatory work. That is what we do, and that is why we do research and evaluation at Ofsted.

Want to find out more?

[A new series of six short films](#) feature Daniel Muijs, Deputy Director,

Research and Evaluation, on Ofsted's research functions.

He covers why Ofsted engages in research, the role it plays, the teacher wellbeing report and much more.

Daniel talks about the broad programme of research and evaluation work and how that research feeds into inspector training.

[Police leaders to start bidding for more Taser from today](#)

Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales can start bidding today (Monday 13 January) to equip more of their officers with Taser as part of a Home Office drive to give police more powers and tools to tackle crime.

This follows the Home Secretary's commitment to put more officers carrying Taser on our streets through a £10 million ringfenced fund, allowing them to better protect themselves and others from harm.

Bidding will open on a new online platform launched by the Home Office, where forces will decide how much funding they apply for based on the threat and risk in their local area.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Our brave police officers put themselves in harm's way to protect us and I am committed to giving them the tools they need to keep themselves and the public safe.

The rise in assaults on officers is appalling which is why I am providing funding to equip up to 10,000 more officers with Taser – an important tactical option when facing potentially physically violent situations.

Police and Crime Commissioners will need to outline how many additional officers they plan to train to use Taser. The final funding allocations for forces, which cover 2019/20 and 2020/21, will be announced as soon as February.

This comes after a series of announcements supporting the police, including a commitment to boost their ranks with 20,000 new officers over the next three years and increased stop and search powers. The Government also plans to consult on increasing the maximum sentence for assaulting police officers and other emergency service workers, to ensure jail terms truly fit the crime.

A new Police Powers and Protection Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech which will provide the police with additional powers to protect the public and establish a Police Covenant, ensuring officers and their families get the right emotional and physical support.

[PM to meet Northern Ireland Executive](#)



Prime Minister Boris Johnson will travel to Belfast on Monday to meet the restored Northern Ireland Executive.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will meet with the Executive's First Minister Arlene Foster and deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill. Discussions will focus on the Executive's priorities to take forward critical reforms to public services.

In a deal agreed last week, which secured the full restoration of the institutions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, the parties in Northern Ireland committed to delivering a range of reforms including immediate resolution of the industrial strike action among health workers.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

This is an historic time for the people of Northern Ireland. After three years, Stormont is open for business again with an Executive who can now move forward with improving people's lives and delivering for all communities in Northern Ireland.

I look forward to meeting with the new Executive and hearing about their plans for the future – including driving forward much needed reforms to public services and resolving the current health strike.

The next decade will be an incredible time of opportunity for Northern Ireland and the whole of the United Kingdom as we come

together to unleash the potential of our four nations.

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