Press release: "Illegal and unscrupulous waste criminals" ordered to pay £175,000

The Environment Agency successfully prosecuted 2 known criminals and their company who were sentenced on Friday 9 June 2017 for illegal waste tipping and storage at Baldwins Farm and Bush Farm in Essex.

The Environment Agency investigated PCS Recycling and the owners, Patrick James Corbally Snr and Patrick Lee Corbally Jnr, between 1 March 2012 and 8 May 2013. The men were arrested on site by police officers. They were found guilty of depositing waste, including potentially hazardous materials, in 2012 and 2013.

During the investigation, Environment Agency Officers discovered a large area, the size of 2 football pitches, where waste had been tipped and spread, accumulating to over 15 metres high in places. This area, known as Baldwins Farm, was being used as an illegal waste site, and at least 7,000 tonnes of waste was deposited there between 1 March and 31 August 2012. Both defendants pleaded guilty to operating a regulated facility without a permit at Baldwins Farm.

Patrick Corbally Snr and Patrick Corbally Jnr also pleaded guilty to being responsible for another organised illegal tip at a nearby site, known as Bush Farm (Priory Angling Club). The defendants were responsible for depositing in excess of 9,000 tonnes of waste at this second site. The estimated cost to the landowners (Cemex UK) of clearing and remediating the site of waste was up to £3 million pounds.

Patrick James Corbally Snr and Patrick Lee Corbally Jnr were each given 10-month prison sentences, which were suspended for 2 years, and along with the PCS Recycling, ordered to pay fines of £120,000 and £55,000 compensation to the land owner Cemex.

The sentence was imposed on the basis that the defendants had acted deliberately. There had been major costs of site remediation and significant interference with lawful waste operators, whose legitimate businesses had been undermined.

This fine is one of the highest ever to be imposed on individual defendants following an Environment Agency prosecution.

Sarah Mills, the Enforcement Team Leader at the Environment Agency, said:

Due to the complexity of the case, it took a lot of resources to get the right outcome from this investigation. Waste crime is a serious issue diverting as much as £1 billion per annum from legitimate business and treasury. Since April 2011 the Environment

Agency has invested £65.2 million in tackling it.

Illegal and unscrupulous waste criminals are working with total disregard for the environment, landowners, legal waste operators and any member of the public who use the land. We are determined to stop them by working with our partners in a collaborative effort. We hope this sentence serves as a message to those involved that we won't stop the fight against this blight, and that it acts as a deterrent against those who undermine legitimate businesses within the industry.

We urge any landowners, farmers, ramblers or dog walkers who find these sites to call us immediately on our 24-hour free incident hotline number 0800 80 70 60 or make an anonymous report to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For all media enquiries, please call: 0800 141 2743

News story: UK co-hosts international Family Planning Summit

On 11 July the UK is co-hosting an international summit on family planning in London with the <u>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</u> and the <u>United Nations</u>

<u>Population Fund (UNFPA)</u>. The summit aims to boost global commitment to one of the smartest investments governments can make: ensuring women and girls have access to family planning services.

Why do we need a summit?

Expanding access to contraception and family planning programmes is one of the most cost-effective ways to break the cycle of poverty. It empowers people to plan their futures and reach their fullest potential.

Huge progress has already been made, but there are still 214 million women around the world who do not want to get pregnant and are not currently using modern methods of family planning.

Voluntary family planning enables women and girls to complete their education and take up better economic opportunities: it transforms lives, creating more prosperous, stable societies, which is in the UK's interest. That is why International Development Secretary Priti Patel is stepping up the UK's global leadership through an international summit on family planning in London this summer.

What will the summit achieve?

Together with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UK will bring together governments, the United Nations, foundations, the private sector, civil society and youth advocates from around the world. Outcomes from the summit will include a range of new commitments from developing countries, donors and other partners. These commitments will increase access to family planning services for women and girls in the world's poorest countries, fix problems with supply chains and prioritise the needs of women and girls in humanitarian crises.

What has been achieved globally on family planning already?

The 2012 London Summit on Family Planning kick-started an international movement (FP2020) to increase investments in voluntary family planning. Since then, the FP2020 movement has driven considerable progress: by 2016, an unprecedented 300 million women in the world's poorest countries were using voluntary modern contraception.

UK investments alone have resulted in nearly 7 million more women using safe, modern contraception. Clear progress has been made, but more needs to be done if we are to reach our global ambition of reaching an additional 120 million women and girls by 2020.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

I am proud of the UK's global leadership on family planning, sexual and reproductive health. We can see the progress that is being made around the world — but much more needs to be done.

That's why the Family Planning Summit will be so important. It is a vital and exciting opportunity for the key players to get together and speed up progress to help 120 million more women and girls take control of their own lives through voluntary, modern family planning by 2020.

Visit the Family Planning Summit website.

News story: Crime news: 2017 Standard Crime Contract holders list available

Outcome of procurement process for award of 2017 Standard Crime Contract.

A full list of contract holders able to carry out work under the 2017 Standard Crime Contract is now available.

This follows publication of the outcome of the procurement process for the award of the new 2017 contract. Use the link below to view the full list.

Out of the 1,299 contracted organisations, 1,199 deliver own client and duty work and 100 deliver work on an own client only basis.

The list of duty solicitors contains 5,500 members. This is a reduction of about 1,000 members compared to the previous members list. The members' list is also available — see below.

Further Information

<u>Legal aid crime tender 2017</u> - for 2017 contract holders' list

<u>Duty solicitors: rotas, information and guidance</u> — for members' list

News story: 2017 Annual Conference: Speaker presentations

The Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) 2017 Annual Conference took place on 26 June 2017, at Church House, Westminster. Over 250 people registered to attend to hear from the Adjudicator and a range of other speakers about progress over the past 12 months, current Code related issues in the groceries sector and plans for the future.

The theme of the conference was 'Driving Change, Making an Impact'.

Driving Change, Making an Impact

A presentation of the progress of the work of the GCA over the past 12 months.

Christine Tacon, Groceries Code Adjudicator — <u>GCA Annual Report 2016-17</u> (PDF, 1.96MB, 22 pages)

The GCA annual sector survey results

YouGov presents findings from the GCA commissioned research into experiences and attitudes in relation to retailer compliance with the Code.

Gavin Ellison, YouGov Director — <u>The GCA Annual Sector Survey results</u> (PDF, 1.7MB, 23 pages)

Forward Look

The Adjudicator presents her plans for the coming year

Christine Tacon, Groceries Code Adjudicator — <u>Forward Look</u> (PDF, 1.72MB, 25 pages)

News story: Former barrister convicted for giving illegal immigration advice

Mr Michael Wainwright, aged 33, of Bromley Crescent, Ruislip pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday 2 May 2017, to 8 offences of providing unregulated immigration advice between May 2013 and June 2016.

The offences committed over a 3 year period commenced when Mr Wainwright was a practising barrister. His entitlement to practice did not include accepting instructions from clients. He was suspended on the 5 August 2014 and then disbarred from practicing as a barrister on 3 December 2014.

Following his disbarment Mr Wainwright formed a legal services company Crested Associates Ltd, which he used to commit further offences, targeting vulnerable persons seeking immigration advice until finally remanded into custody on the 2 May 2017.

His conduct in committing these offences included:

- conducting cases when not entitled to do so
- contacting detainees facing deportation at Immigration Removal Centres and promising to lodge Judicial Reviews or make bail applications on their behalf
- failing to make applications to the Home Office or the Immigration Tribunals for which he had been instructed and paid by the applicants
- lodging Judicial Reviews and applications before the Upper Tribunal and at the High Court
- making applications before Tribunals as the "applicant in person" and seeking fee remissions
- appearing in person as a representative before Immigration Tribunals when no longer qualified to do so
- making false claims as to his status before the Immigration Tribunals or claiming to act as a McKenzie Friend

On 28 June 2017 at Southwark Crown Court His Honour Judge Hehir sentenced Mr Wainwright to a total of 22 months imprisonment. He was also ordered to pay compensation to the victims totalling £2,858.

When sentencing HHJ Hehir said:

Your conduct represents a flagrant disregard for not only the standards of profession you used to be a part of, but also the Bar Standards Board and also the criminal courts and their orders too.

The facts of the eight offences have been very fully opened to me. They reveal that you persistently and in a sophisticated fashion, held yourself out to vulnerable and often desperate people.

The prohibition is there for good reason. Whether or not those who seek help for immigration advice or services have a good case, or are entitled to be in the UK is neither here nor there. They and their families are highly vulnerable and often desperate.

Charlatans like you take advantage take of their difficulty and desperation and by doing so you can only harm their interests. You were deliberately taking advantage of these people.

Speaking about the decision, Deputy Immigration Services Commissioner Dr Ian Leigh said:

These are serious offences that are aggravated by a knowing disregard of the statutory regime, and I am pleased with the outcome in this case.