News story: Employers named and shamed for underpaying more than 15,500 workers

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has named 361 businesses who underpaid 15,521 workers a total of £995,684, with employers in the hairdressing, hospitality and retail sectors the most prolific offenders.

As well as recovering back pay for some of the UK's lowest paid workers, HMRC issued penalties worth around £800,000.

Employers who failed to pay workers at least the National Living Wage have been named and shamed for the first time since the Government introduced the higher £7.20 rate for workers aged 25 and over last year.

Business Minister Margot James, said:

Every worker in the UK is entitled to at least the national minimum or living wage and this Government will ensure they get it.

That is why we have named and shamed more than 350 employers who failed to pay the legal minimum, sending the clear message to employers that minimum wage abuses will not go unpunished.

Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, said:

This record naming and shaming round sends out the clear message to employers across Wales that underpaying workers the legal minimum will not go unpunished.

This Government is committed to building an economy that works for all and April's increase in the national minimum and living wage rates will put more money into the pockets of Wales' lowest paid workers.

The rate increases on 1 April shows it pays to be in work and I am confident it will help support the high levels of employment throughout Wales.

Excuses for underpaying workers included using tips to top up pay, docking workers' wages to pay for their Christmas party and making staff pay for their own uniforms out of their salary.

The 361 employers have been named.

The publication comes weeks after the Government launched a £1.7 million national minimum and living wage awareness-raising campaign, encouraging the UK's lowest paid workers to check they are being paid the correct rates and to report their employer if they are not.

Since the naming and shaming scheme was introduced by BEIS in October 2013, more than 1,000 employers have been named, with arrears totalling more than £4.5 million. More than £2 million in fines have been issued to national minimum and living wage offenders.

There are currently more than 1,500 open cases which HMRC are investigating.

100 Years of Aeromedical Evacuation

Lone Airman in Desert Rescue

place 100 years ago on 19 February 1917 and was the first recorded aeromedical \square evacuation.

Lance Corporal MacGregor of the Imperial Camel Corps had□ been shot in the ankle as his unit advanced towards Bir-el-Hassana in Egypt. Forty□

four miles from the nearest medical facility in El Arish, it was felt that $L/Cpl\square$

MacGregor's best chance of survival was to be flown there in the observer's seat of a Royal Flying Corps B.E.2c biplane.

×

One hundred years on, and still one year away from its own centenary, the Royal Air Force remains at the forefront of this life saving aviation capability.

The heroism of the RAF's Medical Emergency Response Teams (MERT) \square became synonymous with recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hundreds of \square injured servicemen today owe their lives to the RAF helicopter aircrew, Flight \square

Doctors, Flight Nurses and Flight Medics who risked their lives to recover them, sometimes while still under enemy fire.

Specially adapted RAF C-17s and Voyagers, manned by aeromedical \Box evacuation (AE) flight doctors, nurses and medics, provide the next step of the \Box

general AE teams move general ward patients.

×

The RAF currently has one Regular AE squadron and two□
Reserve AE squadrons. Squadron Leader Sarah Charters ARRC, has served as a□
Reservist with 4626 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron for 27 years and has deployed□

to be a part of this fantastic service which has such a rich history of saving□ lives.

"My squadron's motto is 'Safely Home' and this neatly sums□ up the role of Regular and Reserve aeromedical evacuation personnel. We provide□

battlefield back to the UK."

×

Later this year, a re-enactment of L/Cpl MacGregors historic□ flight in a B.E.2c will further mark this milestone for aeromedical evacuation□

Reserve, can be found here
or by searching 'RAF medical careers'.

Editor: Flt Lt Peter Lisney

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News story: Defence Secretary meets Apprentices working on nuclear submarines as new Training Facility announced

BAE Systems announced today that the new training facility will provide a tailored learning environment for an estimated 1,000 craft and technical apprentices currently in training.

Mr Fallon met apprentices working in a range of areas, and toured the Devonshire Dock Hall where Audacious, Anson and Agamemnon, the fourth, fifth and sixth of seven Astute class nuclear-powered submarines, are under construction.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

This investment demonstrates the benefits that our growing defence budget brings for highly skilled jobs in the North West and across the country.

It will ensure we have people with the skills necessary to deliver one of the most complex programmes in the world that will help modernise our fleet of nuclear submarines.

Apprentices at BAE Systems already work on our cutting-edge Astute Submarines, the most powerful attack submarines ever operated by the Royal Navy, as well the Dreadnought Programme, the new fleet of four Dreadnought Ballistic Missile submarines that will carry our nuclear deterrent.

The new modern facility is due to open next year and will include a teaching block, classrooms, offices, craft workshops and welfare facilities. It is planned that the facility will include to-scale 'submarine mock-up sections' which will allow apprentices to gain hands-on experience in a controlled environment and help them develop skills working to the tolerances required to build submarines.

Following a £1.3 billion <u>investment</u> by Defence, construction has started on the Dreadnought submarines. Backed by a rising Defence budget and £178 billion equipment programme, both Astute and Dreadnought programmes secure thousands of highly skilled jobs in Barrow and right across the UK.

Tony Johns, Managing Director of BAE Systems Submarines, said:

The design and build of a nuclear-powered submarine is one of the world's most complex and technically demanding engineering

challenges. It's vital we have right people with the right skills to deliver these programmes and this investment underlines our commitment to the future. The new facility will provide a modern learning environment to supplement the training our apprentices already receive.

The MOD is committed to delivering more high quality apprenticeships and work experience for young people right across Defence, and encouraging our industry partners to do the same. As the largest provider of apprenticeships in the UK, the MOD successfully completes more than 10,000 apprenticeships a year and we are setting a target to deliver 50,000 military apprenticeships during this parliament.

Whilst in Barrow, the Secretary of State also visited Allan Webb Ltd, a specialist in Defence Technical Documentation and Supportability Engineering to review aspects of the support provided to the MOD. Allan Webb Ltd has a strong reputation in the Defence Sector for quality and innovation having over 50 years' experience in the industry.

Allan Webb Ltd works in conjunction with BMT Defence Services, to increase the MOD's capability with training and logistical support. BMT Defence Services has a strong reputation in the naval design market, having provided the winning designs for Royal Navy's MARS Fleet Tanker, the Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) aircraft carrier, and the Astute submarine

The Defence Secretary, Sir Michael Fallon said:

Allan Webb Ltd and BMT Defence Services operate a strong and efficient partnership that provides the MOD with world-leading service helping us to keep Britain safe.

During his visit, the Defence Secretary discussed the latest innovations in how technical equipment handbooks are produced for the MOD and the benefits of this modernisation in order to meet the needs of engineers across the Armed Forces.

Our work with companies of all sizes shows Defence's determination to do its part to deliver a bold, long term Industrial Strategy that builds on our strengths and prepares the UK for the years ahead. We are working with SMEs and businesses of all kinds to innovate and build mutual security to ensure an economy that works for everyone.

Defence investment supports high-wage, high-skills jobs across the UK and backed by our rising Defence budget, £178bn Equipment Plan, and £800m Innovation Initiative, we are delivering the jobs, apprenticeships, infrastructure, and economy of the future.

- You can find out more about Continuous At Sea Deterrence here.
- You can find out more about MOD Apprenticeships here.

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News story: New Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation appointed

From:
First published:
20 February 2017
Part of:

The Home Secretary has appointed Max Hill QC as the government's new Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation.

Mr Hill has been a QC for 9 years and has extensive experience both defending and prosecuting complex cases involving terrorism, homicide, violent crime, high value fraud and corporate crime. He successfully prosecuted the 21/7 bombers, and appeared in the inquest into the 7/7 bombings. Mr Hill takes over the role from David Anderson QC, who has held the post since 2011.

Welcoming the appointment, Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

I am pleased to announce that Max Hill QC has been appointed as Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation.

With the threat from terrorism continuing to evolve and diversify, it is vital we have robust oversight to ensure our counterterrorism laws are fair, necessary and proportionate. Mr Hill brings a wealth of experience and legal expertise to help deliver this.

I am grateful to David Anderson QC for his service as Independent Reviewer and thank him for his considered reports and valuable analysis.

Max Hill QC said:

I am very pleased to have this opportunity, which comes at a time of heightened concern about the risk from terrorism which we all face in the UK. As a practising barrister with experience in both counter-terrorism and the rights of citizens facing allegations of serious crime, I look forward to working with participants at all

levels and from all sides.

As part of his role, Mr Hill will be required to provide an annual report on his findings, which the government must lay before Parliament and publish. He will begin his tenure on 1 March 2017.