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***News Release***

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**Payback time for plant machinery salesman**

A Leicestershire plant machinery salesman, who was jailed for tax fraud after he lied about his business’s sales, has been ordered to repay nearly £1 million or face a further seven years behind bars.

Raymond John Weaver, 70, of Measham Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was jailed for 30 months in March 2017 after he failed to declare sales of diggers, excavators and bulldozers to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), allowing him to fraudulently pocket VAT received from his customers.

Weaver was yesterday (31 January) ordered to repay £990,000 within three months and will now face selling his assets which include a £1.2m home, a villa in Portugal and a collection of cars.

Diccon Wood, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“Weaver made a deliberate decision to not disclose his sales in an attempt to avoid his tax obligations and keep the cash. His crimes put him behind bars and now he’ll repay what he stole or spend even more time in prison, and still have to pay the money back.

“Our actions don’t stop once someone is convicted, we will look to reclaim the stolen money. If you know of anyone who is committing tax fraud you can report them to HMRC online, or call our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.”

Following his arrest in December 2012, the conman acknowledged there was ‘something wrong’ with his paperwork, but denied any wrongdoing.

And in a bid to avoid paying Income Tax in the UK, Weaver had earlier told HMRC that he resided in Portugal. But enquiries with the Portuguese authorities revealed he paid no tax there, claiming his main residence was in fact Dubai.

Weaver admitted the fraud in February 2017 and was jailed the following month at Leicester Crown Court. Yesterday, at the same court, he was ordered to repay the money by April or serve more time in prison and still owe the money.

**Notes to Editors**

1. Raymond John Weaver, Measham Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire. DOB: 08/03/1948. He admitted the fraudulent evasion of VAT at Leicester Crown Court on 6 February 2017. He was sentenced to 30 months in prison at the same court on 9 March 2017.
2. There is no appeal against default jail sentences issued in confiscation orders and the order for repayment remains in place after the default sentence is served by the fraudster. If the assets held by the convicted criminal at the time of the order are less than the benefit derived from the fraud, then any future assets can be confiscated up to the value of the benefit of the fraud.
3. Information about any type of tax fraud can be reported to HMRC online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-unregistered-trader-or-business>.
4. Follow HMRC Press Office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice.
5. HMRC's Flickr channel: [www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk](http://www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk).

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