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 ***News Release***

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**Company director sentenced for**

**£190k tax fraud**

A London company director, who dodged paying £190,000 of tax, has been sentenced after admitting fraud.

Sanjay Swaminarayan, 39, of St John’s Wood, north-west London, was investigated by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) after failing to file tax returns for his company, Shreeji Construction Ltd, between October 2012 and August 2014.

Mark Cox, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“Swaminarayan thought he could get away without paying his dues unlike other, hard-working taxpayers. But he was wrong. The money he stole should have gone to pay for the public services we all rely on, instead he pocketed it.

“Anyone with information about tax fraud should contact the HMRC Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.”

Swaminarayan admitted fraud at Southwark Crown Court on 15 August 2017 and was sentenced at the same court on Friday (15 December 2017) to 21 months of jail, suspended for two years; ordered to undertake 200 hours unpaid work; pay £2,800 court costs, was disqualified from being a company director for four years and given a curfew order.

He has now paid back HMRC his full debt.

**Notes for editors**

1. Sanjay Swaminarayan (DOB 07/08/1978) of Oslo Court, London, NW8 7EP, admitted a charge of Fraudulently Evading VAT, contrary to section 72(1) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 at Southwark Crown Court on 15 August, 2017.
2. He was sentenced to 21 months of jail, suspended for two years; ordered to do 200 hours unpaid work; given a two-month curfew from 5 January 2018, meaning he must be at home between 11pm and 6am; must pay £2,800 court costs and was disqualified as a company director for four years.
3. Follow HMRC Press Office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice

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