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***News Release***

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|  | For the attention of **News Desks and crime reporters** | | No. of pages: 2 | |  |
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**Fisherman’s blues after sentencing for tax evasion**

A fisherman from Kilkeel, who failed to pay more than £148,000 in tax and National Insurance contributions due on self-employed earnings, has been sentenced after an investigation by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Investigations revealed that over seven years, from 2007 to 2014, Gary Owen Dickinson, 43, from Newry Road, had failed to declare earnings of more than £450,000 - profits he had made as a share fisherman.

A fishing-boat owner’s annual tax records showed that Dickinson had been employed as a crew member and his pay as a share fisherman had been recorded in the financial accounts. However Dickinson failed to declare this income to HMRC or submit any Self Assessment tax returns, evading £148,887.57 in Income Tax and National Insurance Contributions.

Steve Tracey, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“Dickinson chose not to declare his income or pay tax and thought he could pocket the money, which should have been funding vital public services.

“Most people pay the tax they owe, when they owe it, but a small minority think they are above the law. No matter how well you think you’ve covered your tracks, nobody is beyond our reach. Tax fraud is a serious crime and I ask anyone with information about those who may be involved to contact our 24 hour hotline on 0800 59 5000.”

Dickinson was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for two years when he appeared at Newry Crown Court today (Thursday 12 October).

**Notes for editors**

1. Gary Owen Dickinson, DOB 02/12/1972, of Newry Road, Kilkeel, County Down, pleaded guilty to being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of Income Tax and Class 4 National Insurance Contributions, contrary to section 106A of the Taxes Management Act 1970 and cheating the public revenue, contrary to Common Law in June 2016 at Newry Crown Court.
2. He was sentenced to 12 in prison, suspended for two years, when he appeared at Newry Crown Court today (Thursday 12 October).
3. Anyone with information about people or businesses involved in tax fraud can contact HMRC on 0800 59 5000 or at [www.gov.uk/topic/dealing-with-hmrc/tax-compliance](http://www.gov.uk/topic/dealing-with-hmrc/tax-compliance)
4. HMRC’s Flickr channel: www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk

4. Follow HMRC's press office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice

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