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***News Release***

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**Corrupt director jailed for tax fraud**

A Shropshire businessman, who ran 13 companies and used 100 bank accounts but declared no income to HM Revenue and Customs, has been jailed for stealing £251,000 in taxes.

Alan Smithyman, 62, of Bridgnorth was sentenced to 32 months in prison after he admitted failing to submit any tax returns for himself between 2005 and 2012.

A HMRC investigation found Smithyman had 13 directorships for limited companies that were involved in selling cars, property development, waste handling and mining.

Detailed analysis of his financial affairs revealed he was linked to around 100 company bank accounts with significant activity and money transfers between them.

Sandra Smith, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“Smithyman had a substantial business empire with money being transferred all over the place. But he told HMRC he hadn’t earned a penny. This was a deliberate attempt to avoid his tax obligations and pocket the cash.

“HMRC takes tax fraud extremely seriously. Anyone choosing to evade their taxes faces prosecution, a criminal record and jail. HMRC is ensuring that crime doesn’t pay, and will now seek to recover what he stole.

“If you ever suspect tax fraud, you can contact the 24-hour hotline on 0800 59 5000 to report it.”

Smithyman admitted tax fraud on 18 July and sentenced to 32 months in prison at Manchester Crown Court on Monday 31 October 2016. HMRC will now start proceedings to recover the remaining tax he stole.

**Notes for editors:**

1. Alan George Smithyman, dob 08/08/53, director, of Lea Farm, Dallicott, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, pleaded guilty to two counts of tax fraud and was jailed for 32 months on 31 October 2016 at Manchester Crown Court.
2. He pleaded guilty to count 1 of cheating the public revenue, contrary to common law: intent to defraud and failing to declare trading income and profits from Kingswinford Sand and Aggregates Limited between October 2005 and August 2009 on 18 July 2016.
3. He also pleaded guilty to count 3 of cheating the public revenue, contrary to common law: intent to defraud failing to declare trading income and profits from his activities as a sole trader.
4. Smithyman registered with HMRC as a sole trader and in addition he was registered as a Director with companies house for the following companies:

* SLMC Ltd (registered for vehicle sales)
* Whittimere Quarry Products Ltd (mining and quarrying)
* Meadowdale Homes Ltd (property development)
* Meadowdale Developments Ltd (property development)
* C&A Services (Kingswinford) Ltd (rental property and investment)
* Oakham Environmental Waste & Recycling Centre Ltd (waste materials handling)
* Ariort Ltd (property development) - he was banned for three years by Companies House from being a director due to his activities for this company in December 2015 at Cardiff Crown Court.
* Midland Lettings Ltd (buying and selling of own real estate)
* AGS (Kingswinford) Ltd (construction of commercial buildings)
* JS Inns Ltd (retail sale of beverages in specialised stores)
* ABS (Kingswinford) Ltd (other business support service activities)
* Kingswinford Sand & Aggregates Ltd (mining and quarrying)
* Ham Lane Commercials Ltd (vehicle parts and accessories)

1. In addition, financial investigations showed that he had number of mortgages and loans with an annual repayment commitment of £47,184.
2. Anyone with information regarding suspected fraud is encouraged to contact the 24-hour hotline on 0800 59 5000 or report it via the website: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/reportingfraud/online.htm>
3. HMRC’s Flickr site [www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk](http://www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk)
4. Follow HMRC’s press office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice

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