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***News Release***

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**Wiltshire businessman jailed in £190k tax scam**

A company director, who stole more than £190,000 in tax, has been jailed after an investigation by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Kevin O’Hare, 55, of Calne, Wiltshire, submitted false purchase documents and invoices to claim VAT repayments through his Cardiff-based IT and telecommunications equipment businesses, Ardkoh Ltd and Ardios Network Management Services.

Checks with the suppliers named on the invoices showed the purchases were fake and only a fraction of O’Hare’s trading records were actually legitimate.

HMRC also found he forged invoices showing sales between his two businesses, known as inter-company trading. In total, O’Hare stole £191,599 in VAT repayments between 2012 and 2016.

Colin Spinks, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC said:

“When we pay tax, we expect it to go towards paying for vital public services, not to line the pockets of unscrupulous traders. O’Hare knew he was breaking the law but thought he could get away with ripping off honest taxpayers.

“HMRC is levelling the playing field for honest businesses by tracking down those who attempt to stop funds going to public services. We will continue to pursue criminals who think they can steal taxpayer’s money. If you know of anyone who is committing tax fraud you can report them online or by calling our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.”

O’Hare was found guilty of fraud and tax evasion charges on Monday 23 April 2018 at Cardiff Crown Court and was sentenced on the same day to three years in jail.

On sentencing O’Hare, HHJ Jenkins said the culprit committed “sustained and repeated dishonest conduct”.

HMRC is in the process of recovering the stolen tax.

**Notes for Editors**

1. Kevin Patrick O’Hare, (DOB 08/12/1962) of Purbeck Place, Calne, Wiltshire, was found guilty of the fraudulent evasion of VAT and fraud by false representation. He was sentenced to three years in prison and disqualified as a director for five years at Cardiff Crown Court on Monday 23 April, 2018.
2. Information about any type of tax fraud can also be reported to HMRC online at [www.gov.uk/report-an-unregistered-trader-or-business](https://www.gov.uk/report-an-unregistered-trader-or-business) or contact our hotline on 0800 788 887.
3. Follow HMRC Press Office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice
4. HMRC's Flickr channel: [www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk](http://www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk)

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