

OFFICIAL

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE (MDP)

NEWS BRIEF

ISSUE: Resettlement Grant Fraud

DATE: Thursday 16 April 2015 [Updated 20 April]

SOURCE: [REDACTED] MDP CID

MDP PRESS OFFICER: [REDACTED]

DDC NEWS & PRESS OFFICERS TO NOTE: All press officer or departmental statements/responses to media are disclosable in court proceedings. It is MOD policy to pass media inquiries where a criminal investigation is involved, to the MOD Police press office (2014DIN03-024 para 6) or other police force dealing.

Background (Not for release to the media)

The Ministry of Defence operates a scheme which allows Service leavers to claim resettlement money towards training courses to enable them to adjust to civilian life. Resettlement is an entitlement within the Terms and Conditions of Service of Service personnel. The level of support is governed by length of service. This is all covered under JSP 534 - the Tri-Service Resettlement Manual.

Although there is a set limit for the amount of money Service leavers can claim towards the cost of their training, T&S incurred as a result of resettlement may be claimed separately, subject to certain conditions (eg where the training is more than 50 miles from the service leaver's home or unit, and there is no Service accommodation available). As is normal practice, receipts are required

John Bricknell and [REDACTED] operate a company called [REDACTED], used by many Service leaders. Bricknell is the sole director and shareholder of the company.

[REDACTED] offers courses to Service leavers and endeavour to find them work experience in a suitable geographical area following the four week course to complete their portfolios. They advertise that they have been on the MOD Preferred Suppliers List for over 10 years.

It is alleged that the Service leavers were being issued with false receipts by [REDACTED], showing food and hotel accommodation that had not been provided, to enable the Service leavers to inflate their claims to the MOD.

It is alleged that between January 2010 and 31 July 2012, receipts were issued to various Service leavers which totalled over £1m. It is alleged that Bricknell gained from the arrangement because his practices enticed Service leavers to use Brimap.

█████ claimed that █████ was only doing what Bricknell instructed. It is alleged however that █████ was aware of what was going on.

Bricknell and █████ were both charged with 13 counts under Section 7 of the Fraud Act 2006. Each count relates to a named Service leaver. Both were originally arrested on 08/01/2013 and charged on 20/03/2013.

The Crown Prosecution Service decided that no Service leavers should be charged.

Lines To Take (to be used if approached by media)

- MOD Police can confirm that John Bricknell (48) of Measham in Leicestershire and █████ were arrested on 8 January 2013 and charged with 13 counts of fraud on 20 March 2013.
- Can further confirm that John Bricknell was sent for trial at Southwark Crown Court on Monday 13 April 2015, where he pleaded guilty to all charges.
- The charges against █████ have now been dropped.
- Bricknell is due to be sentenced on 8 May 2015.

Line to Take after sentencing :

Detective Constable John Slater said: “Bricknell knew his company was providing false receipts to military service leavers, and he used this as a device to attract business to his company”.

“MOD Police are pleased that their investigation was successful and that Bricknell pleaded guilty to all the charges”.