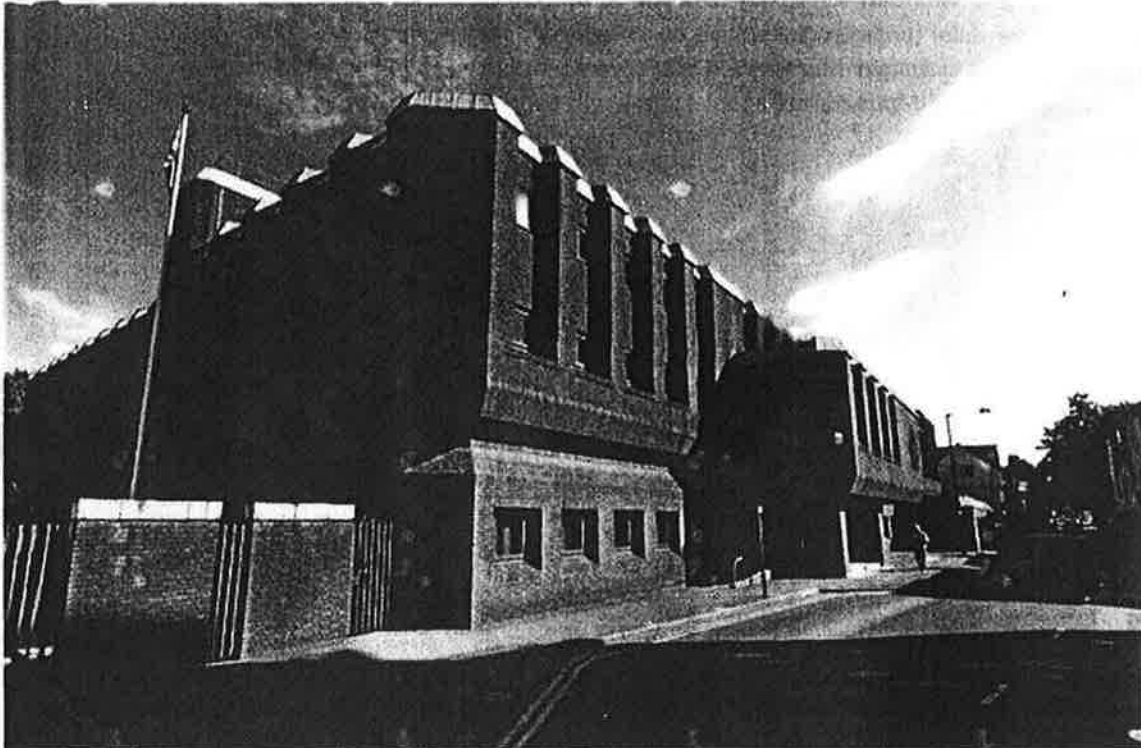


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Wickford man sentenced to five years behind bars for tax agent scam worth over £1.5 million

By Tommy_Wathen (http://www.essexlive.news/people/Tommy_Wathen/profile.html) | Posted: June 28, 2017

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He was sentenced to five years in jail at Chelmsford Crown Court

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An Essex tax adviser who instructed a number of clients how to fraudulently claim £1.5 million in tax repayments, has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Jeffrey Bakewell, 69 and from Cedar Avenue, Wickford (<http://essexlive.news/wickford>), set himself up as a self-appointed tax adviser and an investigation by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) revealed how he managed to keep around £300,000 from his client's fake claims.

READ MORE: Basildon council chief warns Wickford site could become 'new Dale Farm' (<http://www.essexlive.news/basildon-council-chief-warns-of-new-dale-farm/story-30406229-detail/story.html>)

The majority of Bakewell's clients were mainly crane drivers, but also included builders and other construction workers, who made false claims for travel and subsistence payments that HMRC found had already been covered by the employer.

A total figure of £1,507,965 was paid to Bakewell between 2009 and 2015. He kept £301,987 and used it to fund his gambling habit whilst the rest went to his clients.

Bakewell did not register with HMRC as a legal tax agent, nor did he complete due diligence checks on

his clients or keep records required by the money Laundering Regulations.

Paul Barton, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service (<http://essexlive.news/crime>), HMRC, said:
"Bakewell had no financial qualifications and set himself up solely to advise people on fraud.

"He charged for advice on how to steal money from our vital public services but his appalling conduct has now put him behind bars.

"We will not allow criminals to attack the tax system and cheat the honest majority.

"Anyone helping tax fraudsters can expect to end up in court.

"We ask anyone with information about suspected tax fraud to contact our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887."

READ MORE: Wickford police station to be put up for sale (<http://www.essexlive.news/wickford-police-station-to-be-put-up-for-sale/story-30393676-detail/story.html>)

Bakewell was jailed for five years at Chelmsford Crown Court on Monday (June 26) after admitting tax fraud.

Confiscation proceedings to help recover the money that Bakewell stole have now begun.

Money is being recovered from Bakewell's clients for the false repayments by civil means.

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UK Funeral Directors Are Fuming Because People Found This Out

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