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***News Release***

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|  | For the attention of **News Desks** | | No of pages: 3 | |  |
|  | Date: | 24 May 2019 | Ref: | EM NR XX/19 |  |

**Restaurant fraudster caught by his own secret books**

The owner of a Derbyshire restaurant has been jailed for three years for a £480,000 tax fraud that was discovered when investigators uncovered a hidden sales book dating back five years.

Nazrul Islam, 52, from Birmingham, hid sales in a bid to evade nearly £480,000 of tax payments at his Repton-based restaurant, an investigation by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) revealed.

Islam was arrested in April 2017, which led to searches of his Great Barr home and his Jaipur restaurant, in High Street.

HMRC officers discovered meticulous records of daily takings between 2012 and 2017 at his house, which did not match up with sales he submitted in his VAT returns.

They also discovered that Islam had registered a different card payment machine, which was sending payments into a separate account. The card sales, along with the hidden cash sales, helped him hide up to half of his declared takings.

Richard Paris, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“This was a determined, well planned and long running fraud, which even saw Islam buy and use separate card payment machines.

“Tax fraud is not a victimless crime. Islam deprived vital UK public services of this money and he gained an unfair advantage over honest competitors who pay the tax they owe.

“I would urge anybody who knows of anyone committing any type of tax fraud to report them to HMRC [online](https://www.gov.uk/report-an-unregistered-trader-or-business), or call our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.”

Islam admitted evading VAT payments and Income Tax and National Insurance payments at an earlier hearing at Birmingham Crown Court.

He was sentenced to three years prison at the same court on 23 May 2019. He was also disqualified from being a Director for seven years.

HMRC seized £22,170 from Islam’s home in April 2017. The money was found hidden behind a large marble wardrobe and has since been forfeited.

Action to recover the stolen money is now underway.

Information about any type of tax fraud can 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).

**Notes for editors**

1. Nazrul Islam (DOB 25/03/1967) of Tower Hill, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 was convicted of fraudulent evasion of Income Tax, between April 2012 and January 2017, contrary to section 106(A) of the Taxes Management Act (1970). He was also convicted of VAT Fraud, between January 2012 and March 2017, contrary to section 72 of the VAT Act (1994).
2. Follow HMRC’s press office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice

**Issued by HM Revenue & Customs Press Office**

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