

First prosecution under the Bribery Act 2010

The Bribery Act 2010 came into force earlier this year. It introduced the offences of bribing another person; being bribed; failing to prevent bribery; and bribing a foreign official. The first person to be prosecuted under the Act was sentenced to prison in November 2011.

Munir Patel, an administrative officer at Redbridge magistrates court, pleaded guilty to bribery and misconduct in public office. He admitted to requesting and receiving a bribe of £500 for offering to "get rid" of a speeding charge for someone. He also pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office for other similar offences.

Mr Patel was sentenced to three years for bribery and six years for misconduct in a public office, to be served concurrently.

Actions for Employers

- Ensure that you have suitable procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Act. This might include an Anti-Bribery Policy, training, and a system for monitoring compliance.
- The above case shows that the Bribery Act applies to relatively junior employees dealing with small amounts of money. Ensure that all your employees have received relevant training and are aware of the Act. Consider how you will ensure that new starters are aware of the Act.

Resources and References

www.legislation.gov.uk