

Two Jailed by Judge for Selling "Worthless" nutrition courses and registration

The AfN attended Norwich Crown Court on the 1st July for the sentencing of Mr Scott Wolfe and Ms Katie Hope, following their earlier convictions for fraudulent trading, money laundering and forgery relating to nutrition courses and registration.

During the sentencing hearing the AfN was repeatedly referenced, with particular notice being taken by the judge of the ASA complaints the AfN had made and the Cease & Desist letter sent by AfN lawyers.

In passing down custodial sentences to both offenders, His Honour Judge Bate provided a clear sign that deceiving the public for private gain is never acceptable, describing the individuals as "seasoned and shameless plagiarists" who had purposely targeted the field of nutrition over a sustained period of time. Their register of nutritionists was described as a sham and along with the courses they sold as both worthless and unrecognised.

Almost five years ago the office team started to receive calls from misled, and at times distraught individuals, who had been deceived by Wolfe & Hope, with the Advertising Standards Authority upholding the our complaints against their company the *College for Nutrition* in November 2014 and then against their *The Nutrition School* in June 2016. Sadly, the extent of the fraud was widespread and the offenders persistent in their actions, so Norwich Trading Standards progressed with a legal case against them, finding at least 900 UK/international victims. In addition to fraudulent trading, evidence was also found of money laundering and of a forged email from a government official, used to fraudulently register a sham business with Companies House.

AfN have thanked all those at Norwich Trading Standards for pursuing this prosecution over the last 3 years, and all the other organisations and individuals who provided evidence to support this case and the successful conviction of these two offenders.

Scott Wolfe (aliases included Scott Cameron, Scott McKay & Lord Austin) and Katie Hope (aliases included Kate Layton & Katie Gibbs) were sentenced of committing category 2 frauds relating to the fraudulent trading of unaccredited nutrition courses (4yrs and 2 yrs imprisonment respectively) and registration on an unrecognised register of nutritionists (4yrs and 2 yrs respectively). In addition, they were both convicted of money laundering by creating a Lloyds bank account to receive the funds from their fraudulent trading (2yrs and 1 yr respectively). Mr Wolfe was also sentenced in regards to the conviction of 2 further cases of money laundering in respect to the transfer of money from the Lloyds account to a personal account and one in Mauritius (a 2yr sentence passed for each). In addition he received a 2 yr sentence for forgery, in regards to faking a letter from a Government official to deceive Companies House in allowing registration of the company to run the fraudulent register to use the word British in its name (2yrs).

Their immediate custodial sentences of 4yrs and 2yrs reflected the reductions received for early guilty pleas and the sentences being served concurrently rather than consecutively (original sentences of 5yrs 4mths and 2yrs 8mths respectively before reductions).

In addition they have both been disqualified from being Company Directors or acting as Shadow Directors for 10yrs and 5yrs respectively.

The AfN will continue to support the prosecution of those deceiving the public, and promoting the expertise of UKVRN Registrants and the quality assurance of AfN Certified Courses, Accredited Degrees and Endorsed CPD so as to empower the public to be able to identify and access nutrition information that is evidence-based and grounded in science.