

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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Security agents in court

This week three security and investigation agents were brought before the Court to face prosecution and disciplinary action.

Toby Huihao Hawea was convicted and fined \$9,000 plus \$400 costs for acting as a security contractor supplying crowd controllers to various pubs and clubs while unlicensed to do so. Investigations by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) revealed that Mr Hawea was carrying on business as an unlicensed security agent and employed 2 unlicensed security agents at the Oxford Hotel.

The court found that his actions were exacerbated by the fact Hawea knew about his obligation to be licensed and by using a false license number misled the Oxford Hotel into believing that he was a licensed security agent.

Also facing the Magistrates Court, Kwabena Sarpong Saffu, who was convicted and fined \$1500 for working as a crowd controller without a security agent's licence on 27 occasions.

Police conducting inspections of licensed venues found Saffu working at the The Woolshed on Hindley and requested to see his security agent's licence. Saffu made the excuse that his licence was at home in his other jacket. He was reported for not carrying his licence and later OCBA established that he was never appropriately licensed in South Australia. Saffu previously worked in the security industry in the Northern Territory where he held a licence. He applied to OCBA for a South Australian licence but Saffu did not complete the application process.

The third crowd controller, Luke Thomas Sangster, of Bellevue Heights had his security and investigation agents licence cancelled by the District Court. On 21 January 2005, Mr Sangster was convicted of producing cannabis. The conviction related to Mr Sangster being caught by the police growing 12 cannabis plants hydroponically. The conviction is a discrediting event and if Mr Sangster were to apply for a licence at this point of time he would not be entitled to be granted one.

Deputy Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, Euan Miller said that any person carrying out duties as a crowd controller must to be licensed and meet the eligibility criteria.

"The licensing system is in place for the protection of patrons and security agents. Only a person who is of good character can be a security agent. These agents have blatantly disregarded the licensing system and have been disciplined accordingly."

To check whether a person holds a licence, or to verify someone's licence details, visit the Licensing Public Register at www.ocba.sa.gov.au or telephone 8204 9686 or 131 882 (country callers).