



Hire education for employers

The recently reported raids on local restaurants in connection with the alleged hiring of illegal workers have highlighted a major area of concern for employers in the area.

With an estimated 500,000 illegal immigrants currently within the UK and the ready availability of fake documentation, employers across all businesses, large and small, have to exercise extra vigilance in their employment procedures. Those who fall foul of legislation run the risk of incurring punitive penalties. Fines of up to £10,000 can be levied for each illegal worker employed. Employers who knowingly employ illegal workers face the threat of a criminal conviction with an unlimited fine and a prison sentence of up to two years.

One local company, however, is helping local businesses, large and small, to ensure they stay on the right side of the law.

Agenda Security Services specialises in providing pre-employment screening services to employer organisations.

“With recent incidences in Hull reflecting a UK-wide government initiative to target illegal workers, it is more important than ever to carry out effective pre-employment checks,” explained Head of Agenda Security Services and former Detective Superintendent, Alan Fletcher. “This year in the UK, we have already seen over ten times more illegal workers caught than in 2007 and we are witnessing the increasing use of false documents to dupe unwitting employers.”

The government has issued fines of over £720,000 since April 2008 following the introduction of sections 15 to 25 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. Forthcoming legislation in relation to non-EEC workers entering the UK will place even more stringent points-based checks on employers.

“Robust checks that include verifying the validity of all identification and right-to-work documents are a cost effective way of avoiding heavy fines,” said Alan Fletcher. “Agenda carries out these checks routinely on behalf of its customers to protect them from inadvertently employing an illegal worker. Our experience has shown that simply looking at official looking documents is not enough. As an employer ourselves we are extremely thorough in checking the right to work in the UK and the identity of all our potential employees - and not just those from outside of the UK. No employer can afford to take anything for granted.”

For more information about how to comply with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 or advice on the checking of documents presented to you contact info@agenda-security.co.uk or visit www.agenda-security.co.uk to find out more about the pre-employment screening options available.