

# Survey reveals almost half of UK recruiters are at risk of criminal charges

Submitted by: BlueSky Public Relations Ltd

Monday, 26 February 2018

---

Nearly half of UK recruitment firms risk facing possible criminal charges due to a lack of information and understanding of the Criminal Finances Act 2017, according to a study from the leading supplier of international contractor management solutions, 6CATS International.

The survey – conducted in partnership with specialist back office and support recruitment consultancy, Camino Partners – found that almost half (43%) of recruitment agencies are unaware of the impact this legislation could have on their business. This statistic is particularly concerning considering that one third of the survey respondents are responsible for compliance in their firm.

This news comes at a time when the government is gearing up to bring the remainder of the Act into force in just over one month's time. As of 16th April, the regulation will increase HMRC's powers in relation to searches as well as the seizure and detention of cash. Officers will also be allowed to seize valuable property under the Act in this latest roll out.

Michelle Reilly, CEO of 6CATS International, commented on the survey results:

"It's hugely concerning that so many recruiters – particularly those at Director level – are unaware of the risks they face as a result of the Criminal Finances Act 2017. This legislation has been a long time coming and as we are now five months on from the initial introduction we would expect this number to be much lower.

"While contractor compliance is a complex issue, it's one that all recruiters in the UK need to be aware of and understand – and this needs to be driven from the top of the business. It will be company owners who face the criminal charges should they fail to prove that they have the requisite procedures in place to prevent the facilitation of evasion. This means that recruitment agency owners and Directors could face charges for fraudulent activity they weren't even aware of, simply through their firms' association with a contractor or third-party supplier.

"It is encouraging that when asked to rank the importance of contractor compliance on a scale of 1 – 10, respondents selected an average of 9.2. However, valuing compliance and implementing it are two separate issues. Agency owners need to take action now before it is too late."

Steph King  
BlueSky PR  
T: +44 (0)1582 790 707