

Example C

The building of the additional teaching space at the school was nearing completion and all the contractors on site were aware that work had to be completed in time for the new school term. Owing to fewer people working at the site, it was deemed unnecessary to use banksmen for reversing vehicles. There were no barriers in place to prevent pedestrians crossing vehicle routes, and no signs were present to warn about the dangers presented by moving vehicles. There was one segregated pedestrian pathway from the new school building to the storage container.

The consequences

Simon Taylor died at the scene from multiple crush injuries. The building firm pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, and was fined £160 000. The company was ordered to pay £21 698 in costs.

