

Butcher's waste mixed up with clothes destined for Africa



PROSECUTED Muhinur Rahman of Rahman Brothers in Lagos Street. Below, some of the meat found in the recycling bin

Main picture: SIOBHAN BOYLE

ROTTING MEAT LEFT IN RECYCLING BIN

by Emma Streatfield

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A BUSINESSMAN has been prosecuted after rotting meat from his butcher's shop ended up mixed in and ruining charity clothes destined for Africa.

Muhinur Rahman, 41, of Castleton Road, Middleleaze, co-owner of Rahman Brothers, on Lagos Street, Broadgreen, claimed he had made an agreement with a man who offered to collect his cardboard waste, a court heard.

The man, known only as Ricky, also took the shop's meat waste which was nearby then dumped it all in a clothes recycling bin at Asda West Swindon.

Swindon Magistrates' Court was told that the clothes were unusable.

Rahman admitted failing to secure the transfer of waste to an authorised person or getting the appropriate written description contrary to Sections 33 and 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Rosemary Bone, prosecuting on behalf of Swindon Council, said a council environmental enforcement officer had visited Rahman



Brothers on December 11, 2008 following reports of cardboard stacked up outside.

Ms Bone said the officer spoke to Rahman who said it would be removed the following day and when he returned it had gone.

However, the court heard how on December 16 a mixture of cardboard rubbish and decomposing meat, bones, livers, hearts and lungs were found at the Devizes Textile Recycling Centre with receipts, which led back to Rahman.

Ms Bone said the father-of-two had failed in his duty of care, overflowing the cardboard to Ricky who had no business card or pa-

perwork despite dealings with previous companies which had provided both and signed contracts.

She said: "Mr Rahman did not discharge his duty to ensure that he was disposing of his waste in an a responsible way, there must be a paper trail."

Francis George, defending, said the meat had been taken by mistake demonstrated by the fact his client already had a contract for the collection of waste meat at the time.

He said his client was of previous good character and that his limited understanding of English, although no defence, was a miti-

gating factor and that the offence had been committed over a short period of time.

He pointed out that under Rahman's previous waste disposal contract he was paying £85 a month and under Ricky would have paid £80.

Mr George said: "It's not deliberate or reckless, it's a result of carelessness. In terms of financial motives I say there was no real cost saving."

Presiding magistrate Peter Wells said: "Because you didn't follow the normal process the results of your actions required a half day clean up operation and rendered a lot of clothes destined for a good cause useless."

Rahman was ordered to pay a £235 fine and £850 costs.

Speaking after the court case Rahman said: "I am deeply apologetic to those who had to clean up the mess left by others. I am very grateful to my solicitors, Francis George for their sound advice and only wish I had been made aware earlier of the paperwork necessary to prove compliance, by seeking their advice about the regulations and law in what is a complex area."

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