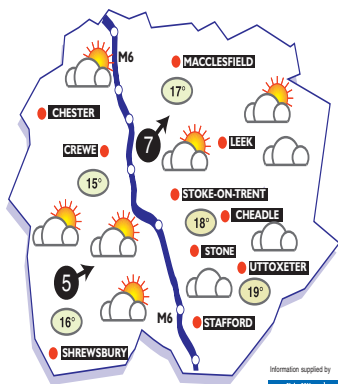


## Info Desk

### Weather



**Tonight** It will be a fine evening with some late spells of sunshine. It will continue to remain dry throughout the night with a mixture of clear periods and patchy cloud. It will be breezy with a moderate westerly wind. Low 8-11C (46-52F).

**Tomorrow** A fine day, dry with some patchy cloud, but also plenty of sunshine. Light to moderate south-westerly winds. The evening will be dry, but mainly cloudy. High 18-21C (64-70F).

**Air Pollution:** Rural: 3 (Low) Town & Cities: 3 (Low) Roadside: 3 (Low)  
Low (1-3) Moderate (4-6) High (7-9) Very High (10)

**Hours of Darkness:** 10.09pm to 4.13am. Data supplied by the Science and Engineering Research Council.

### Chemists

**AUDLEY:** Co-op, Church Street, 5.30-6.30pm.  
**CHEADLE:** Ratcliffe, High Street, 6-6.30pm.  
**CONGLETON:** Superdrug, High Street, 6-7pm.  
**CREWE:** Williams, Nantwich Road, 9-8pm.  
**ECCLESHALL:** Eccleshall Pharmacy, High Street, 5.30-6.30pm.  
**NANTWICH:** Williams, High Street, 9am-5.30pm.  
**SHELTON:** Lloyds, Stoke Road, 9am-10pm.  
**STONE:** Birchill & Watson, High Street, 5.30-6.30pm.  
**TEAN:** Lawton, High Street, 5.30-6.30pm.  
**UTTOXETER:** Boots, High Street, 5.30-6.30pm.

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Br Energy	686.5 -3
BAA	929 nc
BG Grp	673 +11
BP	611.5 +8.5
BT Grp	231 +3.75
Corus Grp	405 +9
Base Grp	0.08 nc
Centrica	285.25 +1.5
HBOS	9.4 -4
Lloyds TSB	527.5 +4.5
R Royce	402 +4.25
Severn Trt	1193 +4
Int Power	277.5 nc
Viridian	939.5 +8
LOCAL COMPANIES	
B'ford Ord	0.08 nc
Churchill	207 nc
CobraBioMan	43 nc
Cookson	484.25 +5.25

Dechra	223.25 +2.75
Goodwin	547 +1
GSH Group	285 -5
Halstead (J)	375 -0.25
J Matthey	1298 +8
K3BsTechGp	93 nc
N Foods	82.25 +0.25
Pearson	707.5 +6
Portmeirion	225 nc
Powerleage Gp	67 nc
Qualceram	83 nc
Slimma	58 nc
St M'wen	448.5 -5
UCM Group	45 nc
W'ford Wd	60.04 nc
A J Worth	27 +3.5
FTSE Index: Up 56 at 5721.	
Prices (for selling) supplied by Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd of Hanley.	
Tourist Rates	
Eurozone	1.40 euro
America	1.75 dollars

### National Lottery

Last night's Lottery numbers: 8, 16, 27, 38, 44, 49. The bonus ball was 31.  
Thunderball draw: 4, 16, 25, 27, 30. Thunderball: 4.  
Lottery Extra draw: 11, 13, 17, 22, 32, 47.  
Lotto Daily: 6, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 25.

### Contact us

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# Entrepreneur claims he received death threats IT firm boss under 'police protection'



FLASHBACK: Yesterday's Sentinel.

BY DAVID ELKS

david.elks@thesentinel.co.uk

THE founder of a dormant IT firm claims he was forced to shut up shop after receiving death threats against him and his family.

Entrepreneur Paul Hackney spoke out from an undisclosed location, after The Sentinel reported his businesses stopped trading owing around 50 staff and creditors at least £260,000.

Mr Hackney apologised to staff and creditors of his companies, which include ADP Wireless and Abuse IT, but said his decision to close operations was prompted by advice from Staffordshire Police.

Mr Hackney said he had been forced to move from his £399,950 home in Church Lawton.

He said: "We are under police protection. I can't say where. We have had to move while there is a police investigation, and we can't continue the business.

"It is our intention to continue the business, although we don't know when that will be.

"There was a kidnap attempt and death threats against me. The police have advised me there is a risk to my life, and that's why the companies have stopped trading. Until this investigation is complete there is a stalemate."

He declined to reveal more details about the nature of the threats made against him, although it is thought the source of the threat could be linked to his business interests.

It is understood the alleged attempted kidnap incident involved Mr Hackney's wife, Diane.

His comments come after The Sentinel reported staff facing financial difficulties, after the padlocking of the premises of the ADP Solutions group - including ADP Wireless, Abuse IT, Hackney Logistics, ADP Mobile Solutions and Hackney Group Holdings - in Old Hall Street.

Staff have gone unpaid since the start of May, with an estimated shortfall of around £100,000.

Furthermore, more than 10 creditors have come forward to The Sentinel claiming they are owed a total of almost £160,000.

DEATH  
THREATS:  
Paul  
Hackney.



## 'I've gone without wages for six weeks'

WORKERS from Paul Hackney's Abuse IT call centre have continued to come forward to reveal the pressures they have been put under after the business shut down.

Stacey Walley, aged 18, from Trentham, pictured, is among about 50 staff who have gone without any pay for around six weeks, after the premises of the ADP Solutions group in Old Hall Street were shut down.

The news comes as lawyers acting for Mr Hackney issued a statement to staff outlining the position of the business, and asking whether they wanted to keep their jobs.

Miss Walley, who joined the company in April after a recruitment event, is now looking for new work. She said: "Everyone has gone without money for May, as well as sick pay and holiday pay.

"There were signs that something was wrong, but people still expect to get paid for the work they have done."

She said staff wanted to speak to Mr Hackney, but she stressed that he had made strong efforts to reward staff during the early days of the company.

She said: "On the last day of the two weeks of training that we had, he put a cheque behind the bar of the hotel and gave us all free drinks."

Lauren Welsh, aged 21, also got a job with the company before suffering a knee injury at the start of May, which stopped her being able to work. Miss Welsh, who worked in sales, said she was unable to claim incapacity benefits, because she could not get the relevant forms signed by Mr Hackney.

She said: "I'm in agony and I don't have any money coming in. I would love to see where he is so I can get the forms signed. He was a brilliant boss, and did spend a lot of money, but I do want to know where he is."

Tracey North, aged 23, from Smallthorne, is five-and-a-half months pregnant and said the pressure of the situation was a worry given her condition. Miss North said: "I'm finding it extremely difficult. I don't have a job and I've got to look for one, and I've not been paid."

A copy of the letter sent to staff, seen by The Sentinel, states that workers have not been paid money due as wages for the month of May.

It said: "The current position is that until payments are able to be made the company is still to provide funds which it admits are due."

sum of around £1,300 for goods supplied to the company.

Mr Hackney told The Sentinel: "I have real empathy with the people who are in a difficult position.

"I'm in the same situation, and have got no money until the police conclude their investigation.

"The situation is that all the staff have got a job.

"I express my apologies to staff and suppliers. Every single person will get paid. It is out of my hands."

A spokesman for Staffordshire Police declined to comment on

whether Mr Hackney was under police protection, and said: "We are in contact with Mr Hackney who has complained of criminality, and we are investigating."

Six months ago Mr Hackney revealed plans to create more than 200 jobs within 12 months, by setting up his company specialising in wireless technology and IT supplies.

He founded ADP Solutions after leaving the Caudwell Group in February 2005.

The company takes its name from the first letters of his own name, his two-year-old son Alistair's and his wife Diane's.

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