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## Leafleter told to pay £1000, guilty of "harassment & trespass"

**A direct marketing company employee was found guilty today of infringing a home owner's rights by ignoring a request to cease leafleting his letterbox.**

The home owner, 42 year old Matthew Matthews, said, "I placed a notice above my letterbox requesting, 'Please no leaflets or fliers', when I got to the point where I was receiving up to 30 a day. Enough was enough.



"I thought that would do the trick, but in the following days, some junk was still coming through the door - I wasn't happy."

Mr. Matthews then sought legal advice on his position, when he came face to face with DMCo employee Bianca Swanson on 6 February. The court heard today how Mr. Matthews requested Ms. Swanson to desist her activities and leave his property immediately, and how she complied but informed him her activities would continue in the future as not leafleting his house was, "more than my jobs worth".

Mr. Matthews was advised her activities infringed his rights and he should take civil action to enforce them. The case brought against Ms. Swanson cited harassment, trespass and damage to property, and requested the court to grant £10,000 in damages.

The court rejected the claim of damage to property, but accepted Ms. Swanson had acted outside the law and ordered her to pay £1000 in punitive damages. The judge in summing up commented that, "citizens have a right to decide what is and what isn't pushed into their home", and suggested that action be taken to allow punishment of firms, and not just their employees.

Mr. Matthews' lawyer read a prepared statement from his client expressing his delight at the judgement and promising that, "I'll do it again if my wishes are ignored".

The judgement is expected to cause waves in the direct marketing industry where such practice is commonplace. No DMCo representative was available for comment.