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## Two killed after worker's 15-hour shifts

A MINIBUS driver who killed two people when he collided head-on with a car on a country road had regularly been driving for more than 15 hours a day with just six hours' sleep, a court heard yesterday.

Nichhatar Singh, 51, who was transporting migrant workers from Hayes, Middlesex, to a farm in South Lincolnshire, did not hold an adequate licence and was uninsured when he crashed on Oct 14 last year.

Singh, from Slough, Berk-

shire, worked six days a week as a driver for a recruitment firm. He drifted into the path of a Renault Laguna being driven by Dainius Bausis at Holbeach. Drove shortly before 8am, Lincoln Crown Court heard.

Mr Bausis, 29, and his passenger, Daniel Zieba, 28, who were returning home to Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, after a night shift in Holbeach, were killed instantly. Twelve of Singh's passengers were injured.

Singh was jailed for five

years after admitting two charges of causing death by dangerous driving.

Passing sentence, Judge Michael Heath said it was "obvious" that Singh should not have been behind the wheel at the time of the crash.

"You were on duty for 15 and a half hours – that was your regular work pattern – with six hours of rest. It would be obvious to anybody that driving and following that work pattern would lead to fatigue."

The court was told that

Singh worked for a company called Onlink, which specialised in supplying migrant workers to rural businesses. He would regularly start picking up workers at 4am to take them on the 130-mile trip to Lincolnshire.

He would, it was said, sometimes then work at the farm himself, before driving the workers back home at the end of the day.

The company ceased trading soon after the crash but, the court heard, had recently reopened for business.