

Rock star faces jail for fraud

Simon de Bruxelles

A former lead singer with the rock band Iron Maiden was warned that he faces jail after he admitted falsely claiming more than £45,000 in disability benefit for a bad back.

Paul Andrews, whose state name was Paul Di'Anno, was seen by an official from the Department for Work and Pensions saw him cavorting on stage on YouTube. Andrews, 52, had claimed that he was unable to work.

At Salisbury Crown Court yesterday he admitted eight counts of benefit fraud. Honorary Recorder Judge Andrew Barnett told him to prepare to be jailed.

Andrews's three-year stint as frontman for Iron Maiden ended in 1981 amid allegations of drug taking, which he has always denied. Since his departure he has carried on performing under his stage name.

A solo album, *The Living Dead*, was released in 2006 at a time when he was claiming incapacity benefits because he said that he was crippled by sciatica and could barely walk.

Judge Barnett adjourned the hearing until March 11.



Paul Andrews claimed he was crippled by sciatica