

Scottish Anti-Illicit Trade Group (SAITG)

Working towards a fake free Scotland

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The Scottish Anti Illicit Trade Group, (SAITG) has a pivotal role in bringing together public and private sectors with a clear focus and strategic aim of reducing the scale, impact and cost of illicit trade throughout Scotland.



The purpose of the Enforcement Sub Group is to share information and collectively target criminals involved in illicit trade.

Message from

David Nolan Chair of the Scottish Illicit Trade Enforcement Sub-group



The concept of S.I.T.E.S has brought together the key players responsible for IP Crime Investigation in the Scottish business community and has allowed them access to law enforcement on a scale which is the envy of other countries across Europe.

With HMRC, Police Scotland and Trading Standards all actively involved in assisting brand holders in the flow of intelligence via the UK-IPO hub it has allowed the business community to work in tandem with our law enforcement colleagues to target criminals involved in the theft of our member's products.

In this issue of the Scottish Illicit Trade Enforcement Sub-group (SITES) newsletter there are updates on enforcement activities, including images from recent raids on retail units involved in the illicit tobacco trade, court outcomes, emerging criminal trends and links to some of the awareness raising preventative work which our partners have presented at to show our communities the harm illicit goods does to our country.

Finally, the chairman of the Scottish Anti Illicit Trade Group (SAITG) Frank McCann has announced he is stepping down as chair of the group in November when he will be retiring from a 30 year career with Central Scotland Police and laterally Police Scotland. Detective Inspector McCann has been a driving force in raising awareness of intellectual property crime, it's links to organised criminal groups and raised the profile of our group both domestically and internationally. On a personal level I would like to pass on my thanks to Frank for his innovation, dedication and determination throughout his time as chair of the SAITG.

AWARENESS RAISING

Officers from our enforcement partners have been attending at various airports, festivals and public events to raise awareness of the dangers of illicit goods, highlighting the links between counterfeit products and organised crime groups and those involved in terrorist activities.

Officers from Police Scotland have been raising awareness of illicit and counterfeit goods throughout Scotland with the emphasis on educating our communities on the dangers of fake products and the links to organised crime. The roadshows have taken in music festivals, local gala days and other events in the annual calendar.



Fake goods on display at Inverness Belladrum Festival

Officers have displayed various counterfeit goods at the events with information passed to the public on the dangers of certain products, and reinforcing the 4 P's messaging.

By educating our communities in the dangers of illicit or counterfeit goods we can protect ourselves from potential harm, reduce the demand for these products and help in the fight against Organised Criminal Groups.



Awareness raising at Kirkintilloch Canal Festival

Price – If the cost is too cheap the bargain might not be such a good deal.

Packaging – Examine the packaging, look at the quality of the printing and imaging and check for any spelling mistakes another tell tale sign.

Place – Would you really be purchasing the genuine article from these premises/vehicle.

Product – Is the product of the quality you would expect from a valued brand.

IPO launch fake free summer campaign in Scotland



Representatives from the IPO and Police Scotland were at Glasgow airport on 26th July at the launch of the "FAKE FREE SUMMER" campaign.



The event was well received by holidaymakers and staff at Glasgow airport with the social media coverage of the launch attracting in excess of 120,000 hits.

TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT

With the introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products, we have seen the first recovery of counterfeit cigarette packaging incorporating this new design. A joint operation between HMRC and Police Scotland uncovers a tobacco processing unit in Scotland and criminals find new hiding places for illegal tobacco but HMRC come out on top.

The HMRC led Tobacco hotspot operation took place recently in Glasgow. This intelligence led operation targeted retail units throughout the city distributing counterfeit and illicit tobacco to the public. With over 41,000 cigarettes and 7kgs of hand rolling tobacco recovered criminals involved in this activity found their new and innovative hiding places were no match for our enforcement teams.



Cavity behind step



Inside Speakers



Behind Facia

HMRC have made the first recovery of illicit tobacco featuring the plain packaging, the left hand packet is counterfeit with poor quality printing on the packaging



A Sophisticated hand rolling tobacco processing unit was uncovered during a joint operation between HMRC and Police Scotland. The equipment was located during a search under warrant of a commercial unit and included machinery designed to refine course loose leaf tobacco into hand rolling tobacco ready for packaging.

TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION LAUNCH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The TMA have launched a poster campaign highlighting the criminality involved in bringing tobacco back from overseas and selling it on.



The campaign has seen posters and billboards erected at numerous ports and airports with literature being translated into various languages. This supplements the work of our enforcement agencies tackling the illicit trade in tobacco products.



MEMBER UPDATES

FILM PIRACY



Simon Brown from The Film Distributors' Association (FDA) said "For more than 10 years, a fully funded content protection programme on behalf of the UK theatrical (cinema) film sector has been in place. During this time, it was outsourced and managed by FACT. Recent changes at FACT have created opportunities to redevelop this programme and ensure a seamless continuity of service".

The FDA's new dedicated initiative was launched in October 2016 - The FILM CONTENT PROTECTION AGENCY (FPCA) working in partnership with other bodies who share our goal of better safeguarding films in the UK. The core elements of the programme include the provision of:

- Complimentary anti-piracy awareness training for cinema staff across the UK.
- An experienced investigative capability to examine all reported incidents, with subsequent liaison with local law enforcement to consider prosecutions as and when appropriate.
- A rewards scheme for cinema staff that identifies and disrupts illegal recording activity.
- A dedicated hub within the FDA website www.launchingfilms.com , which includes
 - An online quiz for cinema staff, with a quarterly prize of £500.
 - Alerts (VRAs) to cinemas to highlight film releases considered particularly vulnerable at particular times.
 - A point of contact for the industry, law enforcement and other associated bodies.



Cinema Piracy

A joint investigation between the Film Content Protection Agency and Police Scotland identified a male within a cinema in the Glasgow area recording a vulnerable cinema release.

The male has been charged with copyright offences and a report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Court Sentencing



A 43 year old male pled guilty at Glasgow Sheriff Court to charges under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, having been caught selling DVDs at a market. He was fined £720.

A 39 year old male pled guilty to online sales of counterfeit DVDs and fitness equipment and was sentenced to 175 hours of community service after an investigation by Police Scotland and UKBF.

MEMBER UPDATES



Trading Standards officers from Glasgow City Council have been engaged in various enforcement activities in recent months. During August information was received that a retail premises based in Glasgow city centre was distributing various branded phone and iPad covers .



Recovered goods

These included covers bearing the local football teams of Glasgow Celtic, Glasgow Rangers and various fashion brands including Louis Vuitton, Chanel along with the pop group 'One Direction' images and trademarks. Seven vanloads of productions were removed from the premises.

Glasgow City Council Trading Standards initiated a successful campaign to target illicit goods being sold at entertainment venues and concert arenas across the city.



At the recent Eminem concert held at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow, Trading Standards officers were deployed to the adjacent streets around the venue and identified unscrupulous dealers selling counterfeit Eminem merchandise.

Numerous items of illicit merchandise were seized during this pre-planned operation which will continue at various venues and high profile concerts being held throughout the city.



Officers from East Renfrewshire Trading Standards have recently executed warrants in connection with a Facebook and Instagram account selling counterfeit cosmetics and handbags. Approximately £30,000 worth of goods were seized and investigations are continuing into connected online accounts.

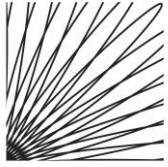


Recovered goods



Officers from UKBF have been busy protecting our ports of entry with recent detentions including childrens electric vehicles, baring the brand of various well known car manufacturers trademarks, intercepted at Scottish Ports.

MEMBER UPDATES



ALLIANCE
FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

On 5th July 2017, the Alliance for Intellectual Property held its Summer Reception in the House of Commons celebrating the value and importance of IP to the UK economy. A keynote address from Karen Bradley, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport emphasised the importance of protecting the UK's rich and diverse brands, designs and creative content. Business leaders and creators mingled with Ministers, MPs, Peers and civil servants and were able to explain how fundamental IP rights are to their ongoing success, providing jobs in the local community and contributing to the UK economy.

The Reception followed another successful British IP Day where creators met with their local MPs and promoted the jobs and investment IP brings to local economies across the UK.



This year's IP Champion Award went to The Industry Trust for IP Awareness for their work in promoting legitimate content. A special IP Champion Award also went to the Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP for his relentless and dedicated work across IP.

Moray council Trading Standards officers carried out an investigation into the distribution of counterfeit items on a "closed" Facebook page. As a result of the enquiry, a 44 year old woman pled guilty at Elgin Sheriff Court and received a £350 fine



**Intellectual
Property
Office**

Our colleagues at the IPO have drafted a guidance document for law enforcement to assist in the investigations of offences involved in IPTV commonly known as KODI boxes. If you would like a copy of the guidance document please email DC Andrew Law at Police Scotland

Andrew.law@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Officers from Trading Standards targeted an online seller of counterfeit goods in Greenock. During a search of a residential property, various items of counterfeit branded goods were recovered along with a four figure sum of cash. Enquiries are continuing.

In a joint operation by Police Scotland and officers from Trading Standards, various addresses were searched under warrant in the Borders area of Scotland. Illicit goods recovered included counterfeit goods and controlled drugs. Several persons have subsequently been charged in relation to the recoveries.

During a search of a residential property in the Lothian area being conducted on an unrelated matter, officers from Police Scotland's proactive unit based at Bathgate uncovered various branded products believed to be counterfeit. Enquiries are ongoing with assistance from several brand protection officers.

A quick thank you goes to the following brand protection representatives for their support of enforcement authorities in the aforementioned cases. George Clyde, Alistair Campbell, Tony Williams and Mike Roynance - your assistance is appreciated.

The next meeting of the Scottish Illicit Trade Enforcement Subgroup (SITES) is scheduled for the 19th September 2017 to be held at the Scottish Crime Campus. For further information and future submissions for the newsletter please contact either David Nolan by email DNolan@fda.uk.net or DC Andy Law by email Andrew.law@scotland.pnn.police.uk