

PROCEEDS OF CRIME

HOW SAFE ARE YOURS?



WEALTH WARNING

FOR THE ILLEGAL

TRADER!

If you are trading in fake goods you are at risk of your money and property being taken away.

No worries for law abiding traders:

Only a small number of businesses operate outside of the law, but those who do run a major risk of prosecution which could result in a prison sentence.

It is important that law abiding traders don't lose business because of the criminal activities of illegal traders.

Reporting this kind of activity is a vitally important way of tackling this problem.

Recovering the proceeds from selling fake/counterfeit goods:

- Is a priority to show that crime doesn't pay;
- May put your personal possessions and property at risk;
- Will now enable Police and Council Trading Standards to keep some of the proceeds of convicted criminals - to put back into enforcement.

Assets of illegal traders may be taken:

- Following conviction of a crime;
- Without a conviction if the money or property comes from criminal activity;
- Following breach of a Serious Crime Prevention Order.

Counterfeiting offences are classified in law as "serious crime":

- The court may order that specialists manage the assets and offenders will pay for this;
- Enforcement agencies have the power to conduct financial investigations which go back many years;

- Money gained from producing fake/counterfeit goods has been proven to fund other serious crime like drug and people trafficking.

What about money laundering?

Money laundering can be described as doing **anything** with money or property that disguises the fact that it has come from criminal activity:

- If you are trading in counterfeit goods, what you do with the money gained from your activities is likely to result in money laundering. This is illegal and a serious offence;
- The penalties for money laundering offences range from a fine and/or up to 14 years imprisonment;
- Potentially, money **AND** property will be lost - it doesn't matter who holds them or where they are.

Reporting illegal activity:

Please contact your local Police or Council Trading Standards department with any information on fake/counterfeit products. For contact details see:

www.police.uk/forces

www.tradingstandards.gov.uk



Taking the cash out of crime

PROCEEDS OF CRIME

WHAT YOU NEED

TO KNOW



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR THE PUBLIC

Proceeds Of Crime

Evidence shows that by buying fake/counterfeit products you are most likely to be having a negative effect on your community by:

- Rewarding organised crime;
- Bringing illegal, faulty and dangerous products into your home;
- Forcing legitimate traders out of business;
- Attracting those involved in criminal activity to your area.

What You Need To Know?

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 was introduced to deter people from crime by making sure that they lose their unlawful gains. The message is clear '**Crime does NOT pay**'.

Money taken from criminals is given back to society by:

- Supporting local Police in the fight against crime;
- Putting seized assets back into local Council Trading Standards for use in the community ;
- Assisting in the financial set-up of youth oriented schemes and community centres;
- Helping to improve community safety.



Taking the cash out of crime

You Can Help?

Act now:

- Avoid buying fake/counterfeit goods;
- Support legitimate traders;
- Report suspicious activity to local Council Trading Standards and Police. For contact details see:

www.police.uk/forces

www.tradingstandards.gov.uk

If in doubt contact Crimestoppers (an independent charity) anonymously. Your call will be treated in complete confidence.



Police and Council Trading Standards Services will:

- Act on information;
- Seize and destroy fake/counterfeit and pirated goods;
- Seize criminal money and assets;
- Prosecute criminals.

