

17 December 2009

Medway man ordered to pay back £3.2 million following Kent Police and Kent Trading Standards operation

A Medway man who received a two-year suspended sentence for handling £5,000 worth of counterfeit goods has been ordered to pay back £3.2 million pounds after a joint investigation by Kent Police and [Kent Trading Standards](#).

This is believed to be the largest amount ever laid down in a Trading Standards case in the country.

A confiscation hearing took place at Canterbury Crown Court on 15 December 2009. The court ordered the man to pay back £3,293,796 within six months. If he does not meet the deadline, he will be imprisoned for 10 years and he will still be required to pay back the money.

In October 2006 search warrants were executed as a result of investigations that had been carried out at a number of businesses across Kent.

Guarcharan Singh, 41, from Chatham was found with £5,000 worth of counterfeit luxury handbags, shoes and sunglasses. On 7 September 2007, at Canterbury Crown Court, Singh was subsequently charged with 43 counts of possessing and selling fake goods in his shop, Chockers in Ashford, and at a market stall in Folkestone. Counterfeit stock was also found in his warehouse in Chatham.

From 2004-2006, Kent County Council's Trading Standards officers investigated Mr Singh, carrying out test purchases from his premises which led to the seizure of goods worth thousands of pounds.

Kent Police's Serious Economic Crime unit (SECU) and Kent Trading Standards obtained a confiscation order under the Proceeds of Crime Act which allowed them to recover cash and assets obtained by criminal activity.

KCC Cabinet Member for Community Services [Mike Hill](#) said:

"This case and the outcome is the result of a huge amount of work on the part of Kent Trading Standards and the Kent Police Financial Investigators and I want to commend them for all their efforts. People who think they can profit from these crimes should realise, we will do all we can to bring them to justice and take counterfeit goods off Kent's streets."

Detective Inspector Mark Fairhurst of Kent Police's Serious Economic Crime Unit (SECU) says: "Any cash and assets which criminals have accrued through illegal activity can be recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

"Our forensic accountants investigated Singh's accounts and examined his lifestyle. It was clear