

Dear Sir/Madam

Please can I add this e mail as additional evidence for the Bucharest Review.

Mark Marshall
Licensing and Health & Safety Manager
Blackpool Council
01253478493

From: Lee Petrak
Sent: 10 February 2017 13:59
To: Mark Marshall
Subject: Bucharesti, 47/49 Talbot Road

Mark

As you know a quantity of tobacco products were seized from the above premises on the 16th January 2017. The products seized were concealed in 2 separate locations within the business premises. The first concealment was in an unlocked multi-drawer unit beneath the shop counter. The second concealment was in a cardboard box to the rear storage area in the business premises. The brands and quantities seized were as follows: -

- 7 x 50g pouches of Golden Virginia Tobacco
- 50 packs of Minsk Cigarettes (500 cigarettes)
- 17 packs of L&M cigarettes (340 cigarettes)
- 40 packs of Mayfair cigarettes (800 cigarettes)
- 30 packs of Royals cigarettes (600 cigarettes)

The presentation of all products gave me cause for concern for the following reasons: -

- Golden Virginia Tobacco – the packaging does appear to carry some information presented in such a way that would indicate that it purports to be a health warning. However, this notice is not in English and therefore does not meet the requirements of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 rendering it's supply in the UK illegal. In addition, since the representations submitted by me dated the 20th January 2017 Imperial Tobacco Ltd, who own the Golden Virginia brand, have confirmed to me that these products are not genuine – **These products are both smuggled and counterfeit.**
- Minsk Cigarettes – the packaging does appear to carry some information presented in such a way that would indicate that it purports to be a health warning. However, this notice is not in English and therefore does not meet the requirements of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 rendering it's supply in the UK illegal. The Minsk brand is native to Belarus and is not sold or marketed outside Belarus. For this reason no attempts have been made to establish the legitimacy of the products seized. **These products are smuggled.**
- L&M Cigarettes – this brand is actively sold and marketed in the UK by Philip Morris International, a global tobacco manufacturer and retailer. These products do carry a form of health warning in English displayed on the packaging. However, it is not accompanied by a

pictorial health warning as required by the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 rendering it's supply in the UK illegal. This particular brand is popular with counterfeiters therefore samples have been sent to the brand representatives for analysis. To date I have not received a response from the brand. **These products are smuggled and may also be counterfeit.**

- Mayfair Cigarettes – This brand is actively marketed and sold in the UK by Gallaher Ltd, which a member of JTI Group. These products do carry a form of health warning in English displayed on the packaging. However, it is not accompanied by a pictorial health warning as required by the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 rendering it's supply in the UK illegal. This brand is popular with counterfeiters, and the brand representative has confirmed to me that these products are counterfeit. **These products are both smuggled and counterfeit.**
- Royals Cigarettes – These products do not carry any form of health warning whatsoever, therefore they fail to meet the requirements of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 rendering their supply in the UK illegal. This particular brand only market their tobacco products in Africa and Asia. They do not sell or market products in the UK. For these reasons no attempts have been made to establish the legitimacy of the products seized. **These products are smuggled.**

For the reasons outlined above, all of the products seized from Badea are incapable of being supplied legitimately in the UK.

Mr Lee Petrak

Public Protection Officer
Trading Standards Enforcement

Public Protection Division | Community & Environmental Services Department | Blackpool Council |
No. 1 Bickerstaffe Square | Talbot Road | Blackpool | FY1 3AH

T:01253 477861

Blackpool: A fair place where aspiration and ambition are encouraged

W: www.blackpool.gov.uk