

PRESS RELEASE

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Five months jail term for man caught selling counterfeit drug ordered over the Internet

An Ilford man who illegally sold 4,000 counterfeit Cialis tablets was sentenced to five months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, yesterday at Isleworth Crown Court. The man appeared in court following an investigation by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Mohammed Yaqub Hussain (32) of 231 Oaks Lane, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex had previously pleaded guilty to illegally supplying and selling counterfeit Cialis tablets contrary to Section 58 (1) of the Medicines Act 1968.

Mr Hussain was arrested on 22 September 2004 after he was observed delivering the counterfeit drugs, which had been ordered over the Internet, at a hotel near Heathrow Airport.

Danny Lee-Frost, Head of Enforcement for the MHRA said:

“This prison sentence should serve as a warning to anyone thinking of supplying and selling counterfeit medicines. It clearly demonstrates that those who do so can expect a jail term.

“Criminals who sell counterfeit drugs pose a clear danger to public health and we will continue to investigate and prosecute those involved in these illegal activities.”

In his summing up, the judge said that cases of this kind were all too prevalent and that prison sentences were the only way to demonstrate the seriousness of these offences.

Consumers who are concerned as to whether or not a particular drug is bonafide, can contact the MHRA on 020 7084 2000.

The main aim of the MHRA is to safeguard public health by ensuring that medicines for human use, sold or supplied in the UK are of an acceptable standard of safety, quality and efficacy and ensuring that medical devices meet appropriate standards of safety.

ENDS

Notes to Editor:

1. Cialis is a prescription only medicine used to treat erectile dysfunction in men.