

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Press Office 020 7084 3535 or [press.office@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@mhra.gsi.gov.uk)

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## Reading estate agent punished for illegal sale of counterfeit Viagra

A man who illegally sold 22,000 counterfeit Viagra tablets was sentenced to 150 hours of community service and fined £1,250 in costs at Isleworth Crown Court on Friday 24 June 2005. The man appeared in court following an investigation by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the local police.

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

“Anyone caught selling counterfeit medicines can expect to be punished for their illegal actions. By selling counterfeit medicines, they are putting people’s lives at risk.

“The MHRA will continue to crackdown on these illegal activities to ensure that the public are protected from criminals like Mr Bhatti.”

Mr Mohammed Tanvwr Bhatti (27) of 79 Lodden Bridge Road, Woodley, Reading, pleaded guilty to one count under the Trade Marks Act 1994 and one count under the Medicines Act 1968.

Mr Bhatti was arrested on 10 February 2003 after counterfeit Viagra was found in his car and he was then taken to Heathrow Police Station. His home address was searched, where documents, tablets and emails were found connecting him to the crime.

### Notes to Editors

1. Consumers who are concerned as to whether or not a particular drug is bonafide, can contact the MHRA on 020 7084 2000.
2. 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.

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**Address:** Press Office, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, 16<sup>th</sup> floor, Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5NQ [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk)