

# Tackling Counterfeit Vaping Products: Vaping Expert Joins Oldham City Council & Geek Bar

In an effort to combat the proliferation of counterfeit and non-compliant [vaping products](#), Billy Rahman, the managing director at iBreathe, a leading vape manufacturer, has joined forces with Oldham City Council in Manchester. Rahman has been appointed as a consultant for Geek Bar, aiming to put an end to the influx of illegal vape products. This collaborative campaign has already yielded significant results, leading to the confiscation of thousands of pounds worth of illicit items across the UK.

## The Challenge of Counterfeit and Non-Compliant Vape Products

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Drawing on his extensive 12-year experience in the vaping industry, Rahman sheds light on the common issues faced by both Geek Bar and iBreathe: counterfeit and non-compliant products. These problematic goods predominantly originate from China, with recent months witnessing the closure of eleven large-scale manufacturers operating in the country.

## Establishing a Primary Authority Arrangement

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To tackle this pressing concern, Rahman has established a primary authority arrangement with Oldham City Council in Greater Manchester. This strategic partnership enables trading standards officers in Oldham to collaborate with their counterparts nationwide, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach in addressing the issue of counterfeit and non-compliant vaping products.

## Working in Conjunction with Arcus Compliance

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In addition to the collaboration with Oldham City Council, Rahman has enlisted the support of Arcus Compliance, a compliance company representing some of the [vaping industry's largest brands](#). Their collective efforts aim to guarantee that all CLP (classification, labelling, and packaging) requirements for Geek Bar products sold across the UK are fully met. By adhering to these standards, they intend to ensure the safety and compliance of vaping products in the market.

## Early Successes and Continued Efforts

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The partnership between Rahman, Oldham City Council, and Arcus Compliance has already yielded promising results. Several illegal products have been confiscated in North Lanarkshire as a direct outcome of their joint efforts. Moreover, investigations have revealed the presence of counterfeit re-sellers operating in areas such as Southall in west London and various parts of Manchester.

Geek Bar's products have gained significant popularity, making them a target for illegal activities. However, through this collaborative initiative, the stakeholders involved are dedicated to diligently policing counterfeit re-sellers. The message is clear: the identification of these operators is imminent, and engaging in such illicit activities can ultimately lead to severe consequences, including imprisonment.

## Crackdown on Non-Compliant Vaping Products

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Recent operations conducted by trading standards officers have led to the largest raid on record in the UK. They successfully seized non-compliant disposable vaping products, valued at approximately £190,000, from a former takeaway premises in Newcastle. Similar raids have also taken place in Aberdeen, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, Stockton, Halton, Walsall, Cherwell in Oxfordshire, Cheltenham, Cirencester, and Kent, resulting in the confiscation of numerous illicit items.

## Geek Bar's Approved Distributors and Reporting Mechanisms

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Geek Bar has taken proactive measures to combat counterfeit and non-compliant products by creating a list of approved distributors. This list can

be found on the Geek Bar website, providing a reliable reference for retailers and distributors. Additionally, retailers and distributors are encouraged to report suspected counterfeit and non-compliant products via email at [legal@geekbar.com](mailto:legal@geekbar.com). To incentivize reporting, the company offers rewards to retailers who identify counterfeits or products that fail to meet UK regulations.

## FAQs

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### 1. Why are counterfeit and non-compliant vaping products a concern?

Counterfeit and non-compliant vaping products pose significant risks to consumers. Counterfeit products may contain substandard ingredients and lack proper quality control, leading to potential health hazards. Non-compliant products fail to meet the necessary safety and regulatory standards, putting users at risk of harm.

### 2. How can counterfeit and non-compliant vaping products be identified?

Identifying counterfeit and non-compliant vaping products can be challenging, as they often mimic genuine products. However, consumers can look for warning signs such as unusually low prices, poor packaging quality, misspellings or inconsistencies in branding, and unfamiliar or suspicious sellers. It's always recommended to purchase from reputable retailers and authorized distributors.

### 3. What steps are being taken to combat counterfeit vaping products?

Collaborative efforts between industry experts, regulatory authorities, and compliance companies are crucial in combating counterfeit vaping products. These include establishing partnerships with local councils, coordinating operations with trading standards officers, conducting raids to seize illicit products, creating approved distributor lists, and encouraging reporting mechanisms for suspected counterfeit items.

#### **4. What are the consequences for those involved in selling counterfeit vaping products?**

Selling counterfeit vaping products is a serious offense that can lead to legal consequences. Offenders may face fines, seizure of assets, and even imprisonment. By actively policing counterfeit re-sellers, the authorities and industry experts aim to deter such activities and send a strong message that these actions will not be tolerated.

#### **5. How can consumers contribute to the fight against counterfeit and non-compliant vaping products?**

Consumers play a crucial role in combating counterfeit and non-compliant vaping products. They can support the cause by purchasing from authorized retailers and distributors, reporting any suspected counterfeit products to the relevant authorities or the manufacturer, and staying informed about safety standards and regulations in the vaping industry. By making informed choices, consumers can protect their health and contribute to a safer marketplace.