# Master forgers jailed for supplying fake IDs to high-profile criminals and laundering over £1 million



A pair of master forgers have been sentenced to six years in prison after an extensive investigation revealed their involvement in a large-scale operation supplying fake UK identity documents to prominent criminals. Bilal Iqbal, 25, of Ilford, and Ummad Ahmed, 32, of Hornchurch, pleaded guilty to numerous charges, including producing false identity documents and money laundering. The sentencing occurred at Snaresbrook Crown Court, where their illegal activities were described as highly organised and lucrative.

The investigation, led by the National Crime Agency (NCA), uncovered their enterprise while probing the activities of international drug trafficker Eddie Burton. It was found that Burton had acquired a fake identity from Iqbal and Ahmed to facilitate his movements throughout Europe, ultimately enabling the importation of over 300 kilos of Class A drugs into the UK. This connection highlights the significant role that counterfeit identification plays in serious and organised crime, linking seemingly minor forgery to broader criminal enterprises.

Fake identity documents, such as the ones produced by Iqbal and Ahmed, are not only tools for high-profile criminals but also assist in the smuggling of irregular migrants into the UK. These documents can provide a means to secure employment, open bank accounts, and access benefits fraudulently—demonstrating the extensive uses and consequences of such illegal products. The duo operated a sophisticated setup, charging around £70 for a fake driving licence, and providing additional features, such as holographic stickers, for a premium. Their express service option, which saw IDs delivered within three to four days, further illustrates the demand for quick access to counterfeit documentation.

NCA investigators estimate that over their eight years in business, Iqbal and Ahmed sold more than 40,000 fake IDs. They managed to launder more than £1 million through a window cleaning company, effectively disguising their profits within a legitimate business. This method of laundering is merely one of many seen in similar cases, where individuals exploit established businesses to obscure illicit gains.

The ramifications of such illegal activities extend beyond individual crimes, with previous cases illuminating the potential impact on national security and public safety. In a separate incident, Pakistani national Khurram Abbas Khokhar was sentenced for conspiring to procure a passport using false information. His possession of multiple false identities drew attention to the ongoing challenges the UK Border Agency faces in combatting identity fraud and protecting the immigration system from exploitation.

Furthermore, Fayyaz Ahmed was arrested after being found with over 700 altered documents, underscoring the scale of the issue. These types of operations disrupt not only immigration controls but also create avenues for criminals to gain access to unlawful benefits, as demonstrated by a case where seven men were sentenced for providing false documents to illegal immigrants, enabling them to reside in the UK and receive government services.

Each new case reinforces the seriousness of identity fraud and the collaborative efforts required from law enforcement agencies. The NCA's comments reflect the pervasive nature of these crimes: “These IDs helped high-profile criminals evade law enforcement and operate anonymously." The vast network of forgers and identity fraudsters illustrates a significant gap in security that continues to challenge authorities in their attempts to maintain the integrity of the UK’s identification and immigration systems.

As Iqbal and Ahmed serve their sentences, the broader implications of their crimes remain a pressing concern for law enforcement, revealing the intricate links between identity fraud, organised crime, and systemic exploitation of immigration policies. With ongoing investigations into related activities, the fight against such illicit enterprises continues, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive reforms and enhanced security measures.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed)
6. Paragraph 6: [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-13616414), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-15081515), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-23534373)
7. Paragraph 7: [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-23534373), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-13616414)
8. Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.yellowad.co.uk/master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=master-forgers-who-supplied-fake-identities-to-criminal-underworld-jailed> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-13616414> - A 31-year-old Pakistani man, Khurram Abbas Khokhar, was sentenced to 12 months for conspiring to make a false statement to procure a passport and 16 months for having a false identity with intent. He was found with multiple passports and different aliases, including using the identity of a man who had died in 2006. Khokhar was deported after serving his concurrent sentences. The UK Border Agency emphasized the seriousness of such offenses and their commitment to preventing individuals from flouting immigration rules and obtaining goods and services by deception.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-15081515> - Fayyaz Ahmed, a 54-year-old Pakistani national, was arrested at Belfast docks with over 700 false and altered documents, including a South African passport. He pleaded guilty to possessing documents to create false identities and three counts of possession of false documents. Ahmed was sentenced to 18 months in prison and considered for deportation upon completion of his sentence. The UK Border Agency highlighted the disruption of a sophisticated criminal operation and the prevention of individuals from circumventing immigration controls and gaining employment by deception.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-23534373> - Seven men were sentenced after charging up to £15,000 each to 200 illegal immigrants for fake documents, enabling them to stay in the UK. The operation was uncovered by immigration officers during a raid at Ataur Talukdar's travel and cargo business in Hyde, Greater Manchester. The Home Office investigation revealed a well-organized criminal enterprise providing individuals with necessary documents to reside in the UK and access benefits entitled to British citizens.
5. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/jury-convicts-nigerian-presenting-fake-british-documents-open-local-bank-accounts> - Ademola Okulaja, a 57-year-old Nigerian man, was convicted for presenting fake British documents to open local bank accounts in Houston, Texas. He used fraudulent passports to open checking accounts at the International Bank of Commerce, claiming to be a British citizen. Okulaja faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a possible $250,000 fine. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducted the investigation, and the case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin C. Sandel and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jay Hileman.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cl5y3w5yevlo> - A group of drivers in West Yorkshire used stolen ID details to avoid motoring fines, leading to sentences for perverting the course of justice. Six individuals admitted to using the innocent Scottish woman's details, causing her unwanted stress. The drivers, from Bradford, Wakefield, and Leeds, used the stolen ID when filling out Notice of Intended Prosecution forms for traffic offenses, including speeding. The victim had never been to West Yorkshire and was unaware of the incidents attributed to her.
7. <https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/news/city-of-london/news/2024/december/counterfeit-goods-seller-sentenced/> - Saeed Iqbal, 66, was sentenced for selling counterfeit designer products from a shop in Manchester. He sold fake clothes, perfume, bags, and electronics from premises on Jury Street in Cheetham Hill. Officers from the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) seized over 19,000 counterfeit items during a search warrant in 2021. Iqbal pleaded guilty to two counts of the unauthorized use of a trademark and was sentenced to two years’ imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to pay £1,000 in costs.