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***News Release***

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**Mailbox cigarette smugglers delivered to jail**

A pair of smugglers from London who used multiple mailbox delivery accounts to bring illegal cigarettes into the UK have been jailed for a total of nearly five years.

Jinsen Li, 49, of Tottenham and Kay Kuen Poon, 59, of Mill Hill were caught trying to import 500,000 cigarettes and 30kg of hand rolling tobacco without paying the £150,000 tax and import duty due.

Officers from HM Revenue and Customs found they used more than 20 mailbox delivery outlets throughout London to pick up the packages, which came from China.

Poon and Li were was arrested in June 2016 after HMRC investigators obtained CCTV footage of them picking up parcels. Li even continued to collect packages just days after he was released on police bail.

Mark Cox, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said:

“This pair thought their criminal scheme would go unnoticed, but they were wrong and now they are paying the price.

“Criminals selling illicit tobacco threaten the livelihoods of hard working legitimate businesses by stealing their trade. I encourage anyone with information on this type of fraud to contact our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.”

Poon admitted fraudulent evasion of excise duty on 13 November 2017 and was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 5 January 2018 to 26 months in jail. Li denied the charge but was found guilty on 23 November 2017 and sentenced to 33 months in jail.

**Notes to Editors**

1. Jinsen Li (DOB: 01/07/1968) of High Street, Tottenham, N15, was found guilty of fraudulent evasion of excise duty, contrary to section 170(1)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979. He was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 5 January, 2018 to 33 months in prison.
2. Kay Kuen Poon (DOB: 18/12/1958) of Page Street, Mill Hill, London, NW7 admitted fraudulent evasion of excise duty, contrary to section 170(1)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979. He was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 5 January, 2018 to 26 months in prison.
3. Follow HMRC Press Office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice
4. HMRC's Flickr channel: [www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk](http://www.flickr.com/hmrcgovuk).

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