

Illegal Autodata traders beware – prison term imposed

Another Trader of counterfeit software has been brought to book by the authorities with the news of an illegal vendor's conviction and subsequent 15-month prison sentence.

Bradford Crown Court imposed the sentence after Leeds resident Adrian Metcalfe, aged 27, pleaded guilty to offences of possession and supplying goods that infringed trademarks and also to three offences under the Fraud Act 2006.

Mr Metcalfe traded at several computer fairs in Northern England meaning officers from West Yorkshire Trading Standards Service, and an Autodata representative who triggered the action, were able to undertake test purchases from stalls he ran, followed later by a raid at an address belonging to Metcalfe.

The sale of counterfeit vehicle software is not only perilous for those who end up using the data, which is certain to be out-of-date and potentially dangerous, but demonstrates the severe stance courts are taking with individuals who break the law in this way. Subsequently

Bogus Autodata CDs were among several bags full of counterfeit goods seized from Metcalfe's home address and products from several other rights holders were also found to be part of the haul.

An Autodata spokesperson stated: "This latest example of software piracy has been dealt with in the severest possible way – with a lengthy prison term.

"The industry has made progress in stamping out this illegal activity, and we're delighted Trading Standards is making life difficult for a small minority who put unsuspecting motorists' lives at risk."

David Lodge from West Yorkshire Trading Standards Service added: "May this sentence send out a message to anyone involved in the supply of counterfeit goods in West Yorkshire. A Proceeds of Crime investigation has been instigated against Mr Metcalfe."

In the final summing up the judge stated that Mr Metcalfe's crimes had a significant impact on not only the public, but in also depriving legitimate companies of profits. The judge stated that under the circumstances a custodial sentence must be imposed.