

Revealing the "Illegal Vaping Oil Factory" in Grimsby

In a surprising turn of events, customs officers have raided what appears to be an illegal vaping factory in Grimsby. The raid was prompted by CCTV footage capturing a man hastily fleeing from the rear of the Pizza Plus shop on Cleethorpe Road just as the officers arrived. Upon investigation, the authorities discovered large vats of vaping oil concealed at the back of the takeaway. Evidence from the scene was carefully collected and bagged by the officers, marking a breakthrough in a mystery that had puzzled local residents for several weeks.

The Baffling Smell That Intrigued Grimsby

According to the accounts of bewildered Grimsby residents, a distinct smell reminiscent of strawberries had permeated the area for an extended period. One local businessman revealed, "You can smell it from quite a distance. The scent of strawberries has lingered for a couple of months, and we were completely clueless about its source." For a while, some individuals speculated that the smell might be related to soap due to its intense fragrance. The revelation of the [China vaping factory](#) now sheds light on the true origin of the captivating scent.

Uncovering the Hidden Operation

On a Thursday afternoon at around 4:15 PM, officers from Customs and Revenue executed a raid on the premises, putting an end to the mysterious aroma that had puzzled residents for so long. Business owners in the neighborhood expressed their surprise, as they had never witnessed any suspicious activity in or around the premises. The store adjacent to the takeaway reported that the establishment seemed to only operate during nighttime hours, with no notable foot traffic through the alley at the back.

The neighboring businesswoman recounted an incident where one of their staff members witnessed a person sprinting away from the rear of the takeaway and fleeing along Kesgrave Street. A concerned individual gave chase, highlighting the unusual nature of the situation. The ongoing issues faced by the local businesses with clogged drains caused by fat and oil further added to the complexity surrounding the illegal vaping factory.

Law Enforcement Takes Action

Following the raid, a spokesperson from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) confirmed that three premises in the Grimsby area were visited by their officers. As a result, four men were apprehended on suspicion of fraudulent evasion of excise duty. At this stage, HMRC refrained from providing additional information, citing the ongoing nature of their investigation.

The Dangers of Vaping and the Concerns Surrounding Illicit Vapor Oil

The increased incidence of vaping-related illnesses has raised alarms regarding the safety of vapor oils. In the United States alone, vaping has been linked to 39 deaths, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting approximately 2,000 cases of lung injury associated with vaping. Notably, e-cigarettes in the UK are subject to regulation, and they do not produce harmful substances such as tar or carbon monoxide.

Health experts have expressed concerns about the potential dangers of illegal vapor oil, drawing parallels to the risks associated with illegal tobacco manufacturing. Public Health England has pointed to evidence from the United States indicating that two specific chemicals—THC, known to cause psychosis, and Vitamin E acetate oil—are responsible for the lung disease associated with vaping. These chemicals are not permitted in e-cigarettes within the country.

A spokesperson from Public Health England emphasized, "We remain confident that [e-cigarettes](#) are significantly less harmful than smoking, which claims nearly 220 lives every day in England. The evidence continues to support the fact that vaping carries only a fraction of the associated risks with smoking."

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What led to the discovery of the illegal vaping factory in Grimsby?

Customs officers raided the premises after capturing CCTV footage of a man fleeing from the rear of the Pizza Plus shop. Large vats of vaping oil were found hidden at the back of the takeaway, which resolved the mystery smell that had puzzled residents.

2. How long had the mysterious strawberry smell been present in the area?

The distinct smell of strawberries had been lingering in Grimsby for a couple of months, baffling locals who were unaware of its source. Some

initially speculated that it might be related to soap due to its strong fragrance.

3. Were there any notable activities around the premises before the raid?

According to neighboring business owners, there was no significant activity observed at the premises. The takeaway appeared to be open only during nighttime hours, and no one was seen using the alley at the back.

4. What actions were taken by law enforcement following the raid?

Officers from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) visited three premises in the Grimsby area and arrested four individuals on suspicion of fraudulent evasion of excise duty. However, due to the ongoing investigation, further details were not disclosed.

5. What are the concerns surrounding illegal vapour oil and its potential dangers?

Health experts are concerned that illegal vapor oil, similar to illegal tobacco manufacture, could pose serious health risks. Evidence from the United States indicates that certain chemicals, such as THC and Vitamin E acetate oil, which are not permitted in e-cigarettes in the UK, are linked to lung diseases associated with vaping. However, it is important to note that regulated e-cigarettes in the UK are considered significantly less harmful than traditional smoking.