



**Central Specialist Crime - Amberhill**

**Your Ref:**

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Your ref:  
Our ref:  
Date:

**Dear colleague,**

**Re: Evaluation of the number of fake documents detected within the UK**

As the only team across all policing in the UK with detailed knowledge of the use of fraudulent and counterfeit identity documents (collectively described as “fake documents” for the purposes of this project) to facilitate crime, Amberhill is often approached by government agencies for statistics regarding the prevalence of fake documents in the UK.

I am therefore writing to you seeking any information your organisation can provide so that we can collate as much data as possible on the use of fake documents in the UK

Our strategic aim is to support the MPS response to the disruption of Organised Criminal Networks engaged in the supply, production and use of false identity documents thereby increasing public safety and reducing economic harm.

The MPS Dedicated Amberhill Database (DAD) currently holds in excess of 128,000 documents. These include fraudulent, counterfeit and fraudulently obtained genuine (FOG) UK Driving Licences.

Since the creation of the Amberhill team in 2007, we have understood and acknowledged the importance of the private sector in detecting fake identity documents and preventing their illegal use. Therefore, any statistics collated across the public sector by the Amberhill team are not the complete picture without greater insight as to the volume of fake identity documents detected by the private sector.

Since the publication of the number of fake identity documents detected by Border Force earlier this year (circa 2,000 a year on average between 2010 and 2020), the interest in how many fake documents may be circulating within the UK has risen. To that end the Amberhill team is seeking to collate as much data as possible on the use of fake documents in the UK to highlight the scale of the issue and to also reinforce the need for robust technology solutions to be deployed by the private sector to assist in defeating their use for criminal activities. Could we therefore request you provide the following data:

- The annual number of fake documents detected by your company in 2019, 2020 and 2021
- An indication as to which purpose your business carries out identity document checks:
  - Right to Work, Rent, Study
  - DBS
  - Counter fraud
  - KYC/AML compliance
  - Other

Whilst the police have a common law duty to prevent and detect crime and a corresponding power to disclose information where necessary for the prevention and detection of crime, this project has a data collation and reporting purpose only. Any data provided will be confidential and your organisation will not be identified.

If you are willing to participate, could you please provide the requested data by [ tbc ].

Thank you.

**Detective Inspector Suzanne Grimmer**

**Cyber Crime Unit**

**Central Specialist Crime 0207 230 8197**