

Brand ban 'leads to rise in fake ciggies'

by DANIEL BINNS

HUNDREDS of shops have been caught selling illegal cigarettes in a series of undercover stings.

It comes as new laws banning branding on cigarette packaging start this week – a move the tobacco industry argues will encourage the trade in fake products.

Investigators found some retailers selling counterfeit cigarettes for as little as £3 per packet – and estimate the black market trade costs the UK



Wheeze to beat law: Tobacco haul

£2.4billion a year in lost tax revenue. Japan Tobacco International, which carried out the checks, claims that

since 2014 it has identified more than 250 UK traders making illegal sales.

Steve Wilkins, the firm's anti-illegal trade operations director, said: 'Smokers buying cheap, fake cigarettes may get more than they bargain for. Some were found to contain asbestos, mould, dust, dead flies, rat droppings and even human excrement.'

But anti-smoking charity Ash disputes the claim. It said there was 'no evidence of an increase in use of illicit tobacco' since the same laws came into force in Australia in 2012.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Hammond accused of favouring US banks

THE Treasury has been accused of favouritism after it emerged the chancellor has held at least ten meetings with US banks this year – but none with Japanese lenders.

Philip Hammond needs to realise banks in Japan

will be 'increasingly important to us' after Brexit, said Anthony Belchambers, head of the Financial Services Negotiation Forum.

Japanese lenders have threatened to leave the UK without assurances over Brexit.



Japan warning: Philip Hammond

EasyJet losses 'to hit £210million'



EASYJET is set to report steep half-year losses next week as it struggles with the pound's weakness. The budget airline's predicted £210million hit

contrasts with a £24million loss over the period last year. Despite its post-Brexit performance being held up as 'resilient' by CEO Carolyn McCall (pictured), analysts said they expect it to miss its full-year financial targets.

Robots taking over more and more jobs

ROBOTS are increasingly taking over, with two-thirds of the fastest declining jobs linked to advances in technology, a study finds.

Automation has replaced posts such as pharmacy assistants, travel agents and translators, says jobs site Adzuna. Illustrators and writers are also in a list of

declining occupations. In contrast, there are roles that are growing, including nail technicians and retail security officers.

Adzuna co-founder Doug Monro said: 'The robots are not just coming, they are here already – in our pockets, workplaces and homes.'

URGENT MOOVE... DON'T DRINK THE CIDER



CIDER drinkers are being warned that bottles of Silly Moo may shatter. Sussex-based brewer Trenchmore is offering refunds for 500ml and 330ml bottles dated 'best before 03/19', which they say must be 'handled with care' and disposed of. WESSEX NEWS

Murray serves up funds for foldable helmet

ANDY MURRAY has used crowdfunding platform Seedr to invest in a British start-up that makes flat-folding cycle helmets.

He is one of 400 backers who have put a total of £659,000 into Morpher, founded by bike crash survivor Jeffrey Woolf. The

tennis star – who said the helmet 'is a product the modern cyclist should own' – has invested in 20 firms on Seedr.

They also include Den, whose 'smart home' tech 'alerts you if you leave the TV on and warns you if your nan's in trouble'.



Murray pound: Investor Andy

Feedback please

EMPLOYERS should have to give feedback after job interviews, a careers app says.

Half of 18 to 23 year olds take a day's leave and spend £40 on an interview, but many never hear back.

'Feedback is powerful, and anyone who takes the time to attend an interview is entitled to it,' said Debut.

Best boss is in the mirror

THE ideal boss is somebody just like you.

Employees draw on their own image when describing the perfect boss, a joint study by the universities of Essex and Bradford finds.

Fans of lipstick and nail varnish favour feminine leaders and workers who think discipline is a good thing 'chase people who look commanding', researchers found.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (A\$).....	1.74	Poland (zloty)	4.97
Canada (C\$)	1.76	Singapore (\$)	1.80
Euro (€)	1.17	South Africa (rand)	17.21
New Zealand (NZ\$).....	1.87	US (\$).....	1.28

Can you raise a little linguist?

Children that learn foreign languages get more interesting jobs, do better in class, and are more cultured than an organic yogurt. But where do we start teaching our kids another language when we don't speak one ourselves?

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