



Business and Trade Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Emma Gilthorpe
Chief Executive Officer
Royal Mail
[by e-mail]

01 May 2024

Dear Emma

Re: Counterfeit stamps

Recent reports suggest that the Royal Mail has experienced a substantial increase in the circulation of counterfeit stamps, which has caused concern for customers. In addition, some small retailers may have unknowingly resold fraudulent stamps.¹ Although fines related to counterfeit stamps have been suspended, many people who unknowingly received letters posted with a fake stamp were fined before the suspension.²

Bearing in mind the public concern about this issue, the Business and Trade Committee is keen to understand the nature and extent of the problem:

1. How many fines were issued since July 2023 in relation to counterfeit stamps?
2. How many individuals were fined since July 2023, and how much money was raised from those fines?
3. How widespread is the use of counterfeit stamps?
4. What steps is the Royal Mail taking to tackle counterfeit stamps?

I would be grateful for a response to this letter by 14 May 2024.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair of the Business and Trade Committee

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0w17x3wwpo>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/apr/29/royal-mail-pauses-fines-fake-stamps-scanners-fraud-technology>