

Man sentenced following NFCU joint investigation into food safety and ‘smokies’ offences

Arfan Sultan from Ilford was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Friday 14 November 2025.

Sultan had previously pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months, 250 hours of unpaid community work to be completed in the next 12 months and £3000 costs.

Mr Sultan pleaded guilty to eight offences under Regulation 19 of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013.

Smokies are illegally slaughtered sheep, rams or goats, and the smoky flavour comes from subjecting the skin to high temperatures.

“The sentence handed down to Mr Sultan reflects the serious nature of these offences. The NFCU, in partnership with police and Redbridge Council, have been working on an investigation into food hygiene related offences, and illegal slaughter of sheep and goats. By working closely with our partners we were able to remove a large quantity of unfit meat from the human food chain.

Because of the way they are made, smokies breach food safety law, and often animal welfare legislation so if you suspect that smokie meat is being sold, [contact your local Trading Standards](#).

We’d urge anyone who has suspicions or concerns about smokies or food fraud to [discuss it with us confidentially on 0800 028 1180](#).”

Neil Castle, Deputy Head of the National Food Crime Unit

I’m pleased our Food Safety team, alongside the National Food Crime Unit, were able to intervene in this case and protect the health of our residents. The production and processing of meat in this manner is illegal because we cannot guarantee it is safe for consumption.

This sentencing marks the end of a long and determined investigation to hold a food criminal to account. This individual operated with complete disregard for public health, motivated solely by greed.

Consumers have a right to trust the safety of their food. We are grateful to our officers and to the NFCU for their tireless efforts in exposing this criminal enterprise. The sentence handed down sends a clear message: this type of illegal enterprise will

not be tolerated.”

Cllr Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council