**Man hides cigarettes down motorway embankment after crash**

 **Date of issue:** 29 April 2021

**Name:** Ayub Mohammed Said

**Date of birth**: 9/9/1979

**Address:** Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry

**Occupation:** Factory worker

**Charges:**

Evasion of £32,396 Excise Duty, contrary to S170 (1) (b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act (1979).

**Background:**

A factory worker has been sentenced after he hid bags of illicit tobacco and cigarettes down an embankment on the M74.

Ayub Said, 41, was caught following a crash with a HGV on the M74 near Abington, South Lanarkshire on 9 September 2018.

While Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service were on route to the scene, Said, of Coventry, climbed out of the driver’s-side window and carried laundry bags and cardboard boxes from his car and down the motorway embankment.

When they arrived, officers carried out a search of the area and discovered the bags and boxes about five meters down the embankment. Inside, they found 99.5kg of tobacco and 35,000 cigarettes.

The case was referred to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) investigators and the goods were seized. Said, from Coventry, refused to answer any questions when he was interviewed.

He pleaded guilty to Excise Duty fraud on 10 March 2021 at Lanark Sheriff Court and was sentenced before the same court on 28 April 2021 to a Community Payback Order of 260 hours of unpaid work, to be completed within 12 months as well as a Restriction of Liberty Order.

**Plea:** Guilty

**Sentence:** CPO: 260 hours unpaid work to be completed within 12 months and a Restriction of Liberty Order for four months where Said must stay at home between 7pm and 7am.

**Court:** Lanark Sheriff Court