

Mosaic manager convicted over eBay fraud

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A depot manager at Mosaic has been convicted after the fashion group used eBay to track stolen goods.

Andrew Beattie, a manager at a Mosaic distribution depot at Livingston in Scotland, pleaded guilty to stealing £40,000 worth of stock over a three-month period. The company fears that the amount stolen could have been double that figure.

The conviction is the latest sign that stolen goods being sold on eBay is a growing problem for the industry. Last week at Retail Week's Retail Loss Prevention conference, speakers from JD Group and Monsoon also revealed that they are finding stock increasingly making its way onto the site.

The conviction in Scotland was made after Mosaic monitored eBay sales, then made test purchases of items to identify where they were being sent from. This led to a police raid and the depot manager and a night shift supervisor were arrested.

Mosaic head of security Mitch Haynes said he was pleased with the outcome and that his company had been lucky that it was dealing with a helpful local police force. He added that the problem was a growing one. "The car boot sale is moving onto eBay," he said.

Last month, a delegation of fashion retailers led by security supplier Oris Group met with the Home Office and Department of Trade and Industry to lobby for a better response to the abuse of eBay by criminals to launder stolen goods. "We do not want to close legitimate auctions down, but want the site managers to take retailers' concerns more seriously," said Oris managing director Laurence King.