

299.7 False passports/ID documents, Using or possessing To obtain employment/accommodation etc.

R v Mehmeti 2019 EWCA Crim 751 D pleaded to possession of an identity document with improper intention. D was driving his vehicle when police indicated that they wanted him to stop. D carried on driving for a time before stopping the vehicle. When asked for his driving licence, D gave police a counterfeit licence with a false name. D ran from the scene and had to be chased on foot for about ten minutes before being apprehended. In D's police interview, he admitted to entering the UK illegally as an Albanian citizen. D had one previous conviction in 2016 for possessing criminal property when he and a co-accused were found in possession of £100,000¹ in cash, three mobile phones and a counterfeit Greek driving licence. D received 12 months' imprisonment and admitted at the time to having entered the UK illegally. The Judge noted that having been deported from the UK following his previous conviction, D had once again entered the UK illegally and had acquired another false driving licence. The Judge started at 15 months and gave full credit for the plea. Held. The document was not used for immigration reasons. 15 months was too long. We start at 9 months, so with plea, **6 months** not 10. Because of the repetition of the offending it would not be right to suspend the offence.

¹ The judgment says £100,000 was found, but the offence related to only £1,000. Because of the penalty imposed, it is assumed the first figure was correct.