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## Black market a drag for cigarette companies

**A TOBACCO manufacturing company will be in Galway later today (Tuesday) to give a briefing to local retailers on the impact the illicit sale of cigarettes is having on their businesses.**

Representatives from the makers of **Silk Cut** and **Benson & Hedges** cigarettes, **Japan Tobacco International**, will update city retailers on the growing problem of cigarette

sales on the black market which is estimated to cost the State €443 million in VAT and Excise Duty this year.

Last week, Galway retailers involved in the 'Retailers Against Smuggling' group warned the illicit sale of cheap, **contraband cigarettes** is forcing newsagents and small retailers in Galway to 'shut up shop' and is putting jobs in the city at risk.