

ILLAWARRA STAR

Former real estate agent Hakan Kutup faces court on \$480K fraud allegations

A former Wollongong real estate agent has faced court after he was hit with 27 fraud charges.

Madeline Crittenden, Illawarra Star

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 Former Wollongong real estate agent Hakan Kutup leaves court on November 5.

A former Wollongong real estate agent has faced court for the first time, accused of multiple forgery and fraud offences, after allegedly misappropriating almost \$500,000.

Hakan Kutup, formerly of Century 21 Ultimate Wollongong, was slapped with 27 charges in September, after allegedly creating false documents that claimed he had sold numerous properties, and as a result would be entitled to the commission.

According to court documents, the offending allegedly began in December of 2017, when the 53-year-old started submitting documents to Paidonexchange Pty Ltd, a business that provides real estate agents their entitled commissions from a property upfront, without having to wait for settlement.

The false documents allegedly included photoshopped emails and letterheads from solicitors and conveyancers located in the Illawarra, fabricated contracts of sales and agency agreements, as well as false bank deposits and false signatures.

Police will allege the documents were allegedly submitted on more than 12 occasions between December 2017 and June 2019, resulting in a financial advantage of \$263,755.

In court documents, police also allege Kutup had misappropriated more than \$220,000 in funds from a sales trust account.

Detectives from Lake Illawarra Police District, with the assistance of the Office of Fair Trading, commenced an investigation into the 53-year-old's conduct earlier this year, following a complaint received in relation to the theft of funds.

The case against Kutup was briefly mentioned at Wollongong Local Court on Tuesday, before it was adjourned to a date later this month.

He has not yet entered any pleas to the charges.



 Hakan Kutup.