

London Boroughs of Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board 27 November 2014

FOR INFORMATION

Trading Standards Fees and charges 2015/16

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with information concerning the proposed level of fees and charges to be made by the Brent & Harrow Trading Standards service in 2015/16.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members consider the report and make any recommendations where appropriate.

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 The Consortium Agreement provides that the Board should consider and make recommendations on the level of fees and charges to be made to the public in respect of any part of the service, for consideration by whoever is authorised to make fees and charges decisions by each respective council's constitution.
- 3.2 The service has a unified fee structure with the same levels of fees and charges made in Brent and Harrow.
- 3.3 Fees fall into three categories, as follows:

- 3.3.1 **Statutory fees** are set nationwide by Government. Local Authorities have no discretion to vary the fees, which are usually not announced until just before the start of the financial year, and were not known at the time of writing. The current statutorily set fees for 2014/15 are:

Service	2014/15 (£'s)
Explosives licence 1-250Kg (fireworks Harrow)	105.00
Explosives licence 251-2,000Kg (fireworks Harrow)	178.00
Explosives licence 1-250Kg (fireworks Harrow Renewal)	52.00
Explosives licence 251-2,000Kg (fireworks Harrow Renewal)	83.00
Fireworks All Year Round licence	500.00
Replacing Lost and/or Transfer of licence	35.00

3.3.2 an **RPI escalator** applies to Primary Authority Partnership charges that apply to any multi-branch business that elects to seek UK-wide guidance from Brent or Harrow. Brent's 17 June 2013 Executive, in a report entitled "*Introduction of a Charge Based Regulatory Advice Service for Businesses*", decided to increase the rates on an annual basis on 1st April each year by the annual change in the Retail Price Index (RPI) for January of the year concerned. As of September 2014 the Retail Prices Index was 2.3%.

3.3.3 The remaining fees are **determined annually**, with any change in the fee charged being determined each year according to prevailing circumstances.

3.4 The prevailing rate of RPI, i.e. 2.3% has been used to illustrate possible fees for 2015/16. The exception are fees for Weights and Measures, for which local authorities use the recommendations of the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers.

Service	VAT	2014/15	'2015/16	
			(excl VAT)	(incl VAT)
Primary Authority – fixed contract (per hour)	0%	52.98	54.20	
Primary Authority - pay as you go (per hour)	0%	66.23	67.80	
Registration of premises for auction	0%	310.00	317.10	
Verification of weights & measures equipment	20%	58.00	58.56	70.30
Calibration of weights for business	20%	58.00	58.56	70.30
Testing for other LAs (per item)	0%	58.00	58.56	
Additional officer testing assistance (per hour)	0%	35.00	35.33	42.40
Use of safety lab (per hour)	20%	60.00	61.40	73.70
Officers working Stadium events (per hour)	0%	35.00	35.80	

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Fee income is a relatively small contributor to the Trading Standards service budget, with budgeted fee income totaling £23,500 for 2015/16 (excluding Court cost or proceeds of crime recovery). The anticipated increase in fees is expected to amount to approximately £500. Any decision to leave fees unchanged will potentially result in a budgetary shortfall for 2015/16.

5 STAFF IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6.1 Any person wishing to obtain more information should contact Simon Legg, Senior Regulatory Service Manager, Regulatory Services, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley Middlesex HA9 0FJ.

DAVID THRALE
HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES