



Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board

Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 6.00 pm

To be held as an online virtual meeting

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting by viewing the live webcast. The link to view the meeting is available [HERE](#)

Membership:

Members Councillors:	Representing	First alternates Councillors:	Second alternates Councillors:
Pritesh Stevenson	Harrow	Blackman	Harrow
Suresh Crabb	Harrow	Greek	Harrow
Kennelly	Brent	Kalu	Harrow
Krupa Sheth	Brent	Farah	Brent
		Miller	Brent
		Chohan	Brent

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Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:

- To which you are appointed by the council;
- which exercises functions of a public nature;
- which is directed is to charitable purposes;
- whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party of trade union).

- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
1 Election of Chair	
To be appointed from members of the London Borough of Brent for this meeting.	
2 Apologies for Absence and Clarification of Alternate Members	
3 Declarations of Interests	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant personal or disclosable pecuniary interests in the items on this agenda.	
4 Minutes of Previous Meeting	1 - 6
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2025 as a correct record.	
5 Matters Arising	
6 Deputations (if any)	
7 Trading Standards Annual Report 2024-25	7 - 18
This report presents the Annual Report (produced as a requirement under the Trading Standards Consortium Agreement) for consideration by the Joint Advisory Board which details the work undertaken by the Trading Standards service during 2024-25.	
8 Knife Crime proposals regarding age verification checks	19 - 22
This report provides Members with information regarding proposals to implement age verification checks and to seek control of the doorstep dropping of knives and bladed articles to greater protect young people from knife crime.	
9 Date of Future Meetings	
Members are asked to note the provisional schedule of meetings agreed between Brent & Harrow for the 2025-26 Municipal Year:	

- Wednesday 5 November 2025 at 6pm to be hosted (online) by the London Borough of Harrow
- Thursday 5 March 2026 at 6pm to be hosted (online) by the London Borough of Brent

10 Any Other Urgent Business

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance (London Borough of Brent) or their representative before the meeting in accordance with the constitutions of both councils.



Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board

Minutes

19 March 2025

Present:

Chair:	Councillor Pritesh Patel	– London Borough of Harrow
Councillors:	Norman Stevenson	– London Borough of Harrow
	Krishna Suresh	– London Borough of Harrow
	Stephen Crabb	– London Borough of Brent
	Daniel Kennelly	– London Borough of Brent
	Krupa Sheth	– London Borough of Brent

1. Election of Chair

RESOLVED: That Councillor Pritesh Patel (London Borough of Harrow) be elected as Chair for the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence and Clarification of Alternate Members

Apologies were received from Councillor Steve Crabb, who indicated he experienced transport issues and would join the meeting as soon as possible.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2024 be taken as read and signed as a correct record, subject to the following Cllr Norman Stevenson had sent apologies and Cllr Nicola Blackman had reserved at that meeting.

5. Matters arising

None.

6. Deputations (if any)

No requests for deputations had been submitted for the meeting.

7. Fees and Charges 2025-26 Report

The Senior Regulatory Service Manager for Trading Services presented an overview of the report that provided a scheduled update to the Trading Services consortium of the changes that have been made to fees and charges. These changes were passed by full council in Brent in February.

There were three different types of charges that can be set:

- Statutory fees
- RPI linked fees
- Discretionary fees

The Senior Regulatory Service Manager underlined the changes to fees highlighted in the report. They also emphasised that at the time of writing the income target for 2024/25 of £45,000 had been exceeded with a total of £68,015. This was attributed to an increased number of Wembley events.

Members asked about 'bulk fees' that were mentioned in the report and the companies this related to. The Senior Regulatory Service Manager responded that both Boroughs have primary relationships with large companies. An example was given of Brent that had a primary relationship with Ikea and Harrow that had a primary relationship with Premier Decorations. The companies that had a primary relationship signed up for a set number of contracted hours per year. Those who do not sign up for a set number of hours were charged the bulk price mentioned.

The chair questioned the split of the income figure of £68,015 between the two Boroughs and where that generated income goes back to. The Senior Regulatory Service Manager explained that there was difference between the income earnings of the two boroughs with more income generated in Brent due to Wembley events, with the specific income figures to be presented in the annual report. They also clarified that the income earned by each borough will be returned to the respective areas.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8. Joint Advisory Board Report Work Plan 2025-26

The Senior Regulatory Service Manager for Trading Services presented an overview of the report that provided members with information concerning the proposed 2025/26 work plan for Brent & Harrow Trading Standards.

The Senior Regulatory Service Manager highlighted the Digital Markets Competition and Consumers Act 2024, implemented on the of 6th April 2025,

the Environmental Protection Single Use Vapes Act England, to be implemented on 1st June 2025 and Tobacco and Vapes Bill also to be implemented on 1st June 2025. This new legislation would require increased training for officers to be prepared for the enforcement of the new powers this legislation would provide.

A variety of priorities were considered in the formation of this workplan. This included the priorities of the National Trading Standards Board, London Trading Standards Board, Brent and Harrow local plans and internal complaints made by members of the public, with some of the most common being doorstep scams and second-hand car sales. A matrix would be used to identify high priority issues based off the number of complaints. These high priority issues have been designated greater resources in the workplan, with flexibility allowed if these priorities were to change.

Members asked how the sale of Pan in shops across both Harrow and Brent is measured in line with Tobacco legislation. The Senior Regulatory Service Manager responded that trading services relied on intelligence from members of the public and other parties, so that if reports were made about the sale of Pan in certain shops this would be investigated by the team.

Members stated how important comms would be to direct the workplan going forward to cover key issues and communicate with local communities.

The Chair concurred that the sale of Pan was an issue of high priority within Harrow.

The Chair queried if Trading Standards would be able to cope with the new demand from the changes in legislation. The Senior Regulatory Service Manager replied that new legislation hasn't changed too much but has incorporated existing legislation into one area. This would require new training to cover these policies but shouldn't increase demand massively.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

9. Single Use Vape Ban Update

The Regulatory Team Leader of Brent and Harrow Trading Standards presented an overview of the report that provided members with information on the ban on single use vapes that would be implemented from 1 June 2025.

The Regulatory Team Leader explained that ban was introduced to reduce waste and recycling issues created by single use vapes. This ban does not relate to the nicotine content or flavours of the vapes and refillable and reusable vapes will still be available.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have stated that Trading Standards would lead the enforcement of this policy in local areas with authority provided by the local authority of each Borough.

Trading Standards would be able to enforce fines and civil sanctions for the possession of single use vapes for supply. The statutory fine that could be

issued is currently £200 and Trading Standards could also retrieve the cost of enforcement.

Trading Standards are required to publish guidance on the criteria for the enforcement of fines, civil sanctions and possible further sanctions if the requirements of the initial sanctions are not met. Businesses would be provided with guidance to dispose of excess supply of single use vapes to become compliant once the ban comes into effect.

Consultation with the required parties for the publication of this guidance would commence in April 2025, with any necessary revisions to be made in May 2025 for final publication in June 2025. Press releases were sent out through Brent and Harrow communication teams on 28th February and 19th March 2025, with regular updates to be made to the Trading Standards webpage when required.

Members questioned if compensation would be put in place for traders who already had invested in a large supply of single use vapes. The Regulatory Team Leader highlighted that businesses had been made aware of this ban for quite a while and will not be provided with compensation. Many businesses had already started to change their stock from single use to reusable vapes to comply with the ban.

Members asked if Trading Standards were under a legal obligation to right to businesses regarding the ban. The Regulatory Team Leader responded that DEFRA has guidance available for businesses but specific guidance for the enforcement of this ban had not yet been published.

Members queried how the compliant disposal of the stock of single use vapes will enforced. The Regulatory Team Leader replied that this would be the responsibility of environmental teams, but that businesses have received guidance on how to dispose of excess stock, a process which would incur a cost for businesses. Many businesses had already started to phase out their stock of single use vapes because of this.

Members asked about the number of vape sellers in Harrow. The Regulatory Team Leader stated that this was near impossible with no specific license required by businesses to sell vapes and that guidance in relation to the ban had been targeted at businesses they were aware sold vapes.

The Chair questioned how online sales will be addressed. The Regulatory Team Leader highlighted that the ban does cover online sales and that if complaints were made to the team, they possess powers to shut that website down.

The Chair also queried how different flavours of vapes and illegal nicotine levels within vapes will be addressed if at all. The Senior Regulatory Service Manager advised that this was covered by the Tobacco Related Products Legislation not by the single use vape ban. This may be covered in future Government legislation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

10. Date of Future Meetings

NOTED the date for the next meeting is:

Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 6pm to be hosted (online) by the London Borough of Brent

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 6.47 pm).

(Signed) Councillor Pritesh Patel
Chair

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**London Boroughs of Brent & Harrow
Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board
4 June 2025
Report from the Senior Service Manager**

FOR INFORMATION

TRADING STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report presents the Trading Standards annual report for the year 2024/2025.
- 1.2 It is a requirement of the Trading Standards Consortium Agreement that an annual report is presented to the Joint Advisory Board which includes details of the work undertaken during the financial year to which it relates.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Joint Advisory Board Members take note of the report and provide comment where appropriate.

3.0 Details

- 3.1 The Trading Standards Service operates on a joint consortium basis between the London Borough of Brent and the London Borough of Harrow, with Brent being the host authority. In accordance with the contractual terms between the two boroughs, an annual report must be presented to the Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board.
- 3.2 The Service carries out the local authority's statutory duties relating to the legislation enforced by a Weights and Measures Authority. This gives the Service responsibility of enforcement and legal powers to enforce, hundreds of Acts of parliament or statutory instruments. The 2024/2025 annual report is attached for Members' information and consideration showing some of the work carried out in that financial year.
- 3.3 The Service seeks to promote and maintain a fair and equitable trading environment for consumers and businesses alike, creating a level and equal marketplace in which consumers can spend in confidence, business can confidently trade and our local economy can grow. Our duties extend to all business types including those who trade online and the growing internet marketplace, our local high streets, commercial business parks, trading estates, those who trade from their homes and door to door tradespeople.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Trading Standards Service for 2024/2025, was provided within its agreed net budget.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been screened to assess their relevance to equality and were found to have no equality implications.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 There is no requirement to specifically consult Ward Members about this report as it affects all wards across both Boroughs.

8.0 Human Resources Implications

- 8.1 There are no staffing or property implications arising from this report.

Contact Officer

Any person wishing to obtain more information should contact Anu Prashar, Senior Regulatory Service Manager, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley Middlesex HA9 0FJ. Telephone: (020) 8937 55215, anu.prashar@brent.gov.uk

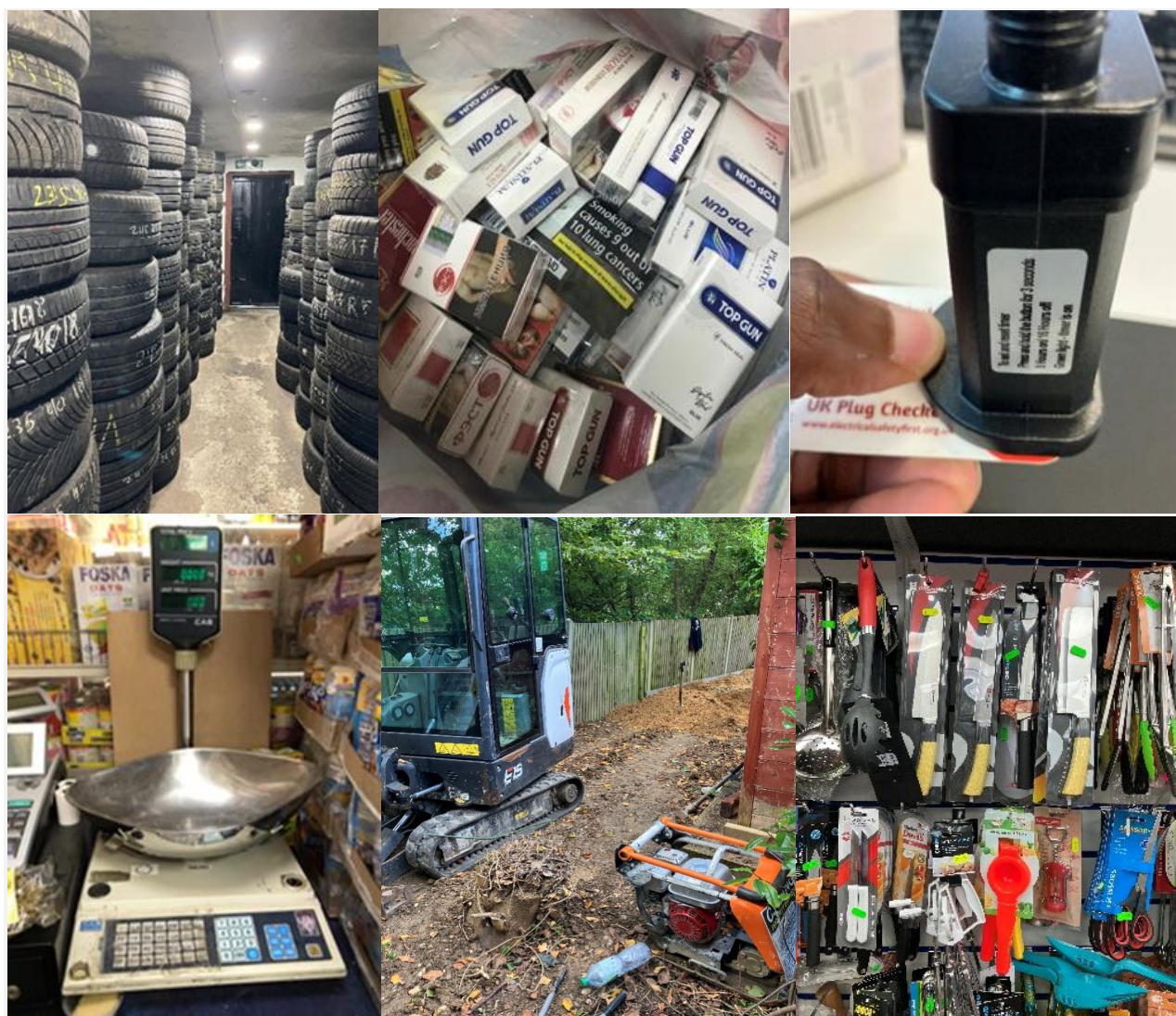
ANU PRASHAR
SENIOR REGULATORY SERVICE MANAGER



**Brent and Harrow Trading
Standards Service**
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



Annual Report 2024/25



Introduction

This Annual Report has been written to highlight some of the key outcomes delivered by the Trading Standards Service from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The Service is managed by Anu Prashar with Samuel Abdullahi as the Team Leader.

The Service Manager reports to the Head of Regulatory Service, with the team working as part of the wider Regulatory Services provision within the Neighbourhoods & Regeneration Corporate Directorate.

The Trading Standards team consisting of with 3.5 Enforcement Officers for Brent and 2.5 for Harrow the team's work continues to demonstrate and focus on protecting residents, communities, and businesses from harm and financial loss, and maintaining a confident marketplace supporting businesses and the local economy growth. The Service fulfils the local authority's statutory role of a 'weights and measures authority' tasked with enforcing more than 250 pieces of legislation.

Service Requests

The Service continues to work in partnership with the Citizen's Advice Consumer Service (CACS) and accept referrals of cases involving criminal activity, or ongoing consumer harm that affect our residents.

The Service received a total of 4217 service request, 1093 reports were further analysed by the Brent team and 725 by the Harrow team. These originated from members of the public as well as businesses seeking professional advice and guidance. Other referrals came via the Ports Teams, the Metropolitan Police, other Trading Standards Services, and trade industries.

Unfortunately, we cannot investigate or deal with every request received, so each service request is assessed and scored to determine whether it will be investigated further. This year 321 reports were investigated in Brent and 145 in Harrow.

Supporting Businesses

The Service strives to contribute towards both Borough's objectives of supporting business growth by delivering effective regulation for the benefit of legitimate businesses. Officers have responded to 112 separate requests for advice and information from our local businesses (Brent 62 and Harrow 50). This was an increase of 12% from the previous year.

We have conducted 236 compliance inspections (Brent 117, Harrow 119) to verify that businesses are adhering to consumer protection laws, product safety standards, and fair trading practices.

We have continued to deliver support and advice to our Primary Authority businesses and guided our partners through complex safety matters including product recalls and withdrawals from UK and EU markets. Our reputation in Primary Authority has resulted in a new partnership created with Sabre Retail Fashion Limited trading as Mint Velvet, a national clothing retailer. We maintain our partnership with the other businesses.

Brent delivered 57 hours and Harrow 20 hours of Primary Authority advice, covering areas such as Product Safety, Fair Trading, and Trademarks.

In March 2025 the Service wrote to 703 businesses (422 Brent and 281 Harrow) advising them of the single use vape ban coming into force as of 1 June 2025.

Product Safety & Market Surveillance

The Service continues to undertake a wide range of activities to protect its residents and promote the well-being of our communities. Compliance inspections, market surveillance and investigations have been carried out on an e-bikes modification business, cosmetic products, PPE, and homeware products.



The power supply to a neck massager was found to present a serious risk of fire/explosion. The business was based in Hong Kong and had no UK office but sold all its products via Amazon, one of which reached a Brent consumer. Officers managed to overcome this difficulty and engage with the business to secure a recall of 156,000 units preventing further occurrences in neighbouring boroughs and nationwide.

We have facilitated a product recall on a climbing arch presenting risk of injury and strangulation to children. The company worked with the team to ensure that the recall was adequately delivered, and the replacement product was safe and compliant.

Following the receipt of intelligence from a Brent based importer, several non-compliant pressure cookers not intended for the UK market were removed from sale. Unlike the importer, the business had failed to have the products manufactured to UK standards, creating unfair competition among businesses and potentially risking consumer safety.

Body lotions and creams claiming to have skin lightening properties were found in two businesses and surrendered and seized. These cosmetics were found to contain hydroquinone, a dangerous banned ingredient that can cause pregnancy complications, skin infections and osteoporosis.

Officers have examined general purpose sunglasses to ensure the products being sold locally are compliant with traceability obligations. These products must also have a full set of instructions and category protection declaration for example "Cat 1, Light tint sunglasses - limited protection against sun glare, moderate UV protection".



Through our online market surveillance work we have identified:

- 3 pin adapters which do not confirm to safety requirements and had access to live parts and 500w plug in heaters that have been subject to previous product recalls and known to be unsafe. Engaging with the online platforms, officers have successfully removed these from sale and prevented further injury to consumers nationally.
- We have also removed hundreds of "One Shot" drain cleaner, a highly concentrated and powerful chemical made up of 93% sulphuric acid. This has been found on various marketplaces and homeware shops throughout the boroughs and is misused in criminal activity, particularly in acid attacks. There are restrictions to the supply of this product that businesses were not adhering to, so to safeguard our communities and the wider public, our officers have had the products removed from sale.
- Officers looked at hair care products often found to contain butylphenyl methylpropane, a synthetic fragrance recently banned due to concerns about reproductive toxicity. Following expiry of the sell through period, these products remained on shop shelves and several businesses were instructed to remove them from sale.

A fire was reported from a Li-ion battery in a robotic vacuum cleaner that required detailed examination of manufacturers technical files.

Whilst an isolated incident, officers know the importance of checking technical documentation and not accept that large manufacturers have full due diligence procedures in place.



The team has a statutory duty to carry out market surveillance and enforcement activities concerning the storage and sale of fireworks and is responsible for ensuring that fireworks sold in Brent & Harrow are manufactured to the relevant standard and that they are not sold to minors.

The Service issued 32 fireworks licences to 29 businesses in Harrow.

Partnership Working (Events and Days of Action)

The Service continues to participate in enforcement operations at Wembley Stadium event days to deliver a strong message that illegal sellers and counterfeit merchandise is not welcome.

Working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, the Football Association, brand protection teams, and our environmental enforcement officers, we have seen a huge improvement in compliance levels on event days, with a substantial decline in illegal street traders, making the events much more pleasurable for all who attend.

The service contributes to the 'Weeks of Action' in Harrow working alongside the Police, Licensing, Environmental Health, Community Safety teams and other colleagues within the council. Officers conduct compliance checks on local businesses across all areas including knife sales, vapes, counterfeit products. Our officers provide and information concerning the responsible trader scheme and seek to sign up new members where appropriate.

Age-Restricted Products

As part of our ongoing commitment to protect consumers and our communities, preventing children from accessing age-restricted products, is a key priority for the Service. We provide training and advice to businesses selling age restricted products both online and in-store. Throughout the year, we run several test purchase operations whereby child volunteers are employed to test business processes and ensure compliance in the sale of knives, vapes, cigarettes, alcohol, solvents, and butane.

Business that sells to our minors are subject to formal action.

This year we have conducted 61 visits using child volunteers. 30 were carried out in Brent and 31 in Harrow. 83.61% of businesses tested, did not sell to our children. 4 were prosecuted and the remainder were giving warnings or a caution.

	Test Purchases	Number of sales	% of businesses that Sold
Brent	30	6	20.00%
Harrow	31	4	12.90%
B&H	61	10	16.39%

Responsible Trader Scheme

The Service Operates a Responsible Trader Scheme. The scheme provides guidance to assist our businesses with the training of their staff regarding age restricted products.

The Scheme promotes best practice and allows businesses to demonstrate a commitment to protecting our young people.

The training pack provides advice on a whole range of age restricted products including knives, vapes and corrosive substances.

34 Businesses were visited concerning the Responsible Trader Scheme.



Knife Crime

13 visits targeting retailers of knives in Brent & Harrow (5 Brent and 8 Harrow) were carried out as part of Operation Sceptre, the national initiative led by UK police forces to combat knife-related violence. Officers focuses where on educating businesses on safe storage and display of knives so they cannot be stolen or used as a weapon against staff or someone else.

Tackling Criminal Behaviour and Creating a Level Playing Field

One of the key functions of Trading Standards is to protect consumers and support legitimate businesses. We have an array of penalties available to us where businesses deliberately break the law, ignore our advice or cause serious harm. This ranges from monetary penalties and undertakings to fines and imprisonment.

Operation CeCe (Illicit Tobacco Enforcement)

The supply of illicit tobacco undermines the efforts to reduce tobacco consumption by smokers and the uptake of smoking. Operation CeCe commenced in 2021 to tackle the sale and supply of illicit tobacco products such as cigarettes, hand-rolling tobacco, and shisha. The Service remains committed to carrying out this work.

A total of 36 businesses have been visited during this reporting period with 21 in Brent and 16 in Harrow. Some of these visits have included the use of a tobacco sniffer dog to find hidden tobacco and conduct thorough searches.

From 13 businesses in Brent and 3 in Harrow the Service seized:

- Almost 60kg of cigarettes sticks
- 4kg of hand rolling tobacco
- 39kg of Shisha tobacco
- Almost 10kg chewing & oral tobacco



In February 2025, the Service secured a successful conviction of a prolific illicit tobacco trader in Wembley. Willesden magistrates court handed a six-month custodial sentence to Thakker the owner of the business. This sent a strong

message around the seriousness of this criminality and the potential penalties the court will impose for persistent sellers of illicit tobacco.

Letting Agents Compliance Work

The Service continues to pro-actively conduct online audits of agents advertising rental services as well as responding to complaints. We have created a new partnership with our Housing colleagues and share intelligence to provide a meaningful response to local businesses and residents.

We have examined the websites of 50 agents (22 in Brent and 28 in Harrow) and issued 10 Notices of Intent (NOI) to issue monetary penalties

5 of the NOIs issued have resulted in monetary penalty amounting to £9,550 (£4,200 for Brent & Harrow

Ensuring a Level-Playing Field

As a Service, we deliver several projects and areas of enforcement in response to the cost-of-living crisis which is aimed to support legitimate businesses and raising consumer confidence in the goods and services they buy.

One of the areas of concern is within the supply and sale of second-hand tyres (part-worn tyres). Businesses that supply and sell part-worn tyres were written to last year providing advice and guidance with practical steps on complying with relevant safety legislation. 7 of these businesses have been visited and all found to be compliant.



A total of 11(B&H) businesses have been visited and 26 weighing instruments in use for trade were tested 9 in Harrow and 19 in Brent by our inspectors.

8 weighing scales were found in use without initial verification (3 in Harrow and 5 in Brent), however, they weighed accurately, and short measure was not an issue.

Following an allegation of short fuel delivery from a petrol station, officers carried a check on 7 liquid fuel measuring instruments (petrol pumps) to confirm the delivery was accurate and consumers were paying for the fuel dispensed.

High Risk and Most Complained About Businesses

The Service is intelligence-led and has focused resources around high-risk and most complained-about businesses, from used car dealers and cosmetic importers to small convenience shops. Officers have conducted compliance visits, providing detailed advice and information to 56 of these businesses (25 in Harrow, 31 in Brent) and facilitated refunds, much to the gratitude of the consumers.

Officers secured a refund of £1,500 from a used car dealer in Harrow and £7,300 from another in Brent following complaints received around false and restrictive statements on receipts/invoices, vehicle descriptions and vehicle quality.

In October 2024 a used car dealer pleaded guilty to car clocking and was fined over £5,000 and made to pay £17,500 to the victim.

Doorstep Crime & Scams

The Service is set to deliver a rapid response service to our residents to prevent, disrupt, and deter doorstep criminals, this financial year officers have saved residents a total of £37,000 (£9,000 in Brent and £28,000 in Harrow). In one case, a vulnerable Brent resident was grossly overcharged for roofing works. Working with the bank fraud prevention, the local Safer Neighbourhood Team, officers contacted the business and secured a £1,500 refund for the resident.

We continue to receive complaints about building and renovation services which we will investigate further. Officers have supported residents by arranging for Building Control and surveyors to visit and assess work carried out to assist with civil routes of redress, including interventions with banks.

The National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams team has been working closely with Royal Mail to intercept and stop mail which is designed to defraud unsuspected victims out of their money. There are various types of scams, but the most common are fake lotteries, deceptive prize draws, get-rich-quick schemes, investment scams, miracle cures, and clairvoyant/spiritual scams. The Trading Standards team has received referrals from NTS who have responded to such mail and in some cases enclosed a cash payment in response to either one or more of these which have been intercepted, cheques totalling up to £1,040 (£450 in Brent and £590 in Harrow). All victims have been contacted, advised and where possible their monies were returned to them.

The team has officers who are Friends Against Scam 'SCAM Champions' and can provide training on how to support and reduce the chances of being a scam victim. In September 2024, an officer presented to Safeguard Practice Month (ASG) - This is one of the actions of the Safeguarding Improvement Plan. Including roles and responsibilities, undertaking safeguarding referrals, liaison, and co-operation of

Trading Standards with ASG. We also have an officer who sits on the Harrow Safeguarding Board.

Proceed of Crime (POCA)

- A total of 4 Confiscation Orders –totalling £301,502
- 3 Restraint Orders granted on assets
- 29 Production Orders
- 2 International Letters of Request granted to establish the individuals behind an overseas corporation and associated business activities

Case 1

In a Brent case two defendants failed to cease the use of the premises as four self-contained residential units and demolish a two-storey side, rear extensions and roof extensions. Confiscation order of £176,000 was made by Harrow Crown Court.



Case 2

Brent Council conducts financial investigations for other local authorities, and one such was for Harrow Council which resulted in a confiscation order being made by Harrow Crown Court on 16 May 2024 for £126,946.16 which reflected the rental income that had been made from breaching a planning enforcement notice. This notice related to a house which had been converted into six self-contained dwellings which did not have the required planning permission.

**London Boroughs of Brent & Harrow
Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board
4 June 2025
Report from the Senior Service Manager**

FOR INFORMATION

**KNIFE CRIME PROPOSALS REGARDING AGE- VERIFICATION
CHECKS**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides Members with information regarding proposals to implement age verification checks and to seek control of the doorstep dropping of knives and bladed articles to greater protect young people from knife crime.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Joint Advisory Board Members note the additional proposals.

3.0 Details

- 3.1 On the 28 January 2025, the Government announced that stricter age verification checks and a ban on doorstep drops will be introduced to greater protect young people from knife crime.
- 3.2 These new measures have been identified as further controls preventing weapons getting into the wrong hands.
- 3.3 A stringent 2-step system will be mandated for all retailers selling knives online requiring customers to submit photo ID at point of sale and again on delivery. In addition, delivery companies will only be able to deliver a bladed article to the same person who purchased it.
- 3.4 The Government has set out its mission to halve knife crime within a decade as part of the Plan for Change and a core element of this will be addressing problems in the online sales space.
- 3.5 Under the proposed new measures, a person may need to submit a copy of a photo ID such as driving licence or passport, as well as proof of address such as a utility bill, before showing ID again when the package is delivered. This could also include a person submitting a current photo or video of themselves to an online retailer alongside their ID.
- 3.6 It will also be illegal to leave a package containing a bladed weapon on a doorstep when no one is in to receive it.

- 3.7 Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said: “It’s a total disgrace how easy it still is for children to get dangerous weapons online. More than two years after Ronan Kanda was killed with a ninja sword bought by a teenager online, too many retailers still don’t have proper checks in place. It’s too easy to put in false birth dates, parcels are too often being dropped off at a doorstep with no questions asked. We cannot go on like this. We need much stronger checks – before you buy, before it’s delivered. The measures I am setting out today will be crucial in addressing this problem and are part of our Plan for Change and mission to make streets safer”.
- 3.8 The Crime and Policing Bill 2025 which was introduced in the House of Commons on the 25 February 2025 will increase the maximum prison sentence for selling weapons to under-18s from two months to up to two years. That could apply either to an individual who has processed the sale or the Chief Executive of a company – giving online marketplaces an added incentive to take their responsibilities seriously.
- 3.9 The increased penalty will also apply to the sale or supply of prohibited offensive weapons such as recently banned zombie-style knives.
- 3.10 Retailers will also be required to report any bulk or suspicious-looking purchases of knives on their platforms to police to prevent illegal resales happening across social media accounts.
- 3.11 The new rules follow a spate of tragic incidents involving knives, including the deadly Southport attack in which Axel Rudakubana used a knife he had purchased on Amazon when he was 17 to attack and kill young children at a dance class.
- 3.12 The raft of measures are being referred to as ‘Ronan’s Law’, in tribute to Ronan Kanda, a 16-year-old who was killed in 2022 by a teenager carrying a 22-inch ‘ninja blade’ purchased online.
- 3.13 Last autumn, the government commissioned Commander Stephen Clayman, the National Police Chiefs’ Council lead for knife crime, to conduct a review into the sale of knives online. This report¹ was published on 31 January 2025. The review exposes loopholes in the sale of knives online and highlights the lack of minimum standards for age verification and delivery checks.
- 3.14 The report highlighted that Trading Standards have a key role in the identification of retailers not meeting the requirements of age verification, primarily through test purchase. Whilst in the physical world, test purchase can be completed by working with young people, as they enter a store to try and buy age restricted products, the online space presents far more challenges when it comes to delivery addresses and ID verification. This is particularly relevant when looking at couriers’ obligations as testing these cannot always be easily achieved and there is a reliance on the company’s own compliance mechanisms.
- 3.15 The report also recommended that a knife retailer registration scheme should be set up in order to close legislative loopholes and create an offence of unauthorised selling of knives. It would ensure that only reputable retailers who comply with the

¹ [Independent end-to-end review of online knife sales \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)

law and prioritise public safety will be able to sell knives.

- 3.16 The Government has previously announced that they will hold social media executives to account for knife crime related content which glorifies and incites violence amongst young people. Senior executives of social media companies will face significant fines in the region of £10,000 for failing to swiftly remove knife crime related content from their platforms.
- 3.17 Brent and Harrow Trading Standards advises local businesses on their legal responsibilities and sign-up traders to our 'Responsible Trader Scheme' to promote best practice and support businesses who sell age restricted goods. We have also carried out test purchases when we have received intelligence that a trader may be selling knives to persons under the age of 18.
- 3.18 The tables below show the number of knife test purchases carried out over the last three years and the outcomes of those sales.

Harrow

Year	Attempts	Sales	Outcome
24/25	1	1	Letter of warning
23/24	1	1	Letter of warning
22/23	5	0	

Brent

Year	Attempts	Sales	Outcome
24/25	3	0	
23/24	6	0	
22/23	11	1	Company fined £1,500, awarded to pay £300 victim surcharge and costs £1,076

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial considerations arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There is no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been screened to assess their relevance to equality and were found to have no equality implications.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 There is no requirement to specifically consult Ward Members about this report as it will affect all wards across both Boroughs.

8.0 Human Resources Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

Contact Officer

Any person wishing to obtain more information should contact Anu Prashar, Senior Regulatory Service Manager, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley Middlesex HA9 0FJ. Telephone: (020) 8937 55215, anu.prashar@brent.gov.uk

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