

BRENT & HARROW TRADING STANDARDS MID –YEAR REPORT 2025/26

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Services performance mid-way through the year highlighting some of the key achievements for the year so far. This is to provide some easily to digest information of what the Service has been doing without having to wait until the publication of the annual report.

The key function of Trading Standards is to protect consumers and legitimate businesses by enforcing consumer protection laws, ensuring safe and fair marketplaces.

Since April 2025, two new legislations have come into force which are enforce by Trading Standards. The first being 'The Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024' (DMCCA) which replaces the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 came into force on 6 April 2025.

The second is 'The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024' which came into force comes into force on 1 June 2025 banning the sale and supply of single-use vapes often called disposable vapes.

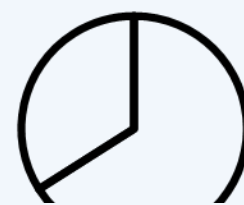
The Service receives service requests from various sources such as consumers, businesses, other local authorities, the ports and enforcement bodies such as the Police.

2116

Service requests received during this period from various sources

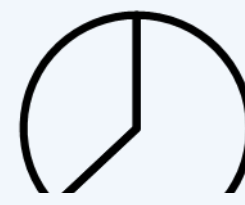
960

Were further analysed by the teams



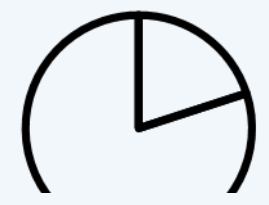
512

Further analysed relating to a Brent business or resident



448

Further analysed relating to a Harrow business or resident



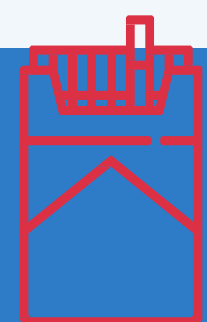
70

Directly from a business (32 Brent and 38 Harrow)

The Service has always aimed to support local legitimate businesses by ensuring that they are compliant with the relevant legislation that governs the business and protect consumers.

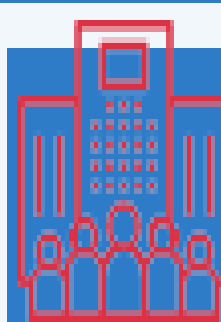
120

Enforcement visits carried out to ensure businesses comply with the law and provide advice necessary



22

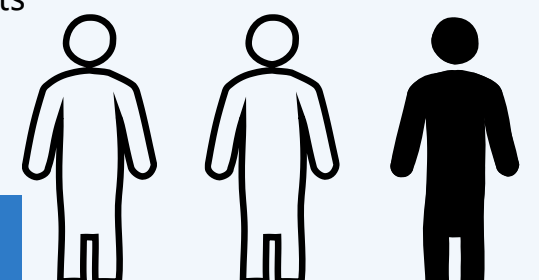
Businesses visited to check for compliance relating to the sales of illicit tobacco (10 in Brent and 12 in Harrow)



27

High Risks and Most Complained about businesses visited (15 in Brent and 12 in Harrow)

A wide range of activities are undertaking by the service to protect the health and wellbeing of the residents of both Brent and Harrow, and this includes ensuring that age restricted products such as vapes, cigarettes and alcohol are not sold or readily available to minors, officers do advise on a very wide range of age restricted sales legislation to help to keep young people safe.

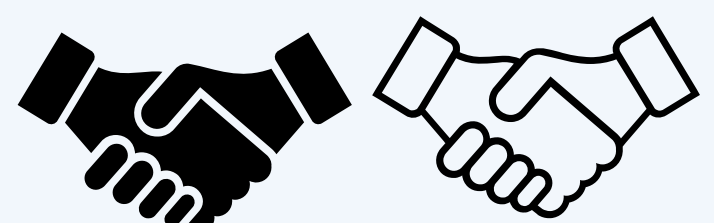


38

Businesses were tested for underage sale of products such as vapes, alcohol and cigarettes the failure rate thus far is 15% (5 vapes & 1 Butane sale)

The team is set to deliver a rapid response service to our residents to prevent, disrupt and deter doorstep criminals, to date it has not received any calls that needed to be attended urgently, however, it has received complaints about building and renovation services which it has investigated further. Officers have continued to support residents.

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. Officers contributes to the Harrow 'Week of Action' events working alongside the Police, Licensing, Environmental Health, Community Safety and other colleagues.



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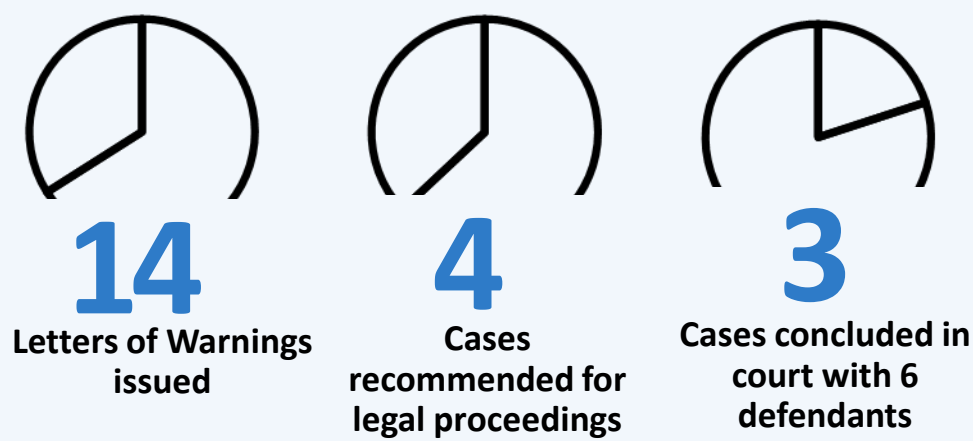
Trading Standards has an array of penalties available to us where businesses deliberately break the law, ignore our advice or cause serious harm. This ranges from a written warning , caution, monetary penalties, undertakings to fines and imprisonment.

16

Infringement reports completed for various breaches

£3,132

Total cost awarded by the courts from defendants



The Service continues to pro-actively conduct online audits of agents actively advertising rental services as well as responding to complaints

5

Final Notices were issued to agents for failing to comply

£12,722

Monetary Penalty issued for noncompliance

The Service does have two financial investigators who conducts financial investigations for other local authorities

£193,376

Confiscation order made by the courts in Proceeds of Crime Case

The table shows the projected goals of the respective teams during 2025/26 against what has been achieved so far.

The work areas are kept on constant review with the teams to assess the current positions. Where necessary an action plan is put in place to ensure the maximum output of work is achieved by the end of the year

The projected work volumes are based on both teams having a full compliment of enforcement staff 3.5 Enforcement Officers for Brent and 2.5 for Harrow

The nature of Trading Standard’s duties does vary and therefore the figures are subject to change.

The final output would be reported in the annual report

Action	Brent Planned	Brent to Date	Harrow Planned	Harrow to Date
Service Requests Completed	366	110	250	66
Business enquiries/requests for advice	78	32	54	38
High Risk / Most Complained-about Trader Inspections	31	15	25	12
Port Referrals	5	2	1	1
Other Business Inspections/Visits	62	27	71	11
Weights & Measures, Average Quantity or Verification visits	4	2	3	1
Primary Authority Hours	117	10.5	36	15
Underage Test Purchase Visits	62	16	57	22
Infringement reports	31	8	21	8
Prosecutions completed – Crown Court	1	0	1	0
Prosecutions completed – Magistrates’ Court	8	3	6	0
Licensing Condition Reviews	1	0	1	0
Simple Cautions Signed	6	0	4	0
Letters of Warning	9	7	10	7
Fixed Penalty Notices Issued	8	2	7	3
Local and Regional Projects Completed	2	2	2	2
Service Improvement Work (Hours)	97	45	53	35
Approved Trader Scheme New Recruits or Audits	10	8	21	7
Doorstep Crime Rapid Response Actions	3	0	4	0
Number of Scam Victims Contacted c/o NTS Scams Hub	40	2	43	1
Partnership or Area-Based Working Events/Weeks of Action	8	4	6	7
Samples, Mileage & Websites Checks	58	68	54	21
Number of intelligence Logs Input on Regional Database	64	47	60	12
External social media including press releases issued	6	2	4	1