



Trading Standards Overview of Functions August 2020

Supporting and maintaining confidence in the economy

- **Business Advice:**
Comprehensive business advice services, helping businesses to understand what the law requires of them and how to put that into practice.
- **Farm to Fork:**
We have an inspection regime that looks at every aspect of the food chain, from the feed being fed to livestock (composition, suitability, storage), to their medicine records to ensure veterinary medicines won't enter the human food chain, from checking only appropriately aged animals go through the abattoirs, and ensuring the meat that ultimately ends up on the shelves of supermarkets or in butchers windows is accurately labelled (weight, composition, origin).
- **Food Standards:**
In addition to the above we carry out an annual inspection regime in relation to food premises (food producers, retailers and catering establishments) looking at composition, labelling, claims, allergens and weight.
- **Weights & Measures:**
Intelligence led weights and measures work to ensure the accuracy of scales and measures used in a commercial setting.
- **Animal disease:**
Inspection regime to ensure owners of livestock are complying with all disease control measures to limit the impact of an animal disease outbreak such as Foot & Mouth. Animal disease contingency plans to enable us to lock down a disease rapidly.
- **Fair Trading:**
Enforcement work in relation to Fair Trading matters – the remit is broad but includes rogue traders, fraud, money laundering, pressure selling, false claims/mis-descriptions, counterfeiters, car clockers and illicit tobacco. This work tackles the criminals or those deliberately flouting the rules to ensure a level playing field for legitimate businesses and that consumer confidence in UK businesses remains high.
- **Proceeds of Crime:**
Linked to Fair Trading is our Proceeds of Crime work which looks to claw back the proceeds of crime from those convicted of acquisitive crimes.

Protecting Health & Wellbeing

- **Safety at Sports Grounds:**
We are the Responsible Authority in terms of issuing Safety Certificates at Sports Grounds. We carry out periodic inspections at each of the regulated grounds and convene Safety Advisory Groups with a range of partners – police (resilience and operational), fire service (resilience and operational), ambulance, building control, Environmental Health, Highways and venue

representatives to discuss the necessary safety requirements. The Regulations came about as a result of the Hillsborough disaster.

- **Product Safety:**

We are the lead enforcement body when it comes to safety issues with products sold to consumers. Our work is a combination of proactive, intelligence-led project work to identify product safety issues, and reactive work responding to product safety issues being reported to us by the public and other Authorities. This area of work is increasing.

- **Allergens:**

In addition to the food standards work outlined above which is all intended to ensure the food we ultimately consume is safe, we have introduced an annual inspection regime to look at allergen compliance within those sectors that have the highest failure rates.

- **Rogue traders:**

Although mentioned above under 'Fair Trading', it is worth highlighting our important role in tracking down rogue traders and bringing them to justice. The impacts of these crimes have a devastating impact on the lives of their elderly, vulnerable victims – not only do rogue traders frequently take their life savings, but they take away their sense of safety and security in their home, with statistics suggesting many of them give up their independence having been the victim of rogue trading.

- **Explosives:**

We are responsible for licensing every premises in the county that stores and sells explosives. Before issuing a licence we inspect the storage to check the container is safe, check the fireworks are legal in the UK and check they have effective systems in place for age verification

- **Petroleum:**

We are also responsible for licensing every petrol station in Cambridgeshire. Again this licensing regime was introduced because of the public safety risk from the large quantities of flammable fuel. We check 50% of petrol stations a year, alternating year on year.

- **Illicit tobacco enforcement:**

We look to address these issues by raiding those stores for which we have Intelligence, in conjunction with Partners. This work was funded by Public Health last year.

- **Underage sales of alcohol:**

Public Health also provided funding for the Service to carry out a range of underage test purchasing operations last year to identify stores selling alcohol to underage children and deal with them accordingly.

- **Animal welfare**

Our obligations don't just apply to people. We are responsible for ensuring animal welfare is upheld by farmers across the county and we have an inspection programme that looks to identify breaches. Unfortunately in recent

years we have come across some appalling cases of neglect and have taken several prosecutions.

- **Illegal Landings**

In addition to the control of disease amongst livestock and hooved animals outlined above, we are also responsible for dealing with animals illegally entering the country without the relevant disease vaccinations, most frequently puppies imported from Eastern Europe. We are required to seize them and place them in quarantine until such time as they are safe to return to their owner or be re-homed. Rabies is of course the greatest concern.