Warwickshire Trading Standards Partner Update

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National Housing Order declared to protect poultry from Avian Influenza

The UK Chief Veterinary Officer has ordered a mandatory housing order to cover the whole of England following the escalating number of confirmations of avian influenza in kept and wild birds.



The new measures mean bird keepers across the whole of England must house all poultry and captive birds if they keep more than 50 (except in specific circumstances e.g. some zoo birds) or if they sell or give eggs away.

A GB wide Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) is also in place and requires all keepers whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock to undertake enhanced biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks of the disease. These enhanced biosecurity measures include reporting of changes in egg production, mandatory record keeping, disinfecting footwear, and cleansing & housing disinfecting and concrete walkways on a continuous basis

This nationwide housing order extension follows the introduction of housing measures for north, central and parts of east of England to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks of the disease.

Warwickshire Trading Standards Animal Health Officers' role includes helping manage and control animal diseases.

For more information visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-housing-order-declared-to-protect-poultry-from-avian-influenza

Studley Shop That Sold Illegal Cigarettes Shut Following Action by Trading Standards

A shop that repeatedly sold counterfeit and non-duty paid cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco has been closed following action from **Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards**.

Bazzar Mini Market located on Alcester Rd in Studley had been selling illegal cheap cigarettes and tobacco. Trading Standards worked with the landlord to have the lease on the property forfeited. Posters have now been affixed to the front of the shop stating that it has been closed after persons on the premise were engaging in criminal activity.



Trading Standards Officers seized

hundreds of packets of cigarettes hidden in a secret wall compartment and under the floor in a specially built lift operated by hydraulic pistons.

Warwickshire County Councillor Michael Bannister, Portfolio Holder for Customer and Localities said:

"I'm delighted that our Trading Standards Service, working in partnership with Warwickshire Police, has taken this action. Illegal cigarettes sold at pocket money prices are easier for children and young people to buy and get hooked on. The profits from these sales often end up the hands of organised crime groups, helping to fuel other criminal activity."



"Those who sell illegal tobacco are warned that they face large fines or jail and could see their businesses closed."

You can report the sale of illegal cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 0808 223 1133.

Trading Standards Support Police Op Machinize

Operation Machinize is a nationwide initiative coordinated by the National Crime Agency to disrupt money laundering and other serious organised crime by targeting cash intensive high street businesses that are often used as fronts for illegal activity.



Trading Standards Officers have been supporting Warwickshire Police in their visits to businesses including vape shops, nail bars, barbers and fast-food restaurants.

In Warwick and Leamington Spa over £2000 worth of illegal vapes and tobacco was seized, six people were arrested for immigration offences and one premise was served a prohibition notice in relation to health and safety concerns.

Stop Loan Sharks is now on WhatsApp!

You can now access support or report illegal money lending quickly and confidentially by messaging the team on 07700 102773. This new service is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, and all messages are treated in confidence.

Outside those times, you can still reach the team by calling the 24/7 helpline 0300 555 2222 or visiting stoploansharks.co.uk



Firework Safety Promoted

Did you know that 45% of fire related injuries occurring in Warwickshire between October and November happen during the Halloween and Bonfire Night Throughout the 'firework Period? Warwickshire season' Trading Standards visited sellers of fireworks across the County to ensure that they were being stored and sold safely and were not being sold to children. The service also promoted firework safety messages on social media.



'Safe for the Season' Campaign

Warwickshire Trading Standards is supporting 'Safe for the Season' a new winter campaign promoting safer shopping and selling. The campaign provides practical, accessible advice for anyone buying or selling goods – whether online, in shops, or second-hand.



With more consumers turning to online platforms and second-hand sources to find affordable goods, the risk of encountering unsafe or non-compliant products is increasing. At the same time, many small businesses and independent sellers may be unaware of the product safety laws that apply to them.

Unsafe electrical items, toys without proper safety markings, and products lacking

traceability can pose serious risks to children and adults. The campaign aims to reduce these risks by raising awareness and providing practical, accessible guidance.

What's Included

- · Consumer Advice: How to shop safely online, what to check when buying second-hand, and how to spot unsafe products in-store.
- Business Support: Free resources for sellers, including guidance on product safety, labelling, traceability, and legal compliance.

To find out more, search for social media posts using the hashtag #safefortheseason or visit: https://centsa.org.uk/campaigns-2/

Good News as Most Traders 'Mystery Shopped' for Age Restricted Products Pass the Test

This Autumn, Warwickshire Trading Standards mystery-shopped 53 High St. stores, asking young people under the age of 18 to attempt to buy alcohol, cigarette and nicotine vapes. Out of 53 premises visited, located across every district and borough, only 6 failed to ask for age identification. Business and staff caught selling age restricted products to minors could be prosecuted.



New Online Age Restricted Products Training Portal Launched



Central England Trading Standards Authorities (CEnTSA) have launched an age restricted sales e-learning package for businesses. The package is designed to support businesses that want to build awareness, strengthen compliance procedures, and train staff consistently across all age restricted sales key areas. For more information visit: https://centsa.org.uk/product/age-restricted-sales-bundle/

