

# Warwickshire Trading Standards Partner Update

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards)    [tradingstandards@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## New Measures to Help Protect Poultry Industry from Bird Flu

**All bird keepers will be required to register their birds and update records annually under new proposals.**

New measures to better protect the poultry sector from future avian influenza outbreaks have been set out by the government.

Under the changes announced there will be new requirements for all bird keepers - **regardless of the size of their flock** - to officially register their birds.

Currently only those who keep 50 or more poultry must do so, limiting the effectiveness of our national disease control measures.



The new rules cover owners of **backyard flocks, birds of prey and pigeon fanciers**, but do not affect caged pet birds (excluding any poultry species) kept entirely inside a domestic dwelling, such as a parrot, canary or budgie, which never leaves the property other than to visit a vet or another short-term period.

The requirements will be set out in legislation shortly and keepers will also be legally required to update their information on an annual basis.

More information:

<https://tinyurl.com/2e56fckn>

## 200 Hours Community Service for Owner of Shop that Sold Illegal Vapes

Warwickshire Vape Ltd trading as Royal Vapes, and its owner Luke Benjamin Spencer, have been successfully prosecuted by Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service.

Trading Standards Officers seized hundreds of illegal disposable nicotine vapes from the business which has premises in Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Nuneaton and Warwick. The business had been warned to remove the products from sale but had failed to do so. Vapes seized included Elux Legend 3500 Blueberry Raspberry and R&M Tornado 7000 Skittles.



The offences related to the sale of disposable vapes that contained more nicotine containing liquid than the legal 2ml limit and vapes that used images and wording associated with trade marked sweet products, specifically Skittles and Ribena.

Mr Hunt, representing Mr Spencer said that his client's offending had not been deliberate. However, Magistrates heard that Mr Spencer had been in business selling vapes for 10 years and had a staff of 18 employees and found it surprising that Mr Spencer said he was naïve.

At Coventry Magistrates Court on Monday 26th February 2024, Mr Luke Spencer, aged 41 of Haddon Road, Leamington Spa, the Director of Warwickshire Vape Ltd pleaded guilty to 7 offences. He was ordered to complete 200 hours unpaid work under a 12-month community order and pay £4592 prosecution costs and a £114 victim surcharge.

Magistrates considered there to be high culpability, and high level of harm in respect of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 offences and aggravating factors of financial gain, risk to others and failure to comply with advice from Trading Standards.

Warwickshire Vape Limited also pleaded guilty to 7 offences and was fined £910 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £4590 and a £91 victim surcharge.

**Warwickshire County Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety said:** "Illegal vapes, which can contain dangerous levels of nicotine, a highly addictive drug, should not be on sale in Warwickshire. Nicotine poisoning can



## Trading Standards Business News Spring 2024

Articles include animal welfare, workers' rights, and the cost of crime.

To find out more visit:  
<https://portfolio.cpl.co.uk/TSBN/2024-spring/cover/>



### Supporting the Farming Community

Warwickshire Trading Standards Animal Health Team recently participated in an information and engagement event for farmers, horse owners and members of the local rural community.



Two events were held, one in the south of the County and one in the north.

The events were also supported by several other agencies including

Warwickshire Police, The NFU and NHW, providing an opportunity for visitors to obtain information and advice and chat about any issues or concerns.

### Keep Up to Date on all the Latest Scams and Rogue Trader Warnings

Warwickshire Trading Standards operates an email alert service, providing information and advice on rogue trader and scam incidents reported by Warwickshire residents.

To subscribe, please visit:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/scams>

cause a range of problems including nausea, vomiting, pain in the stomach or gut, or diarrhoea.”

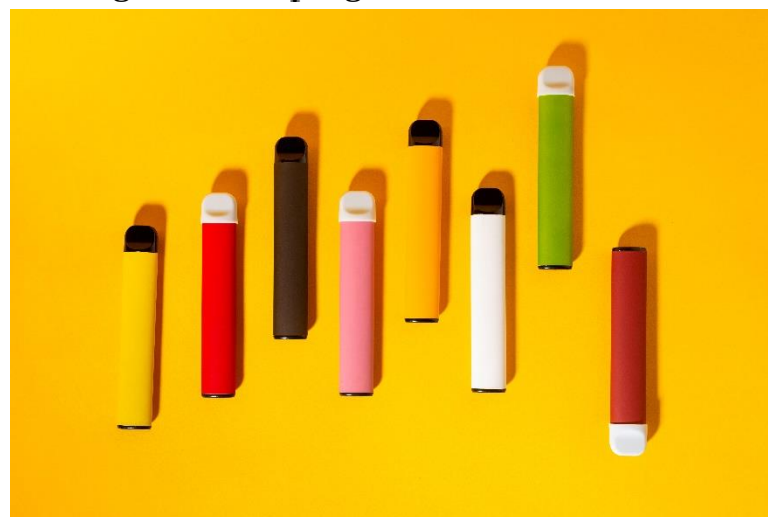
“Trading Standards Officers tried to work with this business to remove these illegal products from sale, but in vain, leaving them with no option but to take court action to protect the health of consumers.”

In Mitigation, Mr Hunt said his client was previously of good character and had made an early guilty plea. Further, there were now active measures in place in the business to ensure that only compliant products are sold, including a compliance policy and compliance manager who review all products for sale.

Magistrates also granted a deprivation order for the forfeiture and destruction of over 500 illegal nicotine inhaling vapes seized from the business.

### New Smoke Free and Vape Free Resource for Schools

Warwickshire Trading Standards has supported the development of a new resource for schools to assist them to address both smoking and vaping. This includes current legislation and guidance, how to implement smoke free and vape free policies, and teaching resources. To access the resources, visit:



<https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/smoke-free-vape-free-support-schools>

### Warwickshire Trading Standards act after resident is burnt by dangerous showerhead

Warwickshire Trading Standards is warning consumers not to use a dangerous replacement [‘stop-start-button’ showerhead](#) that can cause second and third-degree burns.

Trading Standards Officers acted after receiving a complaint from a resident who had been burnt after using the device. Working with the Bathroom Manufacturers



Association (BMA), Officers are now seeking to secure the agreement of online sellers to remove them from sale.

The replacement showerhead, sold by online marketplaces for a few pounds, are not suitable for electric showers, where they can cause the water in the appliance to overheat rapidly, potentially up to 80°C. The showerheads have buttons that can stop the flow of water, but this doesn’t deactivate an electric shower’s heating element, leading to a build-up of scalding water.