

Trading Standards News

A summary of work and Facebook posts by the Trading Standards Service



Leicestershire
County Council

Welcome to our Summer 2025 Newsletter

The latest news of our work and advice on scams and consumer issues.

Remember to stay up to date with our latest news by [following us on Facebook](#).

Contact Citizen's Advice Consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133
or [Citizen's Advice online](#) for advice on all Trading Standards matters.

Disposable Vape Ban now in effect

From the 1st of June 2025, the sale and supply of single use vapes were banned across the UK.

If you see any single use vapes on sale in shops, or you believe a business is selling unregulated products, you can report this to Trading Standards by calling Citizen's Advice Consumer Service on 0808 2231133



Any remaining used disposable vapes consumers may still have can be disposed of in dedicated bins at local shops where vapes are sold, and at your local recycling and household waste site in the small waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) recycling bin.

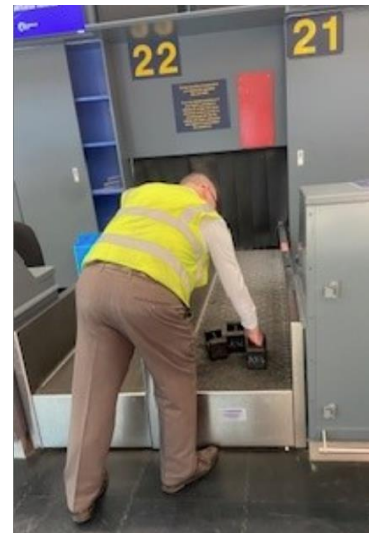
Vapes are a cause of many fires within the waste industry and contain many valuable materials. By recycling them we are reducing the fire risk and rescuing valuable reusable resources.

Making sure you're not shortchanged at the pump, the pub or the airport!

This year's World Metrology Day marked 150 years since the Metre Convention was signed.



Our Trading Standards officers are responsible for all things weights and measures and have been out carrying out checks on petrol pumps and the scales used to weigh passenger luggage at the airport, and more!



Accuracy is important so you know that you are getting what you are paying for.

If you think you have been short measured, you can report it via our 'report it' form here <https://tinyurl.com/Report-It-Here>

Pet Scam Alert!

We are aware of an email scam that is currently circulating which states that your pet's microchip has expired, and you need to pay for a new one.

This email may appear genuine as it may contain your name, address or even your pet's name. If you receive an email like this, be cautious – pet microchips do not expire.

You can forward suspicious emails to report@phising.gov.uk



If you think you may have lost money because of a scam, contact your bank and report it to Action Fraud via www.actionfraud.police.uk

Been a victim of holiday fraud?

Make sure you report it to www.actionfraud.police.uk on 0300 1232040

Holiday fraud comes with many different tactics employed by criminals to dupe unsuspecting members of the public. The most frequent frauds are clone comparison websites, airline websites and holiday websites.



Fallen victim to holiday fraud? Report it.

If you fall victim to fraud or cyber crime, please report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

At a quick glance it would appear you are on a trusted site, whereas in reality the website address has been changed. You may assume it's a genuine site and willingly hand over money only to find a booking or flight does not exist.

- Using a company you haven't used before? Research the company you're booking through, read the reviews and be cautious of 'too good to be true' offers. Also, don't click on a link and check online for the official website.
- If it is a package holiday, make sure your tour operator is a member of a trade association such as ABTA or ATOL - you can verify their membership details on the official websites.
- Pay with a credit card for extra protection and avoid paying by bank transfer.

You can find out more from Action Fraud at www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk

Regularly selling at Car Boot sales or weekend markets?

Most people who sell at boot sales probably don't consider themselves to be in trade, even if they sell at boot sales several times a year. If you buy goods or make them to resell, you are likely to be a trader even if boot sales are not a major source of income. With car boot season under way make sure you are complying with the law. A full guide outlines the legal requirements at www.businesscompanion.info



To our farming community – you are not alone



Farming is more than a job – it's a way of life. But it can also be tough, with long hours, unpredictable weather and financial pressures. The stress can take its toll on anyone.

If you're feeling overwhelmed and stressed, please know you are not alone and it's okay to ask for help. There are many resources available for farmers and those in rural communities.

Whether you need someone to talk to, help with home repairs or an extra hand to ensure your livestock's welfare, there is support at [The Farming Community Network](#) and [RABI](#)

A local rogue car dealer sentenced to over three years in prison

After being found guilty of fourteen counts relating to the fraudulent sales of cars, Lee Irons was convicted after a three-week trial at Leicester Crown Court.

Leicestershire Trading Standards investigated complaints received from consumers and found that a number of cars that were sold were faulty and numerous service histories and MOT certificates had been falsified.



An examination of some of the vehicles bought by consumers, which were the subject of complaints, found that the cars were either unsafe or unroadworthy. When Trading Standards officers visited the premises, several unsafe vehicles were found advertised for sale.

The Countryside Code

If you are out and about this summer, please follow the Countryside Code.

Keep dogs on leads and keep livestock and crops safe.

The Countryside Code is for everyone - walkers, cyclists and riders.

Following the code ensures we can all enjoy Leicestershire's natural beauty.

Further info is on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk/countryside-code)



Counterfeit Beauty Products stopped at East Midlands Airport



During routine checks at EMA, our Imports Team recently stopped a consignment of counterfeit SkinCeuticals cosmetics. Officers were alerted by poor quality packaging and labelling that stated “made in USA” when the items had originated in the far east.

The brand holder confirmed these products were counterfeit and they have been surrendered by the importer for destruction.

To avoid buying counterfeit beauty products online:

- Buy directly from the brand’s website or an authorised seller
 - Read customer reviews
 - Be wary of cut-price deals
 - Inspect packaging once you receive the item
 - Make sure you spot test a small amount on your skin to check for allergic reactions or irritation.
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Having work done on your property? What about the waste?



Many traders are careful about how they store and dispose of building waste, but illegal waste operators may take advantage of consumers and business owners, resulting in fly tipping in our beautiful Leicestershire countryside.

Check carefully before you employ a waste collector or construction company, and ask the following questions:

- Where will my waste go?
- Do you have the correct licence?
- What vehicles will you use?
- Do you take card payments?
- Can I have a VAT receipt?

Be wary if they cannot answer these questions or offer you a cash deal that sounds too low. As a householder, you have a legal duty to take all reasonable measures to ensure that your waste is disposed of properly.

Find out more about the disposal of trade waste in the county at www.leicestershire.gov.uk

Sunbathing season is upon us, are you sure that your sunscreen is up to the job?

Before using what's left from last year, check the expiry date to be sure it's still effective. If the date has passed, it should be replaced.

We often intercept cosmetics, including sunscreen, at ports of entry and find that it's counterfeit or its protection level (Sun Protection Factor) is incorrect. Buy from reputable sources to be sure that it will protect you.

Don't forget to protect your eyes too by wearing sunglasses that bear the CE or UKCA mark.



Follow more detailed sun safety guidance on the [NHS website](http://www.nhs.uk)

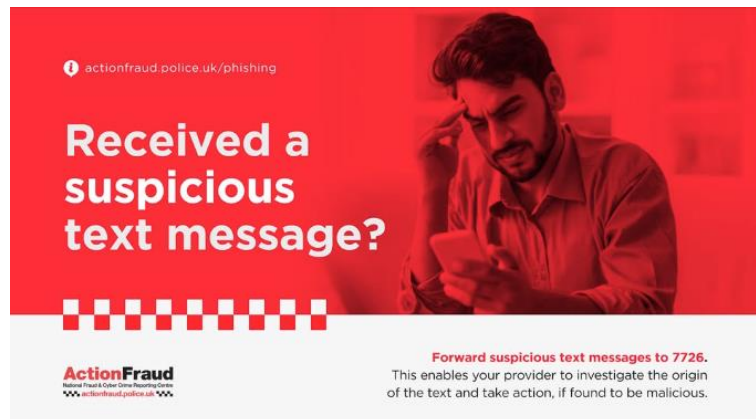
Something feeling not quite right?

Did you know you can report suspicious text messages for free?

Just forward them to 7726.

Your network provider can investigate the origin of the text and take action if it's found to be malicious.

www.actionfraud.police.uk



Follow us...

Have you visited our Facebook page recently? We regularly post on all manner of consumer issues from new scam alerts and product safety notices to the work of our Animal Health Officers and East Midlands Airport team. Join over 2000 followers to stay up to date at [LeicsTradingStandards](https://www.facebook.com/LeicsTradingStandards)



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