

Scope and Responsibilities

- The North East Trading Standards Association (NETSA) continues to take a key partnership role across the 12 local authorities in the region and delivers on various core projects on behalf of national partners, which include the National Trading Standards Board (NTSB) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA); together with regional partners.

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What is the North East Trading Standards Association (NETSA)?

NETSA is a partnership body which brings together the twelve Local Authority Trading Standards Services (LATSS's) in the North East of England, in order to enhance services and contribute to meeting local, regional and national priorities

What are our objectives?

- Work in partnership to enhance local service delivery
- Create informed confident consumers and protect the vulnerable
- Support legitimate businesses by ensuring a fair and safe trading environment
- Co-ordinate local, regional and national priorities to enhance service provision

Key Priorities for Action 2018-2020

1. Attract and strive to maintain resources to enhance the provision for Trading Standards Services in the North East region
2. Ensure consistency of interpretation and sharing best practice
3. Working collaboratively to ensure effectiveness, efficiency and value for money
4. Use evidence/intelligence gathered locally, regionally and nationally to target resources
5. To carefully consider the implications of and respond effectively to the devolutionary process within the region. Based on the political process.
6. To carefully consider the implications of and respond effectively to the UK leaving the EU.
7. To carefully consider the implications of and respond effectively to the setting up of the Office of Product Safety and Standards.
8. To carefully consider the implications of and respond effectively to the White Paper: "Regulation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution".
9. To carefully consider the implications of the Final Report: "Regulation of Property Agents Working Group".
10. To carefully consider the implications of the publication of the UK Government's "Economic Crime Plan 2019-2022".
11. To monitor the impact of the proposed multi agency approach to prevention and tackling of serious violence.
12. To monitor the reaction to the Report published by Which? On product safety and online markets.

Impact and Outcomes

- Achievement of best practice through shared learning and expertise, relevant and timely information exchange and development of new and innovative approaches
- Consistent and intelligence led action with all partners;
- Maximise the delivery of initiatives within the limitations of reducing resources
- Contribute to public health and wellbeing
- Contribute to building safer and stronger local communities
- Protect the vulnerable

Governance Arrangements

NETSA consists of the Heads of Service from the 12 LATSS's within the region. A Regional Coordinator, who is retained through grant funding received from the NTSB, supports our work. NETSA will continue to provide the strategic leadership for all sub regional groups and promote effective partnership working throughout the region in order to protect and improve the health, wellbeing and safety of local communities whilst supporting local businesses to achieve better regulatory outcomes.

NETSA will report on a quarterly basis to the North East Public Protection Partnership (NEPPP) as well as participating, where appropriate to national campaigns supported by the NTSB.

Governance Arrangements (Continued)

All finances received through NETSA will be subject to independent scrutiny and audit. NETSA, and its subordinate groups, will take actions that are customer-focussed and will be subject to a robust performance and financial management framework.

No decisions will be actioned unless they provide value for money for our constituent Authorities, communities, businesses or partners.

NETSA is committed to effective, strategic planning and developing policies through dynamic and successful leadership. This will be informed utilising data from the Annual Strategic Assessment.

Challenges

In developing its policies and plans NETSA will recognise the challenges presented by:

- a) Reducing resources in the public sector particularly those prevalent in the regulatory field and will maximise potential to secure additional resources for the regional LATSS's.
- b) To continue to support legitimate business and protect our local communities. This agenda has developed through the implementation of the "Regulators Code" and having regard to the policies outlined in the Local Government Association's "Open for Business" document.
- c) The continuing implementation of new consumer protection legislation. This includes: abolition of letting fees (May 2018); prohibition of F & G graded properties under EPC legislation (May 2020); the banning of sales of offensive and dangerous substances to under 18's (Offensive Weapons Act 2019); the banning of sales of energy drinks to those under 16/18, animal licensing provisions (October 2018) and the Tenant Fees Act 2019 (1 June 2019).
- d) The need to carefully consider the implications of and respond effectively to the devolutionary process within the region. Based on the political process.
- e) To carefully consider the implications of and respond effectively to the UK leaving the EU.
- f) To carefully consider the implications of and respond effectively to the setting up of the Office of Product Safety and Standards.
- g) To carefully consider the implications of and respond effectively to the White Paper: "Regulation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution".
- h) To carefully consider the implications of the Final Report: "Regulation of Property Agents Working Group".
- i) To monitor the impact of the publication of the UK Government's "Economic Crime Plan 2019-2022".
- j) To monitor the impact of the proposed multi agency approach to prevention and tackling of serious violence.
- k) To monitor the reaction to the Report published by Which? On product safety and online markets.



Partnership Working



NETSA continues to work with a range of national and regional partners including the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Home Office and the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the three regional police services, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and other enforcement agencies as well as Balance and Fresh for the northern 7 LA's.

Our Planning Context









NETSA Strategy 2018 -2020
December 2019

Key Priorities for Action 2018-2020			
1. Attract resources to enhance the provision for Trading Standards Services in the North East region			
	Action	Timescale	Current Status
1.1	<p>Support the NTSB in exercising all of its functions devolved from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Each English region plus Wales is allocated a seat on the NTSB. Observers from BEIS, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI), the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and Scotland are also present at these meetings.</p> <p>The governance of the NTSB is delivered on behalf of local government by a political oversight group. The grant funding is delivered on behalf of BEIS.</p> <p>Central Government: BEIS White Paper</p> <p>Office of Product Safety and Standards.</p>	April 2019 – April 2020	<p>Regional representation delivered by NETSA Chair and the local/regional governance of activities and decisions carried out by NETSA Executive. All the meetings of the NTSB & Governance groups 2018/2020 to be supported.</p> <p>NETSA Executive. Next meeting 6 December 2019. NTSB. Meeting 12 December 2019 London.</p> <p> NTS Strategic Assessment Septemb</p> <p>White Paper: Regulation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution published 11 June 2019.</p> <p> Regulation fourth industrial strategy wh</p> <p>10 August 2018 new Strategy: Strengthening National Capacity for Product Safety</p>

			<p>2018-2020 published.</p>  <p>Safety-and-standards-product-safety-st</p> <p>14 September 2018 NETSA Executive. Sarah Smith and Amanda Farrell in attendance.</p> <p>October 2018. Announcement on Product Safety Sampling Protocol 2018/2019. Funding for safety testing of selected products including ladders and cosmetics through regional test houses.</p>  <p>2018 OPSS Product Safety Sampling Pro</p>
1.2	Ensure that the scheduled Animal Feed Inspection programme (grant funded by the FSA via the NTSB) is delivered upon.	April 2019 – April 2020	Animal Health and Feed Group delivering inspection programme agreed with the NTSB. Co-ordinated through Northumberland CC. Funding granted.
1.3	Maintain Regional Investigations Team (RIT) (funded by NTSB) in order to act against level 2/3 criminality in accordance with the Intelligence Operating Model (IOM).	April 2019 – April 2020	RIT Manager and host authority have taken actions in accordance with the IOM and governance procedures
	Tasking effected from both local and regional	April 2019 – April 2020	Governance group carrying out



	intelligence through the Regional Tasking Group (RTG) and in line with referral processes agreed by the National Tasking Group (NTG).		ongoing monitoring of delivery programme.
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	Action	Timescale	Current Status
1.4	Maintain a Regional Intelligence Analyst (RIA) (funded by NTSB) in line with nationally agreed strategy.	April 2019 – April 2020	RIT Manager and host authority has maintained the RIA in compliance with the terms of a funding agreement in line with the IOM.
1.5	Carefully consider regional bidding in order to host projects/functions devolved from the delivery of the strategy as and when appropriate.	April 2019 – April 2020	Successful funding bid on Operation Arwen (Oak). Successful bid from Northumberland on a business of concern.
1.6	To co-ordinate joint arrangements in respect of enforcement provisions of Energy Performance Certificates in local authorities.  uksi_20151681_en.pdf	April 2019 – April 2020	9 October 2015 legislation implemented. Response required by all LA's. Annual reporting regime to Secretary of State. Several LA's organising partnership arrangements. 6 pilot studies on EPC's including Newcastle. 29 November 2019. Final update in London.
1.7	To monitor implementation of the Tenant Fees, Act 2019.	1 June 2019 implemented	Effects of legislation on regulatory services and market-place.
1.8	To monitor the Final Report: "Regulation of Property Agents Working Group".  Regulation_of_Property_Agents_final_repor	July 2019	Potential effects on the property business sector.


1.9	To monitor implementation of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 related to bladed implements and corrosive substances.	16 May 2019 Royal Assent	Effects of legislation on regulatory services and safety issues.
1.10	To monitor the impact of the UK Government's "Economic Crime Plan 2019-2022".  2019-22_Economic_Crime_Plan.pdf	July 2019	Effects of Economic Crime Plan on scams and POCA.
1.11	To monitor the impact of the proposed multi agency approach to prevention and tackling of serious violence.   Serious_Violence_review_2019.pdf Government_Response_-_Serious_Violence	July 2019	Effects of proposals on service provision.
1.12	To monitor the reaction to the Report published by Which? On product safety and online markets.  Online marketplaces and pr	November 2019	Reaction to the publication of the Report from Government.


Key Priorities for Action 2018 -2020


2. Ensure consistency of interpretation and sharing best practice


	Action	Timescale	Current Status
2.1	Respond to all consultations affecting Regulatory Services	April 2019 – April 2020	<p>Response to Consultation on licensing of laser pointers.  Consultation on Laser Pointers Septe</p> <p>Response to Consultation on Updating Consumer Protection in the Package Travel Sector.  Consultation on Package Travel Sectc</p>






			<p>Response to Consultation on offensive and dangerous weapons.</p>  <p>Consultation on Offensive and dang</p> <p>Response to Green Paper: Modernising Consumer Markets submitted.</p>  <p>Green Paper 2018.pdf</p> <p>Responded to the “Post implementation review of tobacco legislation”.</p>  <p>Consultation on the impact of tobacco law</p>
2.2	<p>METROLOGY GROUP</p> <p>a) Project Work to be determined.</p>	April 2019 – April 2020	<p>Agreement to deliver projects on breakfast cereal and alcohol spirits survey and educational work on medical weighing equipment.</p>
2.3	<p>FAIR TRADING GROUP</p> <p>Now responsibility on delivery rests with RTG.</p> <p>a) Engage with Police led Operation Bombay in combating doorstep crime.</p> <p>b) Participate in Operation Rogue Trader on behalf of NETSA.</p>	<p>April 2019 – April 2020</p> <p>July 2019</p>	<p>Lead Officer Fair Trading Group and RIA have established links and fully engaged with these operations.</p> <p>Cancelled followed disbandment of Liberal the Police National Intelligence Unit.</p>

	<p>c) Participate in Scams Awareness campaign (10-23 June 2019) with key task of increasing reporting of scams.</p> <p>d) Partnership working with the Anti-Counterfeiting Group (ACG).</p> <p>e) Participation and involvement with National Consumer Week. (Deferred until January 2020).</p> <p>f) To co-ordinate joint arrangements in respect of enforcement provisions of Energy Performance Certificates in local authorities.</p>  <p>uksi_20151681_en.pdf</p> <p>g) Bankers protocol development</p>	<p>April 2019 – April 2020</p> <p>April 2019 – April 2020</p> <p>April 2019 – April 2020</p> <p>April 2019 – April 2020</p> <p>April 2019 – April 2020</p>	<p>Regional LATSS's participated.</p> <p>Operation Jasper. RIA co-ordinated regional activity around illegal trade through social media sites on the internet.</p> <p>Regional LATSS's to be involved with National Consumer Week 2019/2020.</p> <p>9 October 2015 legislation implemented.</p> <p>Response required by all LA's. Also, annual reporting regime to Secretary of State. Several LA's organising partnership arrangements.</p> <p>12 July 2018. Meeting with regional police services. Majority of matters are fraudulent and safeguarding procedures initiated by police.</p>
2.4	<p>CONSUMER AND PRODUCT SAFETY GROUP</p> <p>a) Respond to all localised enquiries and respond to requests as made for intelligence from BEIS and the national Product Safety Focus group. Business plan developed.</p>	<p>April 2019 – April 2020</p>	<p>Lead officer Consumer and Product Safety Group. Localised enquiries dealt with and some 48 national/EU</p>


	<p>b) Undertake intelligence led product safety projects in respect of consumer products i.e. sun beds, fancy dress costumes and laser pointers.</p>	<p>April 2019 – April 2020</p>	<p>enquiries dealt with in respect of a range of consumer products including balloons, cosmetics, toys, drones, food imitations, boron and sequinned toys. 22 May 2019 meeting of national Safety Group.</p> <p>All regional LATSS's now fully engaged with assessments around sunbeds. High levels of publicity attracted including at national level.</p> <p>BEIS Halloween costume project. Newcastle co-ordinated national sampling programme. Report now published.</p>  <p>Children's Costumes Safety Rej</p> <p>Halloween safety poster developed, and external partners have signed up to campaign. BEIS, NTSB, RoSPA, CFOA and BTHA. Poster placed on Khub and distributed to partners including Tyne & Wear Fire</p>
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	<p>c) Participation with Child Safety Week 2019.</p> <p>d) Monitor national/regional developments in respect of underage sales and take appropriate action.</p>	<p>April 2019 – April 2020</p> <p>April 2019 – April 2020</p>	<p>and Rescue Service. Laser pointers: Poster & Guidance now published on Khub. Response to Consultation on licensing of laser pointers.</p> <p> Consultation on Laser Pointers Septe 8 January 2018 BEIS announced a new tactical approach to dealing with the supply of laser pointers, which includes including strengthening safeguards to stop high-powered lasers entering the country. To see the press release go to BEIS.</p> <p>Delivery of national laser sampling project delivered in region for the OPSS.</p> <p>LATSS participated.</p> <p>National retailers have introduced voluntary bans on sale of corrosive substances to those under 18 and energy drinks to those under 16.</p>
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	<p>e) Monitor the development of the Office of Product Safety and Standards.</p>	<p>April 2019 – April 2020</p>	<p>The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) enabling the UK to meet the evolving challenges of product safety by responding to expanding international trade, the growth in online shopping and the increasing rate of product innovation. In addition to providing support and advice for local authority Trading Standards teams, the office will co-ordinate work across local authorities where action is needed on a national scale and will ensure the UK continues to carry out appropriate border checks on imported products once the UK leaves the European Union.</p> <p>7 March 2018. Launch of new Code of Practice (PAS 7100) for product safety recall in the UK.</p> <p>10 August 2018 new Strategy: Strengthening National Capacity for Product Safety 2018-2020 published.</p>  <p>Safety-and-standards-product-safety-st</p>
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			<p>14 September 2018 NETSA Executive. Sarah Smith and Amanda Farrell from OPSS in attendance.</p> <p>October 2018. Announcement on Product Safety Sampling Protocol 2019/2020. Funding for safety testing of selected products including ladders and cosmetics through regional test houses.</p>  <p>2018 OPSS Product Safety Sampling Pro</p>
	f) Monitor the proposals to upgrade the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988.	July 2019	<p>Government response to consultation published.</p>  <p>furniture-fire-regulati ons-2016-consultator</p>
	g) Monitor the reaction of Government to the publication of the Report from the House of Commons Report on Fireworks.	October 2019	<p>House of Commons Report published.</p>  <p>Fireworks Petition Committee 2019.pdf</p>
	h) Monitor the reaction of Government to the publication of the Which? Report on product safety and online markets.	November 2019	<p>Which? Report published.</p>  <p>Online marketplaces and pr</p>
	<p>TOBACCO CONTROL</p> <p>a) National Tobacco strategy now published</p>	April 2019 – April 2020	<p>Control strategy now published.</p>  <p>Tobacco Control Plan 2017-2022.pdf</p>

	b) Undertake intelligence led action utilising sniffer dogs in the detection of illegal tobacco in the North East c) Participate with re-launch of regional “keep it out” campaign.	April 2019 – April 2020 April 2019 – April 2020	LATSS utilising tobacco dog teams and roadshows. LATSS participating. Very good response on local intelligence.
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2.5	ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE GROUP a) To respond to all localised enquiries and respond to requests as made for assistance from Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the FSA and the national Animal Health Focus group. b) To ensure the delivery of the national Feed Hygiene programme on behalf of the NTSB for the FSA. c) Tasked to evaluate and update contingency plans in respect of notifiable diseases including rabies and avian flu. d) Tasked to evaluate conditions on animal licences in response to legislative changes (October 2018). e) Tasked to run NTS pilot project on competency of animal feed sampling. f) National Farming Policy.	April 2019 – April 2020 April 2019 – April 2020 April 2019 – April 2020 April 2019 – April 2020 April 2019 – April 2020 December 2019 -	All meetings attended, and updates disseminated. Effective regional delivery of feed hygiene project through co-ordinator. (Northumberland CC). Work ongoing. Work ongoing. Hartlepool delivered on project. December 2019 Stacey Report on Farm Inspection Review published.  Farm Inspection and Regulation Revi
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Key priorities For Action 2018 -2020			
3. Working collaboratively to ensure effectiveness, efficiency and value for money			
	Action	Timescale	Current Status
3.1	To identify skills gaps in current regional workforce and make appropriate provision for training/resource funding	April 2019 – April 2020	Regional Coordinator and the Training and Competency task and finish group identified various skills gaps. Funding secured from survey and regional purchasing initiative and NTSB projects. Training delivered on Memex system use, social media Investigative techniques, IOM training for managers and investigating officers and IP training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Intelligence training day. 12 December 2018 b) Morile training. 22 March 2019.
3.2	To identify appropriate opportunities for regional joint purchasing initiatives to reduce costs	April 2019 – April 2020	NETSA developed a collective purchasing initiative for the purchase on a regional basis at a reduced rate of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) interlink for the 12 LATSS's. 5%

			coordination fee paid to NETSA which has been utilised to provide training opportunities.
3.3	Support the England Illegal Moneylending Team (IMLT) funded by Treasury and delivered by NTS in its activities in the region.	April 2019 – April 2020	<p>LATSS's currently authorise IMLT to take actions in the North East. Complaints and intelligence are referred and shared with the IMLT as appropriate. All regional LATSS's have participated in special events to promote awareness of the work of the IMLT in our local communities. Levy on finance industry to fund IMLT. Bank of England and Financial Services Act.</p> <p>Cash, documents and electronics seized in raids on two properties in Roker and Seaburn in Sunderland on Wednesday, November 6. IMLT worked with Sunderland City Council trading standards and Northumbria Police on this operation. A 47-year-old man and 78-year-old woman were taken into custody. Both have been released under investigation and</p>

			inquiries are ongoing into this case.
3.4	Support the national Safety at Ports Project (funded by NTSB) by engagement via RIA ensuring all referrals of dangerous goods inland are investigated.	April 2019 – April 2020	<p>Referral letters now arriving from LATSS's at border points. Actions on dangerous and illegal consumer products now been actioned.</p> <p>Actions taken in North Tyneside and Newcastle against a range of consumer products. Optimity Report now published.</p>  <p>NTSFINALREPORTM arch1pdf.pdf</p>
3.5	Support the partner organisations Balance and Fresh by supporting campaigns in respect of underage sales, illegal and counterfeit alcohol and tobacco products. Now representing the northern 7 LA's.	April 2019 – April 2020	<p>NETSA Executive through the Tobacco Control project continue to fully support the work of the regional partners: Balance and Fresh.</p> <p>Representatives from NETSA attend both the Balance Champions group and the Crime and Disorder Group which facilitate the sharing of best practice across a range of activities.</p> <p>NETSA has also contributed to a number of surveys in respect of alcohol/ tobacco products.</p> <p>17 September 2019 Balance Crime and Disorder meeting.</p>

			17 December 2019 Balance Champions meeting. 20 November 2019 Fresh Tobacco Regulation Forum. NEMS illegal tobacco report discussed.
3.6	COMPETENCY AND TRAINING TASK & FINISH GROUP Identify all training opportunities in conjunction with partners, including barristers and the private sector to maintain competency	April 2019 – April 2020	NETSA continues to be very successful in providing a number of training events with partners including CTSI. a) Intelligence training day. 12 December 2018 b) Morile training. 22 March 2019.
Key Priorities for Action 2018-2020			
4. Use evidence/intelligence gathered locally, regionally and nationally to target resources			
	Action	Timescale	Current Status
4.1	Establish and maintain a RTG to consistently consider intelligence with a view to appropriate tasking via the SB Team. Where considered appropriate to seek national resources from the NTG in line with the IOM. Develop an annual Regional Strategic Assessment to provide intelligence led recommendations for consideration by NETSA in determining its strategic and operational planning.	April 2019 - April 2020 Completed	RTG has been established and is operating well. 19 June 2019 last meeting. Document produced.

	RIA to develop Regional Tactical Assessments for use of Regional Tasking Group (RTG) Develop and implement a Regional Intelligence Group (RIG).	April 2019 Ongoing	Documents produced and utilised by RTG. RIG established and meetings all scheduled in.
4.2	Engage fully with the local Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN) to ensure dissemination of intelligence and relevant joint actions are taken with member agencies.	April 2019 – April 2020	NETSA through the RIA has appropriate representation and information exchange arrangements with the local GAIN group.
4.3	Support the national CACS in the provision of their services in respect of the Consumer Helpline and their advice services.	April 2019 – April 2020	Representation from NETSA at the working group set up to ensure effective support/referral procedures in place. Tracey Johnson TS Relationship Manager
4.4	Support and respond effectively to the devolutionary process in the region. Based on political process. May 2017. Ben Houchen elected as Tees Valley Mayor. May 2019. Jamie Driscoll elected as North of Tyne Mayor.	April 2019 – April 2020	Officers carefully monitoring outcomes.
4.5	To carefully consider the implications of and consider the implications of and respond to the results of the General Election.	12 December 2019	Officers carefully monitoring outcomes.
4.6	To carefully consider the implications of and respond to the UK leaving the EU.	June 2016 ongoing	Deadline: 31 January 2020

Chair of NETSA. December 2019