

REVIEW: ILLEGAL COSMETICS AND ILLEGALLY IMPORTED FOODS

Briefing Paper: Street Champion Scheme – How to make a Difference

‘Street Champions’ scheme allows members of the public to be the eyes and ears of the community making a real difference.”

We all visit the shops and do “food shopping” this may take place in major supermarkets or in smaller retail outlets or even in cash and carry, wholesalers.

These businesses are subject to routine food law interventions by qualified and competent Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP’s) on a frequency determined by an objective assessment of risk within the business.

A business may be visited as often as once every 6 months or as little as once every 5 years. New businesses sometimes open without registering and with little prior knowledge of operating a food business. They may not even get inspected if we do not know about them.

As the eyes and ears of the community Street Champions could alert the Local Authority Food Health and Safety Team by providing intelligence as follows:

- Newly opened businesses
- Food on display for sale past its use by date
- High-risk foods out of temperature control (indicators such as condensation inside packaging,)
- Poor standards in customer facilities, missing hand soap, no hot water or towels (often indicator of wider problems within the business concerning food safety management)
- Misleading claims
- Foreign Language Labelling
- No labelling
- Collect photographic evidence
- Notify Internet trade
- Notify illicit food trade, back of a van, from under the counter