

Review: ILLEGAL COSMETICS AND ILLEGALLY IMPORTED FOODS

Witness Session, Briefing Paper on Illegal Cosmetics and Illegally Imported Foods

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REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to gather evidence as part of their review on Illegal Cosmetics and Illegally Imported Foods.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Question the witnesses as required.
2. Ask additional/supplementary questions as required.
3. Highlight issues for further investigation.

INFORMATION

1. On the 8 October 2010, the Committee received a short presentation by officers on Illegal Cosmetics and Illegally Imported Foods as a future review topic.
2. At its Committee's meeting of 18 November 2009, consideration was given to draft scoping reports on the review of Illegal Cosmetics and Illegally Imported Foods. The draft scoping reports are attached as Appendix 1.

WITNESSES

For this witness session, Members will be focussing on the following areas:

- The work carried out by Trading Standards Service, the Imported Food Team and the Food Health and Safety Team
- The Departments' role in combating illegal cosmetics and illegally imported foods
- More information Operation Codex 3

- Information on the disposal of waste, how it is currently dealt with and where improvements could be made
- Details of the London Food Hygiene Scores on Doors Scheme
- The role of the UK Border Agency (UKBA) in prohibiting and controlling illegal food and cosmetics

With this in mind, the following witnesses have been invited to attend this witness session:

- Sue Pollitt, Divisional Trading Standards Officer, LBH
- Shabeg Nagra, Port Health Manager, LBH
- Oliver Darius, Principal Environmental Officer, LBH
- Peggy Law, Consumer protection Manager, LBH
- Viv Pullha , Officer from the UK Border Agency (Freight)
- Joanna Kingdom, Officer from the UK Border Agency (Freight)
- Peter Howard, Officer from the UK Border Agency (The Channels)

PAPERS WITH THE REPORT

Draft Scoping reports considered at the meeting on 18 November 2009:

Appendix 1A	Imported Illegal Cosmetics
Appendix 1B	Imported Food – Border Control
Appendix 1C	Imported Food – Wholesale
Appendices 2A to 2C	Briefing Papers on Illegal Cosmetics and Illegally Imported Foods
Appendix 3	Food Health Safety Team locality working area map
Appendix 4	Food Standards Agency – Imported Food/Feed Sampling and Surveillance 2010/11 Programme
Appendix 5	UKBA Press Release

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

1. Members to question the witnesses and identify issues for their review
2. Members to consider the written evidence provided
3. Members to discuss the evidence gathered to date on their review and note any potential draft recommendations.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- i What efforts have Trading Standards, the UKBA, and Port Health Authority made over the last year to combat the illegal import of food?
- ii With so many agencies involved (UKBA, Food Standards Agency (FSA), Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Trading Standards and Port Health Authority); what are their individual responsibilities and are there any overlap or duplication?
- iii What is the role of the UKBA in enforcing and monitoring and what recent successes have there been?
- iv What new technology does the UKBA use?
- v Who and why was it decided to embark on an operation such as Operation Codex 3?
- vi What are the main countries where counterfeit goods come from?
- vii What are we doing to stop persistent offenders in respect of counterfeiting?
- viii How will the Retailers' Guidance Book be distributed?
- ix In what form does the supervision of consignment take?
- x Have Hillingdon applied for additional funding through the FSA's Grant Funding Scheme in the past?
- xi When does the North West Sector Food Liaison Group envisage placing the joint bid for the funding for sampling?