

Proposals for Developing Guidance for Primary Authorities on Age Restricted Sales Assured Advice

Introduction

- 1.1 During 2019, OPSS commissioned and delivered a series of training courses for Trading Standards Officers on the issue of age restricted sales advice and guidance for business. The feedback from this course suggested that officers would welcome more guidance on this subject as increasingly authorities are being approached with requested for informal or formal advice from business.
- 1.2 At the last meeting of the Expert Panel – Age Restrictions it was agreed to establish a sub-Group of PA officers to take forward the drafting of guidance. This sub-Group has been convened and met on 22nd September and has appointed Mark Oliver (Cambridgeshire TSD) as the rapporteur for the sub-Group back to the Expert Panel.
- 1.3 The objectives for the sub-Group are as follows:
 - (a) Develop useful tips for Primary Authority officers when dealing with enquiries about age restricted sales including helping to work through the issues that may be raised by those enquiries
 - (b) The guidance should not be statutory and should not be prescriptive (we are not looking at model assured advice)
 - (c) The guidance should be drafted for the January meeting of the Expert Panel before going back to OPSS for publication through their processes and channels.
- 1.4 The sub-Group consisted of:
 - Mark Oliver (Cambridgeshire)
 - Jackie White (OPSS) *
 - Tony Allen (Co-Chair – Expert Panel)
 - Brandon Cook (Co-Chair – Expert Panel) *
 - Rachel Wenzel (Hertfordshire)
 - Jo Maloney (Bucks & Surrey)
 - John Nash (Oxfordshire)
 - Nadim Ashiq (West Yorkshire)

* indicates that they were not available to attend the first meeting.

- 1.5 The sub-Group have agreed to meet again in mid-November and early January. Work is ongoing to draw together the contents of the guidance.
- 1.6 The very early thoughts on suggested sections within the guidance from the first meeting discussion is reproduced as Annex 1.

Decision

- 1.7 The Panel are invited to note the work of the sub-Group so far.

Annex 1

Introduction

Contents

Scope

Links to the Statutory Primary Authority Advice

The age restriction legal requirements applicable to Primary Authority

Achieving compliance

Acceptable Methods of age verification/ Digital ID

Effective and Acceptable Controls - Monitoring, Testing and Due Diligence

Learning and improvement.

Record Keeping

Inspection Plans for Age Restricted Goods

Coordination of Test Purchasing Activities across Local Authorities/Campaigns/Frequency

Determinations

Applicability and relationship with Police.