

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND  
ENFORCEMENT  
TO THE LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**10 MARCH 2021**  
**ALL WARDS**

**REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021**

1. Summary
  - 1.1 Birmingham City Council's Regulation and Enforcement Division covers range of statutory functions including enforcement activities.
  - 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information as to the scale and type of activities that have been ongoing in the current financial year. This period covers the month of December 2020 and January 2021.
2. Recommendation
  - 2.1 That the content of the report be noted.

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### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 The range of functions exercised by officers on behalf of the City Council are varied and occur across all parts of the city. The overview of activities in December 2020 and January 2021 is set out in the Appendix to this report.

### 4. Consultation

- 4.1 No public consultation has taken place, as this is an information report.

### 5. Implications for Resources

- 5.1 None

### 6. Implications for Policy Priorities

- 6.1 None

### 7. Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.1 No further equality issues have been identified, as all enforcement activities are carried in accordance with the adopted enforcement policy, which was the subject of an equalities impact assessment.

## **INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

Background Papers: Nil

## **REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT** **DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021**

### **Introduction**

The way the Council enforces its regulatory activities under the terms of the relevant legislation has altered significantly since the outbreak of Covid 19. Changes have been made to comply with national guidance and the introduction of new legislation. This report provides a snapshot of enforcement activity for the services in Regulation and Enforcement since lockdown. While services are seeking to enter the recovery phase, many services are reliant on changes to Government legislation and guidance.

### **Detailed Action**

The table below sets out the activities undertaken in Q1 (April to June); Q2 (July to September) Q3 (October to December) and January 2021

### **Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards**

Activity	Env. Health				Trading Standards			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Jan 21	Q1	Q2	Q3	Jan 21
Prosecution agreed	57	76	75	69	7	7	1	2
Simple Cautions	4	4	3	1			3	
Statutory Notices served	26	58	44	74				
Coronavirus Enforcement	254	1,709	2,142	1,225				
Licence applications					126			
Licence sub-committees					17			
Requests for Actions Received	10,946	13,617	10,248	3,938	1,114			
Requests for Actions closed	10,307	12,687	9,123	3,038	1,251			

*Activity Table for Environmental Health and Trading Standards*

### **Environmental Health**

	Q1	Q2	Q3		Jan 2021		Year Total
Work type	RFA Total	RFA Total	RFA Total	PI Target met	RFA Total	PI Target met	RFA Total
Accidents	92	109	76	76	23	23	300
Dogs	415	549	487	484	172	169	1,623
Infectious Disease	122	169	159	151	45	44	495
Pest Control	4,159	5,292	3,514	3,475	1,147	1,136	14,112
Request for Assistance	6,158	7,498	6,012	4,327	2,551	2,106	22,219
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,946</b>	<b>13,617</b>	<b>10,248</b>	<b>8,513</b>	<b>3,938</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>38,473</b>

### *Analysis of Requests for Assistance (RFA)*

The analysis of the types of activity in Environmental Health is shown above.

The Service continues to undertake inspections and provide advice on Covid compliance. Through monies provided by the Director of Public Health we are recruiting 8 extra officers solely focused on Covid compliance checks.

Additionally, the Government has announced nationally the investment of £30m for increased Enforcement and Compliance checks. Birmingham's share of this is £889k to be spent in the four months ending February 2021.

The Environmental Health Covid Response Team (Enforcement, compliance, outbreaks and contact tracing) consists of Enforcement Officers and Covid Marshals. The Compliance and Enforcement Grant (Government Covid grant monies) has financed 32 Covid Marshals, three Covid Marshal supervisors, two business support staff and an additional three Enforcement Officers. These additional temporary staff have complimented the Environmental Health substantive Covid response team and management.

From March 2021 The Compliance and Enforcement programme is due to cease and at present there is no indication from Government as to whether further funding will be allocated to continue this service.

Since November 2020, 14,500 city businesses have been checked for compliance by the Marshals and Covid Enforcement Officers

### **Covid Marshals**

The Covid Marshals are the non-regulatory, customer facing Covid service of the City Council. This uniformed service provides advice, support, mitigations, encouragement and a presence to residents, visitors and Birmingham businesses.

Their day to day role includes patrolling the streets of Birmingham- Covid Marshal have been deployed in 100% of City Wards since their introduction- particularly in high footfall areas and where the infection rate is highest. Such areas include shopping centres, parades, internal shopping malls; school gates and similar parent waiting areas in response to requests from School Heads for assistance. The work undertaken is to encourage the wearing of face coverings; informing and discussing with businesses Covid mitigations and controls; sharing of good practice from one business to another; assisting with social distancing for queuing outside businesses such as food banks, click and collect stations and latterly at surge testing sites.

Since November 2020 the Covid Marshals have assisted 3,040 business and fielded 3,728 queries from members of the public whilst on patrol. The service is a 6-day service (Monday to Saturday).

Where compliance cannot be secured through informal means, non-compliance intelligence is forwarded to the Enforcing Officers. Recently, the Covid Marshals have been involved with a supermarket compliance project. They have handed out face coverings to shoppers who had forgotten their own as well as auditing the shopping experience by looking at signage, hygiene stands and the usage of customer

messages on social distancing and face coverings. This has improved engagement by some stores in trying to manage their own Covid security.

In Birmingham Covid Marshals offer and distribute face protection to anyone not found to be wearing it. Since December 18,000 face masks have been given out to members of the public by the Covid marshals. If each was used in three shops on average on that day, this equates to 54,000 encounters where it is less likely the virus would have been spread. This was particularly important around the Christmas shopping season and latterly within businesses that can legally remain open.

In the Covid Marshal team are three Covid supervisors providing support to the Marshals. These are pivotal roles which set patrols, maintain marshal bubbles, provide training and supervisory health and safety cover for staff and deal with issues arising from their work. Each supervisor acts as an enforcement officer, when necessary.

### **Covid Marshals in Parks**

Birmingham Parks deployed eight Covid Marshals to help alleviate some problems Birmingham's parks experienced throughout the early part of the pandemic. There were groups of people drinking and partying in parks. These became large gatherings during lockdowns, necessitating Police attendance on multiple occasions.

Two Covid Marshals were placed in the north of the city focusing on Sutton Park and other neighbouring parks. Sutton Park had been one of the sites disproportionately affected over the summer of 2020 with significant mass gatherings and very little social distancing. The other six Covid Marshals have provided a mobile task force which have covered other locations across the whole of the city.

Despite parks being quieter than at their peak in the summer months there has still been an increase in footfall compared to the same time last year. The Parks Covid Marshals have targeted those parks where there have been issues with gatherings and poor social distancing. The Park Covid Marshals provide a visible presence in parks, deterring poor adherence to current Covid guidance or making visitors think about their behaviours a little more. The Covid Marshals have been on hand to give advice, advise parks visitors of the current Covid guidelines, advise on where and how visitors can get tested, and to hand out masks to visitors where appropriate and needed. In the few months the Covid Marshals have been operational they have had over 300 interactions with park visitors giving advice and ensuring visitors stay safe. As the weather warms up and parks once again come into greater demand the work the Covid Marshals have been undertaking will become more essential.

### **Covid Enforcement officers.**

The 10 officers provide a range of roles to complement the substantive Environmental Health Service Covid response. Each officer is authorised under the control of disease legislation and health and safety legislation (for powers of entry). They investigate Covid complaints and whistleblowing enquiries. Many of these complaints relate to face coverings and the lack of their use. In addition, we respond to complaints about businesses that have remained open and should closed. They also look at business risk assessments to ensure the workers are safe and or customers.

Enforcement Officers play a pivotal role, through patrols, with encouraging compliance with business restrictions. These patrols are often with W.M Police and it means that we can tackle both business and individual compliance. A patrol is usually made up of two Police and two Enforcement Officers and last for four to five hours. They focus on large shopping areas and high streets, particularly the arterial routes. This means they can be looking at 400 to 500 businesses, albeit a lot of these are assessments to ensure they are closed in accordance with lockdown. These patrols are now directed to the wards with the highest incidence of Covid per 100k population. A total of 112 joint enforcement patrols have been undertaken

Covid Enforcement Officers have been obtaining and assessing risk assessments for businesses. Lots of premises are compliant but they often find that the non-work areas (such as break-out areas, kitchens and smoking areas) have no supervision and control. Advising business owners on where to be vigilant is also a valuable contribution to avoid spread and lost trading days.

The enforcement officers are now being deployed in outbreak investigations and latterly provided support for contact tracing especially non-responsive (to telephone contact) and potentially non-isolating positive cases.

1,795 enforcement actions have been taken by Covid Enforcement Team, including 1,369 compliance visits following complaints from members of the public. Enforcement officers are seeing a reduction in compliance due to fatigue in the population and are now stretched in delivering their services.

A fuller report on this and further projects undertaken through these monies will be provided at a future committee.

The courts are now sitting, and hearing submitted prosecution cases and the City Council is again looking to submit cases rather than deal with matters via simple cautions in-line with our enforcement policy.

The service has been successful in agreeing a Primary Authority Partnership with Marks & Spencer PLC covering food safety, food hygiene and food standards. This adds to the current partnership with the company covering health & safety at work.

Inspections of food businesses continue in accordance with guidance from the Food Standards Agency. Inspections have been prioritised and include manufacturers and those where a complaint has been made, in addition to appropriate follow up activities including revisits. Officers are also providing substantial support to businesses to enable them to continue trading safely at this time.

The food statistics for December and January are:

- Programmed Inspections completed 166
- Enforcement revisits undertaken 54
- Ratings revisits requested and carried out 11
- Food business closures 2
- Statutory notices served 52
- Allergen stop requirements issued 62
- Business supported to ensure compliance 119

The service has provided an officer to support health and safety compliance, including Covid compliance, at the Birmingham Wholesale Market. The officer is undertaking individual health and safety and covid assessments at business units, in addition to reviewing site management practices covering Covid security, traffic management, waste collection services and pedestrian site access. This activity is reported through the Director of Neighbourhoods to the Wholesale Markets Board.

### **Animal Welfare**

The interest in buying puppies during lockdown has been widely reported and has resulted in high prices being sought and paid. This has led to an increase in dog breeding and on-line puppy sales. Officers have noticed an increase in welfare complaints in relation to puppies being bred in poor conditions. Officers provide advice to hobby breeders and have identified some that have required licensing. Advice is also provided to consumers on how to buy a puppy responsibly.

The owner and manager of a licensed pet shop was successfully prosecuted following an inspection of the premises revealed offences under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, the Pet Animals Act 1951 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Each were disqualified from keeping any animal for a period of 10 years and ordered to pay costs of £2,815 costs. A subsequent appeal was dismissed; however, one defendant had his ban reduced from 10 to 7 years.

Officers continue to deal with the emergency boarding of animals, where an animal's owner has been taken to hospital or detained under the Mental Health Act. This included dealing with a variety of animals including cats, dogs, rabbits, birds and also a corn snake brought into a hospital's accident and emergency department by its owner who was suffering from mental health issues. This continues to be a challenging area of work due to the complexity of cases and diverse types of animals encountered

### **Regional Mortuary**

Following the peak in Covid cases through December and January there was a significant increase in deaths across the seven metropolitan authority areas, (Wolverhampton to Coventry) and Warwickshire County Council. As a result, a decision was made by the authorities' Chief Executives to re-open the temporary mortuary at Birmingham Airport. Your officers are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Human Tissue Authority licence conditions. The team pulled together to reopen the facility within 48 hours. The operational side is run by Coventry Hospital and Birmingham Central Mortuary staff and West Midlands Police leading on security and control of access to the facility. The three partners have worked together extremely well to ease the pressures on the NHS mortuaries and any funeral directors who were finding difficulty in looking after bodies prior to funerals.

### **Licensing**

Activity in the Licensing Service has increased of late and the service is close to returning to 'business as usual', though lockdown restrictions do impact on this extensively. Activity in Licensing Sub Committees did increase following the opening of the hospitality sector.

In total 140 matters have been finalised through the delegated process, which would have ordinarily come before the sub-committee. 29 of which were finalised in December /January.

During January 2021 no Summary / Expedited Review applications were submitted by West Midlands Police.

Activity	Licensing							
	HCPH*				General			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Jan 21	Q1	Q2	Q3	Jan 21
Prosecution agreed	8	1	1			1	2	
Simple Cautions	16	3	3				1	
Statutory Notices served								
Coronavirus Enforcement					33			
Licence applications	195	512	661	122	196	397	383	84
Licence sub-committees					14	31	21	8
Of which were reviews: Interim steps								
Expedited					1	1	5	0
Standard					2	1	3	0
					3	0	0	1
Licence renewals	343	1538	1717	635	9	26	52	14
Requests for Actions Received	166	315	417	187				
Requests for Actions closed	287	268	390	206				

## Analysis of RFAs

The breakdown of types of Requests For Assistance in Licensing is shown below.

	Q1		Q2		Q3		January 2021	
	Received	Closed	Received	Closed	Received	Closed	Received	Closed
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>206</b>
Hackney Carriage	4	22	24	19	20	22	6	9
Private Hire	104	190	206	175	319	297	171	168
Licensing Act 2003	51	64	76	63	64	58	8	26
Gambling Act 2005	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Scrap Metal Dealers	7	7	7	9	9	10	1	2
Sexual Entertainment Venues	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Massage & Special Treatments	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	1
Charitable Street Collections	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Street Trading	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0



## Scrap Metal Dealers

There are currently 94 licences issued in Birmingham under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013. The breakdown of licences issued is as follows:

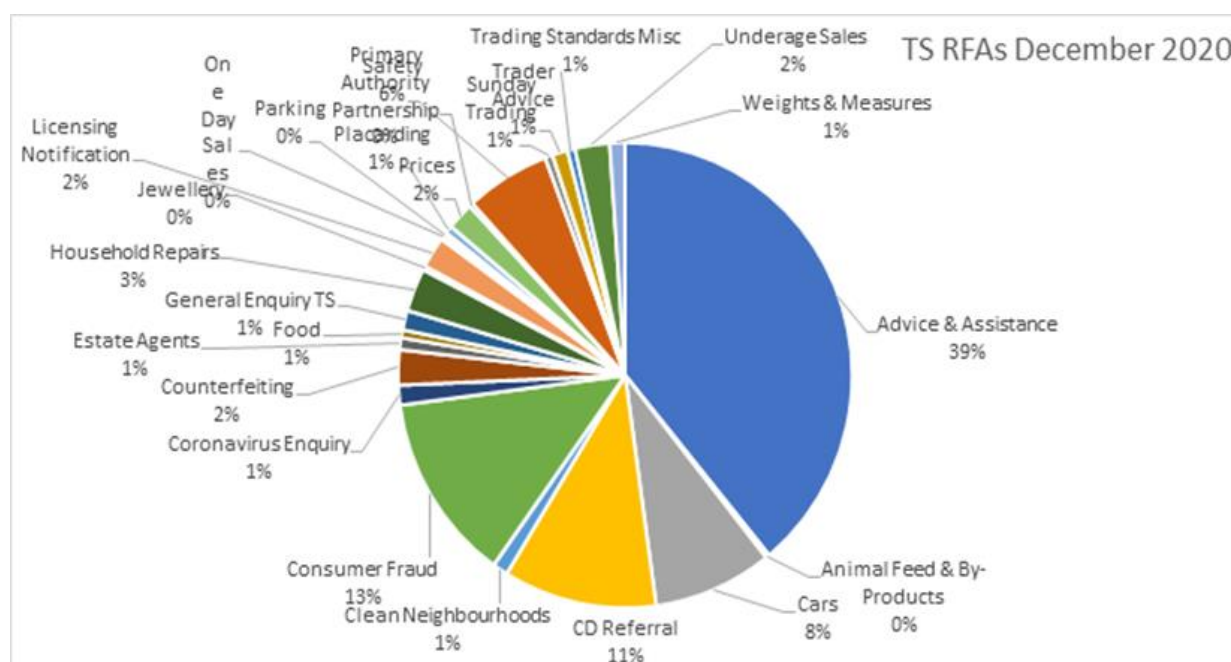
Type of Licence	Number of active licences
Scrap Metal Site Licences	46
Scrap Metal Collector Licences	48

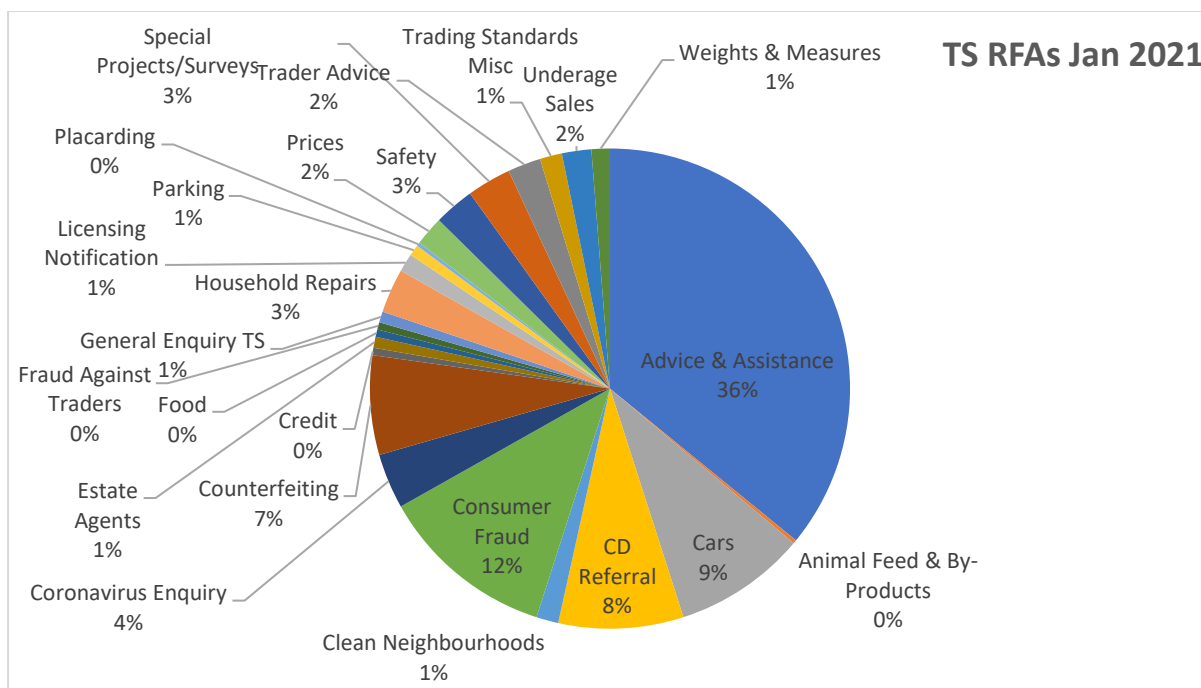
There has been the following enforcement action with regards to Scrap Metal Site licences:

Type of Enforcement	October	November	December	January 2021
Complaints	1	0	1	0
Inspections	3	4	3	3

## Trading Standards – December 2020 and January 2021

The pie charts below show an analysis of the requests for assistance for the Trading Standards service per month.





### December 2020 and January 2021 RFAs

Trading Standards received 366 Requests for Assistance (RFA) in December, a reduction on the month of November, but likely due to the holiday period. 404 Requests for Assistance were received in January 2021.

Coronavirus RFAs decreased to five enquiries in December but then increased to 15 in January. One request related to concerns about the NIA testing site, which was referred to the Environmental Health service.

### Dealing with safety matters

During the course of the pandemic there have been various issues regarding PPE and sanitisers. Officers have served a number of suspension notices to remove potentially unsafe products from sale.

Hand sanitisers are used intensively throughout this pandemic and consumers need to have confidence that the products they use are legal safe and authorised to be sold. On 11 December 2020 officers visited a wholesaler in the city and the use of 48,000 hand sanitisers were suspended, as the labelling failed to meet the requirements of the Biocidal Regulations. There is no evidence to show the active ingredients have been approved and licensed for use in this manner. The Suspension Notice remains in place, so the wholesaler cannot move, sell or dispose of the items without the written consent of the Trading Standards Service.

### Core TS Activities

The core Trading Standards activities continue largely consistent in demand, but complaints about consumer fraud have increased from 8% to 15% from December to January. The main issues reported were scam websites and telephone calls / text messages and doorstep selling. It appears residents are starting to see an increase

in tradespeople going door-to-door offering their goods and services. Complaints about car sales have reduced back to previous levels; however, in December complaints about car sales and product safety did slightly increase.

### **Operational Activity**

On 28 January 2021 Trading Standards working with the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT), BT and West Midlands Police executed a warrant at a residential address where the occupant was suspected of breaching the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 by distributing software over the internet which allowed users to access pay-per-view/ subscription content. Financial checks show that the value of criminality is suspected to be hundreds of thousands of pounds. Digital devices were seized during the search which have been sent for examination.

### **Tobacco & Alcohol advisory visits**

During January 2021 TS carried out advisory visits to business premises, the details are as follows: -

- Nine advisory visits in the Balsall Heath Area following a Police/ Councillor request covering illicit tobacco and alcohol.
- Four premises were advised as part of Operation Choke programme.
- Three further visits were carried out in response to complaints about underage sales of tobacco.

### **Financial Investigation**

The service's two Financial Investigators (FIs) continue to assist the City Council's audit, procurement and finance teams in vetting suppliers in relation to Covid activities, grant applications and potentially fraudulent grant applications.

A school recently fell victim to a scam involving building work. A large sum of money was transferred to an account that has now been frozen by the FI's and the scam is being investigated. A full restraint order, preventing the funds from being dissipated is in process and the potential account holder will be interviewed in due course.

Investigations continue into a Birmingham-based business owner, who is suspected of fraudulently obtaining business grants for a significant number of small businesses.

On 10 December 2020, at Birmingham Crown Court, a Birmingham landlord was ordered to repay £29,648 in proceeds of crime after a planning enforcement conviction for an unauthorised extension to a house in multiple occupation in Selly Oak. The sum represented 12 months' rental payments, charged up-front to international students.

On 9 December, at Warwick Crown Court, a father and son were ordered to repay approximately £200,000 each from their illicit car clocking activities. Birmingham's FIs assisted Sandwell's Trading Standards in securing this order, £190,000 of which will be repaid to the victims of the crimes, who live in the West Midlands area and beyond.

### **Trading Standards cases**

An unreported matter was heard on the 29 October 2020. The Director pleaded guilty and was fined £435 with £1000 costs awarded in respect of underage sales of knives.

The Magistrates took into account it was a new business and that trading had been difficult. However, they also noted that a pack had been delivered in January and the offence took place a month later. Forfeiture and destruction of knife was also ordered.

### **Regional Investigation Team**

On 2 December the Birmingham City Council hosted Regional Investigation and Illegal Money Lending Teams, led on a multi-agency exercise in relation to a large-scale counterfeit clothing factory in Leicester. Three separate units were identified in the same building, and £5 million worth of counterfeit products were seized, including around 500,000 loose labels waiting to be attached to blank products. The seizure is believed to have been the largest of its kind for a decade.

In another exercise on 19 December 2020, the team seized approximately 2,000 items of counterfeit products (clothing, perfumes and accessories) from a supplier who was on his way to a market. The market value of the goods seized is estimated at approximately £30,000. The case is ongoing.

In December; a trader from Handsworth, pleaded guilty to 26 offences under the Trade Marks Act 1992 at Birmingham Crown Court in relation to his manufacturing of counterfeit clothing from his unit in Park Road, Handsworth. The defendant admitted to having been manufacturing counterfeit clothing for over two years, claiming that he had fallen on hard financial times. The team had found thousands of items of counterfeit clothing as well as approximately 40,000 loose labels waiting to be applied to 'blank' items.

The trader is due to be sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court in February 2021.

### **Redress achieved for consumers**

Two significant cases involved the purchase of cars. A consumer purchased a car from a Birmingham trader prior to lockdown. The trader would not allow a test drive prior to purchase and subsequently the trader delivered it to the consumer's home. Upon receipt the consumer noted several faults and the car broke down requiring a mobile assistance. The trader refused to provide a refund, but after a Trading Standards Officer contacted the trader and reminded him of his obligations under the Consumer Rights Act the trader collected the vehicle and a £2,500 refund was given.

In another matter, a consumer purchased a car online and after delivery various faults were identified. The seller told the consumer to get repairs done via the warranty. After Trading Standards intervened, the consumer received a full refund of £7,000.

### **England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT)**

In December 2020, the Illegal Money Lending Team received a total of 35 reports of illegal money lending, a decrease of four reports from the previous month, and an increase of four reports from the previous year.

The majority of reports were generated from information provided by caller/source with 12 reports each. This was followed by victims with four reports, housing services and Trading Standards with two reports each.

24 new illegal lenders were identified during the month of December 2020.

Warrants were executed by the IMLT during of December 2020 under Operation Mamore at two addresses in Oldham. Searches were carried out at the properties and electronic devices were seized. Three people have been charged with offences of illegal money lending, money laundering and fraud by false representation. The suspects, two men aged 31, 33 and a 32-year-old woman have been released on bail to appear at Tameside Magistrates' Court. This operation was the outcome of extensive enquiries by IMLT in partnership with Oldham Council and Greater Manchester Police.

### **Stop Loan Sharks Week**

The IMLT launched a new campaign in December aimed at tackling illegal money lending on the internet and warning of the dangers of online loan sharks in the run up to Christmas. The theme was developed, after 1 in 5 of the victims the team supported in the first half of 2020 met the loan shark online. The hashtag #sharkfreesurfing was used with graphics and video for partners to promote. The team did a Facebook Live session with staff from money advice at Newcastle University Student's Union. In terms of social media metrics, the early results of the campaign were:

- Website- Visits 3,700- up 78%
- Website- Bounce rate has dropped 20.7% – visitors spent more time on the website
- Facebook- People reached 51,202 – up 463%
- Facebook- 2,814 video views – up 1,185%
- Twitter- 122,000 tweet impressions – up 364.6%
- Twitter- 5,005 profile visits - up 233.7%

As part of the week, the Team launched a short story competition “7 days of sharks”. Seven winners had their stories recorded and launched as podcasts.

Overall, during 2020 as part of the IMLT's focus on delivering online messages during the Covid-19 pandemic the Stop Loan Shark website has seen a 74% increase compared to the previous year with 92% being new visitors.

### **IM LT POCA Projects**

Interactive educational theatre projects have been delivered to schools in Stoke and Sandwell, targeting both Primary schools (7-11 year olds) and Secondary schools (12-16 year olds). These are designed to look at the options available to young people, to start saving and highlighting how to avoid the traps and pitfalls of illegal money lending later in life. Each session has been designed using real life stories from IMLT victims.

Work has been conducted to create a “Sharks ‘N Ladders” game to be installed in the children’s play area at Handsworth Park. The design captures the original children’s game with a shark twist, and include the IMLT logo and reporting helpline number.

## **Registration Service**

### **Death Registrations**

The service is processing death registrations in line with the Coronavirus Act and the direction of the General Register Office (GRO). In late March 2020 a new process for registering was enacted and the service implemented this and honed the processes to improve performance. The table below shows the level of death registration for April 2020 to January 2021 compared to the same period in 2019-20.

<b>Deaths</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>April 2020</b>	819	2260	+176
<b>May</b>	863	983	+13.9
<b>June</b>	762	767	+0.65
<b>July</b>	802	800	-0.25
<b>August</b>	793	714	-9.95
<b>September</b>	802	804	+0.25
<b>October</b>	878	904	+2.96
<b>November</b>	844	1132	+34.11
<b>December</b>	896	1134	+32.15
<b>January 2021</b>	1159	1564	+34.95
<b>Year to date</b>	<b>8618</b>	<b>11062</b>	<b>+28.36</b>

### **Birth Registrations**

The Government reintroduced the registration of births in June, with an optional alternative procedure, both procedures require face to face meetings. For operational reasons the service followed the standard process and was fully operational from mid-June. As at 27 January there were 2,592 outstanding birth registrations, of which 794 were over the statutory 42 days registration period- this is a continued reduction on previous months. The table below shows the level of birth registrations for June 2020 through to January 2021 compared to the same period in 2019-20.

<b>Birth Registrations</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>June</b>	1,819	543	-70.15
<b>July</b>	1,880	2,820	+50
<b>August</b>	1,647	2,045	+24.2
<b>September</b>	1,956	2,376	+21.5
<b>October</b>	2,284	2,464	+7.89
<b>November</b>	2,004	2,542	+26.85
<b>December</b>	1,546	1,950	+26.15
<b>January 2021</b>	2069	1864	-9.91
<b>Running Total</b>	<b>15205</b>	<b>16604</b>	<b>+9.2</b>

## **Ceremonies**

Following the first national lockdown, the Government announced the taking of notices of marriage and civil partnership, and ceremonies could recommence in Covid 19 secure venues from July 2020. In line with national guidance the Register Office implemented measures to recommence ceremonies from 4 July. During the second national lockdown, marriage and civil partnership ceremonies were suspended from 5 November to 2 December. Marriages and Civil Ceremonies were again suspended in January 2021 unless there were exceptional circumstances. Citizenship ceremonies were delivered remotely. The tables below show the level of ceremonies and notices from July 2020 to January 2021 compared to the same period in 2019-20.

<b>Ceremonies</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>% change</b>
July	188	45	-76.1
August	224	63	-72.75
September	150	121	-19.35
October	164	123	-20
November	140	12	-91.40
December	125	94	-24.8
January 2021	97	5	-96
<b>Running Total</b>	<b>1088</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>-42.55%`</b>

<b>Notice of Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>% change</b>
July	610	430	-29.95
August	522	365	-30.1
September	621	373	-39.95
October	566	478	-15.5
November	620	518	-16.45
December	473	461	-2.55
January 2021	621	405	-34.8
<b>Running Total</b>	<b>4,033</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>-24.87%</b>

<b>Citizenship Ceremonies</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>% change</b>
July	268	156	-41.75
August	199	246	+33.2
September	281	170	-39.45
October	273	214	-21.65
November	220	203	-7.75
December	207	338	+63.30
January 2021	327	168	-48.7
<b>Running Total</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>-15.8%</b>

### **City Centre Operations - Temporary Pavement Licences**

The table below shows the activity that has taken place from when the temporary pavement licences were introduced to the end of January 2021.

Note – **New** equates to number of applications received where the applicant did **not** previously hold a Street Café Licence (Highway Act).

**Current** equates to number of applications received where the applicant previously held a Street Café Licences (Highway Act).

Month	Received	Approved	Refused/Rejected/Withdrawn	New	Current	City Centre	Local Centres
July	3	2	1	2	1	3	0
August	33	28	5	21	12	29	4
September	8	7	1	4	4	6	2
October	7	6	1	6	1	4	3
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
January	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL TO DATE	53	45	8	33	20	43	10

**1 March 2021**

**Paul Lankester**  
**Interim Assistant Director Regulation and Enforcement**