

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS: EXPLAINED

Are you unsure as to how National Trading Standards (NTS) fits into the trading standards landscape? As we launch the new NTS website, we wanted to take the opportunity to remind the professional community about our role – and how we can benefit you in your work.

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS

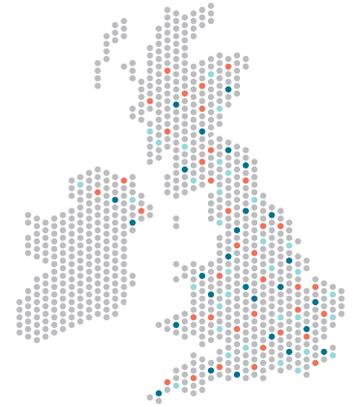
Protecting Consumers
Safeguarding Businesses

FAST FACTS ABOUT NTS



We were set up in 2012 as part of the Government's changes to the consumer landscape

Our vision is to protect consumers and safeguard businesses through cross-boundary intelligence-led enforcement projects in England and Wales



We prioritise and allocate grants that come from our sponsor departments (BIS and FSA) in order to tackle high priority national and regional TS issues



We fund national teams that are hosted within local authorities. These include the eCrime, Illegal Money Lending, Safety at Ports & Borders, Scambusters, Estate Agency, Intelligence and Scams Teams



We work with colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as partners across the UK such as Citizens Advice, the police and Action Fraud

In 2014/15 alone we tackled consumer and business detriment worth more than **£252 million**

HOW WE FIT INTO THE SECTOR

There are three national bodies within the trading standards sector:



The membership body for heads of service and senior managers. Focuses on the strategic and leadership aspects of all areas of TS work



The membership body for all TS professionals. The 'voice' of the profession, it focuses on policy and campaigning, consultations, qualifications and professional development



A grant-funded delivery body with scope limited to its core priorities (see Fast Facts). Funds are allocated by the NTS Board which is chaired by Lord Toby Harris and includes representatives from ACTSO, CTSI and heads of service across England and Wales

HOW WE ARE SUPPORTING YOU

We appreciate colleagues in local authorities continue to face tough times. Although NTS's small funds cannot hope to address the gaps left by such huge reductions in your budgets locally, we wanted to let you know about some of the benefits that NTS is bringing to the whole trading standards community.

DID YOU KNOW...?

The NTS Programme Office is run by ACSTO

HOW DOES THIS HELP ME IN MY JOB?

The two bodies work closely together and you have a single point of contact to answer queries on either organisation (see How to stay in touch with us)

DID YOU KNOW...?

Representatives from the three TS bodies sit on each other's boards

HOW DOES THIS HELP ME IN MY JOB?

There is maximum collaboration, with the aim of achieving positive outcomes for the whole profession

DID YOU KNOW...?

Regional intelligence analysts, the NTS Intelligence Team and local authority access to intelligence databases are funded by NTS

HOW DOES THIS HELP ME IN MY JOB?

We can provide specific, detailed intelligence packages for tackling the big issues. Locally you can benefit from the infrastructure as well as your own regional analyst, and you may be one of the 600+ TS professionals we have so far trained on the Intelligence Operating Model

DID YOU KNOW...?

The NTS grant money is held by CTSI, which distributes it on our behalf

HOW DOES THIS HELP ME IN MY JOB?

This level of transparency means decisions on where to allocate the grant stay in the hands of the profession

DID YOU KNOW...?

NTS helps support the funding for your regional co-ordination

HOW DOES THIS HELP ME IN MY JOB?

This helps to maintain a good regional infrastructure to help you co-ordinate work and share good practice

DID YOU KNOW...?

NTS can help your career

HOW DOES THIS HELP ME IN MY JOB?

Our projects regularly enable local teams to work together and individuals to build up specialisms – we could be a valuable part of your own professional development

DID YOU KNOW...?

NTS can help raise the profile of your department within your authority

HOW DOES THIS HELP ME IN MY JOB?

Lord Harris has sent thank you letters for successful project work, visited a number of authorities and met cabinet members and portfolio holders, all of which have increased high level recognition of the important role you play

DID YOU KNOW...?

Our dedicated press office supports your work

HOW DOES THIS HELP ME IN MY JOB?

The NTS press office helps drive positive coverage of the trading standards profession as a whole and helps promote the brilliant work that our profession is capable of doing with the right resources



**A word from Wendy Martin,
Programme Director for NTS
(also Policy Director for ACTSO)**

"Thank you for taking the time to read this information. We hope it has helped to clarify the role of NTS, how we work with ACTSO and CTSI, and shown how we can help you in your day to day work. Ultimately all of us in the trading standards profession are working towards the same aim; we all share the same professional pride and want to reduce consumer harm and bring rogues to justice.

"This information has been produced in response to our recent perceptions survey so I really hope it helps. But if you have any more questions please do not hesitate to contact us."

HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Visit the new NTS website at www.nationaltradingstandards.uk. It provides public information about our work areas, details of recent campaigns and cases and useful resources. It also directly links to all the information for TS professionals held on the ACTSO website



Subscribe to NTS email updates by emailing admin@actso.org.uk. These are issued regularly and provide updates on cases, projects, meeting outcomes and other initiatives

Contact the NTS Programme Office on nationaltradingstandards@actso.org.uk

