

News story: Police to get more stop and search powers to tackle acid attacks

The move will enable police officers to effectively enforce a new offence of carrying corrosives in a public place, which is passing through Parliament in the Offensive Weapons Bill.

Currently, police can only stop and search people they suspect of carrying acid with intent to cause injury.

The proposal to extend stop and search was widely supported during a public consultation – the results of which are published today. They show 90% of respondents, including senior police officers, back the change.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Anyone who carries acid to maim and disfigure others is a coward who deserves to face the full force of the law.

That is why we are giving police officers greater powers to help bring them to justice and protect the public from their sickening crimes – which can leave victims' with life-changing injuries.

The police are clear stop and search is one of the most important tools they have in the fight against serious violence – I will continue to give them the support they need to do their vital work.

Deputy Chief Constable, Adrian Hanstock, stop and search lead for the National Police Chiefs' Council, said:

The police service welcomes changes widening officers' ability to stop and search those who would seek to cause serious harm using corrosive substances.

Identifying and disrupting those individuals through the controlled use of stop and search powers is an important way in which we can keep the public safe.

As with the range of stop and search powers currently available to police officers, Chief Constables will be keen to ensure that these powers are used correctly in a legitimate, proportionate and considerate way.

Additionally, police officers will be able to stop and search people

suspected of using drones above 400ft or within 5km of an airport, which will help them tackle disruption such as that seen at Gatwick Airport in December.

The government is also working closely with the police to examine whether they have the appropriate powers to respond effectively to other offences involving drones, including around prisons, and will take further legislative action if necessary.

The Home Office will also keep under review the adequacy of existing powers to tackle offences related to the misuse of laser pointers.

Today's announcement supports the government's action plan to tackle the use of acid and other corrosive substances in violent attacks.

Press release: Unscrupulous East London health supplements company shut down

Registered to a residential address in East London, GoNutri Limited was wound up in the High Court on 12 February 2019 for trading with a lack of commercial probity, objectionable trading practices and improper sales techniques.

Following confidential enquiries, investigators from the Insolvency Service found that GoNutri targeted elderly and vulnerable people, bombarding them with cold calls and high pressure sales techniques to coerce them to purchase vitamin and mineral supplements.

Using a call centre based abroad to push the products, sales operatives occasionally misled customers in thinking they were representing health centres in the UK or other parts of the NHS.

Products were sold at highly inflated prices and the same item could sell for different prices, ranging anywhere from £11 up to £49.99.

Some customers were told that they hadn't paid for items and were forced to pay multiple times for a single product, while others were sent items they hadn't requested before being hounded into paying for them.

One victim, who was 91-years-old at the time, reported they were pestered with calls saying their card payment hadn't worked. When the customer asked the call centre to send a bill in the post instead, operatives refused. This led the 91-year-old to write another cheque, although later on the customer found out the bill had been paid the first time round.

And in another example, an 84-year-old was persuaded to specifically make three orders because it was only after the third instalment that they would feel the physical benefits.

Investigators established that Go Nurti targeted circa 409 customers, with an average age of 85, and between May 2016 and June 2018, the health supplements company generated sales of approximately £128,000.

The hearing was held before Mr Justice Snowden who made the winding up order in the public interest.

By virtue of the appointment of the Official Receiver all public enquiries concerning the affairs of the company should be made to: The Official Receiver, Public Interest Unit, 2nd Floor, 4 Abbey Orchard Street, London SW1P 2HT. Email: piu.south@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk.

GoNutri Limited (Company Registration: 09981433), was incorporated on 2 February 2016. The companies registered office is: 37 Shoebury Road, London, E6 2AQ.

The petition to wind-up GoNutri Limited was presented under s124A of the Insolvency Act 1986 on 3 January 2019. The company was wound up on 12 February 2019 and the Official Receiver has been appointed as liquidator.

Company Investigations, part of the Insolvency Service, uses powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Further information about live company investigations is available [here](#).

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by BEIS, administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities, both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is available [here](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[News story: Goodbye GSI: Charity](#)

Commission email addresses have changed

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Last updated 1 April 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 1 April 2019 When emailing the Charity Commission you must remove the '.gsi' reference from the email address. Any emails sent to a .gsi address will not be received.
2. 20 February 2019 First published.

News story: Mental health and wellbeing support for NHS staff: government pledges overhaul

The government is setting out new plans to provide better mental health and wellbeing support to NHS staff.

The new support will be based on recommendations by Health Education England (HEE) and could include:

- post-incident support for NHS frontline staff, such as peer group support or a more formal psychological assessment
- a dedicated mental health support service giving confidential advice and support 24 hours a day
- fast-tracked mental health referrals for NHS employees if requested as a priority from either a GP or an occupational health clinician
- improved rest spaces for on-call staff and trainees during and after their shifts, providing security, shower facilities and refreshments
- an 'NHS workforce wellbeing guardian' in every NHS organisation, responsible for championing mental health and wellbeing support for staff

HEE made the recommendations in its report on the mental health and wellbeing of NHS staff and learners, commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care last year.

The recommendations will be considered as part of the 'workforce implementation plan', which will be led by NHS Improvement Chair Dido Harding and Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust Chief Executive Julian Hartley.

HEE spoke to staff whose wellbeing had been affected by their experiences in

the NHS workplace, as well family members who had lost relatives through suicide. They also visited organisations that are already demonstrating good practice in supporting staff mental and physical wellbeing to understand how these initiatives could be rolled out across the NHS.

The measures should help NHS organisations make positive progress on sickness absence rates, staff performance and retention.

The latest NHS staff survey showed that less than a third of staff felt their organisation took positive action towards improving their health and wellbeing.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

I love the NHS and have enormous respect and admiration for the dedicated staff who make our health service what it is today. Working under pressure, NHS staff put themselves in some of the most challenging situations imaginable as part of their unwavering commitment to caring for us all. So they deserve unwavering support from us all.

I'm so proud of the service NHS staff give, so the mental and physical wellbeing of the people who work in our health service must be our utmost priority. Today's important report helps guide how we can do that, from creating the right culture of support to giving everyone somewhere to turn in the toughest times.

NHS staff have been there for me, and they have been there for my family – so I'm determined to make sure we are there for them too.

Professor Ian Cumming, Chief Executive, Health Education England said:

If someone is looking to join the NHS, whether through education and training, an apprenticeship or direct employment, they should be able to see and feel that the health service is bringing to life the statements expressed in the NHS Constitution.

More support is needed for those who care and better care is needed for those studying to become healthcare professionals. This is why I am committed to making sure that the commission takes full advantage of this opportunity to make a real difference to the NHS health and care workforce and to those studying to become our future healthcare staff.

It is vital that staff feel they are supported and that employers have the right procedures in place to offer all the help that may be needed. The mental wellbeing of staff contributes positively to patient care so we must get it right.

As a caring and compassionate organisation, the NHS attracts staff

with these values, but it must be recognised that in giving care you also absorb some of the concerns and issues of the people that you are caring for. We must do better for those in the caring professions. And we must care better for those studying to be professionals. This commission will make that happen.

Press release: Sainsbury's / Asda merger could push up prices and reduce quality

At this stage in its Phase 2 investigation, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has found that the proposed deal could lead to a worse experience for in-store and online shoppers across the UK through higher prices, a poorer shopping experience, and reductions in the range and quality of products offered. It also has concerns that prices could rise at a large number of Sainsbury's and Asda petrol stations.

The CMA has provisional concerns that the merger could lead to a substantial lessening of competition at both a national and local level. The combined impact means that people could lose out right across the UK and that the deal could also cost shoppers through reduced competition in particular areas where Sainsbury's and Asda stores overlap.

Stuart McIntosh, chair of the independent inquiry group carrying out the investigation, said:

These are two of the biggest supermarkets in the UK, with millions of people purchasing their products and services every day. We have provisionally found that, should the two merge, shoppers could face higher prices, reduced quality and choice, and a poorer overall shopping experience across the UK. We also have concerns that prices could rise at a large number of their petrol stations.

These are our provisional findings, however, and the companies and others now have the opportunity to respond to the analysis we've set out today. It's our responsibility to carry out a thorough assessment of the deal to make sure that the sector remains competitive and shoppers don't lose out.

As well as concerns for people shopping in their stores, the CMA is concerned the merger could drive up prices and reduce the quality of service for online customers.

It also believes the deal could lead to inflated fuel costs at 132 locations where Sainsbury's and Asda petrol stations overlap.

The CMA has set out potential options for addressing its provisional concerns. These include blocking the deal or requiring the merging companies to sell off a significant number of stores and other assets – potentially including one of the Sainsbury's or Asda brands – to recreate the competitive rivalry lost through the merger. The CMA's current view is that it is likely to be difficult for the companies to address the concerns it has identified.

The CMA now welcomes responses from interested parties to its provisional findings by 13 March 2019 and its notice of possible remedies by 6 March 2019. The CMA's final report will be issued by 30 April 2019.

Further details are available on the [Sainsbury's / Asda case page](#).

Notes to editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries and enforcing competition and consumer law. For CMA updates, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).
2. Certain of the CMA's functions in phase 2 merger inquiries are performed by independent inquiry groups chosen from the CMA's panel members. The appointed inquiry group are the decision-makers on phase 2 inquiries. The members of the inquiry group are: Stuart McIntosh (Inquiry Chair), Richard Feasey, Roland Green, John Thanassoulis, and Claire Whyley. The CMA's panel members come from a variety of backgrounds, including economics, law, accountancy and/or business; the membership of an inquiry group usually reflects a mix of expertise and experience.
3. There is now a 3-week consultation period on the provisional findings, during which time anyone may make submissions to the CMA. Submissions should be made to SainsburysAsda@cma.gov.uk and received by 13 March 2019. There is a 2-week consultation period on the notice of possible remedies. Submissions on this should be made to SainsburysAsda@cma.gov.uk and received by 6 March 2019.
4. Media enquiries to the CMA should be directed to press@cma.gov.uk or 020 3738 6460.