

Dear Sir/Madam,

Excess packaging

Excessive packaging of consumer goods is an issue of widespread concern. The public are increasingly aware of the environmental reasons for minimising packaging, and increasingly frustrated by the volume of packaging that can often be accumulated during a simple trip to the supermarket.

As the local trading standards officer for **[area name here]**, you will no doubt be aware of the role played by Trading Standards in policing producers of excess packaging. You will also be aware of the challenges involved in this role.

The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations set out what are legally acceptable forms of packaging, but on the evidence I have seen, they are not working effectively. Producers can too easily negotiate their way through the regulations and make use of packaging that is clearly excessive. We are reminded of this every year at Easter time, when supermarket shelves are filled by large boxes containing often modestly-sized chocolate eggs.

I would be grateful to be informed of how many cases of excess packaging **[area name here]** Trading Standards has pursued, and how many you are currently pursuing. I would also be interested to know which of the cases you have taken up have resulted in prosecutions, resolution through mediation or have been resolved in other ways.

Further, have all the cases you have encountered been raised with Trading Standards by concerned individuals, as opposed to a more systematic policing of excess packagers having taken place?

Trading Standards has an extremely important role to play in policing those producers who are not adhering to existing packaging regulations. However, without tougher, tighter rules on packaging, it is being prevented from properly fulfilling this role. I would be very interested to know whether you concur with this assessment of the current situation.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

[signature]

[Your Name]