



It is against the law for shops to sell age restricted products to children who have not reached the required age, as it presents real risks to their health or welfare. A trader can be prosecuted for making an illegal sale.

Our Trading Standards team is always looking for volunteers aged from 14 to 16 years old to enter businesses and try to buy age restricted products. This helps us to check they are not breaking the law.

What is an age restricted product?

The products below cannot be sold to anyone under the age of 18 years.

- Alcohol
- Fireworks
- Cigarettes and tobacco products (including lighter refills)
- E-Cigarettes
- Offensive weapons or knives



What would I do as a volunteer?

Underage volunteers work with a team of officers to see what happens when they try to buy products, such as alcohol and tobacco from shops, off licences and pubs across Birmingham.

An officer will visit you and your parent/guardian at home to explain about the exercise, what is expected from you, and discuss safeguarding measures that are in place. Your parent or guardian will need to give written permission for you to take part. You will not be asked to work in areas where you might be recognised, as your safety and wellbeing is our priority.

When

Useful Contacts

To report allegations of age restricted sales to children, call the **Citizens Advice Consumer Service**. They will pass the details to Trading Standards.

Tel: 0345 404 0506

Birmingham City Council - Environmental Health

Tel: 0121 303 6007

Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/eh

NHS Choices

Website: www.nhs.uk

West Midlands Police

Tel: 0121 0345 113 5000

Website: www.west-midlands.police.uk

West Midlands Fire Service

Tel: 0845 5000 900

Website: www.wmfs.net