

News Release

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Firework retailers sparkle in test purchase operation

When Bexley Trading Standards Officers carried out a surprise test purchase check on fireworks being sold across the borough, they were delighted that all of the premises visited passed with flying colours.

Nine firework retailers were tested during the exercise, which was carried out on 31 October. A 16-year-old youth, who could have easily passed for 18, was challenged and turned away from each of them after attempting to buy fireworks worth up to £30.

Cllr Peter Craske, Bexley's Cabinet Member for Places said: "This is fantastic news. I am delighted that we have such responsible firework retailers in the borough who take their business and the safety of young people seriously, just as they should.

"Our Trading Standards team works hard to engage with local businesses and to make sure that they understand and adhere to all requirements of selling age-restricted products - and their dedication is clearly paying off."

When selling fireworks, retailers must use the Challenge 25 principle. If the buyer looks under 25 they should be challenged to prove their age. The retailer must only accept official proof of age such as a driver's licence, passport, or pass card.

The penalty for selling fireworks to under-18s is a fine of up to £5,000 or up to 6 months imprisonment.

Lynne McVicar