

Subject: Response to Call for Views – Licensing of Non-surgical Procedures Order 2026. Dumfries and Galloway Council Environmental Health

Dear Health, Social Care and Sport Committee,

1. New Responsibilities and Duties

The introduction of this licensing regime will place significant new responsibilities on local authorities and Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). These include:

- Processing and granting licences for practitioners offering non-surgical aesthetic procedures.
- Inspecting premises to ensure compliance with hygiene and safety standards.
- Investigating complaints and enforcing compliance where breaches occur.

This will require clear guidance on the scope of inspections, minimum standards, and enforcement powers.

2. Resources Required

Additional staffing and training will be essential. EHOs will need:

- Specialist training on non-surgical procedures, associated risks, and infection control.
- Increased capacity to manage licensing applications and conduct inspections. Without dedicated resources, there is a risk that existing statutory duties (e.g., health and safety) could be compromised.

3. Public Awareness and Information

Public understanding of the licensing scheme will be critical. Many consumers are unaware of the risks associated with non-surgical procedures. A national awareness campaign should:

- Explain which procedures require a licence.
- Highlight the importance of choosing licensed practitioners.
- Provide a public register of licensed operators.

4. Guidance for Businesses

Clear, accessible guidance for practitioners is needed to:

- Outline licensing requirements.
- Detail hygiene and safety standards.
- Explain enforcement processes and penalties for non-compliance.

This should be supported by template policies and training materials for businesses.

5. Scope of Procedures

The Order should clearly define which procedures fall under the licensing regime. Ambiguity could lead to inconsistent enforcement and confusion among practitioners. Procedures involving skin penetration, injectables, or use of energy-based devices should be prioritised due to higher risk. Regular review is required as procedures change rapidly. Central register of approved products for reference by investigating officers.

6. Impact on Rogue Traders

Licensing will help reduce rogue operators, but enforcement will be key. There is a risk that unlicensed practitioners will operate covertly. Local authorities will need:

- Intelligence-sharing mechanisms with Police Scotland and other agencies.
- Powers to issue fixed penalties or prosecute offenders swiftly.

The injecting of injectables by rogue traders within domestic premise requires additional consideration and resources by other agencies.

7. Compliance and Enforcement

Effective enforcement will depend on:

- Adequate resourcing for inspections and investigations.
- Clear escalation pathways for serious breaches.
- Authority to suspend or revoke licences where public health is at risk.

Summary The proposed licensing scheme is a positive step toward improving safety and hygiene standards in the non-surgical aesthetics sector. However, its success will depend on:

- Sufficient funding and training for local authorities.
- Robust public awareness campaigns.
- Clear guidance for businesses and enforcement agencies.

I am content for this submission to be published.