

# CASE STUDY

## Better Business for All



## TATTOO HYGIENE RATING SCHEME

### HOW WE HELPED

#### HARTLEPOOL

Individuals performing tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis or acupuncture and the premises they operate from must be registered with the Council. Once an application has been approved, a certificate of registration (or licence) is issued.

From time to time regulatory officers receive reports where people have had tattoos done by what are known as “scratchers,” who tend to be unqualified individuals who will carry out a tattoo anywhere with no regard for hygiene, often resulting in a poor quality tattoo, infection and people being scarred for life.

Whilst we will take enforcement action against those who flout the law and put people's health at risk we prefer to adopt a preventative approach by supporting businesses in an advisory capacity. We are particularly keen to work with those who are setting up a new business in the borough, and will advise on how to comply with legal requirements and try to assist businesses in promoting good standards.

BUSINESSES &  
REGULATORS  
WORKING  
TOGETHER  
TO IMPROVE  
HEALTH, SAFETY &  
WELLBEING



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## HOW WE HELPED

### HARTLEPOOL

The Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme (THRS) is a voluntary scheme introduced in Wales in 2013. Under the THRS, tattoo studios undergo a rigorous inspection of hygiene standards before being rated in one of four categories:

'1 - Needs Improvement', '2 - Satisfactory', '3 - Good' and '4 - Very Good'.

Once inspected, tattoo studios receive a certificate and a window sticker which clearly shows what their grading is. Studios can also appeal if they do not think that their grading is fair.

Realising the potential public health benefits of such a scheme, Hartlepool Council was the first English Council to adopt the THRS

to inform members of the public about the hygiene standards in individual premises, drive up standards and help combat the risk of incidents of infection and of transmission of infectious disease from tattooing.

The scheme compliments the registration scheme under the local government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1982 and duties under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974.

Consultation with local tattooists confirmed overwhelming support for the scheme. Its implementation has provided officers with an opportunity to engage with tattooists and establish strong working relationships and promote best practice.

IS YOUR  
TEES VALLEY  
BUSINESS  
COMPLIANT?

CONTACT YOUR  
LOCAL AUTHORITY  
TEAM NOW!

**Paul Egan,**  
Wishful Inkin Tattoo Studio:

***"We are certainly in favour of this. Hygiene in studios is obviously really important and it is the right thing to raise awareness and help improve and maintain standards."***

### LOCAL TEES VALLEY REGULATORS

**Middlesbrough Council:** [EHTS@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:EHTS@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

**Hartlepool Borough Council:** [public.protection@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:public.protection@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Darlington Borough Council:** [environmentalhealth@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@darlington.gov.uk)

**Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council:**  
[Environmental.Health@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Environmental.Health@stockton.gov.uk)

**Redcar & Cleveland Council:** [Food\\_Team@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:Food_Team@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)



**Better Business for All**