



**Planning,  
Service  
Delivery,  
Economy,  
Regeneration  
and Skills**

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Our Ref: THRS2018

DATE

Dear xxxxx

**Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974  
Tattoo and Body Piercing Hygiene Toolkit and Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme  
Address:**

Swindon Borough Council is committed to safeguarding its residents and supporting local businesses. You will already be aware of the requirement to register your tattoo business with the Council and that officers periodically conduct health and safety inspections to ensure that employees and your customers are protected from harm.

With the increasing popularity of tattooing and body piercing, Swindon Borough Council Licensing is writing to draw your attention to the **Tattooing and Body Piercing Guidance Toolkit** which aims to set out best practice guidance for the industry. Copies of this toolkit can be downloaded at:

<http://www.cieh.org/policy/default.aspx?id=47706>

The toolkit has been developed collaboratively by Public Health England (PHE), Chartered Institute of Environmental health (CIEH) Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) and the Tattooing and Piercing Union (TPUI). It aims to promote high standards of infection prevention and control practices and thereby safeguard both practitioners and their customers.

Licensing will have regard to this guidance when conducting registrations and inspections and expect all practitioners to follow this guidance in the operation of their business. The frequency of inspection will be dependent on levels of compliance with the good practices described.





You may also be familiar within the trade of the adoption by some local authorities in England and Wales of the **Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme**. This aims to improve the standards of practice in the tattoo industry and allow the public to choose a tattooist that meets high standards of hygiene by viewing a published hygiene rating. Swindon Borough Council is proposing to launch this scheme in the January 2019 but is seeking views from practitioners on the levels of support for this in the trade in the county. Participation in the scheme will be voluntary.

### **What are the benefits of the scheme?**

- Participants in the scheme will receive a rating certificate and window sticker to help to promote their good practice;
- Through published ratings the public will be able to make an informed choice about the business they select for a tattoo and can be reassured that the practitioner takes cleanliness and infection control seriously as part of their everyday practice;
- Practitioners will be able to seek advice from Swindon Borough Council on how to improve their practices and help to drive up standards within the trade;
- High rated practitioners will have been able to demonstrate adoption of best practice in the industry including infection prevention and control;
- Reduction in the risk of incidents of infection and transmission of infectious disease from tattooing procedures;
- Improvement to the reputation of registered, legitimate tattooists.

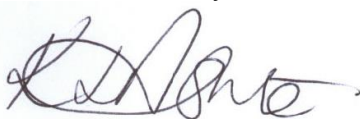
Further details and Frequently Asked Questions about the scheme are available on the enclosed factsheet.

### **How can you get involved?**

- Please read the enclosed information on the Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme. **Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us in the reply paid envelope by 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018.**
- Download and read the Tattooing and Body Piercing Guidance Toolkit if you are not already familiar with it.
- Download the self- audit questionnaire on page 64 of the toolkit. Begin a self assessment of your level of compliance with the best practice guidance.

If you experience any difficulty in downloading any of the information or require any further information please contact 01793 466331 or email us at: [Licensing@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing@swindon.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,



**Kathryn Ashton**  
Licensing Manager