

# Scottish Athletics submission of 28 July 2022

## PE1919/F: Ban the sale of high caffeine products to children for performance enhancement

In response to your letter dated 1 March 2022, Scottish Athletics is aware of the concerns raised by the petitioner and has communicated with Mr Gourley over at least the past 5 years.

During that time, Scottish Athletics has published a paper on [‘Caffeine for Athletic Performance’](#) in which our position is made clear – *“**scottishathletics** recommends that athletes do not use caffeine products, particularly young athletes and those with any health conditions.”*

This paper was produced in consultation with the **sportscotland** Institute of Sport.

We are aware that the petitioner has also contacted many other sporting organisations, anti-doping bodies and food standards organisations to raise concerns.

Scottish Athletics works closely with UK Athletics to maintain compliance with the new UK Anti-Doping Assurance Framework in line with the UK National Anti-Doping Policy. We follow the anti-doping rules as laid out by the World Anti-Doping Agency, World Athletics, UK Anti-Doping and UK Athletics.

Regarding Mr Gourley’s request, it would appear to us that banning the sale of high caffeine products to children solely for performance enhancement would be difficult to implement. If action were to be taken it would seem more practical to impose a ban on all sales to under 18s.

Having reviewed the measures taken by the Scottish Government it would seem appropriate that this is kept under review as new evidence emerges regarding the impact of high caffeine products on children.