

# Petitioner submission of 11 September 2023

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

I was recently made aware of an incident at an athletics club involving the use of high strength caffeine gum for performance enhancement. According to the club's statement it was a one-off use by a child due to ignorance of the dangers associated with its consumption. For reasons already outlined in previous submissions I don't believe it's an isolated case and am concerned it's a matter of time before a child is harmed.

In my opinion these types of incidents should be officially reported and actioned. I understand RIDDOR - 'Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations' focuses mainly on workplace and therefore does not cover incidents at athletics or other sports clubs.

I would therefore call on the Committee to:

- a) ask UK Athletics and Scottish Athletics what their policies are on reporting 'near miss', dangerous incidents involving high strength caffeine gum.
- b) consider whether it should be a legal requirement to report these occurrences.
- c) consider high strength caffeine gum in the linked petition [PE2024](#) which calls for a national, public information programme to raise awareness on the impacts of performance enhancing drugs.