

[News story: Newcastle fresh produce retailer fined after failing to meet marketing standards](#)

A Newcastle based fresh produce retailer has been ordered to pay over £3,000 for displaying, offering for sale and selling rotten fruit and vegetables that failed to meet minimum quality standards.

Raja Mohammed Farooq Khan, owner of Medina Food Store, was charged by Newcastle Magistrates Court on 27 February 2017, following a six month long investigation by the Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) Horticultural Marketing Inspectors (HMI).

A final HMI inspection conducted on 7 September 2016, found five offences in breach of the EU marketing rules for fresh produce quality and labelling, including rotten peppers and apples.

Khan pleaded guilty to all charges. He was ordered to pay a fine of £295, £2,798 costs and a £30 victim surcharge.

Alison Johnson, RPA Operations Director said:

Concerted efforts were made by HMI to work closely with the business through face-to-face meetings, verbal warnings and formal written notices, all aimed at achieving improved compliance from the business.

Unfortunately such advice is not always heeded and when all other options have been exhausted we will resort to the use of criminal sanction to bring about a required change in behaviour.

- Medina Food Store is based at 35 Nuns Moor Road, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9AU.
 - Horticultural Marketing Inspectors are part of the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). The inspectors are responsible for the enforcement of the EU marketing standards for fresh fruit, vegetables, salad crops, nuts and cultivated mushroom, throughout England and Wales, wherever fresh produce is grown, imported, exported, bought or sold.
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Speech: Survivors in safe houses will have their right to vote honoured

Just over a year ago, I learnt about a young woman from Bristol who had been forced to flee an abusive relationship and move, with her toddler, to a secret address.

Once there, she simply wanted to express her democratic right to vote and participate in British democracy – but it was too complicated to register anonymously and, without registering, she would not be able to express one of the most basic rights we too often take for granted.

That individual was Mehala Osborne, now a formidable and leading [Women's Aid](#) campaigner whose story has been heard up and down the country.

Mehala's story is one of bravery, resilience and inspiration in the pursuit of something as important as the democratic right to vote – and today the government is acting on what we have learned from her story.

Currently, those wanting to register to vote anonymously have to go through a rigorous process, providing a high level of documentation to register to vote, which many survivors of abuse lack.

Having to arrange for signed documents from senior officials – such as superintendents in the police and directors of social services at councils – would be an incredibly daunting task for anyone, let alone survivors of domestic abuse. It is clear that the existing system has often let down those affected by domestic abuse – and that cannot continue.

That is why today the government is setting out proposals to reform the anonymous registration scheme in England and Wales and make it more accessible for those escaping domestic abuse to participate fully in our democracy.

The [proposals](#) include plans to update the list of court and other orders that are acceptable as evidence of the risk to an applicant's safety, as well as considering expanding the current list of possible evidence that can be used.

We also intend to lower the seniority required of an attester from the police or social services – and we will consider adding additional professions to those who can attest, such as GPs and nurses.

Mehala's journey is nothing short of inspiring. The majority of survivors who find themselves in a refuge or similar safe house simply won't vote because of the daunting barriers to registering anonymously.

That leaves a huge hole in our democracy. I look forward to continuing to work with Women's Aid and other organisations to make sure we get this right and that we help survivors of domestic abuse make their voices heard.

As the Prime Minister made clear on the steps of Downing Street in July, I am determined to build a democracy that works for everyone.

And that is what this Government is doing – by tackling voter fraud wherever we find it, ensuring that UK citizens who have lived overseas for longer than 15 years have the right to vote, and equalising the size of constituency boundaries so that every vote matters.

But we are equally clear that those who have been constrained by their abusers must have full freedom to express themselves in the democratic processes and the political life of the country – a commitment that we are today moving one step closer towards.

Only by doing so will we build a democracy and a country that works for everyone.

[Legal Literacy Video Contest 2017](#)

The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice seeks to collaborate and converge with various government and non-government agencies for wider dissemination of legal literacy and the ensuing objective of Access to Justice.

[Procuratorates see fewer petitions in 2016](#)

The number of petitions and complaints to procuratorial agencies across China in the first 10 months last year has dropped by 9.8 percent from the same period of the previous year.

Gong Ming, a senior prosecutor with the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), said on Friday that numbers of extreme cases, repeated petitions and petitions that involve mass participation have also decreased, while the involvement of lawyers in petitions is increasing.

Gong said this shows that more members of the public are willing to resort to the law rather than extralegal means in solving their grievances.

Procuratorial authorities at the provincial level have established systems to integrate petitions into judicial proceedings, rectify wrongful decisions and provide judicial assistance in such cases.

Prosecutors have also accepted over 10,000 petition cases via online video in 2016, which could help people make their voices heard, according to Gong.

ACC Appointments

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the following appointments/ repatriation