# BBC investigation bans Katie Price’s liquid BBL injector amid rising sepsis cases



Ricky Sawyer, a controversial figure in the world of cosmetic enhancements, has been banned from performing procedures following grave concerns raised by a BBC investigation. This investigation revealed that Sawyer, who has treated a number of celebrity clients including Katie Price, was administering liquid Brazilian butt-lifts (BBLs) with no relevant healthcare qualifications. Reports indicate that he was injecting as much as 1,000ml of dermal filler into clients' buttocks, significantly endangering their health and safety.

The exposure came to light through undercover footage where Sawyer was seen improperly carrying out procedures and illegally distributing antibiotics. His practices have led to severe complications for several clients, including life-threatening infections such as sepsis. In a poignant statement, Mark Elliot, the president of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, emphasised the regulatory failures in the industry, stating, "The regulatory framework has failed to keep pace with the increase in the prevalence of cosmetic procedures in recent years, fuelled by social media."

The ramifications of Sawyer's actions have been severe, with numerous women suffering dire health consequences. One client, Ashley, recounted her harrowing experience after undergoing a procedure at one of Sawyer's clinics, saying, “He butchered me, there is no other word for it.” Following her treatment, she developed sepsis and was hospitalised, illustrating the critical risks associated with unregulated cosmetic procedures. Reports indicate that nearly 40 women have come forward with similar testimonies, all of whom required medical intervention after their procedures with Sawyer.

As the public becomes increasingly aware of such unsafe practices, local authorities have reacted swiftly. Following the BBC’s findings, councils in Trafford, Salford, and Manchester have taken steps to prohibit Sawyer from operating in their jurisdictions. This movement towards regulation has been echoed by experts who argue that high-risk cosmetic procedures, particularly those involving non-surgical techniques like liquid BBLs, should be classified and performed only by qualified medical professionals.

The trend of non-surgical aesthetic treatments is concerning, as highlighted by significant increases in complaints related to these procedures in the UK. Reports suggest that such complaints rose tenfold over the past year, prompting councils like Wolverhampton and Essex to actively ban these procedures in their areas. There is a growing consensus on the urgent need for a licensing scheme that can regulate non-surgical cosmetic procedures across England, ensuring that practitioners meet certain qualifications to safeguard public health.

Sawyer's case is part of a broader issue in the cosmetic industry, where alluring celebrity endorsements often lure unsuspecting clients into unsafe treatments. Women like Monique Sofroniou, who suffered serious complications after a liquid BBL left her with leaking wounds, are calling for more stringent regulations. Monique stated that after her botched procedure, she experienced pain described as “worse than childbirth,” leading to further medical interventions.

In light of these alarming trends, Ashley expressed relief at the recent court ruling against Sawyer: "I am relieved, it makes me feel that we're being taken seriously." The public health implications of unregulated cosmetic enhancements cannot be overstated, as the testimonies of these women reveal a disturbing underbelly to the popularisation of aesthetics through social media.

As the fallout from this case continues, the dialogue surrounding the regulation of non-surgical aesthetic treatments grows increasingly urgent. Experts warn that allowing practitioners with insufficient medical oversight to perform procedures can result in devastating consequences. Thus, the industry faces a critical juncture where reform is not just desired but necessary to protect the health and safety of clients nationwide.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14764693/Katie-Prices-butt-lift-injector-BANNED-sepsis.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyk521rrxyo)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14764693/Katie-Prices-butt-lift-injector-BANNED-sepsis.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/02/complaints-about-non-surgical-butt-lifts-rising-at-alarming-rate-in-uk), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/2023-12-11/20-minutes-from-death-when-non-surgical-bbl-fillers-go-wrong)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyk521rrxyo), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-03-14/aesthetic-clinic-with-celebrity-clients-investigated-after-botched-procedures)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/02/complaints-about-non-surgical-butt-lifts-rising-at-alarming-rate-in-uk), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/2023-12-11/20-minutes-from-death-when-non-surgical-bbl-fillers-go-wrong), [[6]](https://www.foxnews.com/health/doctors-link-butt-fillers-sepsis-diagnosis-procedure)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14764693/Katie-Prices-butt-lift-injector-BANNED-sepsis.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyk521rrxyo)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyk521rrxyo), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/02/complaints-about-non-surgical-butt-lifts-rising-at-alarming-rate-in-uk), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-03-14/aesthetic-clinic-with-celebrity-clients-investigated-after-botched-procedures)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14764693/Katie-Prices-butt-lift-injector-BANNED-sepsis.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/02/complaints-about-non-surgical-butt-lifts-rising-at-alarming-rate-in-uk), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/2023-12-11/20-minutes-from-death-when-non-surgical-bbl-fillers-go-wrong)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14764693/Katie-Prices-butt-lift-injector-BANNED-sepsis.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyk521rrxyo> - A BBC investigation uncovered that Ricky Sawyer, a self-styled 'beauty consultant' with celebrity clients like Katie Price, was administering liquid Brazilian butt-lifts (BBLs) without proper qualifications. The procedures led to severe complications, including sepsis and tissue death, in several women. Undercover footage revealed Sawyer illegally distributing antibiotics and performing injections without medical supervision. Local authorities have since banned him from practicing in their areas. The case highlights the dangers of unregulated cosmetic procedures and the need for stricter oversight in the industry.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/02/complaints-about-non-surgical-butt-lifts-rising-at-alarming-rate-in-uk> - The Guardian reports a significant increase in complaints about non-surgical Brazilian butt-lifts (BBLs) in the UK, with cases rising tenfold in the past year. These procedures, often performed by non-medical practitioners, have led to serious complications such as sepsis and tissue death. The City of Wolverhampton council has taken action to halt these procedures, citing risks like pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis. The article underscores the urgent need for a licensing scheme to regulate non-surgical cosmetic treatments and protect public health.
4. <https://www.itv.com/news/2024-03-14/aesthetic-clinic-with-celebrity-clients-investigated-after-botched-procedures> - ITV News investigates Lift Aesthetics, an aesthetic clinic in Essex with celebrity clients like Katie Price, which has faced multiple complaints about botched non-surgical Brazilian butt-lifts (BBLs). Several women reported severe complications, including sepsis and tissue death, requiring emergency surgery. The clinic's promotional materials, featuring celebrity endorsements, have attracted numerous clients seeking the procedure. The investigation highlights the risks associated with unregulated cosmetic treatments and the need for stricter oversight to ensure patient safety.
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/2023-12-11/20-minutes-from-death-when-non-surgical-bbl-fillers-go-wrong> - ITV News reports on the dangers of non-surgical Brazilian butt-lifts (BBLs) through the story of Louise Moller, who suffered severe complications after the procedure. Despite initial assurances of safety, Moller experienced intense pain and developed an infection leading to sepsis. She required emergency surgery to remove dead tissue and spent months recovering. The case underscores the risks of unregulated cosmetic procedures and the importance of choosing reputable practitioners to prevent life-threatening complications.
6. <https://www.foxnews.com/health/doctors-link-butt-fillers-sepsis-diagnosis-procedure> - Fox News reports on a case in Ireland where a 29-year-old woman developed sepsis 14 months after receiving buttock dermal filler injections. The patient experienced nausea and an abscess at the injection site, leading to hospitalization and a prolonged course of antibiotics. Doctors emphasize the importance of choosing reputable cosmetic surgeons and highlight the potential for delayed infections following such procedures. The case serves as a reminder of the risks associated with cosmetic enhancements and the need for proper medical oversight.
7. <https://www.independent.ie/news/woman-29-hospitalised-for-18-days-with-sepsis-a-year-after-cosmetic-bum-lift-procedure/40574134.html> - The Irish Independent reports on a 29-year-old woman who developed sepsis 14 months after undergoing a cosmetic bum lift procedure. The patient was hospitalized for 18 days and required a six-week course of antibiotics. Doctors highlight the increasing complications associated with buttock augmentations and stress the importance of choosing reputable cosmetic surgeons. The case serves as a reminder of the potential risks of cosmetic procedures and the need for proper medical oversight to prevent serious health issues.