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## **HELA**

### **LA Mid-year Data Collection for 2013/14**

**A Paper by Shirley Howes (LAU)**

**Advisor: Simon Webster (Statistics)**

**Cleared by Elaine Harbour on 10 January 2014**

#### **Issue**

1. This paper provides HELA with a report on local authority (LA) inspection/visit data from the half-year LAE1 voluntary return 1 April 2013 to September 2013.

#### **Timing**

2. For discussion at the meeting on 21 January 2014.

#### **Recommendation**

3. HELA considers the data and their role in helping LAs to deliver a consistent, proportionate and targeted approach to regulatory interventions in line with the LA National Code.

#### **Background**

4. HELA considered the results of the end-year LAE1 data collection for 2012/13 in August 2013 (HELA paper 15/01); this indicated that LAs had reduced proactive inspection activity in line with the Government reforms but the returns highlighted two key issues:
  - a) That targeting remained an issue with too much inspection of lower risk premises; and
  - b) The number of LAs who are not undertaking any proactive inspections.
5. The LA National Enforcement Code was published in May 2013. Alongside, but separately to the Code, HSE also published a list of activities/sectors suitable for targeting for proactive inspection. Supplementary guidance to assist LAs understanding and implementation of the Code was published in June 2013.

6. HELA requested LAU undertake a half-year data collection covering the period 1 April - 30 September 2013 in order to provide in-year feedback on trends, targeting and the impact of the Code.

## **Discussion**

7. The voluntary half-year data collection exercise resulted in a 46% response rate with 174 LAs submitting their data. The data was statistically modelled to produce an annual estimated projection for 2013/14 for all 380 local authorities.
8. Annex 1 provides the detailed breakdown of the modelled figures, the headlines are:
  - a) LAs will undertake approx 8000 proactive inspections in 2013/14. This is a 44% reduction against last year's return and represents a 93% reduction since the baseline year of 2009/10 (See table 1);
  - b) Accident investigation visits continue to reduce, down by 13% since last year, and down 42% since 2009/10 (see table 1);
  - c) The total number of LA inspectors and full time equivalent numbers have remained relatively stable. There is a slight fall with the modelled figures from the mid year return but this could be a quirk of the estimation process (see table 2).
  - d) The average number of Cat A visits looks likely to remain the same. Inspections of lower risk premises (B2 & C) are predicted to halve on average for each LA (see table 3);
  - e) Of the LAs who responded, 36% report that in the first six months of this year they have not carried out proactive inspections in any risk category (See table 4); and
  - f) Fewer than 10% of local authorities are doing more than 15 B2/C visits. Four local authorities were responsible for around half of the B2/C visits (see table 5).
9. Draft guidance was made available to assist LAs to complete the LAE1 form as part of the consultation process on the revised LAC 67/2. This LAC is now aligned with the Code and was recently published following HSE Publications Governance Group (PGG) clearance.
10. LA provide comments along with their data returns, the comments accompanying the mid-year exercise illustrated a greater discipline in completing the form e.g. previous returns included combined Food hygiene and H&S inspections but none were reported this time.
11. In common with previous data collections, some IT coding issues were identified and LAU is working with the LA IT providers to resolve these in readiness for the 2013/14 annual return.
12. LAU will publish the mid-year data to allow comparison between LAs and will continue work with those LAs where the data prompts questions to assist their implementation of the Code.

## **Action**

13. HELA members are asked to:

- a) Note the data;
- b) Comment on any underlying qualitative intelligence/factors; and
- c) Discuss how to respond to the issues raised,

## **Contact**

Shirley Howes LAU

shirley.howes@hse.gsi.gov.uk

## Annex 1

### LAE1 Midyear Return 2013

#### Note on estimates and projections:

The purpose of the mid-year data collection is to provide an early indication of what the data might look like at the end of 2013/14 when the full LAE1 data collection has been completed. The mid-year return is based on six months worth of data provided by 174 (46%) of the 380 local authorities.

In order to produce the annual projections presented in Tables 1-3, appropriate multipliers have been applied to the data to provide an estimate for 380 local authorities over a full year. Tables 4 and 5 are based on actual returns and figures have not been multiplied up.

**Table 1. Total inspections/visits undertaken by LAs in Great Britain**

	Number of visits				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14*
Preventive inspections	118,000	106,000	70,700	14,400	8,000
Revisits to check	19,000	19,000	15,900	12,500	8,800
Visits to investigate accidents	17,000	15,000	13,800	11,400	9,900
Visits following requests/complaints	24,000	26,200	22,800	25,100	14,200
Other visits	18,000	28,000	27,800	42,800	33,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>196,000</b>	<b>194,200</b>	<b>151,000</b>	<b>106,200</b>	<b>82,100</b>

*\*annual projection; estimate based on 174 responses*

**Table 2. Number of inspectors with H&S powers**

	Number of inspectors holding appointments under S19 of the HSW act				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14*
Total number	3170	2710	2480	2429	2553
Full Time Equivalent number	1050	1010	900	928	854

*\*estimate based on 174 responses*

**Table 3. Proactive inspection projections by category of premises**

	2012/13		2013/14	
	Average number of visits per LA	Total number of visits	Average number of visits per LA*	Total number of visits**
Cat A visits	7.89	2,996	7.38	2,804
Cat B1 visits	8.73	3,318	4.06	1,541
Cat B2/C visits	21.18	8,048	9.49	3,608
All proactive visits	37.80	14,362	20.93	7,954

\* Annual projection

\* Annual projection; estimate based on 174 responses

**Table 4. Actual proactive inspection data**

	Number of LAs doing this	Number of Cat A visits by these LAs	Number of Cat B1 visits by these LAs	Number of Cat B2/C visits by these LAs	Total number of proactive visits by these LAs
Group 1: LAs doing no proactive inspections	62	0	0	0	0
Group 2: LAs doing Cat A only	37	287	0	0	287
Group 3: LAs doing Cat A/B1 only	14	153	98	0	251
Group 4: LAs doing some B2/C visits (<15)	45	172	140	168	480
Group 5: LAs doing many B2/C visits (15+)	16	30	115	658	803
All	174	642	353	826	1821

**Table 5. Individual LA contributions to B2/C visit total**

Number of B2/C visits	Number of LAs doing this many B2/C visits	Percentage of total number of B2/C visits
None	113	0%
1-10	40	14%
11-20	5	8%
21-50	8	29%
51 plus*	4	49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	

\* Highest was 128

