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HELA

Inspection/visit Data Collection from Local Authorities

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Issue

1. This paper provides HELA with a report on local authorities' (LAs') inspection/visit data for 2011/12 and the extent to which the Government's expectations for a one third reduction in inspection visits has been met.

Timing

2. For discussion at the meeting on 28 June 2012

Recommendation

3. That HELA considers their role in how to help LAs deliver the expected reduction of inspection visits.

Background

4. On 21 March 2011 the Government's next steps for reform of the health and safety system were published in "*Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone*". The most significant aspect of these reforms for health and safety regulators is the shift in focus of HSE and LA activity away from businesses that do the right thing, to concentrate on higher risk areas and dealing with serious health and safety breaches.
5. Within "*Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone*" LAs were asked to reduce the number of proactive inspection visits by at least one third per annum and to improve the targeting of such inspections. With this mandate joint guidance for LAs on how to achieve this was published by HSE and the LG Group effective from 1 April 2011.

Discussion

6. The baseline figure used in "*Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone*" 196,000 inspection visits for GB an estimation based on the 2009/10 figures provided by LAs via the LAE1.

7. In 2011/12 LAs conducted a total of 151,000 inspection visits, an estimate based on the LAE1 returns submitted by 339 LAs (ie 89% response rate). Within that figure the number of 'Preventive Inspections' was 70,700 (the comparable figure for 2009/10 was 118,000). There has also been a fall of 1,100 in 'Revisits to check', 3,200 in accident investigations, 1,200 in visits following requests/complaints. There has been an increase in 'Other' visits of 9,800 to a total of 27,800.

Action

8. HELA members are asked to note the data and consider their role in driving forward the necessary changes to LA inspection activity.
9. LAU to publish detailed data on the extranet

Contact

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