

Adventure Activities Licensing Authority Board Meeting
4th March 2014

Adventure Activities Licensing Service Operations Report
September 2013 – February 2014

1. Number of Licence Holders

At 28th February 2014 this stood at 1230

Previous figures at the end of	January 2014	1232
	December 2013	1231
	November 2013	1238
	October 2013	1241
	September 2013	1233

2. Relevant Action

During the reporting period, four providers were issued with a notice that we were considering refusing their licence renewal application. Two providers did not provide the required information and their renewal applications were refused. Two cases are still in progress.

At the last meeting it was reported that a Local Authority, had been issued with a notice that we were considering varying their licence and that the case was still in progress. They subsequently satisfied us that our concerns had been addressed.

3. Recorded Accidents and Incidents

3.1 Summary.

During the reporting period 7 accidents/incidents were entered on the Licensing Service's database, 5 of which occurred during the reporting period and 2 prior to the reporting period.

Of the 7 cases, 2 involved fatalities (adults in both cases). An adult male died at Hollingworth Lake Water Activity Centre on 5 September 2013 whilst taking part in a led open canoeing session. The centre holds an Adventure Activities Licence. The incident was reported verbally at the last AALA MB meeting as 'breaking news'. We have received unconfirmed reports that the man, who was reportedly a patient in health authority care, removed his buoyancy aid before jumping into the water. The incident is still under investigation.

Two of the incidents involved injuries on the same zip wire on the same day. As reported separately we have been involved in two

separate meetings about safety on zip wires and we are currently exploring how to develop guidance on human error accidents on zip wires. (We have also submitted guidance on human error accidents on ropes courses generally for consideration by the European Ropes Course Association which is revising BS EN 15567: Standard for Ropes Courses.)

One of the incidents was the reporting to us of an unexploded stick of gelignite in a mine used for mine exploration in North Wales. We passed the matter to North Wales Police. The report turned out to be (largely) a hoax.

A further 7 accidents/incidents which have been reported previously were updated as more information became known. In 5 cases the update related to inquest updates/verdicts or legal action. 2 updates related to ongoing investigations.

3.2 We have, or in some cases are about to, upload InfoLog entries on

- a) The danger of scalds from 'Kelly Kettles'
- b) Flash floods
- c) A particular, and unusual mode of failure of 'cows tails' (strops) used on ropes courses
- d) The unusual (unprecedented?) failure of a karabiner used on a zip wire.

Marcus Bailie
Head of Inspection
27.02.14