

22 June 2017**Metrology Laboratory Statistical Return**

Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment, Gateshead Council

Purpose of the report

1. To update the committee on the functioning of the metrology laboratory in the final quarter of the 2016/17 financial year.

Services to the constituent authorities

2. During the quarter the laboratory maintained the weights and measures equipment and calibrated where necessary said equipment to allow them to perform their statutory duties under the Weights and Measures Act 1985 and to meet their obligations under the relevant European Directives.
3. Officers of the laboratory accompanied officers of the authorities to provide specialist support where necessary to aid in their statutory duties.
4. Seized materials have been stored for the authorities and securely disposed of where necessary.
5. Consumer products have been tested and electrical goods submitted for testing are routinely failing as are cigarette samples which are both of a concern.

European Communities Obligations

6. Due to the recently expanded Notified Body to include Northumberland and Durham, training has been conducted across the seven local authorities to ensure that the service is able to meet its functions in this vital role of supporting the local economy by offering a weights and measures verification service in the most cost effective manner.
7. Work has been undertaken to ensure that the body is in a position to pass its annual audit conducted by Central Government for us to maintain our status.

Services to the local economy

8. The UKAS accredited laboratory has continued to provide this vitally needed service to local and regional businesses to allow them to compete on the open market. For example, pharmaceutical companies must comply with the US Pharmacopoeia to be able to sell their products in the USA and accurate weights and measures is a fundamental.
9. Local businesses and commerce rely upon accurate weights and measures and regularly use the laboratory to ensure compliance.

Services to National Agenda

10. The laboratory has been asked to provide two training courses on behalf of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute for the forthcoming examination cycle.
11. The manager has been asked to participate in the process of changing the training, qualification and assessment route of future Trading Standards Officers.
12. The manager has been asked by Northern Ireland Trading Standards Service to provide a training package for officers in their metrology service and to prepare a report for NI Government on future funding requirements for their national service.

Laboratory Accommodation updates

13. The garage doors, which are the originals from 1978 have failed and have had to be replaced as they couldn't be opened or shut. The replacements were installed by a local company.
14. Various minor repairs have had to be completed due to the age of the building.

Income

Appendix 1 details the paid works undertaken by the laboratory in the quarter.

Recommendation

15. The Committee is asked to note the information.

METROLOGY LABORATORY
STATISTICAL RETURN FOR THE QUARTER ENDING March 2017

Activity	Number	Income
S.74 (4) (b) verifications S73107	21	746.19
UKAS Accredited calibrations S73074-01	943	17794.32
Toy / Electrical tests S74014		1900.00
Weighbridge S73104-01	235	1042.08
Hire of weights S73104	-	-
PAT testing S76034-01	6	226.10
EC Verification	9	424.38
RIP testing S73104	21	9200.00
Income (excl. VAT)		31333.07
VAT		6266.61
Total Income (inc VAT)		£37 599.68

METROLOGY LABORATORY

- **STATISTICAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ending March 2017**

Activity	Number	Income
S.74 (4) (b) verifications S73107	262	4 629.88
UKAS Accredited calibrations S73074-01	2900	61 400.72
Toy / Electrical tests S74014 PAT testing S76034-01 Other Income		8 380.07
Weighbridge S73104-01	1 166	5 113.76
Hire of weights S73104	18	1 764.30
EC Verification	14	1237.78
RIP testing S73104	191	38 200.00
Income (excl. VAT)		120 726.51
VAT		24 035.37
Total Income (inc VAT)		144 761.88