

17 September 2020**Report for period to August 2020**

Paul Udall, Group Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth, Gateshead Council.

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Committee of the work of the Joint Metrology Laboratory for the period and operational duties to present.

Metrology Laboratory**Operational**

2. The laboratory has continued to provide a service throughout the pandemic and has not lost any time or productivity. Social distancing has been maintained and full risk assessments applied along with modified practices to achieve this aim.
3. The submissions to the laboratory have not reduced in quantity in comparison with this time last year, as a predominance of the laboratory's clients are in the pharmaceutical and food production industries and need a continuity of service to maintain their production levels.
4. As was reported in the Gateshead press, the laboratory utilised its 3D printer to make face shields for distribution to carers.

Aid and Advice to Industry

5. Local weighing machine repairers, chemical, pharmaceutical and aeronautical companies continue to submit their test weights, scales and length measures for calibration.
6. The laboratory has been giving advice on practical issues facing local companies with regards to calibrations.

EC Verifications

7. Only one off-site EC verification has been conducted during lockdown period and this was for a company in Middlesbrough.

UKAS Calibrations

8. Weights continue to be submitted for calibration and issue of UKAS Calibration Certificates. In the period 1st March to August 1st there were 1,955 submissions with the issue of over 350 certificates.
9. The laboratory underwent its annual audit by UKAS in February 2020. There were minor issues to deal with, but the laboratory was given a clean bill of health and UKAS had confidence in the laboratory and its procedures.

Product Safety

10. The laboratory has been appointed by Office of Product Safety and Standards as the product safety laboratory for the North East and Yorkshire and Humberside regions.

National Agenda

11. The laboratory has been working with NCFE to develop a T level qualification in Metrology Sciences, other contributors were the National Physical Laboratory and the Laboratory of the Government Chemist.
12. The laboratory has been developing a new Advanced Metrology Module as part of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute's qualification.

Recommendation

13. The Committee is recommended to note the report.