

07 October 2021**Report for period to September 2021**

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Gateshead Council**

Purpose of the report

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

Metrology Laboratory**Operational**

1. The laboratory has continued to provide a service throughout the pandemic and has not lost any time or productivity and a breakdown of submissions to the laboratory are produced as Annex 1 to this report.
2. 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 have appreciated a continuity of service to maintain their production levels.

Aid and Advice to Industry

3. Local weighing machine repairers, chemical, pharmaceutical and aeronautical companies continue to submit their test weights, scales and length measures for calibration.
4. The laboratory has been giving advice on practical issues facing local companies with regards to UKCA marking amongst other issues.

EC / UKCA Verifications

7. Only two on-site EC verifications have been conducted since the last report was presented.

UKAS Calibrations

8. Weights continue to be submitted for calibration and issue of UKAS Calibration Certificates. In the period From April 2021 to September 2021 there were 2,533 submissions and 453 certificates issued.

Cigarette Testing

9. The theft of the air-conditioning at the laboratory has had a detrimental effect on cigarette samples. Samples have had to be returned untested as the tests cannot be completed due to not being able to condition the samples ready for testing in accordance with the relevant standard. Work to provide replacement units is in hand but is taking longer than we'd anticipated.

Product Safety

10. Very few samples have been submitted for testing despite monies being available through OPSS funds to test samples that are manufactured or imported into the region.

National Agenda

11. The laboratory has been contributing to the qualification review and preparing responses to two consumer protection consultations that are out.
12. The laboratory will be delivering the new Advanced Metrology Module as part of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute's modular qualification during October and November.

UKAS Issues

14. The National Measurement Office, for various reasons, is not able to calibrate our standards or any other UK laboratories. We continue to raise our concerns to this situation and as an interim solution have moved our calibration interval for our local standards to a 3-year cycle. This gives NMO time to be back up and running for our standards to be calibrated the following year.

Recommendation

15. The Committee is recommended to note the report.

Annex 1

Apr-21		May-21		Jun-21		Qtr 2 Totals	
Submissions	Weights	Submissions	Weights	Submissions	Weights	Submissions	Items
22 UKAS M1	188	26 UKAS M1	208	27 UKAS M1	110	75 UKAS M1	506
2 UKAS F2	3	0 UKAS F2	0	2 UKAS F2	3	4 UKAS F2	6
30 UKAS F1	174	29 UKAS F1	78	49 UKAS F1	167	108 UKAS F1	419
19 UKAS E2	96	8 UKAS E2	51	9 UKAS E2	17	36 UKAS E2	164
Total UKAS Submissi	461	Total UKAS Submissi	337	Total UKAS Submissi	297	Total UKAS Submissions	1095
1 Sec 74(4)	1	2 Sec 74(4)	4	3 Sec 74(4)	3	6 Sec 74(4)	8
0 NAWI	0	0 NAWI	0	0 NAWI	0	0 NAWI	0
0 Volume	0	0 Volume	0	0 Volume	0	0 Volume	0
0 Traders	0	2 Traders	2	0 Traders	0	2 Traders	2
0 Verificatio	0	0 Verificatio	0	1 Verificatio	1	1 Verification	1
Total Submissions	462	Total Submissions	343	Total Submissions	301	Total Submissions	1106
UKAS Certificates	73	UKAS Certificates	63	UKAS Certificates	87	UKAS Certificates	223
Non UKAS Certificate	1	Non UKAS Certificate	4	Non UKAS Certificate	4	Non UKAS Certificates	9
Jul-21		Aug-21		Sep-21		Qtr 3 Totals	
Submissio	0 Weights	Submissio	0 Weights	Submissio	0 Weights	Submissions	Items
39 UKAS M1	290	27 UKAS M1	346	11 UKAS M1	141	77 UKAS M1	777
4 UKAS F2	26	1 UKAS F2	8	1 UKAS F2	5	6 UKAS F2	39
41 UKAS F1	136	41 UKAS F1	189	26 UKAS F1	103	108 UKAS F1	428
11 UKAS E2	52	12 UKAS E2	76	14 UKAS E2	66	37 UKAS E2	194
Total UKA	504	Total UKA	619	Total UKA	315	Total UKAS Submissions	1438
0 Sec 74(4)	0	4 Sec 74(4)	3	3 Sec 74(4)	3	7 Sec 74(4)	6
1 NAWI	1	1 NAWI	1	0 NAWI	0	2 NAWI	2
0 Volume	0	0 Volume	0	0 Volume	0	0 Volume	0
0 Traders	0	0 Traders	0	1 Traders	11	1 Traders	11
1 Verificatio	1	1 Verificatio	1	1 Verificatio	1	3 Verification	3
Total Subr	506	Total Subr	624	Total Subr	330	Total Submissions	1460
UKAS Cert	96	UKAS Cert	82	UKAS Cert	52	UKAS Certificates	230
Non UKAS	1	Non UKAS	5	Non UKAS	5	Non UKAS Certificates	11

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