



ALL WALES POLLUTION TECHNICAL PANEL

Llanerch Inn, Llandrindod Wells, Powys

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2007 at 10.30 am

		ACTION
	ATTENDEES	
	Huw Morgan, Swansea (Chair)	HM
	Sarah Johns, Pembrokeshire CC (Secretary)	SJ
	Lisa Elliott, Blaenau Gwent	LE
	Helen Williams, Bridgend	HW
	Maria Godrey	MG
	Heddwyn Evans, Caerphilly	HE
	Will Lane, Cardiff	WL
	Alun Rees, Carmarthenshire	AR
	Bryn Roberts, Denbighshire	BR
	Zoe Pieris, Merthyr Tydfil	ZP
	Bernard Tyson, Monmouthshire	BT
	Claire Edwards, Newport	CE
	David Hart, Rhondda Cynon Taf	DH
	Kristian James, Vale of Glamorgan	KJ
	Huw Thomas, Anglesey	HT
1.	INTRODUCTION	
	Huw Morgan (Chair) welcomed everyone to this meeting.	
2.	APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE	
	Apologies had been received by the Secretary from representatives of Neath Port Talbot, Torfaen and Rhondda Cynon Taf.	
3.	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	
	<u>Point 4 – LA Areas of Expertise</u>	
	Secretary circulated sheet to be completed by each representative with details of their areas of expertise and IT software used. This needs to be	Secretary/All

completed for all staff involved in Pollution Control. Secretary to circulate this to all the Panel.

Training

See separate agenda item.

Habitat Regs

Huw Morgan stated that he is still in discussions with CCW regarding these Regulations.

Chair

Point 6 – Cryptosporidium Report

The findings of this report have now been incorporated into the Water Health Partnership for Wales – “Emergency Framework for Health Related Incidents and Outbreaks in Wales potentially caused by contaminated drinking water” – see separate agenda item.

Point 7 – CIEH Noise Returns

The Secretary has forwarded an email onto the Panel from Julie Barratt clarifying the current CIEH position and were reviewing these statistics.

Point 10 – Planning Applications for Mini Domestic Wind Turbines

It was raised that comments have been posted on the bulletin page of the Institute of Acoustics Website regarding these types of turbines. Huw Morgan suggested commenting to the WAG on the potential nuisance affects that these installations could cause. It was also discussed that domestic units can be more problematic than commercial turbines.

All

Point 12 – LACORS

Huw Morgan advised that a representative from LACORS is still interested in attending a WAQF meeting to give a presentation. Huw Morgan to facilitate this.

Chair

A reminder to everyone to register on LACORS website to receive email bulletins on environmental protection issues.

All

Point 16(b) – Environmental Liability Directive

Dave Hart was due to meet Neil Talbot (LACORS) and would raise this issue with him.

DH

Point 16(f) Regional Director for North Wales NPHS

Andrew Jones has now been appointed Regional Director of Public Health (North Wales) and Director for Health Improvement for NPHS.

4.

REPORTS FOR SUB GROUPS

IPPC SUB GROUP

Kristian James advised the Panel that the last meeting of the sub group was 26th June which was well attended. There is also virtual group which operates well via emails.

Atkins Review – request from Kristian James to respond as soon as possible to this Review and at the latest by the next sub group meeting in October. It was recommended to state realistic good practices and what is desirable. The aim is to achieve a sensible standard. Briefly discussed the possibility of producing an annual statement detailing the current position.

All

Standard permitting has continued to be considered by the sub group. Crematoria are the next permit to be reviewed. The sub group has also considered mobile plant permitted outside a LA area. The main emphasis was to look at cost implications if plant is permitted from outside the Local Authority.

BATHING WATER GROUP

Huw Morgan advised that a meeting is to take place between the WAG representative responsible for implementing the Bathing Water Directive, Eve Read.

There is a synchronised consultation on implementation of the Bathing Water Directive for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales by end of the month. A meeting will then be held with WAG and Kevin Thomas (EA representative). Defra are currently talking to LA's on the Directive.

Huw Morgan points out that the Welsh Regulations are similar to English Regulations.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES REGULATIONS 2007

Huw Morgan describes the regulations. The UK are not currently compliant with the Drinking Water Directive and private networks are not covered properly in the UK. New regulations have been promised in England for the last 2-3 years and are now imminent.

The new Regulations move towards risk assessing sources but guidance will need to be drafted on risk assessment tools to be effective.

All

A seminar on Private Water Supplies Getting Ready for the New Regulations has been organised by Julie Barratt for 1st October in South Wales and 8th October in North Wales. Secretary to contact to obtain further details.

SEA BATHING

Sec

Defra have indicated that LA's will be responsible for providing information on beaches and advising people on not to bathe. This has been decided not to be the responsibility of the EA.

Discussions have been taking place that the EA should police what LA's do and have a reserve power. All

Huw Morgan describes the main uncertainty is whether the prediction model will work.

CONTAMINATED LAND GROUP

All

Lisa Elliott advised the group that a new CIEH guidance was out for the Part IIA Framework. There was an article in EHN this week. This guidance was to include radioactivity since it is now included under the Regulations.

Zoe Perris pointed out that Keith Blake of the Food Standards Agency gave a presentation at the last South East Regional meeting.

LEAD IN WATER

A letter should have been received by all LA's from the CMO regarding high levels of lead in drinking water supplies at new residential developments in North Wales. The probable source was from leaded solder used in domestic drinking water pipework. Very high lead levels were found. Welsh Water Dwr Cymru took lead in this case under Water Supply Regulations. The letter asked for any intelligence as to whether this is a problem.

Huw Morgan has asked Trading Standards to target plumbing suppliers. In Scotland only non leaded flux is available. It was suggested comments be sent back to CMO asking for leaded solder to be banned to prevent recurrence of this.

Huw Morgan will contact Mike Withers at United Utilities to see if they are satisfied that random zone sampling is adequate to pick up this problem throughout Wales. Chair

Each LA to speak to colleagues to raise awareness with Building Control Colleagues. All

Secretary to forward CMO letter to Panel. Sec

Action: Letter sent out by Secretary via email

5.

TRAINING

As requested at the last meeting the Secretary contacted the Emergency Planning College in Easingwydd. A list of training courses available on their website was circulated. These courses cost approximately £600 per person. The cost of 1 day tailor made training at a venue in Wales would be approximately £3,500.

Dave Hart reminded all that the Emergency Planning Section within each LA may have training budget available to attend emergency planning courses.

The Secretary advised that CIEH 6 pack seminar is being arranged for 22nd November 2007 at MRC, Llandrindod Wells on Environmental Health in Emergencies. Speakers have been approached from HPA, National Public Health Service, EA Wales, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and LA's. Each LA is encouraged to send as many representatives as possible.

Kristian James advised exercise Rufus 2 is to be held at beginning of the year in Liberty Stadium, Swansea which will focus on flooding.

All

Kristian James also advised of the new IPPC course – Certificate of Competence. This course could be provided in Wales on demand by Martin Cranfield. All interest in the course to be forwarded to Kristian.

All

If any training courses are provided outside Wales which you believe could be of benefit to others in Wales please forward details onto the Secretary so that contact can be made to investigate the possibility of providing this training course in Wales.

All

Secretary raised the point that the CIEH is in the process of changing the curriculum for EHP's to qualify. This will be Curriculum 2007 and is due to take effect from September 2008. EHP's will then either be generic or specialised. Please forward any comments onto the Secretary.

All

Lisa Elliott advised that a free workshop for students and Training Officers on the ELP (Experiential Learning Portfolio) has been organised for 5th October in Cwmbran (contact kathrynmathias@hotmail.com) and 5th November in Conway (contact euronthomas@Gwynedd.gov.uk).

All

WAQF has organised its annual seminar for 27th September 2007 in Brecon. The theme is "Air Quality Policy issues in Wales."

All

6.

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Management Area Action Plans progress reports are now due to be reported via Local Health Boards from April 2008 under the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy. The difficulties of this were discussed.

Huw Morgan requested any LA to email the Secretary if agree arrangements for reporting with LHBs.

All

The EA mobile monitoring unit is still available to LA's. Huw Morgan

All

requested any applications to be made to him. Letter from Janet Dixon (Defra) to be sent to all LA's advising of changes proposed to AURN monitoring stations. Monitoring is proposed to be reduced for SO₂, CO and ozone, while sites are sought to monitor PM₁₀ and NO₂. There is a need to increase the number of sites in Wales especially in the North and East.

All

Grant Taylor has recently left Carmarthenshire CC and stood down as Secretary of Welsh Air Quality Forum. Zoe Pieris volunteered at the last WAQF meeting as Secretary unless another LA volunteer with more AQ issues comes forward.

7. **WAG CHEMICALS AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

A letter dated 11th September 2007 has been sent from the Steering Group detailing their aims. Wales Centre for Health will facilitate work.

Recent equipment inventory data gathering completed by Wales Centre for Health. Huw Morgan suggested panel should take ownership of this database as Pollution Teams hold most equipment. Secretary to contact WCFH to have access to equipment inventory. At last WHOEH meeting pleased with cross boundary working that panel were undertaking.

Sec

Ronnie Alexander (WAG) is compiling a list of "capabilities" (i.e. expertise map) for LA's, EAW, Fire Service etc. Huw Brunt seconded to HPA for 6 months from January who will compile capabilities list.

8. **BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS**

Huw Williams (Ceredigion CC) progressing this.

9. **ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE DIRECTIVE**

Noise mapping "agglomerations" of 250,000 population planned in Wales in Cardiff, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. In 2012 under directive agglomerations of 100,000 population will come under the regulations and need a noise map. At present no plans for rural areas to be covered under Directive. Ross Hunter (WAG) in discussions with 3 LA's classed as agglomerations. Secretary to contact Ross Hunter.

Sec

Action: Secretary contacted Ross Hunter who confirmed informal discussions being undertaken between WAG and Cardiff, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. No further action needed by other LA's at this time.

10. **WATER HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FOR WALES**

Huw Morgan thanked colleagues who attended the desk top exercise last

	<p>week on the "Emergency Framework for Health", related Incidents and Outbreaks in Wales potentially caused by contaminated Drinking Water.</p> <p>Secretary to circulate amended incident framework to Panel. Request to ensure all colleagues in Food Safety and Health and Safety are aware of it. There was a consensus for LA to take the lead on Incident Management Team or Outbreak Control Team activated for example by arranging meeting rooms, taking minutes etc.</p>	Sec
11.	AOB	
a).	<p>Lacors</p> <p>Huw Morgan requests any comments on the code of practice for large outdoor events produced by the Noise Council. Email Huw Morgan any comments.</p> <p><u>Environmental Permitting Programme</u></p>	All
b).	<p>Single environmental permit introduction has been difficult to fit to waste regulations. LA will get extra work from this as waste regulation will probably come under Part B or A2s.</p>	
c).	<p><u>Burning of Waste Oil</u></p> <p>Debate of waste oil on LACORS web page. Lisa Elliott to forward information onto to Kristian James,</p> <p>31st October is the absolute deadline for A2 permits. Huw Morgan recommended you notify WAG early if you have any potential A2 permits.</p>	LE All
d).	<p><u>Review of Control of Disease Act 1984</u></p> <p>Huw Morgan advised that Allen Brown and Dennis Gardener responded to the consultation review.</p>	
e).	<p><u>Background Radiation Monitoring</u></p> <p>Bernard Tyson raised query regarding feasibility of medium volume air samplers. He will contact HPA for specified advice.</p> <p><u>Research Paper</u></p>	
f).	<p>It was noted that a paper has been published in the Journal of Environmental Health Research by General Madden (Gloucestershire CC) and Peter Davies (HPA) on "A Study into the health based decision – making practices currently applied to Kerosene vapour exposure following a leak of domestic heating oil."</p>	All

Presentation by Peter Davies 1.30 pm – 2.15 pm

HPA Chemicals Hazards and Poisons Division (Cardiff).

Hotline 0870 606 4444 (out of hours) or 029 2041 6388 (Cardiff daytime number).

Date of next meeting February 2008.