

Information Sheet



Visits from Enforcement Officers (HSE, EHO, Fire Service)

North Lanarkshire Council is subject to a range of enforcement activity from various organisations. In relation to health and safety matters there are three principal areas that attract enforcement activity, these are:

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Food Safety
- Fire Safety

The Health and Safety Executive has been appointed by the UK government to monitor compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act. Health and Safety Inspectors have the right to enter any workplace and undertake inspections or investigations, as necessary, to establish that safe working procedures are being utilised.



The Environmental Health Service of North Lanarkshire Council has the statutory duty to inspect workplaces that produce/sell food and investigate related matters in order to gain the necessary reassurance that food safety matters are being managed effectively. Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) also have health and safety enforcement duties within a number of non council workplaces and may well give advice on occupational health and safety issues during a food safety inspection.



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has a duty within the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 to undertake monitoring and investigations into matters associated with fire safety. It is almost certain that in the event of the fire service responding to a fire then an enforcement visit will take place to examine the location's fire risk assessment and the procedures used to minimise fire loss and injury.

Actions

In the event that an enforcement officer visits your establishment then they should be welcomed into the building and offered all reasonable assistance to enable them to complete their task.

In the event of a HSE or Fire Service officer visiting the workplace then the Service Health and Safety team must be advised as a matter of urgency. The HSE have been asked to arrange all programmed visits through the Principal Health and Safety officer so that the most appropriate people can be made available for the HSE visit.

The preferred position of the Council is that meetings involving the HSE should only take place within the knowledge of the Principal Health and Safety Officer, or the relevant Service Senior Health and Safety Officer.

A similar process should exist for visits and meetings sought by the Fire Service. If any approach is made to arrange a fire safety visit, audit or review meeting then advice and guidance must be sought from the Service Health and Safety team or the Principal Health and Safety Officer.

Programmed inspections by Environmental Health Officers should be advised to your Service Health and Safety team.

Other Resources

IS39 Health and Safety Executive – Fees for Intervention