



The work and challenges as a regulator  
in a changing world.

Primary Authority  
Environmental Health Officer

**Juliet King MSc, FCIEH, FRSPH**

Environment Health Officer, Food & H&S and Lead Primary  
Authority Officer



## What is Primary Authority:

- Government derived initiative launched in 2009
- A means for businesses to receive assured and tailored advice
- Primary Authority is based on legal partnerships between businesses and individual local authorities.



## Who is Primary Authority for:

- From October 2017 all businesses can now benefit
- Partnerships are available to any type of business, whether starting out or established
- Regulators that can become primary authorities include county, district and unitary councils, and fire and rescue authorities.



# How does PA work:

- Direct partnerships- specific needs
- Coordinated partnerships- general needs
- Possible to have both
- PA is a working partnership reliant on honesty and openness – transparency
- Shows willingness to stay compliant, be the best that you can while continuing to strive for improvement
- BEIS OPPS – Secretary of State



# What do PAs do:

- Provide advice to businesses that other local regulators must respect on compliance with the regulations
- Inspection plans: improve the effectiveness of visits by local regulators and underpin better sharing of information.



# Types of Advice:

- Assured Advice – legally binding
  - General advice – i.e training packs
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- Business Hub  
(EH, TS and Fire and Rescue)



# What are the Benefits: Businesses:

- Have access to relevant and tailored advice
- Gain recognition of robust compliance arrangements
- Can draw on an established and effective means of meeting business regulations
- Can be more confident they are protecting themselves and their customers
- Develop their staff expertise via partnerships



# What are the Benefits:

## Regulator:

- Greater clarity over where responsibility lies
- Support local economic growth through stronger business relationships
- Improve the consistency of local regulation and target resources on high-risk areas
- Develop their staff expertise via partnerships



# How does it happen:

- Both partners sign an MOU
- Account is set up on the PA register, a secure online service
- It contains details on every partnership, provides a forum for communications, and allows primary authorities to make important documents and business information readily available to local regulators.



# How much does it cost:

- Its costs **nothing** to sign up with SCDC
- It only costs your business when you need to use us.  
This is charge at cost recovery only
- Charges and sign up fees may vary depending on the authority
- Not all Las have signed up to offer PA
- **Why wouldn't you join?**



## CASE STUDY:

- Received complaint
- Pest infestation
- Intention to prosecute
- Worked with the enforcing authority
- Resolve the issues with a plan of improvement.
- Plan written with the business and monitored by SCDC
- Regular comms with all parties to ensure that compliance will be met and maintained moving forward.
- Reduced to a Formal caution
- Complex complaints – product recalls working with the FSA



# More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-regulation-primary-authority>

Primary Authority: a guide for businesses with a co-ordinated primary authority



# Who are the regulators

- Environmental Health Officers/Practitioners
- Highly trained, knowledgeable and skilled
- We have the responsibility of enforcing over 320 regulations and over 250 works of guidance over a vast range of environmental areas
- Prime aim is to protect the public



# What do EHOs do:

- Food safety and hygiene inspections: FHR scheme



# What do EHOs do:

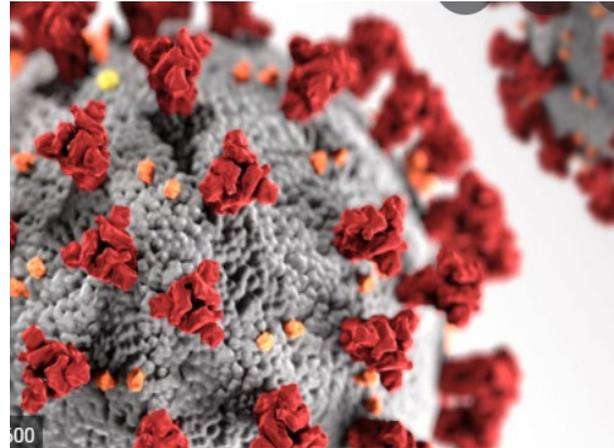
- Private water supplies





# What do EHOs do:

- Infectious disease – including Covid





# What do EHOs do:

- Imports and exports of food





# What do EHOs do:

- Health and safety – accidents and deaths at work





# What do EHOs do:

- Licensing, skin piercing, tattoo artists, taxi drivers, security staff





# What do EHOs do:

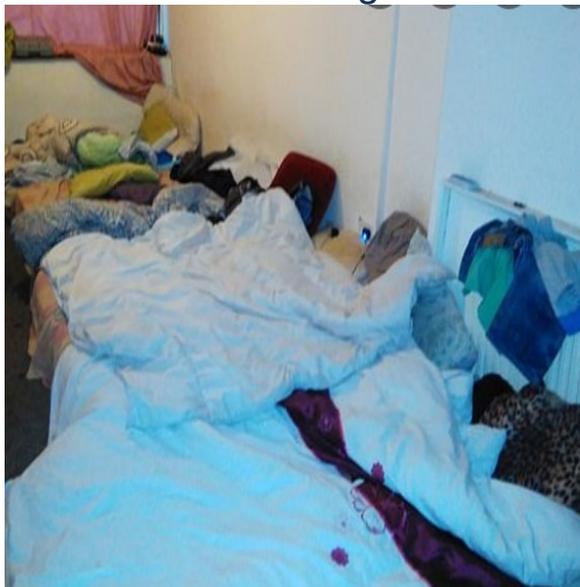
- Abandoned vehicles, fly tipping





# What do EHOs do:

- Private sector housing standards– HMO





# What do EHOs do:

- Poor air quality and nuisance noise





# What do EHOs do:

- Animal licensing – breeders, riding establishments





# What do EHOs do:

- Pollution, land contamination





# What do EHOs do:

- Continued to work during the Pandemic
- FRONT LINE SERVICE
- Not one day is the same
- Adapt to all situations
- Strict rules regulations codes of practice guidance and brand standards
- Competency is tightly controlled and monitored



# What do EHO's do:

EHO/Ps are highly skilled and qualified individuals that can offer your business

- a wealth of experience
- knowledge and
- expertise for maintaining compliance and doing better
  
- Enforcement – staged enforcement
- Help and advise with compliance



Thank you for listening



[Juliet.King@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Juliet.King@scambs.gov.uk)

01954 713 345

07713 887 159