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Dear Ms Cooper

Science Review of the Health & Safety Executive – Invitation to Submit Information

Thank you for asking LACORS for its view on the HSE's science related activities. This response is from LACORS but also represents the views of the Local Government Association and Welsh Local Government association.

Historically Local authorities will have had little involvement in horizon scanning or the development of research proposals at the HSE, neither has their been an effective mechanism in place for disseminating outcomes or sharing knowledge from research relevant to the local authority enforced sectors.

However the Health and Safety Executive has recently refocused its work to reflect priorities determined in its 'Strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond'. One of the priority programmes identified from that work is 'HSE & LAs' working together', the aim of that programme is to identify and action ways in which LAs' & HSE can work together more closely, creating joint targets and priorities, sharing good practice, and making most effective use of resources.

A specific project within this programme relates to developing arrangements to improve local authority access the Health & Safety Laboratory, and it is hoped that this will be the beginning of work to improve access and involvement by LA's in HSE research etc. There is much work to be done in this area, in particular to begin to identify LA priorities for research, but the project outlined is a good first step in an area which will benefit from greater joint working.

I look forward to being given the opportunity to respond to any further specific consultations.

Yours Sincerely

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