

This email is addressed to Heads of Services Specialists at local authorities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Retail Enforcement Pilot: Phase II

LACORS has been asked by Karen Hill of the BRE to provide their update on the current status of the Retail Enforcement Pilot. She would like to advise you as follows:-

"As many of you are aware, Phase I of the Retail Enforcement Pilot (REP) was completed at the end of 2006 by DTI, working with Bexley and Warwickshire Local Authorities (LAs). The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his 2006 Pre-Budget Report that responsibility for Phase II of REP would move to the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) in the Cabinet Office. REP's objectives - to rationalise planned inspections made by Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Fire Safety Officers
- firmly support the BRE's agenda to promote and embed the Hampton principles amongst national regulators and local authority regulatory services.

I was asked to be the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for REP within BRE. As my team is responsible for a number of initiatives to align the delivery of regulation with the Hampton vision (see <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/reform/hampton/index.asp> for the Hampton update) there is a clear fit with the Retail Enforcement Project, particularly as I am also the SRO for setting up the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) which, eventually, will be responsible for how REP is taken forward in the long-term.

Following huge personal commitment and effort to achieve the implementation of, and successful outcomes from, Phase I of REP, Paul Millar has decided that the time is right for him to leave the project in March and move on to new challenges: I am sure everyone who has been involved with REP will wish to thank Paul for the last two years and wish him all the best for the future.

A new team at BRE is being put in place. The person who will lead REP through Phase II is Clive Jones, who joins BRE from 1 March. Currently at the London School of Economics (CARR), Clive has a background in the retail sector. Project management is currently being undertaken by Rob Stephens (rob.stephens@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk telephone: 0207 276 2267 / 07884 115226). From the beginning of April the ongoing project manager, Chad Woodward, will join the team. In the meantime, full-time administrative support is provided by Xavier Baby (Xavier.baby@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk telephone: 0207 276 5007) who, in particular, is currently developing a stakeholder engagement and communication plan. I am delighted that Janet Faulkner and Clive Cain and their colleagues, from Warwickshire and Bexley respectively, will continue to be involved - this provides an important degree of continuity.

BRE has been given the necessary funding to implement Phase II and we are now focussing on the immediate priorities to make that happen in 2007/08. In the meantime, a review of REP has been carried out on my behalf by independent OGC consultants - many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the review to help us understand what has been done to date and what we should focus on for the Phase II. The review has set out a number of recommendations to ensure that the roll-out of a significantly scaled-up Phase II will be successful. The recommendations are to:

1. Develop a comprehensive business case for Phase II, which needs to
2. Include a statement of intended benefits and associated costs
3. Establish a senior governing body
4. Put in place effective risk management
5. Develop a communication plan and stakeholder engagement strategy
6. Consider the options for procurement of appropriate items such as supporting software and training
7. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (to be agreed with Treasury Solicitors) which can be used for LAs involved in Phase II

8. Put in place the training package required to support the roll-out of REP to LAs involved in Phase II over the next few months
9. Provide appropriate training and support to the new BRE team being put in place.

Together, these set out the short-term priorities which are now being taken forward. The team's greatest priority is to talk to those of you who have expressed an interest in taking part in Phase II. We will need to have bilateral discussions but I also propose 3 or 4 workshops in different areas to bring together the new team and those of you who want to participate. Please let Xavier know if you wish to attend a workshop and we will let you know as soon as possible about locations and dates. I and my team look forward to working with you across a range of issues over the coming months. We will be delighted to hear from you if you have a particular interest in, or questions about, any aspect of our work, including:

Setting up LBRO - Hugh McNeal (hugh.mcneal@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: 0207 276 1487) or Rachel Holloway (rachel.holloway@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk telephone: 0207 276 2188).

Developing the Compliance Code - Paul Drabwell (paul.drabwell@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk telephone: 0207 276 2535).

REP - Rob Stephens or Xavier Baby (as above)

Initiatives to consider options for improving datasharing - Paul Drabwell.

Identifying and sharing good practice - Karen Birtwistle (karen.birtwistle@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk telephone: 0207 276 2261).