

Office for Product
Safety & Standards

OPSS – update from the Local Delivery Team

Kate Harris
Regulatory Delivery Manager

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Institute of Licensing
25th
National Training Conference 2021

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Content

- About OPSS and BEIS
- The Local Delivery Team – who we are, what we do
- Our role during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Primary Authority
- SRNs – examples of work from two regions
- How licensing colleagues can get involved

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BEIS


Fighting coronavirus Support a safe return to work, restoring livelihoods and rebuilding consumer confidence Help businesses to bounce back, and provide the roadmap to recovery and renewal Accelerate the development, manufacture and deployment of a vaccine in the UK and overseas to protect lives	Backing business Make the UK the best place in the world to start and scale a business and seize the opportunities of global free trade Increase opportunity by levelling up economic activity across all parts of the UK and help business create jobs Promote regulations that supercharge growth and investment
Leading Britain's recovery	
Unleashing innovation Make the UK a science superpower – backing ideas, eliminating bureaucracy and supporting talent from home and abroad Double investment in R&D to release potential and drive discovery that improves lives Increase productivity and create high-value, better paid jobs, by boosting our world class sectors	Tackling climate change Drive the green recovery, boosting growth and employment through becoming a leader in clean technologies, infrastructure and energy Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and end our contribution to global warming by 2050 Host a successful COP26 climate summit that accelerates urgent climate action to protect our planet

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OPSS



<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-product-safety-and-standards/about>

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Local Delivery Team

The Local Delivery team support the implementation, development and delivery of Primary Authority (PA) and Better Business for All (BBfA), helping to simplify the delivery of regulation.

We promote partnership approaches at a local level utilising PA and BBfA to ensure consistent approaches and build confidence in the local system. We encourage compliance with the Regulators Code.

Whether at a local or national level, the team facilitates conversations and collaboration between local authorities, national regulators, business and policy leads to resolve problems and find ways to regulate business that provides to business whilst consistency and confidence maximising protection to citizens, employees and the environment.

Through extensive engagement with local authorities and industry the team continues to encourage the cultural shift in regulators and business and promote the concept that regulation, when delivered effectively, is central to economic prosperity and maximising protections.

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Our work during the Covid-19 pandemic

Local authority business restrictions enquiries – 3500 queries dealt with

Local authority monitoring survey on behalf of Cabinet Office

Support to over 500 importers, distributors and manufacturers of PPE

Fast-response Primary Authority panels – and bringing primary authorities to the attention of other Gov depts

'Regulator TV' to communicate directly with local authority colleagues. 1000 officers regularly joining sessions

Work with Dept of Health & Social Care & their CONTAIN team on Local Outbreak Planning

X-Gov engagement - voice/gateway for local authorities to engage across Whitehall


We drafted template enforcement notices and summaries for local authorities – for consistency, and efficiency

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Primary Authority

- A scheme defining a legally recognised partnership between a business or a co-ordinator and a single local authority – the 'primary authority'
- Statutory basis in Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 (RESA), as amended




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What does Primary Authority deliver?

Business		Enforcing Authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable regulatory advice A single point of contact 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better informed More effective regulation Improved targeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and intelligence sharing Improved compliance 		

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Some examples of licensing partnerships

Partnership Search

The Association of Dog Boarders

In partnership with
City of London

About the partnership

The Association of Dog Boarders is a trade organisation for people who carry out Home Boarding. An activity covered by the The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

Partnership Search

Licensing Matters Limited

In partnership with
Staffordshire County Council

About the partnership

Licensing consultancy providing legal services to the licensing trade, including submission of applications, provision of advice on Due Diligence and training (Age Restricted Products), representation in Local Authority hearings

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Development of Primary Authority Sector Panels

May 2020 - themes and sectors identified through Covid 19 business closures work

- Leisure
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Licensed premises
- Car sales
- Caravans and holiday parks
- Non -food retail
- Warehousing and distribution
- Housing and Care – **New January 2021**
- Construction products/building supplies/home improvements – **New January 2021**
- Primary Authority Business Group – **New January 2021**

Combined to Hospitality Panel

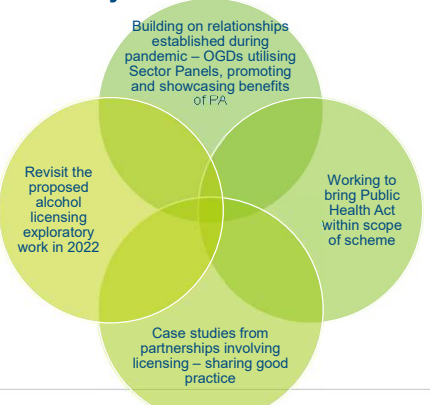


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Primary Authority – the future



- Building on relationships established during pandemic – OGDs utilising Sector Panels, promoting and showcasing benefits of PA
- Working to bring Public Health Act within scope of scheme
- Case studies from partnerships involving licensing – sharing good practice
- Revisit the proposed alcohol licensing exploratory work in 2022

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Strategic Regulatory Networks

- Bringing local regulators from across the professions together to work collaboratively on projects and areas of shared interest
- A forum for discussion and development of best practice for simplifying the delivery of regulation and contribute to the economic priorities set out by the Local Enterprise Partnerships and Growth Hubs
- To provide a two-way communication channel between local regulators and OPSS/Government colleagues
- Affiliated with a Primary Authority Regional Group (PARG) for each region
- Sharing ideas and successes - to support each other with challenges; to benefit from expertise and economies of scale

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London SRN

- '33 LAs in London – brings both political and organisational complexities
- Reduced LA funding, smaller regulatory teams with and increasing workloads and responsibilities
- Issues with 'younger people' entering the professions
- Opportunity for increased profile and connectivity with central government departments
- Grant funding available for project work and training for LA officers
- Ensuring that the SRN develops so that it works for London'

Valerie Simpson, London SRN Chair

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London SRN D&I project – phase 1

- Commitment to explore diversity and inclusion in relation to local authority regulatory services

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graph LR
    A[Establish where information on community, business and officer diversity is already gathered] --> B[Share best practice]
    B --> C[Improve business awareness about the services and business support that we provide]
    C --> D[Improve any perceived negative perspective or experience of regulation or business support]
    D --> E[Establish how the SRN can support regulatory services officers in this area]
  
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- First phase of the project is a survey for regulatory officers and managers working in London
- We anticipate the next phase of this work will involve seeking insights from businesses, and we are planning to work with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Black and Asian business groups to take this work forward.

If you would like to take part in this survey and you work for a London authority, please get in touch via LondonSRN@lbhf.gov.uk or kate.harris@beis.gov.uk.

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Other work London has expressed interest in


We have funding available for work in the following areas.. which are of interest for you/your LA?

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West Midlands SRN – prom hire vehicles project




Region-wide licensing compliance operation, targeting unscrupulous and unlicensed drivers of school prom transport.



Whilst stretch limousines are generally outside the remit of private hire licensing, 'novelty vehicles' such as supercars and vintage cars should be licensed and driven by licensed drivers.



This is particularly pertinent given that some of this illicit market operate in an ad-hoc manner and that their passengers are children, some of whom will be intoxicated for the first time and therefore vulnerable.



The funding to be used for pre-prom season information and training for schools on safe transportation booking, followed by sensitive compliance operations across the West Midlands, with action taken against unlicensed drivers post-journey.

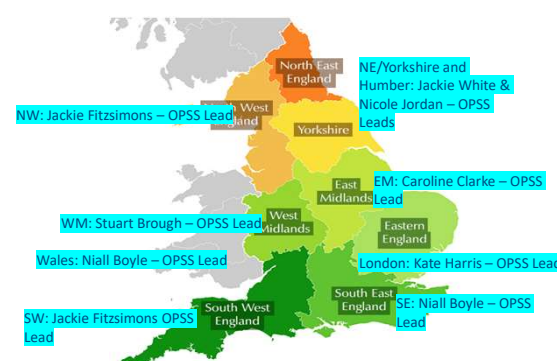
Contact:
Greg Bickerdike
Licensing Manager
Tel. Office: 01902 554030
E-mail: Greg.Bickerdike@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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7 regions for the SRNs and PA Regional Groups



Region	OPSS Lead
North East England	NE/Yorkshire and Humber: Jackie White & Nicole Jordan – OPSS Leads
West Midlands	WM: Stuart Brough – OPSS Lead
East Midlands	EM: Caroline Clarke – OPSS Lead
East of England	London: Kate Harris – OPSS Lead
South East England	SE: Niall Boyle – OPSS Lead
South West England	SW: Jackie Fitzsimons OPSS Lead
Wales	Wales: Niall Boyle – OPSS Lead

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Other work Local Delivery are involved in

'Expert Panels' – currently under review

We welcome

Regulatory Sandbox – Age verification technology

Funding and facilitating local net zero projects

.. and encourage

Exploring local projects - beauty and the night-time economy

Licensing colleagues to get involved!

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