



Office for Product Safety & Standards

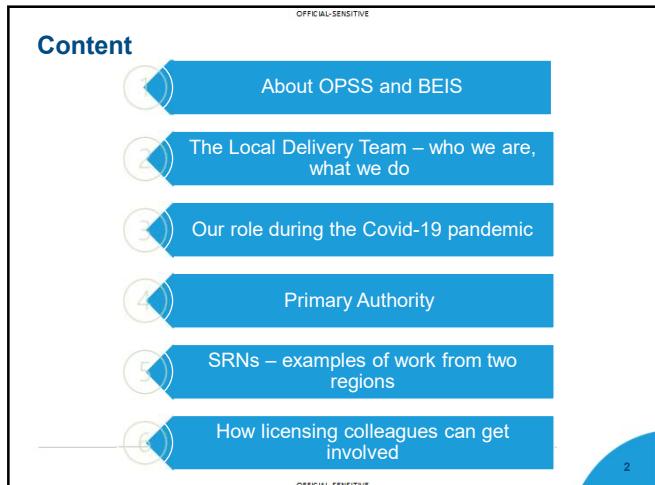
OPSS – update from the Local Delivery Team

Kate Harris
Regulatory Delivery Manager

November 2021

25th
National Training Conference 2021

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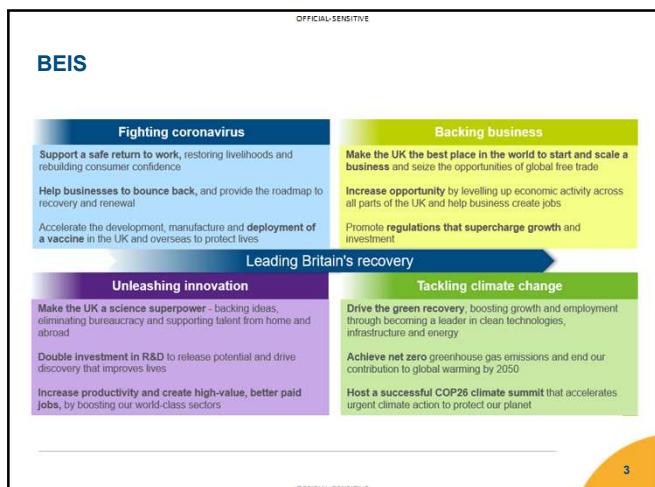
Content

- 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	Backing business
Support a safe return to work, restoring livelihoods and rebuilding consumer confidence	Make the UK the best place in the world to start and scale a business and seize the opportunities of global free trade
Help businesses to bounce back, and provide the roadmap to recovery and renewal	Increase opportunity by levelling up economic activity across all parts of the UK and help business create jobs
Accelerate the development, manufacture and deployment of a vaccine in the UK and overseas to protect lives	Promote regulations that supercharge growth and investment

Leading Britain's recovery	
Unleashing innovation	Tackling climate change
Make the UK a science superpower - backing ideas, eliminating bureaucracy and supporting talent from home and abroad	Drive the green recovery, boosting growth and employment through becoming a leader in clean technologies, infrastructure and energy
Double investment in R&D to release potential and drive discovery that improves lives	Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and end our contribution to global warming by 2050
Increase productivity and create high-value, better paid jobs, by boosting our world-class sectors	Host a successful COP26 climate summit that accelerates urgent climate action to protect our planet

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OPSS

GOV.UK

Topics Government

→ Coronavirus (COVID-19) | Guidance and support

Home > Corporate information

About us

Our purpose is to make regulation work, so that it protects people and enables businesses to understand their obligations.

Office for Product Safety & Standards

<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.

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.

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.

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

**Primary Authority makes
regulation easier and simpler
for businesses to understand.**

Meaning you can make the right investment decisions.

The logo of the HM Government, featuring a crest with a lion and unicorn flanking a shield, with the text 'HM Government' below it.

**PRIMARY
AUTHORITY**

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What does Primary Authority deliver?

Business

- Reliable regulatory advice
- A single point of contact

Enforcing Authority

- Better informed
- More effective regulation
- Improved targeting

- 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



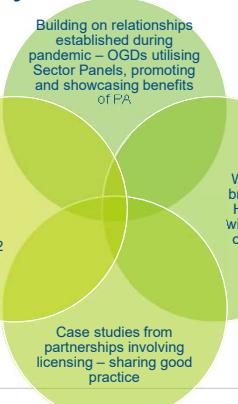
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Primary Authority – the future



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

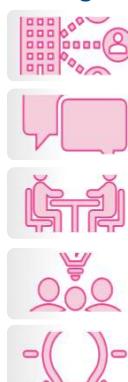
Revisit the proposed alcohol licensing exploratory work in 2022

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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 other diversity is already gathered;] --> B[Share best practice;]; B --> C[Improve business awareness about the support 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@lbbh.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?

M Mentions

Beauty/creative sector project

Support for businesses who switched to online marketing and selling

Net Zero project: single use plastics

Net Zero skills training

Night time economy projects

Behavioural health skills training

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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.

Contact:
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Licensing Manager
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E-mail: Greg.Bickerdike@wolverhampton.gov.uk

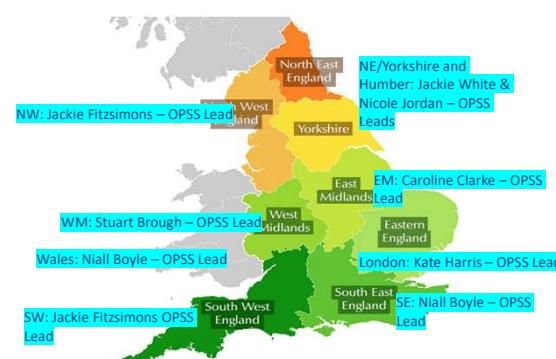


The funding to be used for pre-prom season information and training for schools on safe transportation booking, followed by sensitive compliance operations across the West Midlands, with action taken against unlicensed drivers post-journey.

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7 regions for the SRNs and PA Regional Groups



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

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Other work Local Delivery are involved in



We welcome .. and encourage

Expert Panels – currently Under review

Regulatory Sandbox – Age verification technology

Funding and facilitating local net zero projects

Exploring local projects – beauty and the night-time economy

Licensing colleagues to get involved!

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