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Foreword

Simon Wilkes

Head of Regulatory Services

Welcome to the Activity Data Report for Quarter 3, which will hopefully paint a picture for you of our activity across Worcestershire and provide details for your individual district areas. This time I'd like to highlight one of the benefits of the service delivery model, our ability to respond flexibly to demand through the fruits of our income generation strategy. The number of service requests in respect of food safety and hygiene in the third quarter showed a spike, exceeding the peak of 2014/15 and the numbers of nuisance complaints remained high till November. Combine this with increased interest in both Primary Authority and the Healthy Eating Award and we have continued to struggle to achieve our food inspection programme. We will have to bring in some capacity in the form of agency staff to achieve complete the proactive programme. This is affordable due to our on-going income generation activity and will not require additional funding from partners. Good news for everyone I think.

WRS Headlines

Healthier Choices Food Award scheme

Council cafe operator Midshire Catering Services has been awarded a Gold standard in the Healthier Choices Food Award scheme run by Worcestershire Regulatory Services. The café is located at Wyre Forest House, the home of Wyre Forest District Council in Finepoint Way, Kidderminster and is open to the public between 8am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday.

Bill Twigg, founder and director at Midshire Services said: "We are very pleased to have won the Healthier Choices Food Award in association with Wyre Forest District Council. We have been working closely on our catering service at Wyre Forest District Council for four years. It is important for us to support our customers in their efforts to lead a healthier lifestyle by offering a range of healthy and delicious options. We are especially pleased to have won the gold award due to our commitment to local suppliers which we will continue to develop going forward."

And now we have Subway on board!

The three Worcester branches of quick service restaurant Subway have signed up for a scheme that aims to encourage cafes and takeaways across the county to serve healthier options.

Councillor Lynn Denham, City Council Cabinet member for Sustainable communities, said: "Offering a range of menu choices including healthier food options is good for customers and good for businesses. A restaurant with the Healthier Choices Food Award can attract more customers by making it easier for people to choose healthier lifestyles. Subway is the first national group to sign up to this important scheme, so I want to welcome them on board and hope they will inspire many other city food outlets to follow their example."



WRS Headlines

Costly mouse infestation for Redditch business

Three directors faced fines totalling £3,349.69 after a mouse infestation was discovered at the Redditch store they owned. They appeared at Redditch Magistrates on following a visit to their shop, Pol Market, in Beoley Road West, from a Food Hygiene Officer from Worcestershire Regulatory Services in September 2015.

The officer noticed numerous mouse droppings present throughout the shop especially in the area surrounding the display fridge, the delicatessen service area and the storerooms. A detailed examination of the shop confirmed a clear mouse infestation and officers saw fresh droppings on the floor area throughout the premises including the delicatessen area containing open high risk foods such as cooked meats.

Officers formed the opinion that the extent of the mouse infestation required service of a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice which closed the store until they had eliminated the risk to public health. The shop reopened in October after being given the all clear.

The three directors of Cell PI Ltd pleaded guilty to failing to have in place adequate procedures to control pests and failing to ensure that all stages of production, processing and distribution, that food was protected against any contamination likely to render the food unfit for human consumption.

For the first offence Magistrates fined Cell PI Ltd £950, victim surcharge £95 and costs £436.17 totalling £1,481.17 Mr Radoslaw Jacek Froncz, aged 36, was fined £150, victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £436.17 – totalling £606.17 Mr Grzegorz Antoni Jez, aged 34, was fined £150, a victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £436.17 – totalling £606.17 Mr Krzysztof Lisowski, aged 36, was fined £200, a victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £436.17 – totalling £656.17.

Redditch Restaurant Closed

On 5 October Officers observed an active mouse infestation at Cerrone's, a food premises in Oxleasow Road, Redditch. Under the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013, Environmental Health Practitioners were satisfied that the Health Risk Condition was fulfilled and served a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice (HEPN) on the Food Business Operator. The effect of this HEPN is to close the food business. The closure was subsequently confirmed by Kidderminster Magistrates.

WRS Headlines

Kidderminster Restaurant Closed

WRS Officers uncovered a heavy cockroach infestation during an inspection of Paradise Balti, Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster at the end of September. They formed the opinion that the extent of the infestation required the service of a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice which closed the store until the risk to public health was removed. Magistrates subsequently confirmed the closure.

Planning with Wyre Forest

Technical advice and support is being given to Wyre Forest Planning Officers in the consideration of an Outline planning application for up to 195 residential dwellings on the outskirts of Bewdley. There are potentially significant impacts on air quality from this proposal and WRS are providing the technical expertise to scrutinise the proposals and ensure the evidence presented is accurate and appropriately considered.

In other news...

This is not the normal headline you would expect from a regulatory service, however this is an important task that has been completed and hopefully demonstrates to Members our commitment to business resilience and planning. In December 2016 we upgraded our database platform to Oracle version 12. This is the basis for our Environmental Health & Licensing database. As with most systems, the previous version was to be unsupported in July 2017, so we made plans to combine this upgrade with others in plenty of time to resolve any glitches. There was significant time invested by our internal WRS IT team for this to take place so that we can be confident in the resilience of our systems and the data we provide to you.

Air Quality & Contaminated Land

The team completed Annual Air Quality Status Reports (ASR's) for all of the partners at the end of the year in line with the change in the national reporting process.

ASR documents now combine progress information on all aspects of air quality from current air quality status to progress on delivering improvements in AQMA's and action planning. The reports are available on the following link:

http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/pollution/air-quality/local-air-quality-progress-reports.aspx

Detailed air quality monitoring activities for Foregate Street in Worcester and the A38 in Wychbold are now complete and officers will be commencing detailed assessment work of the findings in the 4th Quarter. Initial observations made on the raw data suggest that both areas exceed government air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide emissions and the detailed assessment will be required to verify the geographical extent of that exceedance.

Contaminated Land

WRS remain active in the management of the Marlbrook Tip in Bromsgrove. Demands were made of Liberty construction to provide the council with a conceptual site model and revised gas monitoring regime in line with the recommendations made by the council's consultant. WRS are now in receipt of these plans and will be reviewing them with the Planning and Legal department in the new year.

Dog Control

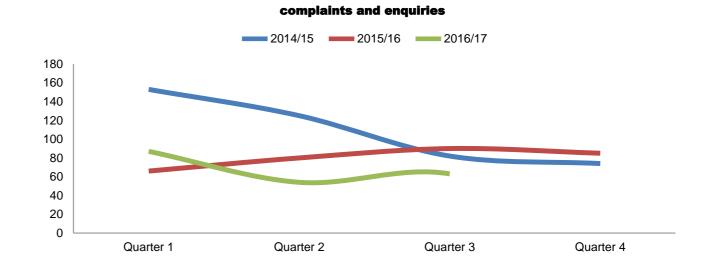
The chart (top right) shows the number of complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to dog control. Types of cases recorded under this category include fouling and persistent straying, dangerous dogs and welfare. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of dogs recorded by WRS as lost, found or seen straying.

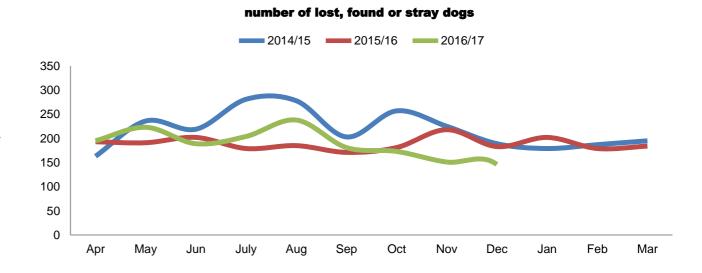
Comments

Dog control statistics include work carried out by WRS on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Brough Council.

Numbers of stray dogs have been falling for many years as owners realise it is not acceptable to allow their dog to stray and that there are financial consequences to retrieving their dog from the kennels. It is expected that the benefits of this will be felt across the three Gloucestershire Districts that WRS cover due to our consistent approach and so we expect overall numbers to fall for stray, lost and found dogs reported.

Recognising the downward trend, the Business and Relationship Manager has pursued options to expand the service we provide in alternative ways. Utilising our kennelling providers, WRS is able to provide kennelling, administration, welfare work and rehoming to other public authorities. During this period we have successfully bid for one such contract due to start in January 2017 and we are awaiting the outcome of the tendering process on whether we will continue to deliver the dog warden service for Cheltenham, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Councils.





Environmental Permitting

Compliance remains high in Worcestershire and complex solvent emissions directive process continue to make year on year improvements in the reduction of VOC emissions to the environment through a variety of initiatives. The most recent example is EM coatings in Evesham who have invested in a solvent recovery unit thus negating the need to send contaminated solvent away for distillation reducing the carbon footprint of the company. Officers have now begin to undertake compliance checks also on companies using small waste oil burners to ensure that they are not using fuels band by the industrial emissions directive from April 2016 in their heating systems.

The team have also commenced initial discussions with BASF in Redditch with a view of exploring primary authority arrangements pertaining to environmental compliance. This is an exiting development and the first foray into PA in this field of regulation. Discussions are at a very informal stage presently but WRS are optimistic that the relationship will continue to develop in the next quarter.

Officers completed its intelligence gathering exercise for PPC compliance monitoring in November. The response rate was low which suggests that the number of processes operating legitimately in Worcestershire is good however several leads were generated from this exercise and from speaking to industry competitors operating in the Gloucester City area which will be followed up in due course.

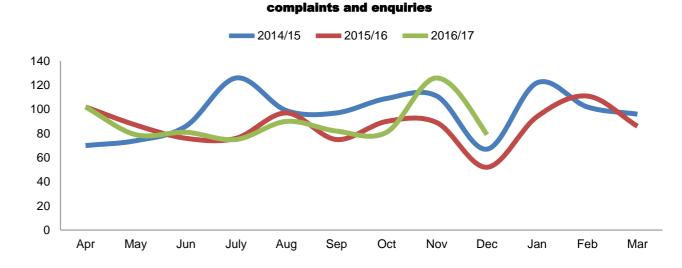
Food Safety

The chart (top right) shows the number of complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to food safety. Types of cases recorded under this category include hygiene of premises complaints, complaints about food products and requests for business advice. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of inspections carried out by WRS at premises included in the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS).

Comments

The number of service requests in respect of food safety and hygiene the third quarter showed a spike in food safety complaints, exceeding the peak of 2014/15. Because of this, the continuation of relatively high levels of nuisance work into October and November and the fact that the service continues to be involved in some complex enforcement activities, food interventions are down on the same quarter last year. We advised members at the last meeting that we would look to make up the volume of inspection work in the second half of the year and we still intend to do this but will have to bring in some capacity to achieve this.

Interest from business in Primary Authority agreements continues to grow and more businesses have signed up to the Healthy Eating award, which again is a paid for business support process.





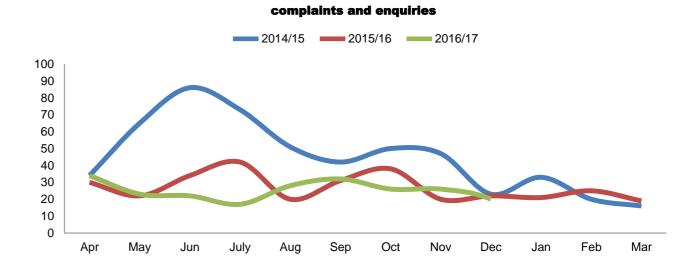
Health and Safety

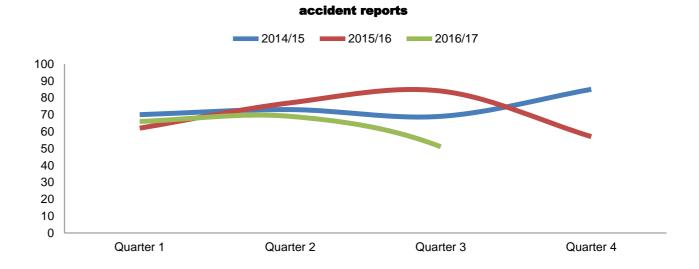
The chart (top right) shows the number of complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to health and safety. This includes requests for business advice. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of notifications received by WRS relating to accidents.

Comments

Whilst the service has no control as to the volume of demand received, the number of complaints and enquiries remained fairly stable throughout Q3 but remained above 2015/16 levels for November and December. The number of accident reports fell below previous years.

Health and safety activity continues to be intelligence led and these figures do not reflect the increased level of enforcement activity being carried out, with several prosecutions pending including two fatalities.



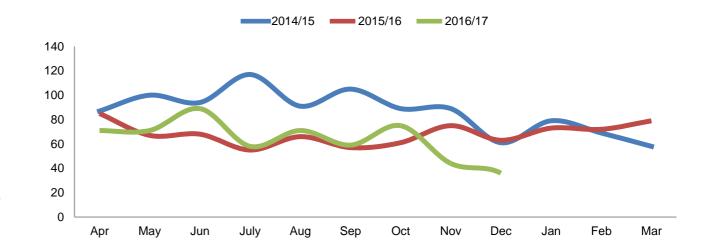


Information Requests

The chart (right) shows the number of information requests recorded by WRS over a three year period.

Information requests relate to the following:

- Evironmental Information Requests
- Freedom of Information Requests
- Requests for information under the Data Protection
 Act 1998 (generally received from partner agencies)



Comments

As well as providing responses to requests for the six Worcestershire Districts where we undertake contract work, such as contaminated land for Gloucester City, we also respond to Environmental Information Requests. The chart above includes all requests we receive. The majority received for this quarter were FOI & DPA requests making up 62% of the requests received. For Quarters 1 & 2 it was EIR requests that made up the majority at 71% and 64%, suggesting that the Christmas period caused a decline in EIR requests. This would make sense with a slow down in the property conveyance market at this time of year which is the principal driver for EIRs being requested.

Licensing

The chart (top right) shows the number complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to licensing. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of licensing applications.

Licensing complaints, enquiries and applications relate to the following:

Apr

May

Jun

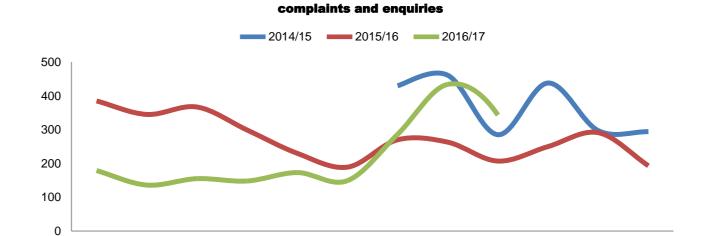
July

Aug

- Alcohol and entertainment
- Animals
- Caravans
- Gambling
- Scrap metal
- Sex establishments
- Skin piercing
- Street trading
- Taxis

Comments

Data relating to licensing complaints and enquiries is only available from Ocotober 2014. The variation in case totals is due to the Licensing team establishing 'best practice' when recording complaints and enquiries and should become more consistent during the year.



Sep

Oct

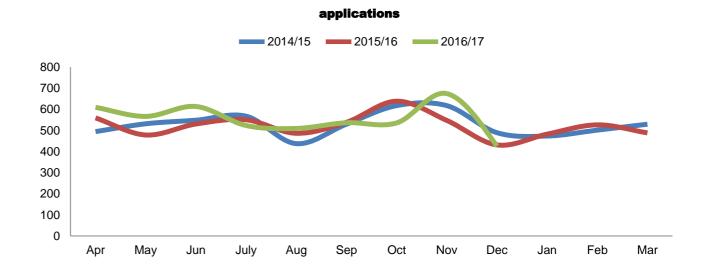
Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

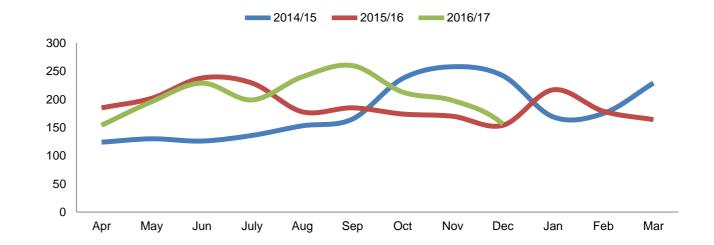


Planning

The chart (right) shows the number of planning requests received by WRS over a three year period. The majority of these requests are consultations but can also include requests to discharge conditions.

Planning requests relate to the following:

- Air Quality
- Contaminated Land
- Environmental Permitting
- Food
- Health and Safety
- Nuisance / Noise



Comments

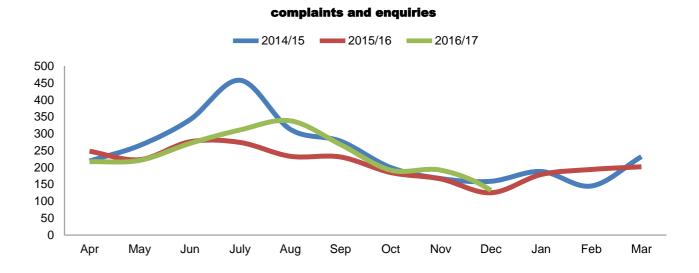
Included in the above data are planning consultations undertaken for Tewkesbury Borough Council, Gloucester City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and for Quarter one work included some being done for Stratford-on-Avon District Council. It is primarily planning application consultations rather than requests to discharge that are received but both types are experiencing a year on year increase in demand although for this quarter there has been a reduction compared with 2014/15 figures. Work with Wyre Forest and Worcester City Planning Managers has helped to reduce inappropriate or wasted consultations to help enable the increase in demand to be met. It is hoped to be able to imbed this approach with Redditch and Bromsgrove over the next six months.

Pollution

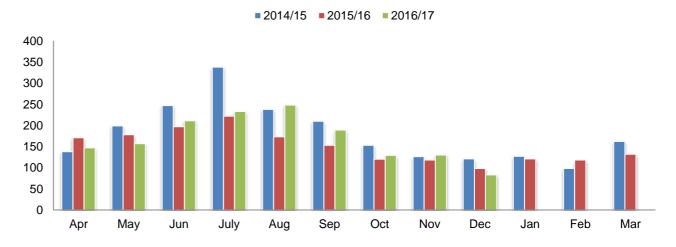
The chart (right) shows the number of complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to pollution. Types of cases recorded under this category include contamination incidents, air pollution (smoke, fumes and gases), light pollution and noise pollution. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of complaints and enquiries relating to noise pollution.

Comments

The good Autumn weather caused nuisance complaints to remain at higher than usual levels through October and November, with noise figures exceeding those for 2015/16.

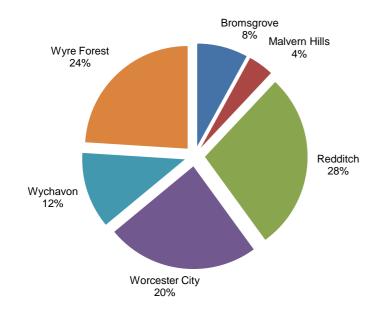


complaints and enquiries (noise pollution)



Noise Pollution

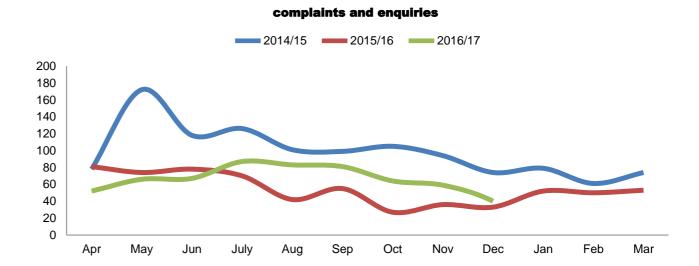
The table (right) shows the top 25 wards within Worcestershire with the highest number of noise pollution cases. Population and incident rates are also shown and reflect the recent boundary changes in Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest. The chart (left) shows the top 25 wards by district, for example, 20% of wards highlighted in the table are located within Worcester City.



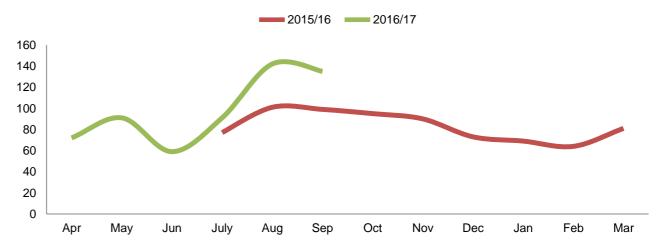
Ward	Total	Population	Rate (%)
Cathedral	65	10,835	0.60%
Foley Park And Hoobrook	38	9,914	0.38%
Batchley And Brockhill	34	8,553	0.40%
Blakebrook And Habberley South	33	9,000	0.37%
Church Hill	32	8,316	0.38%
Headless Cross And Oakenshaw	31	8,538	0.36%
Winyates	29	8,360	0.35%
Bedwardine	27	8,279	0.33%
Nunnery	26	8,087	0.32%
Bewdley And Rock	25	8,542	0.29%
Saint John	25	8,944	0.28%
Sanders Park	25	3,463	0.72%
Areley Kings And Riverside	24	8,261	0.29%
Mitton	23	9,752	0.24%
Arboretum	23	6,195	0.37%
Matchborough	23	6,150	0.37%
Broadwaters	21	9,108	0.23%
Greenlands	21	9,122	0.23%
Abbey	21	6,197	0.34%
Lovett And North Claines	20	5,465	0.37%
Bengeworth	20	6,793	0.29%
Warndon	20	5,934	0.34%
Priory	20	4,234	0.47%
Sidemoor	20	4,038	0.50%
Pershore	18	7,485	0.24%

Public Health

The chart (top right) shows the number of complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to public health. Types of cases recorded under this cateogry include accumulations, public burials and pest control. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of subsidised pest control treatments have been carried out by contractors at domestic properties within Worcestershire.

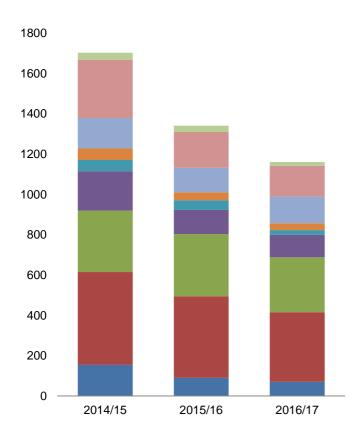


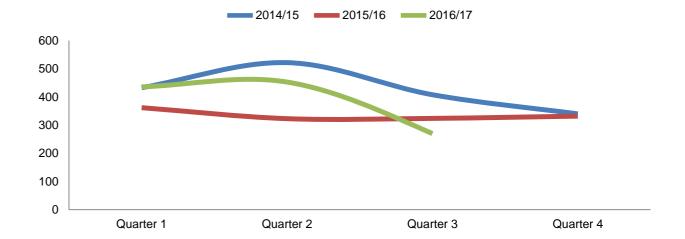
pest control (domestic subsidised treatments)





The data on this page relates to **Environmental Health** complaints, enquiries and notifications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of **Bromsgrove**.

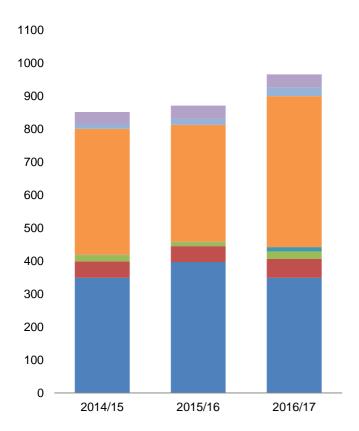


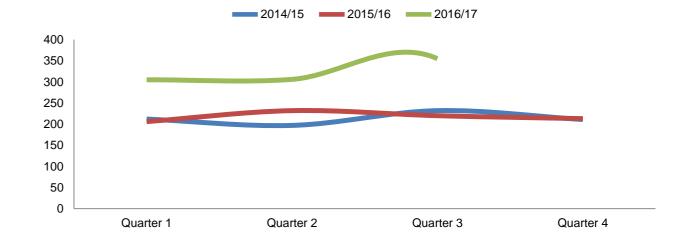


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Dog Control	36	31	19
Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs)	288	178	152
Food Safety	151	122	132
Health and Safety	57	39	34
Health and Safety (accident reports)	56	48	24
Information Requests	195	120	111
Planning	305	309	273
Pollution	461	404	345
Public Health	154	90	70



The data on this page relates to **Licensing** complaints, enquiries and applications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of **Bromsgrove**.





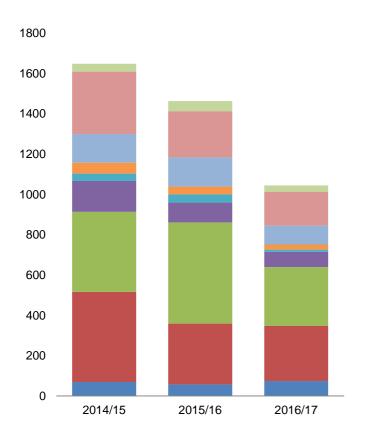
	2014/13	2013/10	2010/17
Animals	38	40	41
Caravan	0	0	0
Gambling	13	18	25
Licensing Act	382	355	458
Scrap Metal (includes collectors and dealers)	1	1	13
Sex Establishments	0	0	0
Skin Piercing	19	12	23
Street (includes amenities, collections and trading)	50	48	57
Taxis	349	397	349

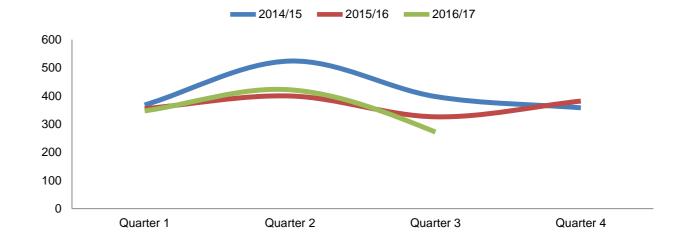
2014/15

2015/16



The data on this page relates to **Environmental Health** complaints, enquiries and notifications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the





Dog Control	39	50	31
Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs)	310	230	168
Food Safety	142	144	94
Health and Safety	54	39	25
Health and Safety (accident reports)	36	41	11
Information Requests	154	98	76
Planning	397	502	292
Pollution	447	302	273
Public Health	69	57	74

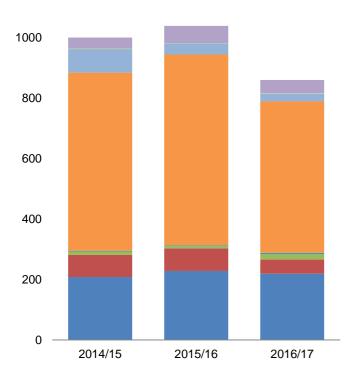
2014/15

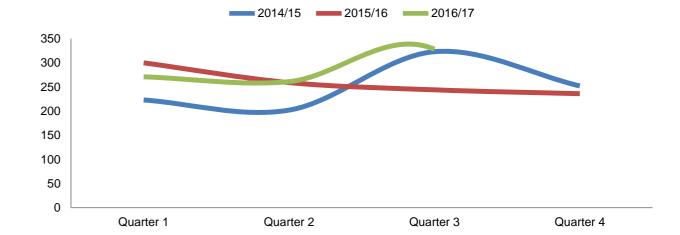
2015/16



The data on this page relates to **Licensing** complaints, enquiries and applications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of **Malvern Hills**.



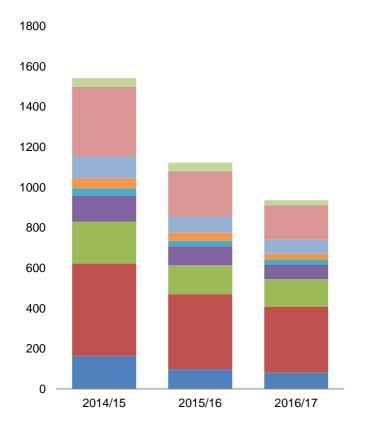


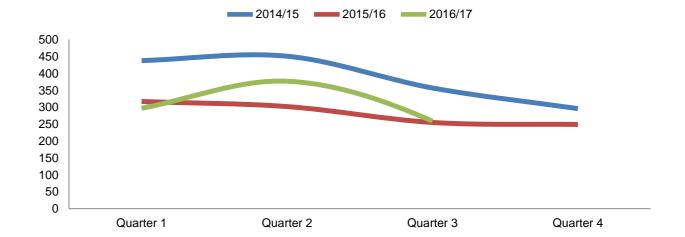


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Animals	36	57	44
Caravan	2	1	2
Gambling	78	37	25
Licensing Act	589	631	501
Scrap Metal (includes collectors and dealers)	3	3	5
Sex Establishments	0	0	0
Skin Piercing	11	7	17
Street (includes amenities, collections and trading)	73	75	47
Taxis	208	228	219



The data on this page relates to **Environmental Health** complaints, enquiries and notifications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of **Redditch**.





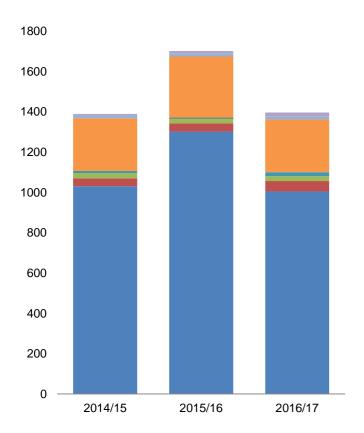
Dog Control	43	43	26
Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs)	346	225	170
Food Safety	109	80	70
Health and Safety	48	40	27
Health and Safety (accident reports)	37	27	26
Information Requests	128	94	72
Planning	209	144	137
Pollution	458	372	328
Public Health	164	98	80

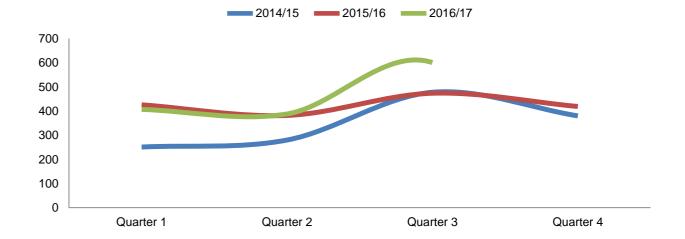
2014/15

2015/16



The data on this page relates to **Licensing** complaints, enquiries and applications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of **Redditch**.

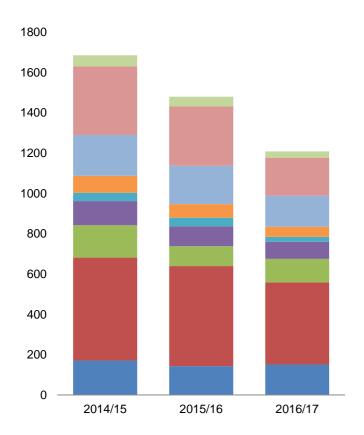


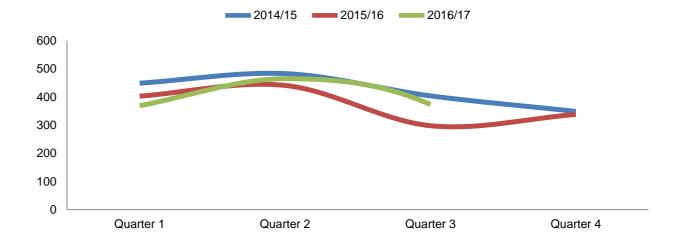


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Animals	7	11	18
Caravan	0	0	0
Gambling	14	16	16
Licensing Act	262	302	262
Scrap Metal (includes collectors and dealers)	10	3	20
Sex Establishments	0	1	0
Skin Piercing	26	26	24
Street (includes amenities, collections and trading)	39	40	51
Taxis	1,031	1,302	1,005



The data on this page relates to **Environmental Health** complaints, enquiries and notifications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of Worcester City.

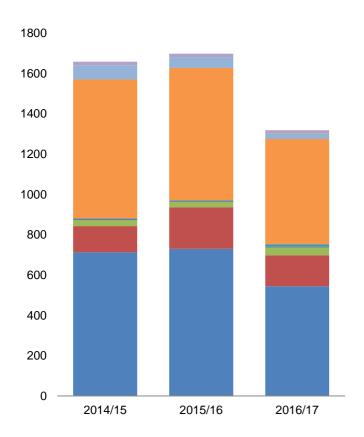


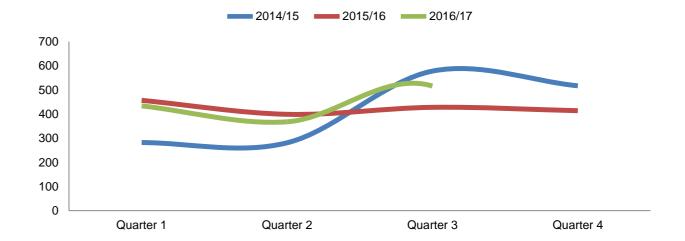


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Dog Control	55	49	31
Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs)	340	294	188
Food Safety	203	190	154
Health and Safety	84	68	50
Health and Safety (accident reports)	41	43	25
Information Requests	120	98	85
Planning	161	99	117
Pollution	510	496	407
Public Health	171	143	151



The data on this page relates to Licensing complaints, enquiries and applications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of Worcester City.



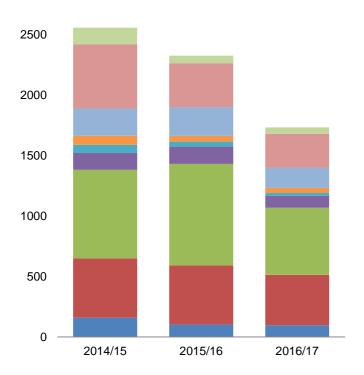


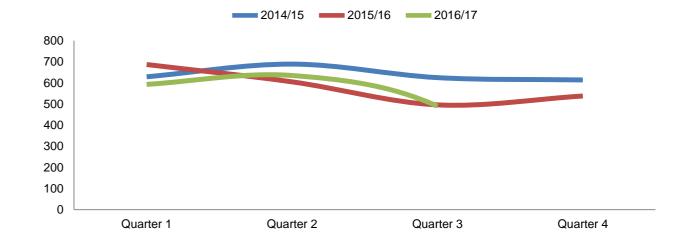
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Animals	17	17	16
Caravan	0	0	2
Gambling	71	54	25
Licensing Act	689	656	522
Scrap Metal (includes collectors and dealers)	6	4	13
Sex Establishments	3	3	3
Skin Piercing	29	28	39
Street (includes amenities, collections and trading)	131	206	154
Taxis	712	730	544



The data on this page relates to Environmental Health complaints, enquiries and notifications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of Wychavon.

3000



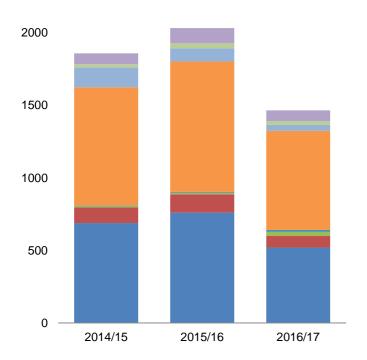


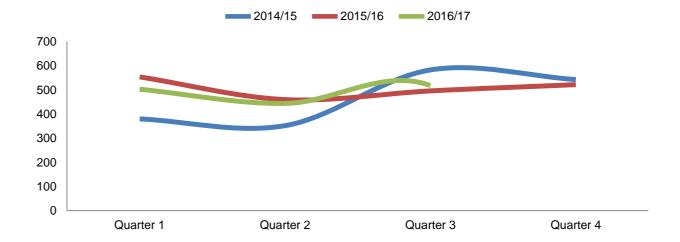
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Dog Control	139	63	53
Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs)	529	362	280
Food Safety	225	238	168
Health and Safety	76	48	42
Health and Safety (accident reports)	67	41	24
Information Requests	139	143	98
Planning	732	840	554
Pollution	491	489	418
Public Health	159	102	96



The data on this page relates to **Licensing** complaints, enquiries and applications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of **Wychavon**.

2500

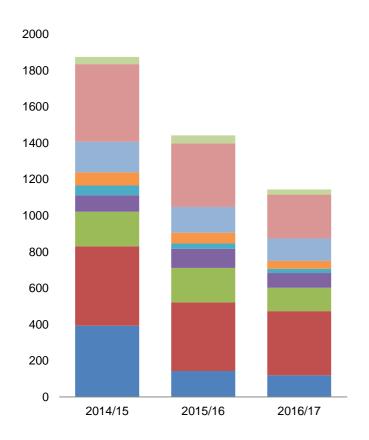


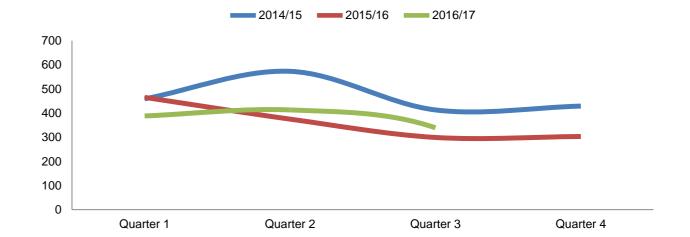


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Animals	75	105	74
Caravan	24	34	27
Gambling	135	92	40
Licensing Act	813	898	683
Scrap Metal (includes collectors and dealers)	1	2	14
Sex Establishments	3	4	0
Skin Piercing	12	11	28
Street (includes amenities, collections and trading)	107	126	80
Taxis	688	760	519



The data on this page relates to **Environmental Health** complaints, enquiries and notifications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of **Wyre Forest**.





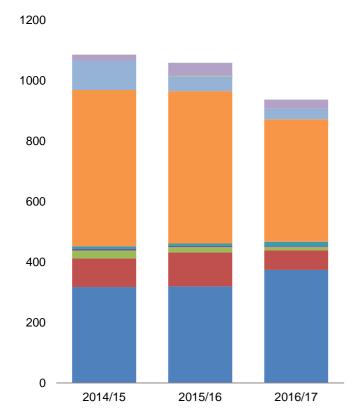
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	Dog Control	39	44	29
	Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs)	428	351	241
	Food Safety	169	142	124
	Health and Safety	72	59	43
	Health and Safety (accident reports)	55	30	24
	Information Requests	90	105	81
	Planning	191	190	129
	Pollution	437	378	354
	Public Health	393	143	119

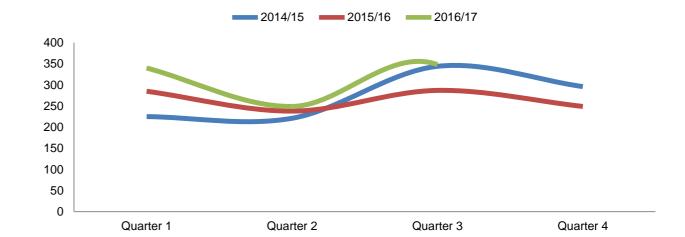
2016/17

2015/16



The data on this page relates to **Licensing** complaints, enquiries and applications recorded by WRS where the subject or enquirer was located within the district of **Wyre**Forest.

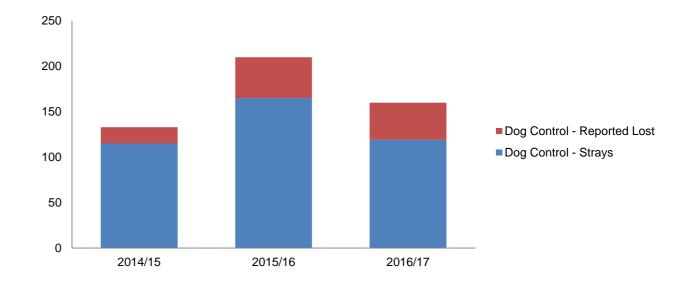




	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Animals	21	43	30
Caravan	0	2	0
Gambling	96	49	35
Licensing Act	517	504	405
Scrap Metal (includes collectors and dealers)	9	8	15
Sex Establishments	5	4	3
Skin Piercing	26	17	10
Street (includes amenities, collections and trading)	95	113	65
Taxis	317	319	374

Cheltenham Borough Council

WRS has been collecting, kennelling and reuniting stray dogs with owners since July 2014. Thus the figures for 2014/15 only represent three quarters of a financial year. Stray dog numbers were slightly up the following year and again this year the numbers recorded to date suggest we are heading towards around 180 dogs this year (165 last year). However, the introduction of the new Microchipping Regulations this year and ongoing message that dogs will not be returned to owners without fees will help to bring down the numbers of dogs reported to WRS on Cheltenham's behalf. It is encouraging to note that the numbers of reported lost dogs is increasing year on year as the public become aware that WRS operate the service enabling us to reunite owners with their dogs quicker.



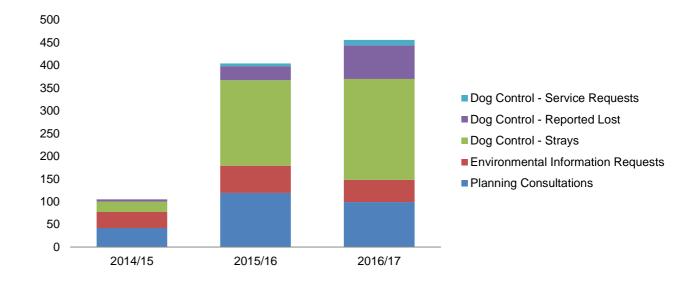
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs)	133	210	160



Gloucester City Council

WRS has been providing planning support and responding to Environmental Information requests relating to Land Contamination since September 2014. The figures relate to numbers of applications or requests where WRS have been consulted. WRS only kennelled collected strays from February 2015 with dogs returned to owners free of charge before this. Stray dog numbers are up this year by comparison with last and it may take some time for dog owners to realise that they will not have their dog returned for free, before they change their behaviour or those unwilling to pay charges have their dog rehomed.

Not displayed graphically, but during late 2015/16 and again this year WRS are providing PPC inspection and permit application processing services. Significant progress has been made to bring the permits and inspection programme up to date as well as noise monitoring and complaint investigation in relation to Avon Metals. Additionally, WRS provide services in transcribing PACE interview tapes for Gloucester.



		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
	Dog Control (complaints and enquiries)	0	6	99
	Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs)	28	219	296
	Environmental Information Requests	35	60	222
	Planning Consultations	42	119	12

2044/45

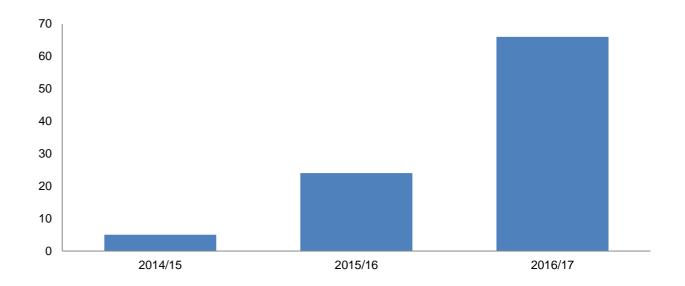
2045/46



South Gloucestershire Council

WRS provide specialist technical advice on contamination issues relating primarily to planning consultations. Rather than providing the full service for South Gloucestershire we deal with the bigger more complext sites primarily with sufficient support to enable the Officers at the client authority to retain ownership and understand any issues of concern.

The contract has been progressing well and numbers of consultations have increased this year. Whilst generally numbers are low, the complexity of the cases means significant officer resouce is employed in the work and consequently charged to South Gloucestershire. The flexible approach allows demand to be met by the client without retaining their own resource and WRS are able to maintain expertise and knowledge in-house.



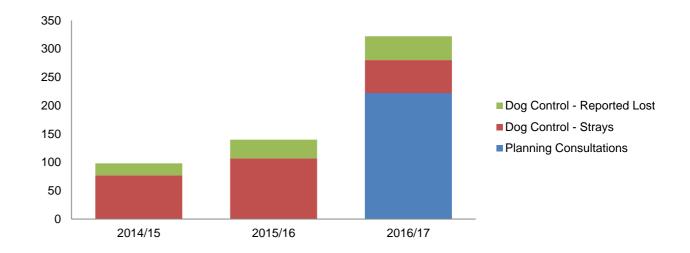
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Planning Consultations	5	24	66



Tewkesbury Borough Council

Stray dog numbers remained consistent across 2014/15 and 2015/16, but based on dogs reported so far this year, numbers are down. It is hoped the numbers of reported lost dogs increases which helps match owners to their dogs quicker reducing charges and rehoming costs.

WRS have provided planning support across all three financial years, but it is only this year that we have recorded it in such a way that can be reported in this format. The number of planning applications being forwarded to WRS continue to be high and of a technical complexity.



	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Dog Control (number of lost, found or stray dogs) Planning Consultations	98	140	100 222

