

Worcestershire
Regulatory Services

Supporting and protecting you

Activity Report | 2021-22



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Foreword

Welcome to the first activity data report for 2020/21.

I appreciate this always seems to come a little late as you will be reading this towards the end of quarter 2 but that is one of the unfortunate outcomes of delivering our meeting schedule in the way the legal agreement requires. So much has happened in the past 6 months and the first quarter saw the first real signs of stepping out of the covid control regime. March had seen the first very small steps with minor relaxations but April onwards would see major changes impacting on both personal freedoms and the reduction of controls on business activities.

April saw the re-opening of all retail premises and hospitality businesses were allowed to use their outside spaces to serve customers. A range of mainly outdoor attractions re-opened along with a number of lower risk services. May saw pubs having people back inside and a range of other indoor entertainment businesses like cinemas re-opening. However, all of the social distancing requirements remained in place, meaning that capacities continued to be limited. We were working towards 21st of June, when all of the remaining measures, including social distancing, would be relaxed if possible. As we now know, the final step to unlocking ended up being delayed as a precaution against rising case numbers, but this was just a slowing of progress to the point where the final controls we were operating with were lifted.

This has not meant businesses can now ignore covid 19. They still have to account for it in their Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 risk assessments, and more information of our findings will come in the Quarter 2 version of this report. But during Quarter 1, all of our covid work remained on-going, so enforcement of business restrictions and controls, the Covid Advisors remained out and about dealing with a range of issues and our embedded EHOs in the Local Outbreak Response team continued to deal with outbreaks in businesses and similar situations. We also continued to deliver the lost to follow-up work, looking at those who were positive cases who would not interact with NHS Test and Trace. Once again officers had to grapple with a changing control regime, with limited notice on announcements of whether the roadmap indicators had been met for the move to the next stage. Yet again, our flexibility allowed us to address these changes and support businesses in achieving the necessary transitions.

Business as usual work also had to be dealt with. Food complaints and enquiries went up during the period as they did for health and safety, but accident reports fell slightly. Stray dog numbers were up too. Licensing complaints and enquiries were comparable with previous quarters but applications began to climb as businesses looked to temporary events to help bring in additional income after months of limited activity. Nuisance complaints began their usual spring increase and noise complaints were similar to the busy Q1 last year. Complaints about accumulations and similar public health matters were fairly stable but domestic pest control requests were similar to Q1 last year and slightly above those of the year before

So another busy start to what will likely be a challenging year. We hope you find the report interesting and if you've any questions please do contact myself or one of the Management Team.

Simon Wilkes

Community Environmental Health

Statutory Nuisance

A high level of nuisance demand was experienced by the service in Q1, apparently driven up again by covid-19 restrictions causing residents to spend more time at home. Noise issues continued to be the dominant nuisance reported, however there were also a large number of smoke complaints concerning bonfires. We believe this to have been exacerbated by ongoing restrictions on the use of public waste disposal sites and resultant large queues and long waiting times.

A large number of complaints concerning noise from licensed premises were received following the relaxation of covid-19 restrictions on them towards the end of Q1, as many premises took the opportunity to trade utilising their outdoor areas. Many residents appear to have become accustomed to the quiet of closed premises and took exception to noise from their reopening, even where in some cases it was no worse than pre-lockdown.

Barking dogs continued to feature highly in the list of noise issues reported and evidence was obtained of noise from dogs at one property continuing to cause noise nuisance despite a noise abatement notice having been served upon the owners. A prosecution file was prepared and following a not-guilty plea and several adjournments, a trial has been set for October.

An appeal case lodged by a licensed premises against a noise abatement notice served on them in relation to amplified music in their garden was heard in July, the outcome of which fully vindicated formal action by WRS. The District Judge dismissed the appeal on all counts, finding that the noise did amount to a statutory nuisance, and that the best practicable means had not been taken to minimise the noise. Full costs of £6,715 were awarded to the council by the court.

Covid Business Compliance

Seven officers and one principal officer took on the role of Business Compliance during the period to provide advice to business and enforce the various legislative requirements. The constant changes to legislation as the pandemic progressed presented significant challenges both to officers and business, moving within Q1 from enforcement to advice as Step 4 approached.

An investigation into the fatal accident of a volunteer at a fishery concluded at a hearing on April 28 2021 at Worcester Magistrates' Court. Birmingham Anglers Association admitted breaching the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Section 3(1). The organisation was fined £66,000 and ordered to pay costs of £17,500 together with a victim surcharge of £181.

After forming a Primary Authority Partnership with Halfords, officers visited numerous Halfords sites across the region and further afield in order to fully understand the scope of assured advice that WRS will be providing to the company in helping them to comply at a national level.

On 28th May 2021 Oakland International Limited pleaded guilty to charges brought by Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) acting on behalf of Bromsgrove District Council under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The case, heard at Kidderminster Magistrates Court in front of District Judge Strongman, resulted in the company being fined £300,000. Costs were awarded in the sum of £40,300 and a victim surcharge of £120 was imposed. The case related to an accident involving staff members, one of whom was feared dead at the time after his neck was pinned between the two conveyor belts and rollers of a dual pick line. Thankfully, the victim has made a good recovery.

Food Safety

We have nearly 3,000 visits outstanding/due to end of March 2022, some 1,500 of them high risk. Due to Covid and nuisance demand food work has been primarily done by contractors (3 FTE). The pandemic has resulted in major recruitment difficulties countrywide finding 'competent' food officers (temporary or permanent). During the quarter officers completed 210 food inspections as we started our internal 'catch-up' programme. It should be noted that many premises had been subject to lockdown for most of the year. Many chose not to re-open when the first opportunity arose on 12 April due to lack of suitable outdoor space. The focus of visits has been on high-risk high-street premises, especially takeaways and new premises. The indications are that most premises have maintained standards although there does seem to be some slippage in attention to the high-profile topic of allergen management.

In order to target the poorest premises as part of our food recovery plan, Operation Corona Fries was launched during the first week of March 2021 and gained momentum in Q1. Four pairs of officers were tasked with inspecting premises for food hygiene, health and safety, COVID control measures and Licensing.

The premises identified for inspection were those food businesses with a food hygiene rating score of Level 2 and below. Intelligence had identified that there was a direct correlation between those poor performing food businesses and poor COVID control measures. Prior to inspections taking place officers were required to interrogate the inspection history of the premises, service requests, complaints, COVID surveillance visits, Intelligence Data Base and Licensing information. Further details on this highly effective project will be reported in Q2.

210 new premises registered during the period.

Export Certification

The impact of Brexit has brought increased requests for export certificates. The Food Lead Officer has been working closely with two major companies who regularly require certificates from WRS for ambient products. To date there have been no major customs issues partly because local authorities are not authorised nationally to deal with high risk meat and dairy products.

Primary Authority

We continue to maintain a good relationship with our four food PAs, the most active being Aspens whose main business is in school settings.

Worcestershire Works Well

The County initiative to support well-being in businesses is also resuming activity and is now in its 10th year. We continue to have four officers trained to provide advice to potential members and there were several meetings during the period enabling all partners to refocus on the revised standards required to apply for the Award.

Licensing

The Licensing Team saw an increase in the number of queries and applications this quarter. With the easing of lockdown restrictions, and people organising postponed events, TENs applications were one of the first increases; with queries around alcohol licensing and taxis also seeing an increase. The team has continued to support joint visits with the Community Environmental Health Team where appropriate, and where a statutory nuisance or anti-social behaviour has been identified at licensed premises.

There were two zoo inspections that took place this quarter and, although both required some follow up work, licences were issued at The Falconry Centre in Hagley and Little Owl Farm. Animal inspections have continued with more and more businesses starting to re-open as the economy starts to return to normal. Many inspections were put on hold as businesses remained closed during the pandemic, but catteries and riding schools, for example, have now started to reopen slowly. As part of our intelligence work in animal welfare and licensing, our Intelligence Officer concluded findings for an operation that the licensing team commissioned on illegal puppy breeding and related activities, such as nuisance and general welfare of dogs. During lockdown the prices of dogs increased and, throughout the country, there was a general issue around illegal puppy breeding so these findings will now be explored further in quarter two.

During May and June, the licensing team rolled out Members Training for new and existing members which was well received across all districts. Most of these sessions continued virtually with a view to returning to face to face training sessions next year, and an emphasis on the introduction of the new taxi standards.

As part of the Licensing Teams COVID related activities, quarter one saw some of the taxi delegated decisions starting to return back to the districts. I am confident others will return back when they are ready in quarter two. WRS has been happy to support this but understand that, with the new taxi standards being introduced in 2022, decisions must sit with Members unless districts decide otherwise through a formal process. The team has continued to support COVID work activities and has created a Night Time Economy Team to support the Licensing Team, Community Safety Teams and District Economic Recovery Teams with their aims and objectives for the re-opening of their town centres and the night time economy with the aim of meeting licensing objectives. This work has been strongly supported by West Mercia Police and we will continue to use intelligence to work more closely with partners going forward.

Technical Services

IT Development

As well as our normal day to day work, the first quarter of the financial year is always busy as we prepare and submit the majority of our government returns. Over this quarter we also moved the WRS website to a new, more modern content management system, which includes compliance with new accessibility legislation for public sector websites. During this period our host IT moved all our staff to a new Citrix desktop, and we are now using MS Office 365. We coincided this with a major upgrade to our back office database system, which also included a move to a new applications server. Also for this quarter and onwards we have been working closely with our host IT around cyber security issues, including working groups, staff training and security testing.

Our support work continued in this quarter to be focused on the many changes and demands brought on by the Covid pandemic, which have seen increased staffing levels, equipment and training needs.

COVID Advisors

At beginning of the quarter, the country was in full lockdown, cases were decreasing, and we had 25 COVID Advisors present regularly in all districts including enhanced deployment in Worcester City Centre, Bromsgrove and Redditch Council areas following concerns raised by Incident Management Teams.

Throughout the quarter the team focus was assisting businesses and the general public in town centres and other areas of high footfall, supermarkets, schools, public transport hubs and takeaways. This also included parks, beauty spots and garden centres during fine weather and at busier times. Additionally deployment was targeted in wards with the highest levels of infection informed by latest available Public Health data.

The implementation of Step 2 of Government's roadmap on 12th April led to the reopening of many more businesses including outdoor hospitality, funfairs, destination locations such as West Midlands Safari Park and a significant increase in engagement with non-compliant businesses, particularly those in the close contact industry. On average the Advisors engaged with 130 businesses and 230+ members of the general public on a daily basis throughout the month.

In May, the team assisted with a film crew required to isolate at local hotels and events at the Birdbox and Drive-in cinema, Bromsgrove. The teams also assisted with Surge Testing in Redditch for the Beta variant by visiting businesses to encourage uptake and door knocking to encourage vaccinations at a mobile testing unit in Brickfields, Worcester. On average the Advisors engaged with 141 businesses and 166+ members of the general public on a daily basis throughout the month.

The numbers of COVID cases were on the rise in some districts by beginning of June and the Advisors assisted with an increasing number of events including Euro 2020 football matches shown in Pubs, cricket matches in Worcester and pop up vaccination centres requiring support. On average Advisors engaged with 125 businesses and 165+ members of the general public on a daily basis throughout the month. During this month the Team reduced to 19 personnel as a number took advantage of employment opportunities not available previously during lockdown.

Contact Tracing

We continue to undertake lost to follow up contact tracing for all the Districts and have moved to Local-4 in Redditch, Worcester and Malvern Hills which means, in those districts, all contact tracing work is undertaken by our contact tracing team.

Dog Wardens

The first quarter has been a little quieter than the end of last year, with the service having received contact in relation to 280 dog related matters; including enquiries for assistance or advice and complaints. We were successful in reuniting 198 dogs with their owners, and rehoming 30 with recognised animal rehoming charities. Unfortunately 3 dogs were found deceased. In addition we have looked after one client dog for an owner who has had an extended stay in hospital.

Air Quality

June saw the completion and submission of air quality reports for each partner to DEFRA. The Air quality Annual Status Report (ASR) provides a detailed summary as to the status of existing air quality and emerging problem areas/improvement in each authority area. Officers annualisation of air monitoring data confirmed that nitrogen dioxide levels were 20% less between 2019 and 2020 across all county areas compared with previous years' levels which is attributable to the reduction in traffic movements during the lockdown periods however this gain will be lost as we continue to emerge out of lockdown. In Wyre Forest officers will be installing and trialling a new type of air monitoring system that is being secured through S.106 monies provided by the Churchfields redevelopment which will provide real time emissions levels of Nitrogen dioxide and PM10 and PM2.5. This will complement the other continuous gas analyser located between Kidderminster and Stourport.

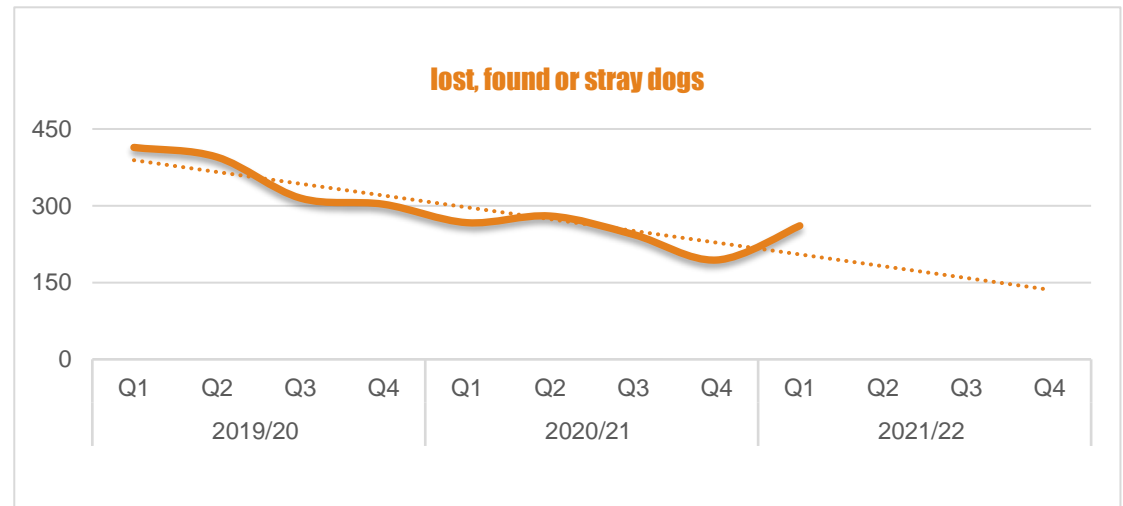
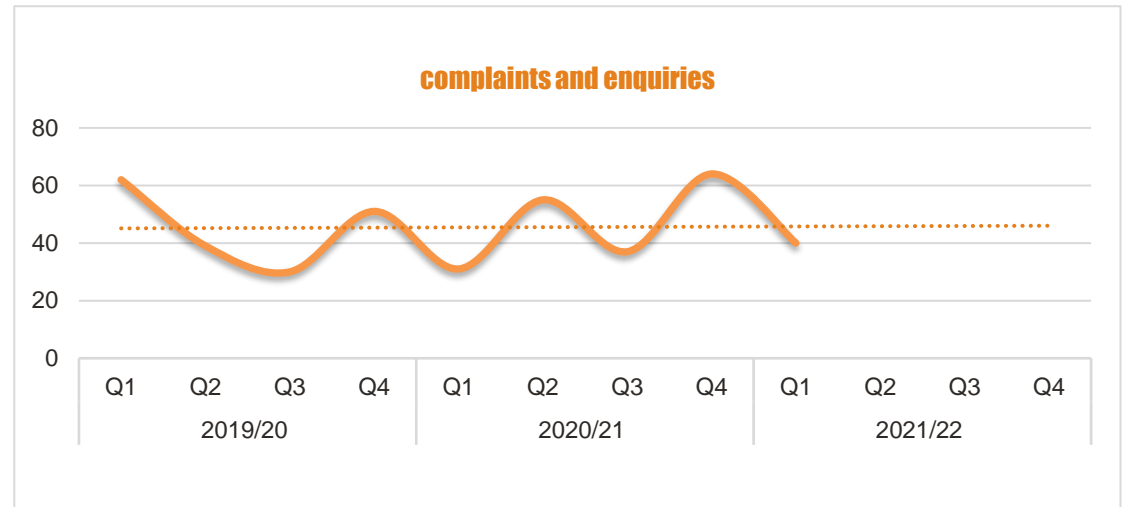
Contaminated Land

Worcester City Council has now passed over the contaminated land enforcement function to WRS who will also provide advice on contaminated land aspects of planning work to the planners. This function was previously undertaken by the planning department.

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.

The number of stray or lost dogs reported to WRS during quarter one is an increase of 34% compared to the final quarter of last year. In keeping with previous quarters however, the nature of cases remains consistent with approximately 64% relating to 'contained' stray dogs. This means the dog was found and held by, for example, a member of the public. Approximately 67% of stray dogs were returned to their owners, whilst 11% were rehomed.

In general terms, WRS receives a low number of dog control complaints. Based on the 28 complaints received during quarter one, 15 related to fouling and persistent straying, 10 related to dangerous dogs and 3 cases related to welfare.



Nationally DEFRA are in the process of revising a number of technical standards covering a range of manufacturing sectors that are governed by the permitting regime. These standards are normally set by the EU however post Brexit LA's have been requested to assist in developing new UK based standards. WRS currently have officers sitting on 3 of these technical panels providing their advice and experience.

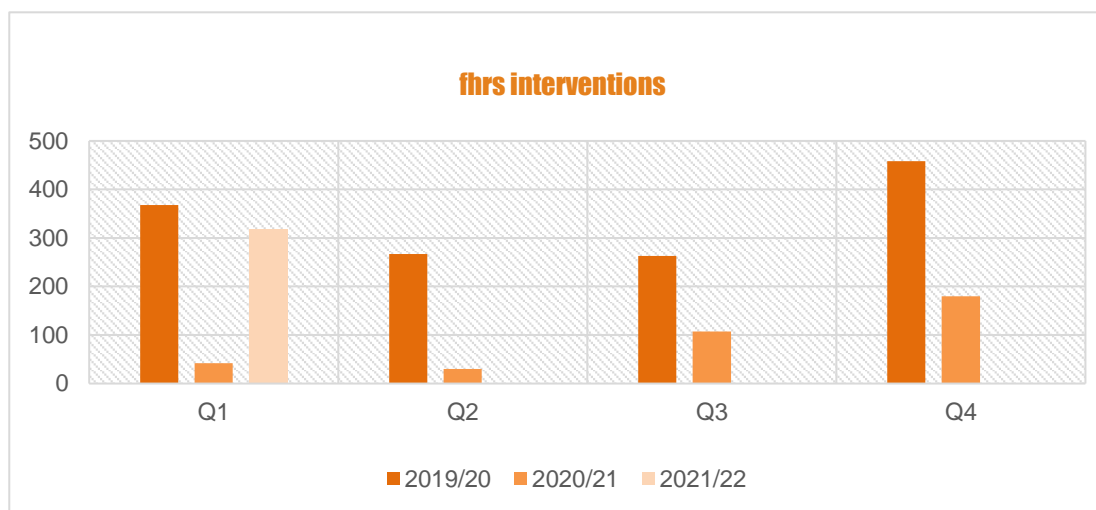
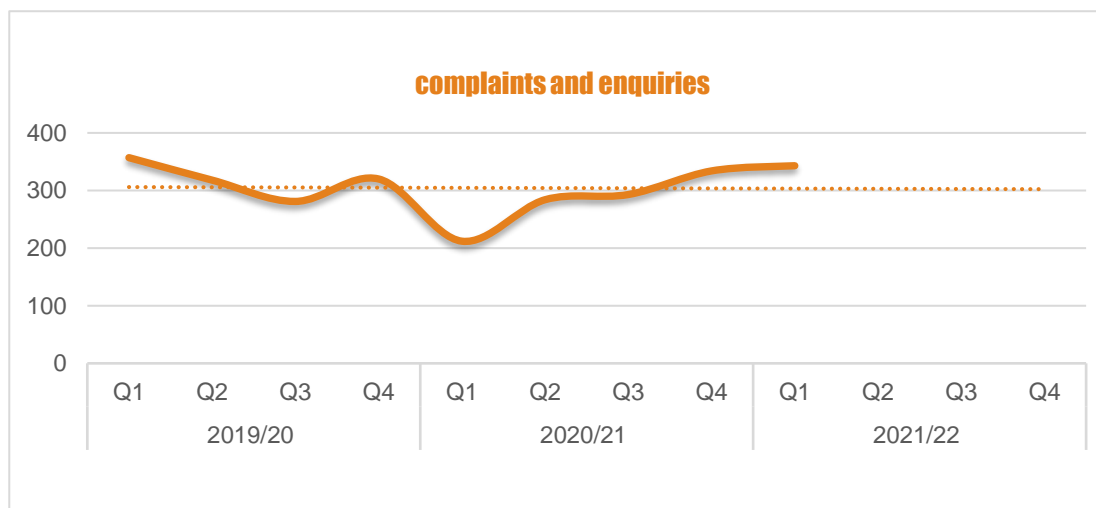
Locally we have remained busy with permitting over the first quarter and are engaged in a number of enforcement/non-compliance matters. Officers appreciate that it has been a difficult time for some sectors and are working with those who are cooperative to deliver compliance. However, some have eluded the permitting process and are being actively pursued for that reason. There have also been non-compliance matters in Gloucester where officers undertake this service on behalf of the City Council.

Our work on Primary authority continues into a 3rd successful year with Wienerberger Cemex. With Wienerberger we will be working to develop non abatement emission control techniques at their Hartlebury plant through the development of gas recirculation system. Initial R&D is proving that the system is working successfully, and this will long term reduce the companies use of natural resources and carbon footprint through the reduction in heat loss.

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 complaints about food products, hygiene of premises complaints and requests for business advice. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of interventions conducted by WRS at premises included in the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, commonly known as FHRS.

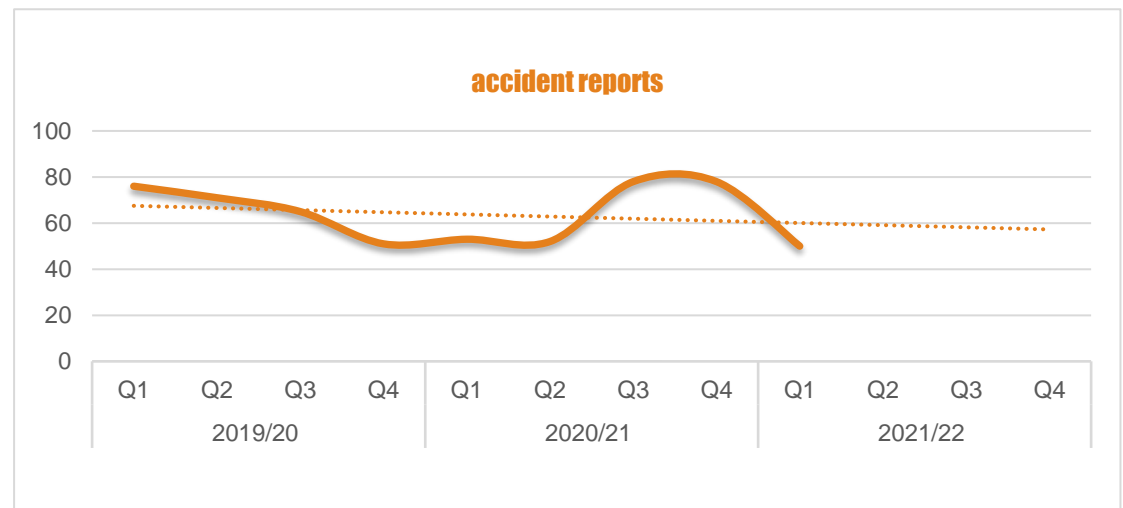
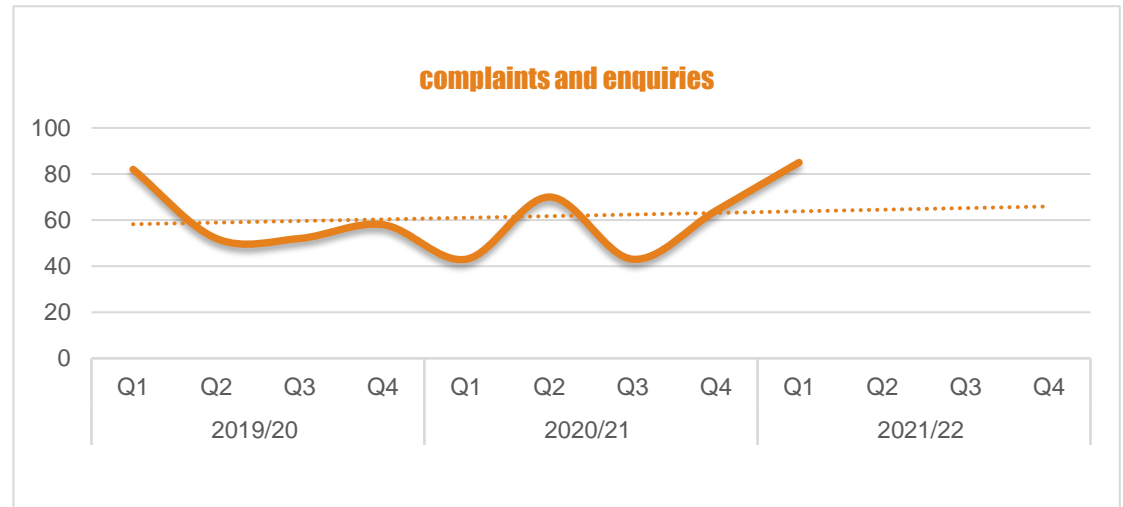
The number of food safety cases reported to WRS during one is broadly consistent with the final quarter of last year. Based on the 162 complaints recorded, 81% related to products purchased from food premises, whilst 19% related to hygiene standards and practices.

Of the 318 interventions conducted during quarter one at premises included in the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS), 16 were rated as non-compliant (0, 1 or 2). Approximately 80% of these rating were issued to hospitality premises such as takeaways, restaurants and public houses.



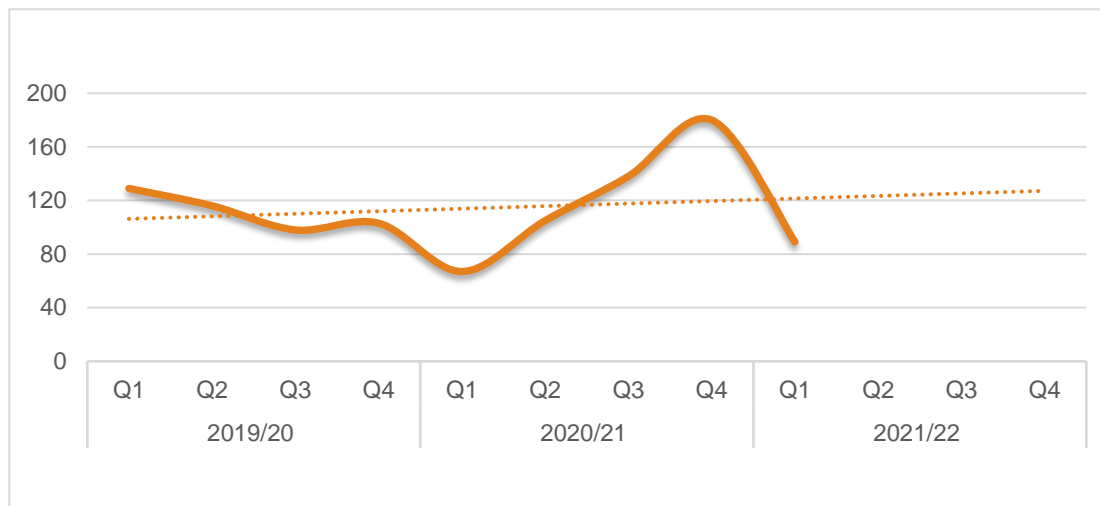
The chart (top right) shows the number of complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to health and safety at work. This includes requests for business advice. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of notifications received by WRS relating to accidents.

The number of health and safety cases reported to WRS during quarter one is broadly consistent with the final quarter of last year. Whilst there was a reduction in the number of accident report, this was offset by an increase in the number of complaint and enquiries. Appxoamtely 37% of cases werereports of accidents; with 35% relating to injuries where a worker is incapacitated for more than seven days. The remaining cases related to injuries to members of the public or to accidents where major injuries were sustained.



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

- Environmental Information Requests
- Freedom of Information Requests
- Requests for information under the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation



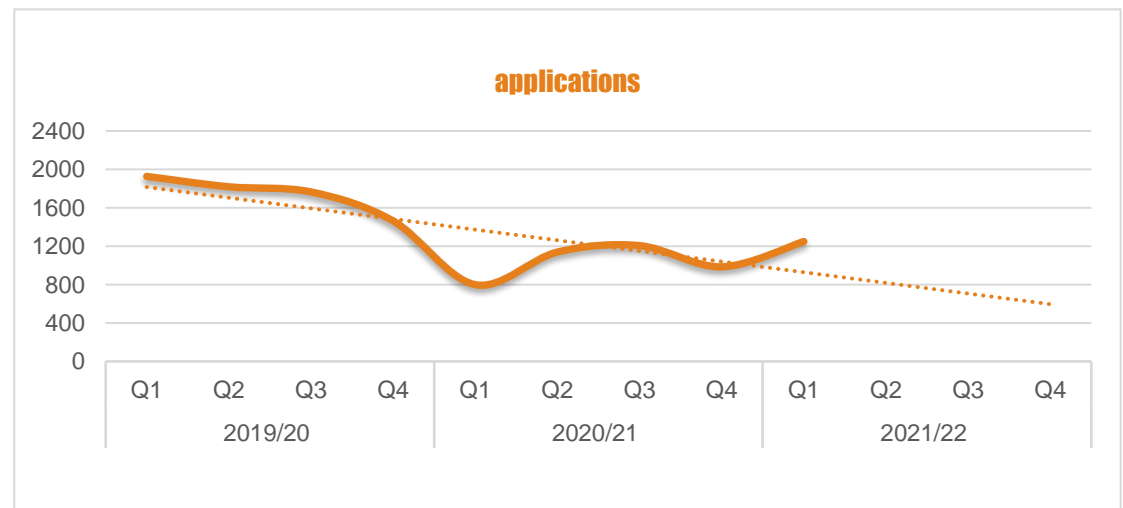
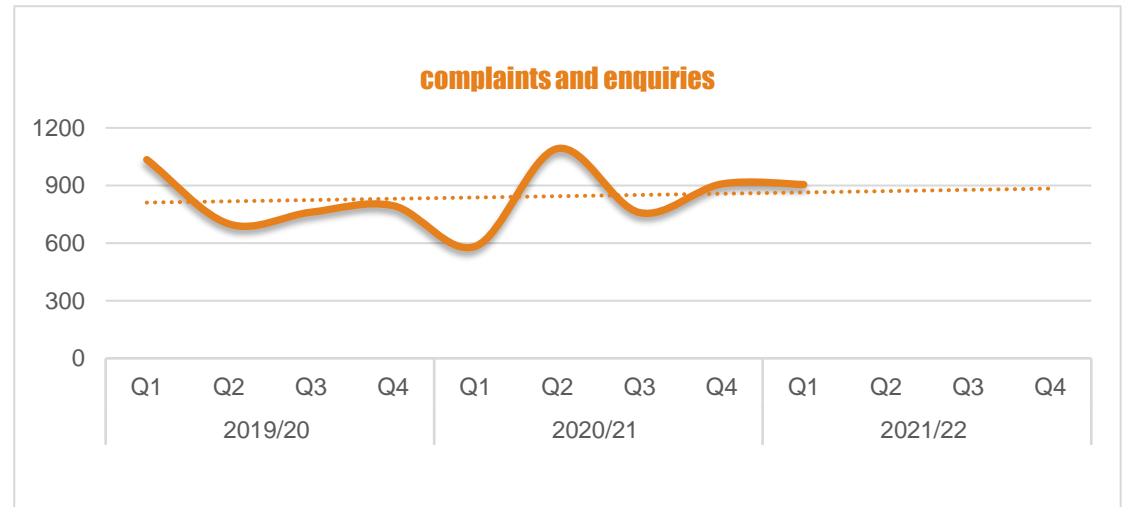
The chart (top right) shows the number complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to licensing. The chart (bottom right) shows the number of licensing applications.

Licensing complaints, enquiries and applications relate to the following;

- Alcohol and entertainment (including gambling)
- Animals
- Caravans
- Scrap metal
- Sex establishments
- Skin piercing
- Street trading
- Taxis

The number of licensing cases reported to WRS during quarter one is an increase of 13% compared to the final quarter of last year. This increase is largely due to arise in the volume of applications and registrations. Approximately 57% of cases recorded have been applications; with 29% relating to private hire and hackney carriage vehicles, and 17% relating to temporary events.

In general terms, WRS receives a higher number of enquiries about licensing matters than complaints about licensed or unlicensed activity. Based on the 121 complaints received during quarter one, 28% related to taxis, 25% related to alcohol and entertainment and 16% related to animals.



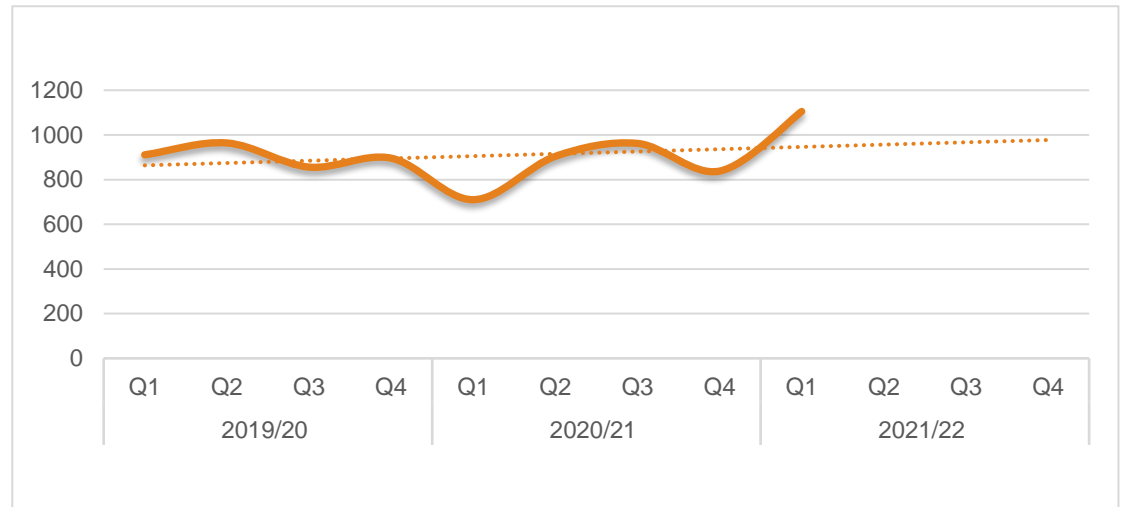
The chart (right) shows the number of planning enquiries completed by WRS over a three year period. The majority of these requests are consultations but can also include requests to discharge conditions.

Planning requests relate to the following;

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

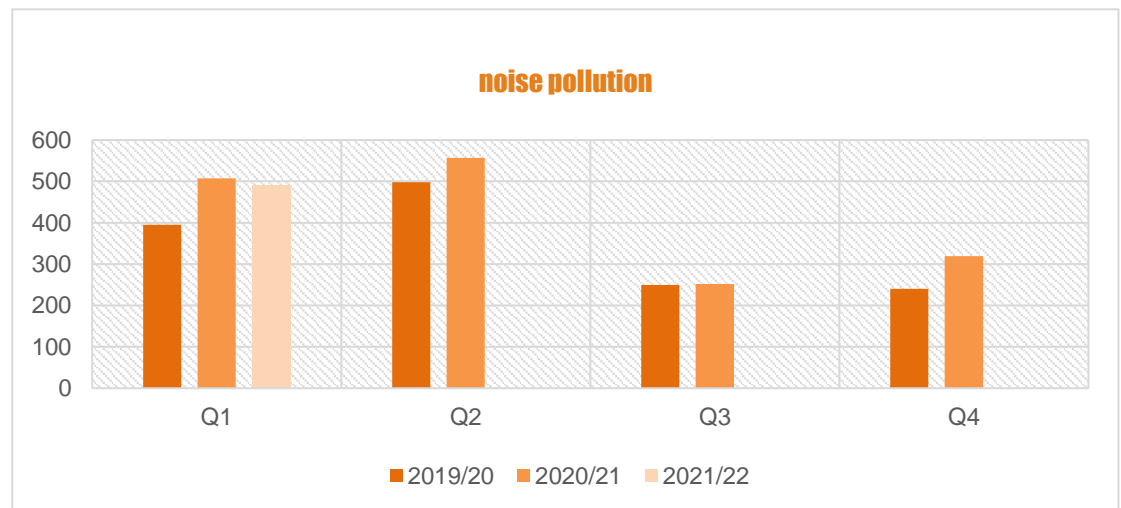
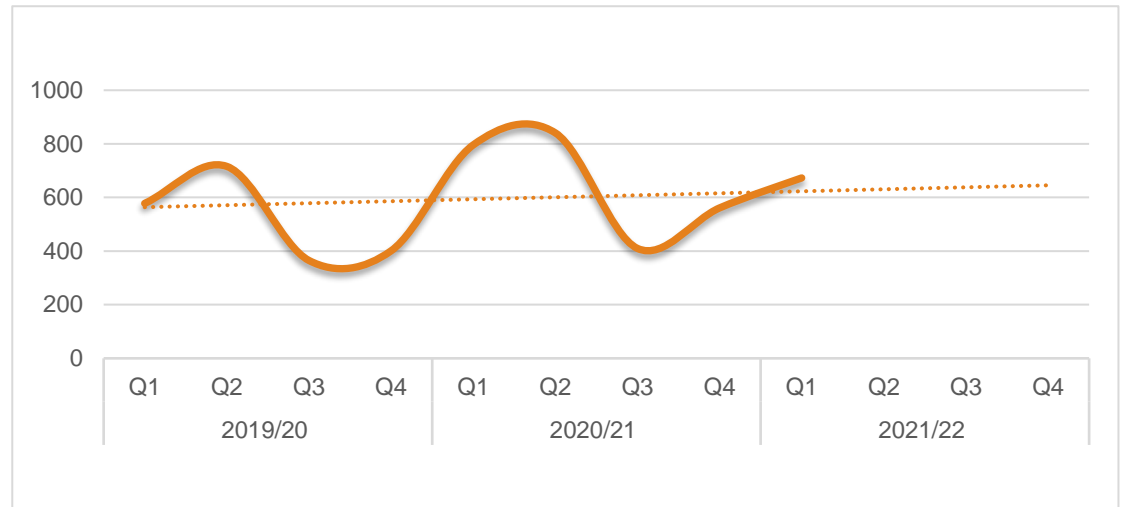
The number of planning enquiries recorded by WRS during quarter one is an increase of 30% compared to the final quarter of last year. In keeping with previous quarters however, the nature of enquiries has remained relatively consistent. Approximately 92% were consultations, whilst 50% related to contaminated land. A fifth of planning enquiries were completed, on a contractual basis, on behalf of other local authorities.

WRS has recently updated its technical guidance note for planning applicants, agents and consultants which ensures that developments are undertaken to the highest standards with regard to environmental protection and the delivery of sustainable and desirable homes for the County.



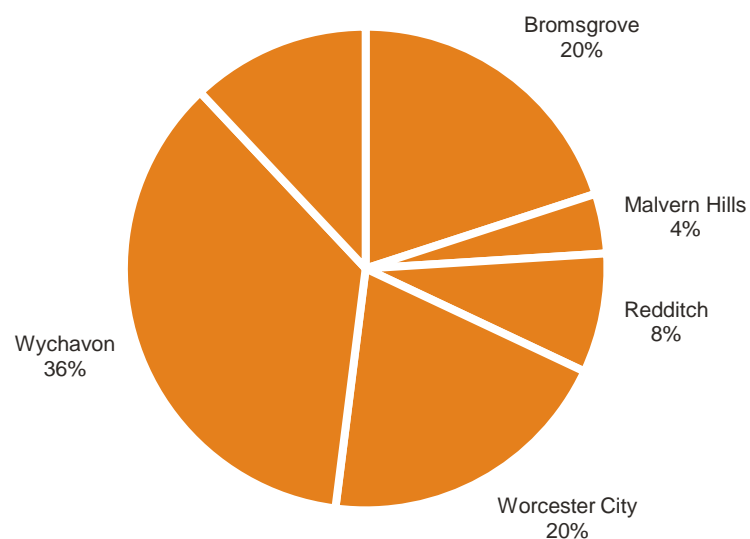
The chart (right) shows the number of complaints and enquiries recorded by WRS over a three year period relating to pollution. Types of cases recorded under this category include contamination incidents, air pollution (smoke, fumes and gases), light pollution and noise pollution. The chart (bottom right)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

The number of pollution cases recorded by WRS during quarter one is an increase of 19% compared to the final quarter of last year; but is consistent with seasonal variations. Approximately 41% of cases recorded related to domestic noise, whilst 13% related to smoke nuisance. Noise from commercial premises (such as hospitality premises) was another prominent case type.



The table (right) shows the top 25 wards in Worcestershire with the highest case rate for noise pollution cases. It also shows the relative population and the number of cases recorded. The chart (below) shows the top 25 wards by district.

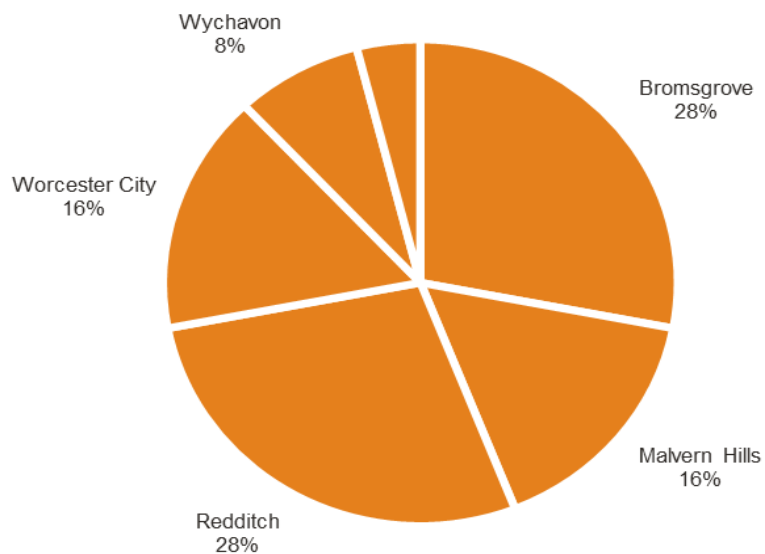
Note: Data shown on this page represents the 'year to date' and will continue to increase each quarter until the end of year report is published.



Ward	Total	Population	Rate
Marlbrook	5	2,890	1.73
Norton	6	3,707	1.62
Teme Valley	3	1,964	1.53
Eckington	4	2,669	1.50
Rainbow Hill	8	5,511	1.45
Arboretum	9	6,233	1.44
Barnt Green And Hopwood	4	2,981	1.34
Perryfields	2	1,501	1.33
Pinvin	4	3,105	1.29
Cathedral	15	11,763	1.28
Lickhill	3	2,438	1.23
Wyre Forest Rural	11	9,106	1.21
Elmley Castle And Somerville	3	2,499	1.20
Central (Redditch)	8	6,844	1.17
Bredon	3	2,651	1.13
Evesham South	6	5,423	1.11
Wribbenhall And Arley	6	5,444	1.10
Harvington And Norton	3	2,756	1.09
Fladbury	3	2,808	1.07
Lowes Hill	3	2,903	1.03
Gorse Hill	6	5,839	1.03
Batchley And Brockhill	9	8,783	1.02
Claines	8	8,076	0.99
Bretforton And Offenham	3	3,054	0.98
The Littletons	3	3,194	0.94

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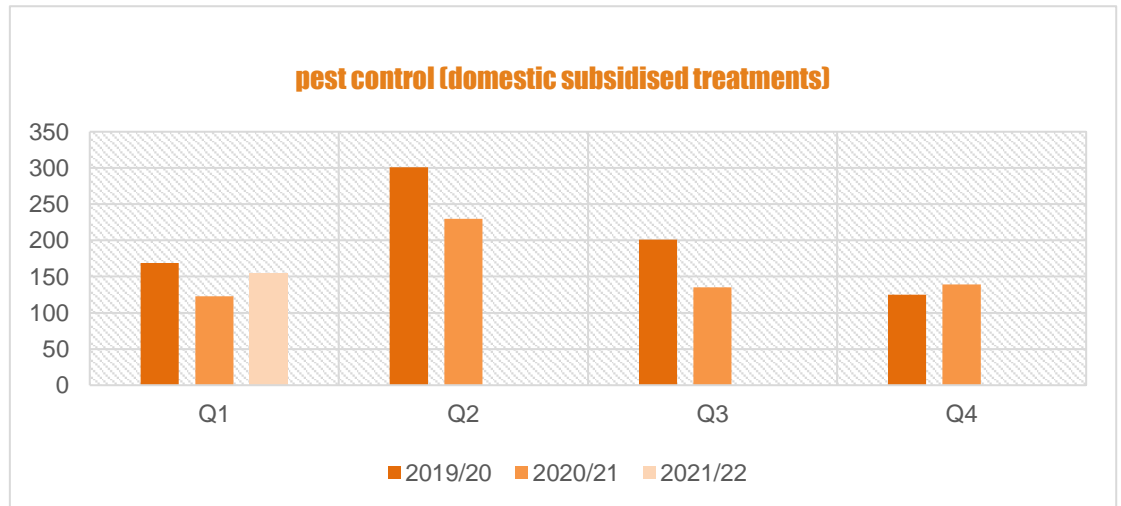
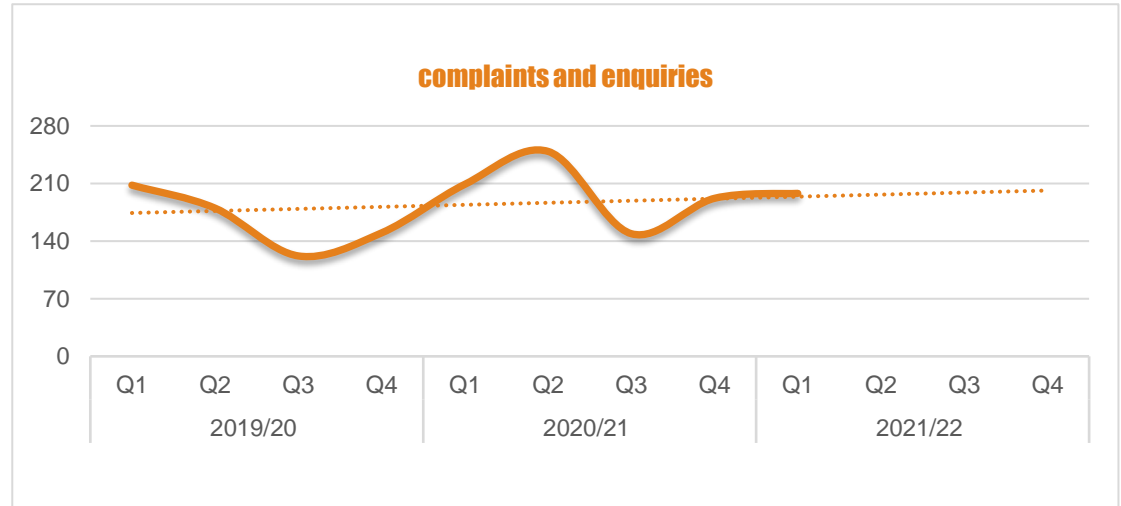


Ward	Total	Population	Rate
Wribbenhall And Arley	34	5,444	6.25
Perryfields	8	1,501	5.33
Abbey	31	6,620	4.68
Norton	17	3,707	4.59
Avoncroft	15	3,300	4.55
Lowes Hill	13	2,903	4.48
Warndon	25	5,669	4.41
Sanders Park	16	3,651	4.38
Charford	15	3,665	4.09
Central (Redditch)	28	6,844	4.09
Rubery South	12	2,984	4.02
Saint John	34	8,836	3.85
Lodge Park	21	5,591	3.76
Bedwardine	29	8,167	3.55
Chase	22	6,217	3.54
Lindridge	8	2,261	3.54
Greenlands	32	9,329	3.43
Winyates	28	8,184	3.42
Church Hill	27	8,062	3.35
Hallow	6	1,840	3.26
Gorse Hill	19	5,839	3.25
Crabbs Cross	18	5,647	3.19
Evesham South	17	5,423	3.13
Pickersleigh	20	6,397	3.13
Droitwich Central	8	2,621	3.05

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 category 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 in three Worcestershire Districts (Bromsgrove, Redditch, Wychavon). Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wyre Forest do not offer a subsidised pest control service.

The number of public health cases recorded by WRS during quarter one is broadly consistent with the final quarter of last year. Approximately 67% of cases related to pest control; whether enquiries about treatments or sewer baiting, or complaints about pest control issues caused by the activity of neighbouring residents or businesses. A further 27% of cases were complaints relating to accumulations at domestic or commercial properties.

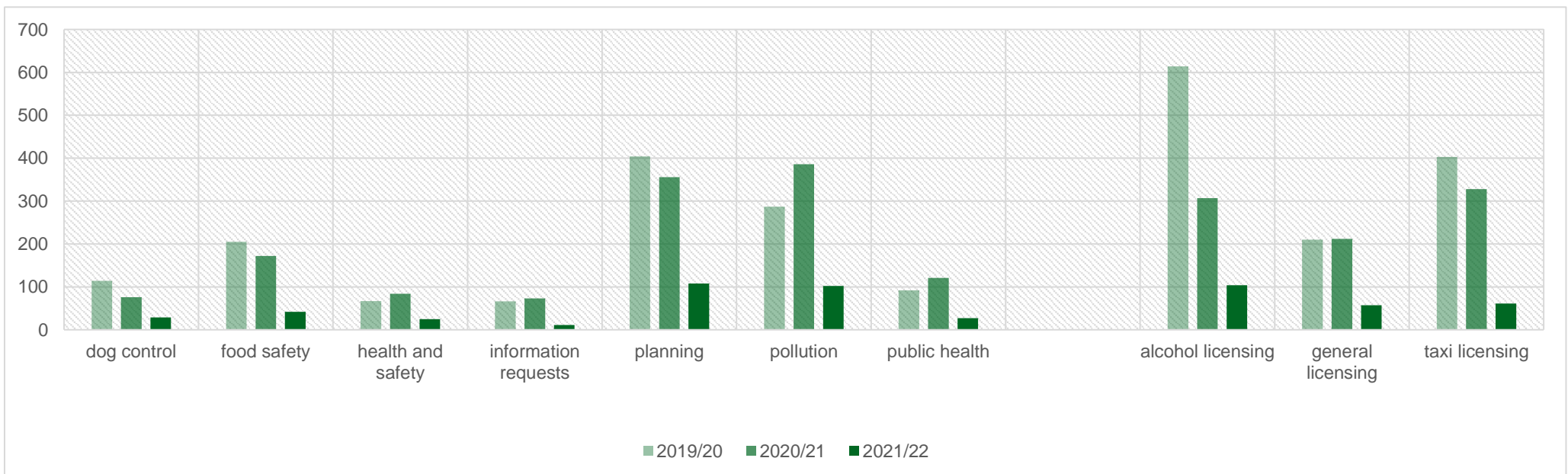
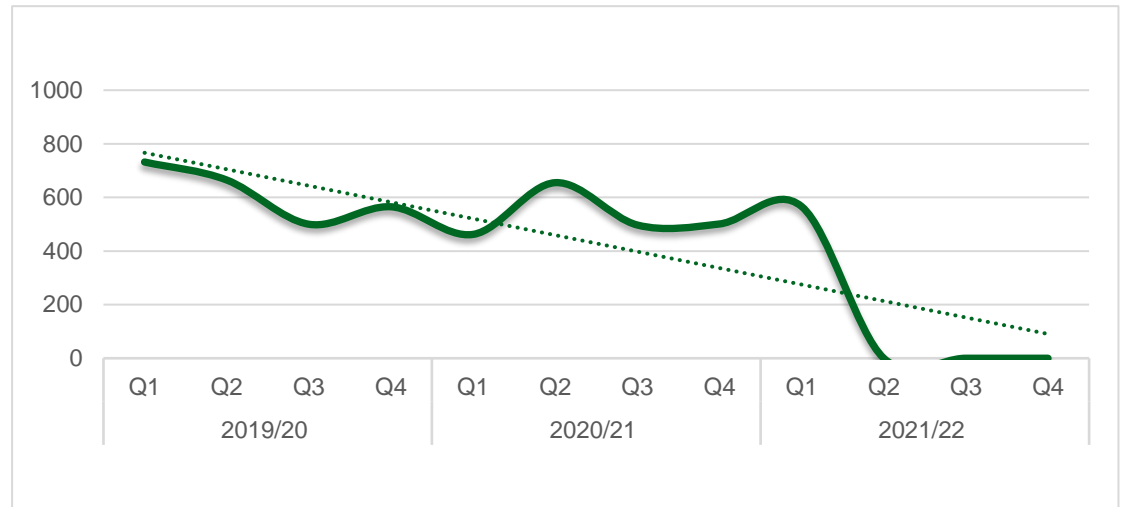
Of the 155 domestic treatments undertaken during quarter one, 78% were due to the presence of rats, 34% were in relation to properties located in the Wychavon district, 33% were in relation to the Redditch district and 23% were in relation to the Bromsgrove district.



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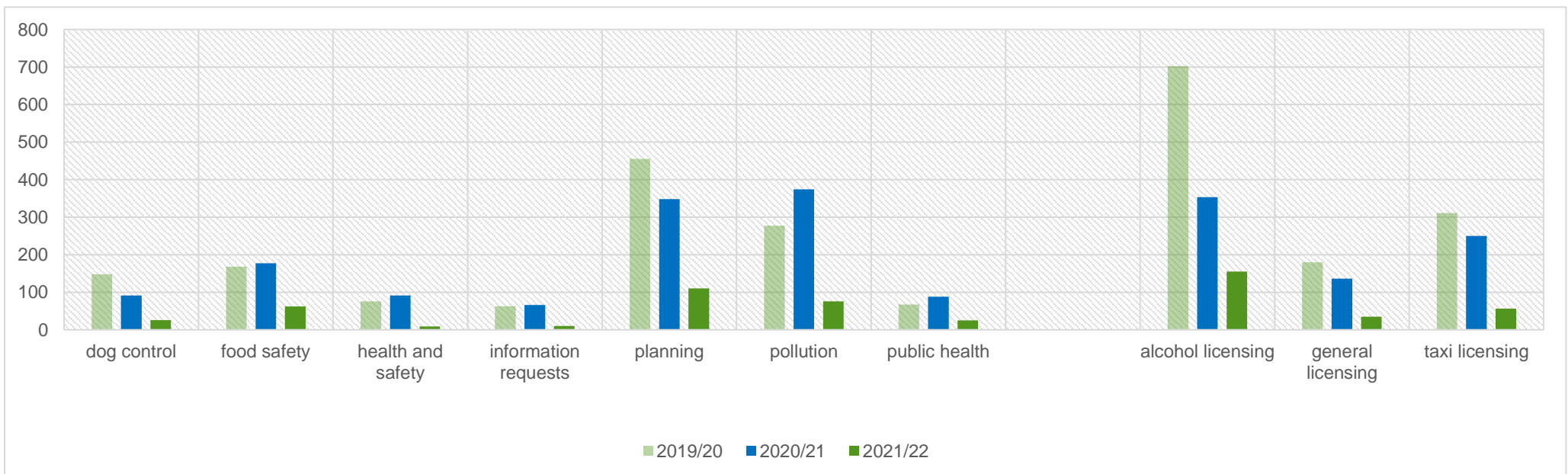
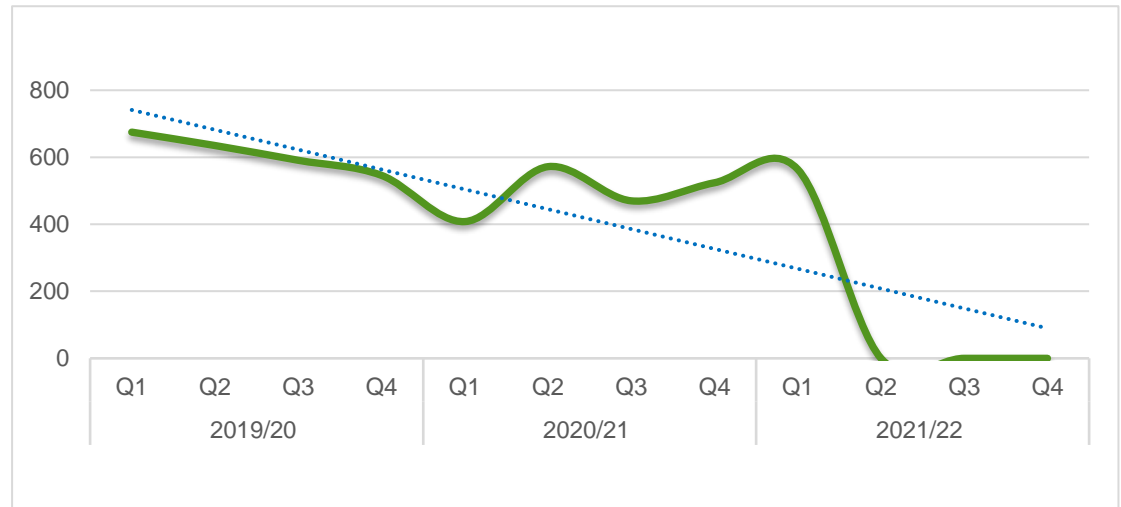
The data on this page relates to Environmental Health and Licensing cases (complaints, enquiries, applications and notifications) where the subject and/or enquirer were located within the Bromsgrove district.

Note: The chart (below) shows the number of cases recorded against each of the main functions undertaken by WRS. The figure for the current year is a cumulative total based on each of the reporting periods. This figure will continue to increase until the end of year report is published.



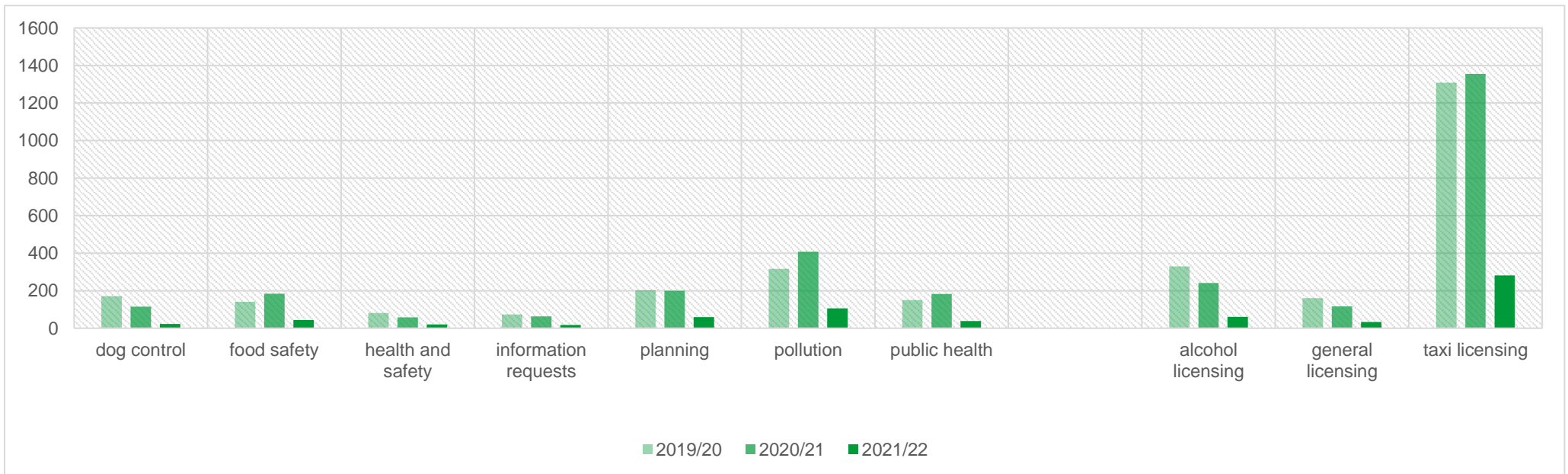
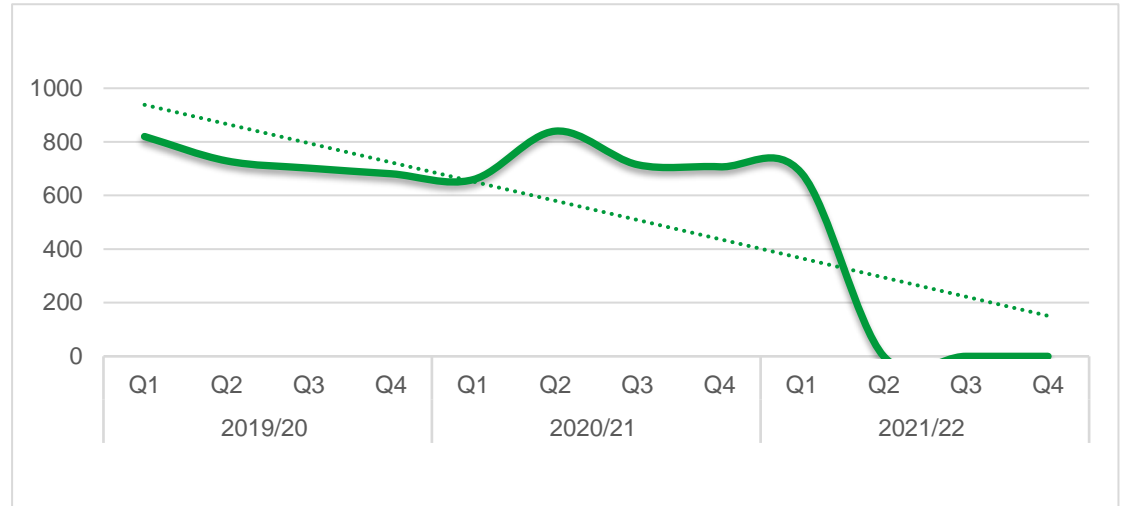
The data on this page relates to Environmental Health and Licensing cases (complaints, enquiries, applications and notifications) where the subject and/or enquirer were located within the Malvern Hills district.

Note: The chart (below) shows the number of cases recorded against each of the main functions undertaken by WRS. The figure for the current year is a cumulative total based on each of the reporting periods. This figure will continue to increase until the end of year report is published.



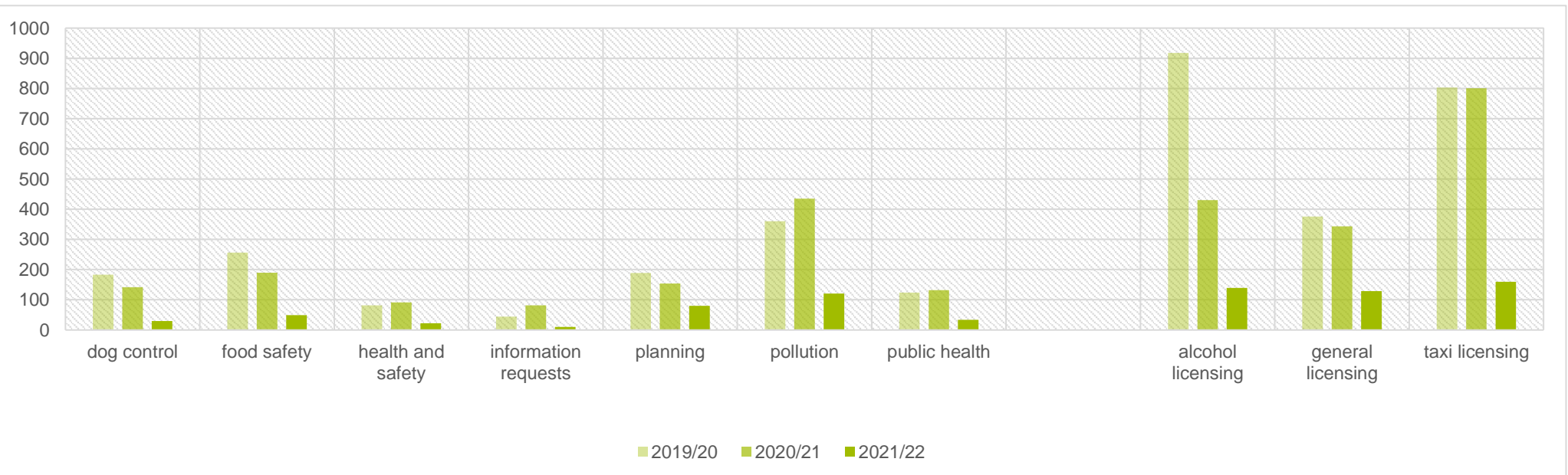
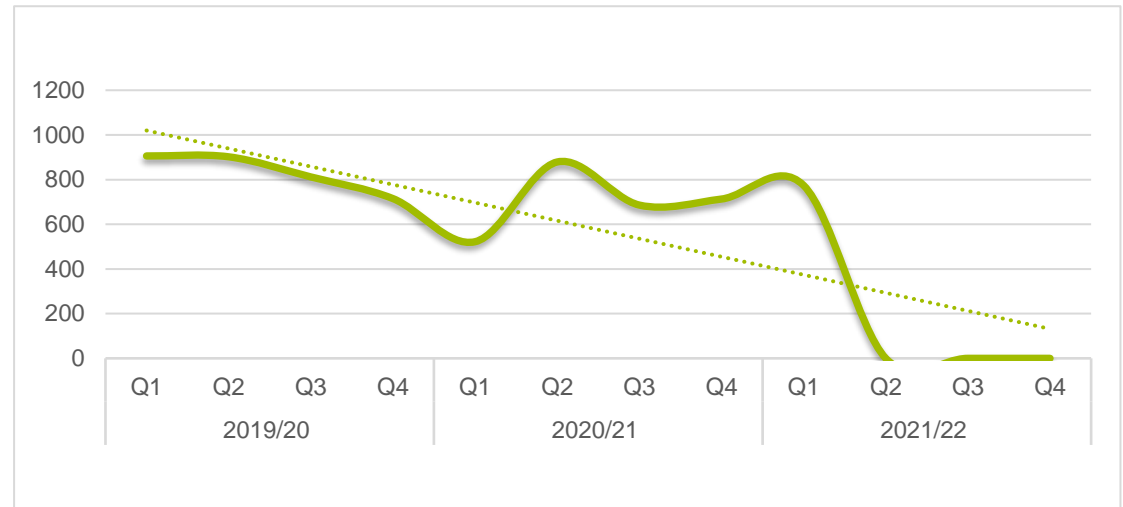
The data on this page relates to Environmental Health and Licensing cases (complaints, enquiries, applications and notifications) where the subject and/or enquirer were located within the Redditch district.

Note: The chart (below) shows the number of cases recorded against each of the main functions undertaken by WRS. The figure for the current year is a cumulative total based on each of the reporting periods. This figure will continue to increase until the end of year report is published.



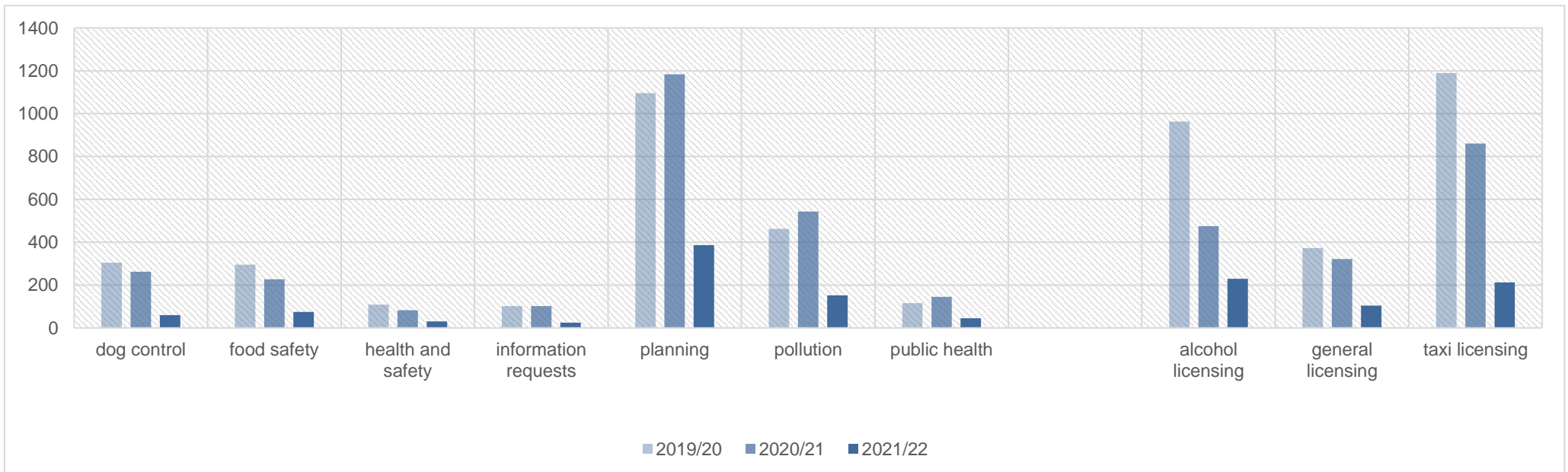
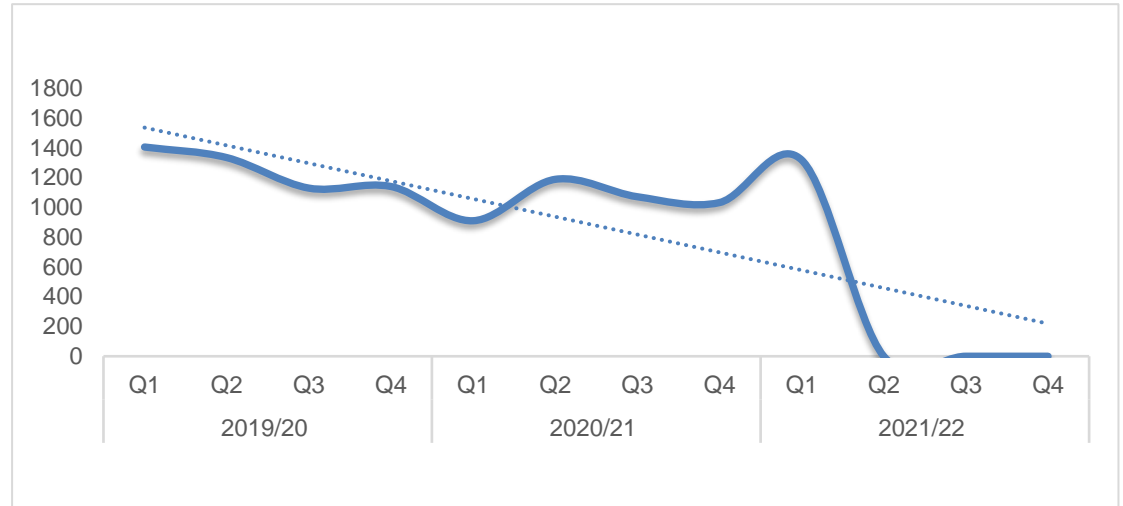
The data on this page relates to Environmental Health and Licensing cases (complaints, enquiries, applications and notifications) where the subject and/or enquirer were located within the Worcester City district.

Note: The chart (below) shows the number of cases recorded against each of the main functions undertaken by WRS. The figure for the current year is a cumulative total based on each of the reporting periods. This figure will continue to increase until the end of year report is published.



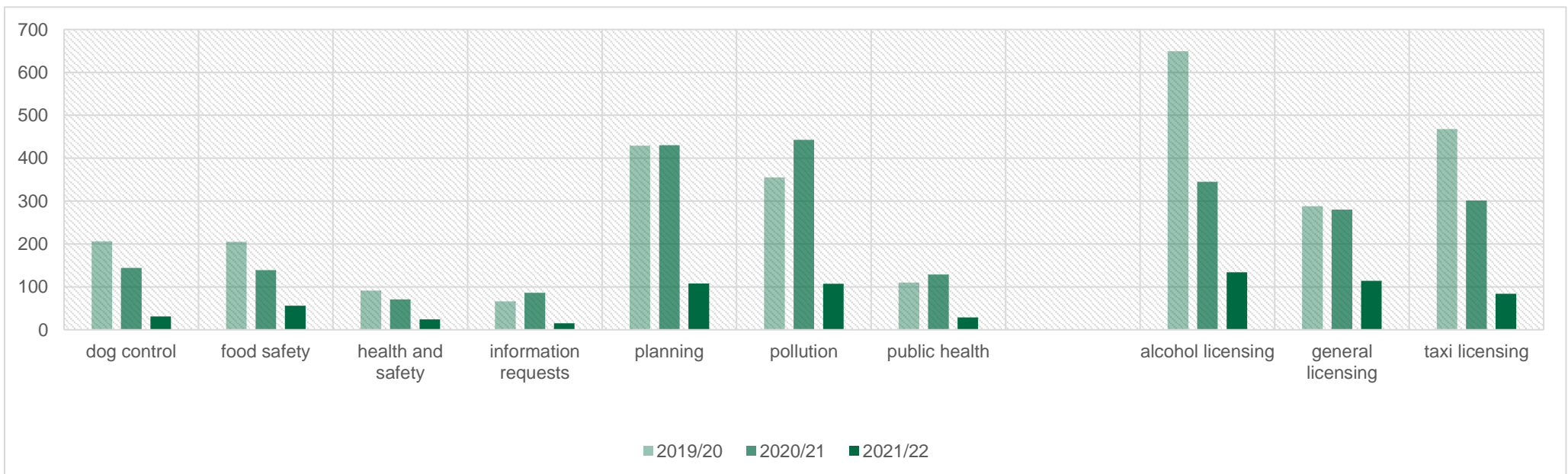
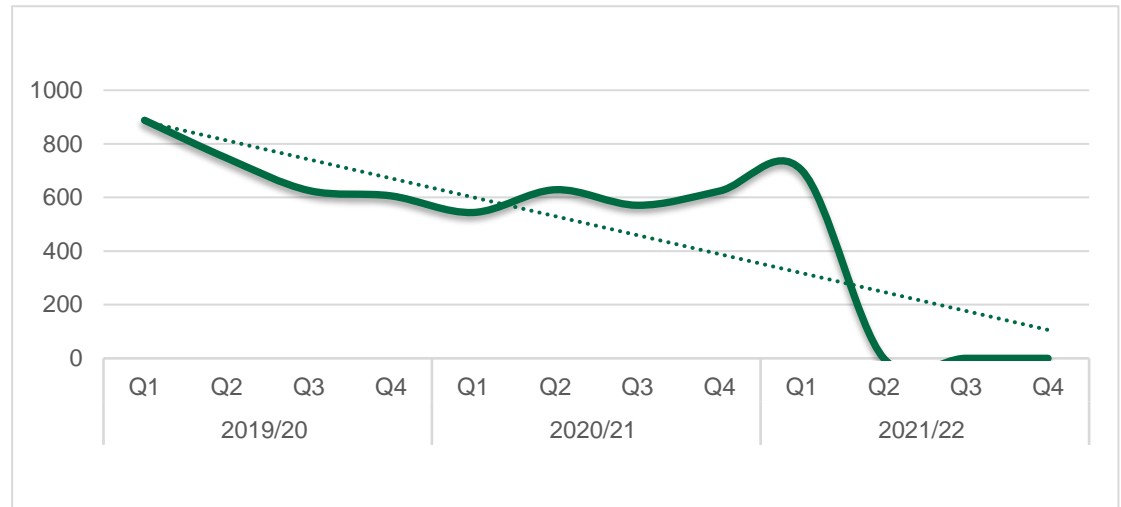
The data on this page relates to Environmental Health and Licensing cases (complaints, enquiries, applications and notifications) where the subject and/or enquirer were located within the Wychavon district.

Note: The chart (below) shows the number of cases recorded against each of the main functions undertaken by WRS. The figure for the current year is a cumulative total based on each of the reporting periods. This figure will continue to increase until the end of year report is published.

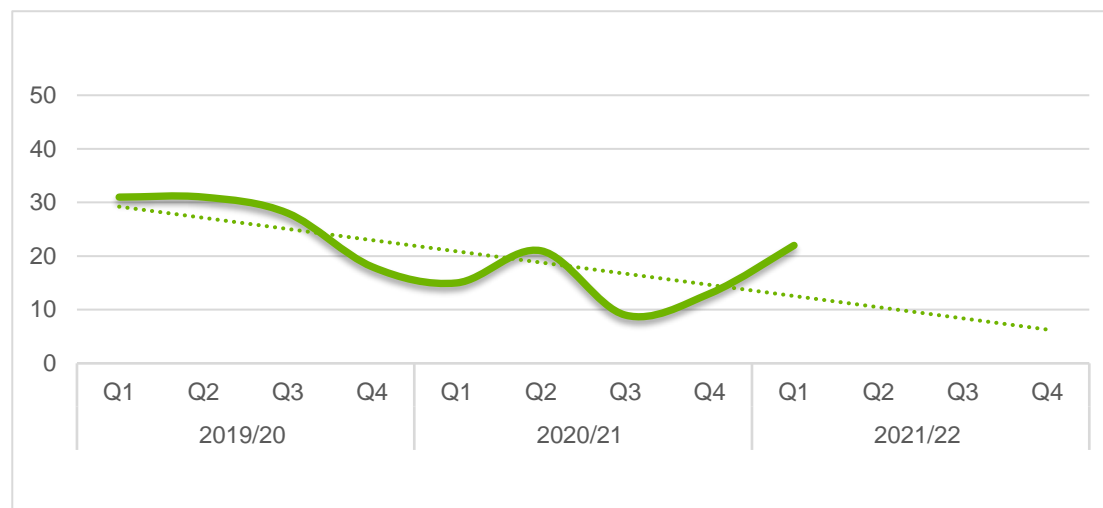


The data on this page relates to Environmental Health and Licensing cases (complaints, enquiries, applications and notifications) where the subject and/or enquirer were located within the Wyre Forest district.

Note: The chart (below) shows the number of cases recorded against each of the main functions undertaken by WRS. The figure for the current year is a cumulative total based on each of the reporting periods. This figure will continue to increase until the end of year report is published.

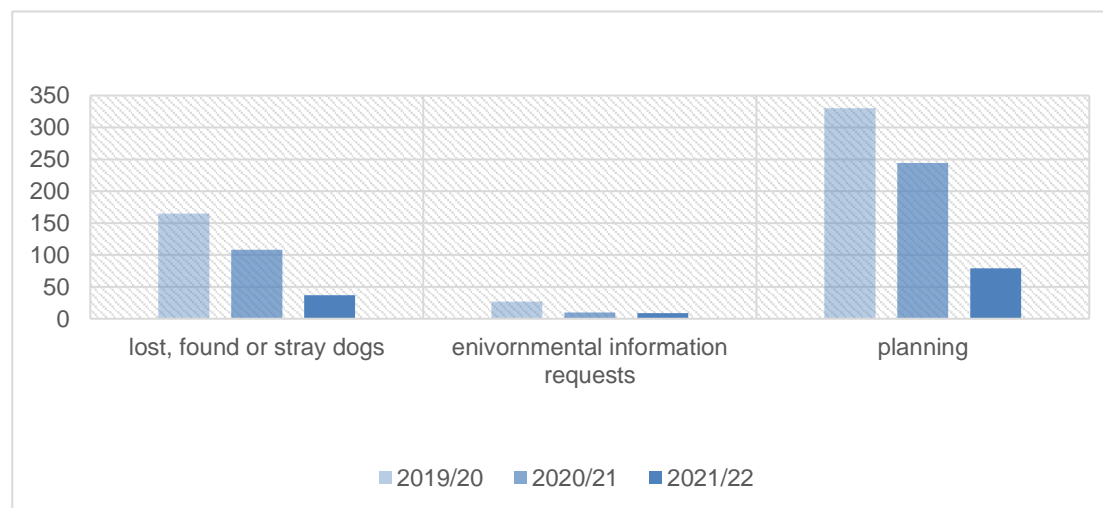
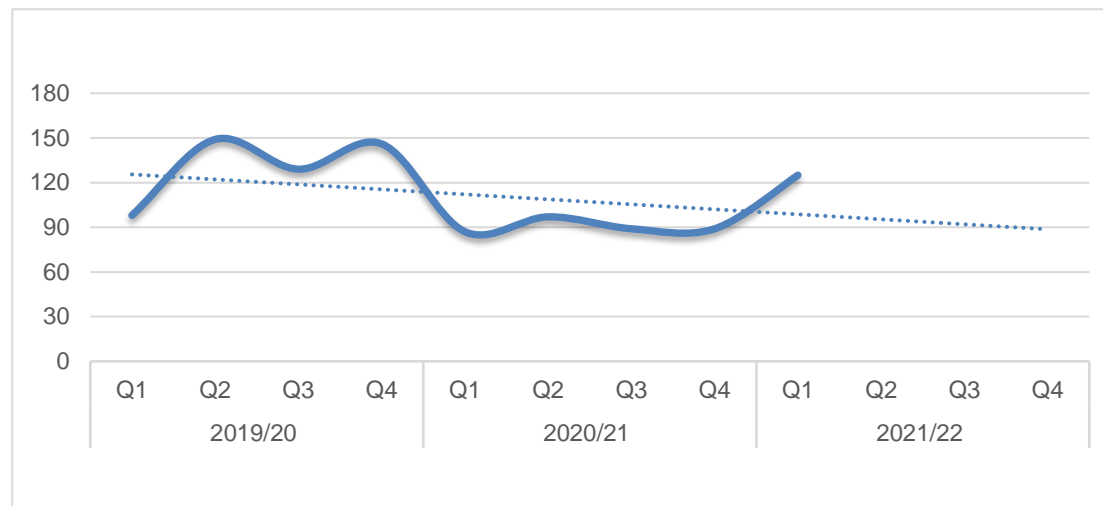


The dog control work undertaken for Cheltenham Borough Council is part of a contract with two other Gloucestershire authorities to deliver the collection, kennelling, returning of dogs to owners and rehoming of stray dog functions. The contract was recently renewed and has been highly successful in reducing stray dog numbers for Cheltenham Borough Council as well as utilising existing WRS resource and expertise. Such arrangements enable economies of scale to be realised and the continued retention of valuable assets to the benefit of Partner Authorities. As with other Gloucestershire and Worcestershire authorities, the numbers of stray dogs are reducing annually. There is concern however that, post lockdown, there will be an increase in the number of abandoned stray dogs as people go back to work and dogs display attachment issues. This is coupled with the inability of rehoming charities to allow prospective new owners access to view dogs available.

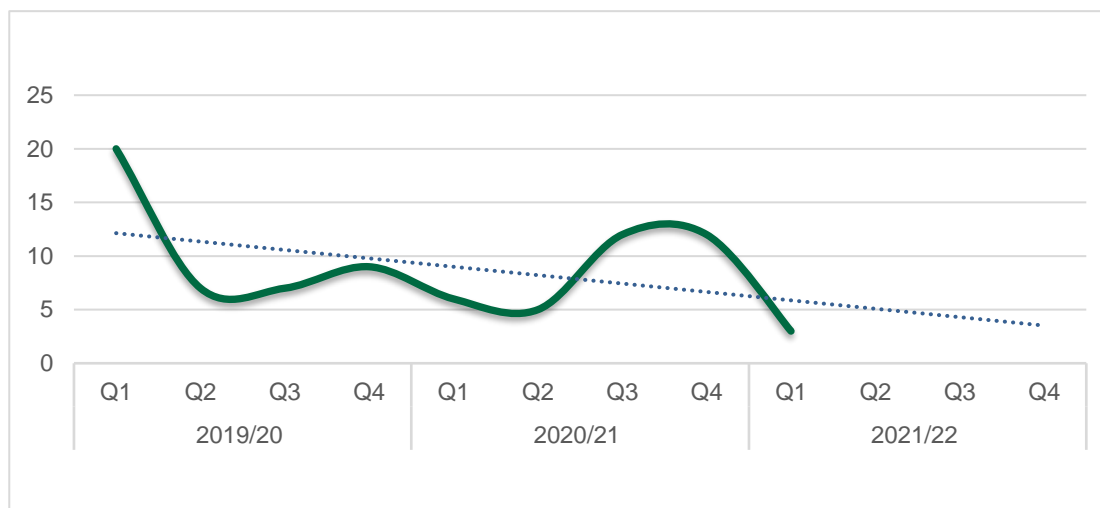


The dog control work undertaken for Gloucester City Council is part of a contract with two other Gloucestershire authorities to deliver the collection, kennelling, returning of dogs to owners and rehoming of stray dog functions. The contract was recently renewed and has been highly successful in reducing stray dog numbers for Gloucester City Council as well as utilising existing WRS resource and expertise. Such arrangements enable economies of scale to be realised and the continued retention of valuable assets to the benefit of Partner Authorities. As with other Gloucestershire and Worcestershire authorities, the numbers of stray dogs are reducing annually. There is concern however that, post lockdown, there will be an increase in the number of abandoned stray dogs as people go back to work and dogs display attachment issues. This is coupled with the inability of rehoming charities to allow prospective new owners access to view dogs available.

Planning work undertaken on behalf of Gloucester City Council was notably higher during quarter one; with the number of consultations completed an increase of 54% compared to 2019/20 and 2020/21.



South Gloucestershire, being located on the outskirts of Bristol, was subject to significant contaminative industries and activities historically. Pressures on brownfield development recently have presented the authority with a large volume of planning applications on significantly contaminated and complex sites. For a number of years now WRS has been asked to assist with this work focusing on the complex sites, so whilst numbers of referrals remain low, when presented they tend to be time consuming and complex. Work demand is dependant on resource availability at South Gloucestershire Council and, as a consequence, WRS is retained to undertake repeat work for them when this becomes an issue.



The dog control work undertaken for Tewkesbury Borough Council is part of a contract with two other Gloucestershire authorities to deliver the collection, kennelling, returning of dogs to owners and rehoming of stray dog functions. The contract was recently renewed and has been highly successful in reducing stray dog numbers for Tewkesbury Borough Council as well as utilising existing WRS resource and expertise. Such arrangements enable economies of scale to be realised and the continued retention of valuable assets to the benefit of Partner Authorities. As with other Gloucestershire and Worcestershire authorities, the numbers of stray dogs are reducing annually. There is concern however that, post lockdown, there will be an increase in the number of abandoned stray dogs as people go back to work and dogs display attachment issues. This is coupled with the inability of rehoming charities to allow prospective new owners access to view dogs available.

Planning work undertaken on behalf of Tewkesbury Borough Council was notably higher during quarter one; with the number of consultations completed an increase of 38% and 60% compared to 2019/20 and 2020/21 respectively.

