

MEETING:	REGULATORY COMMITTEE
DATE:	5 JULY 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	REPORT ON REGULATORY ACTIVITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & TRADING STANDARDS
PORTFOLIO:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & TRADING STANDARDS)

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To note the main regulatory activities of Environmental Health & Trading Standards service for the period April – May 2011 for the following service areas:

- i. Environmental Protection Team,
- ii. Licensing Team,
- iii. Air, Land & Water Team,
- iv. Gypsy Traveller Team

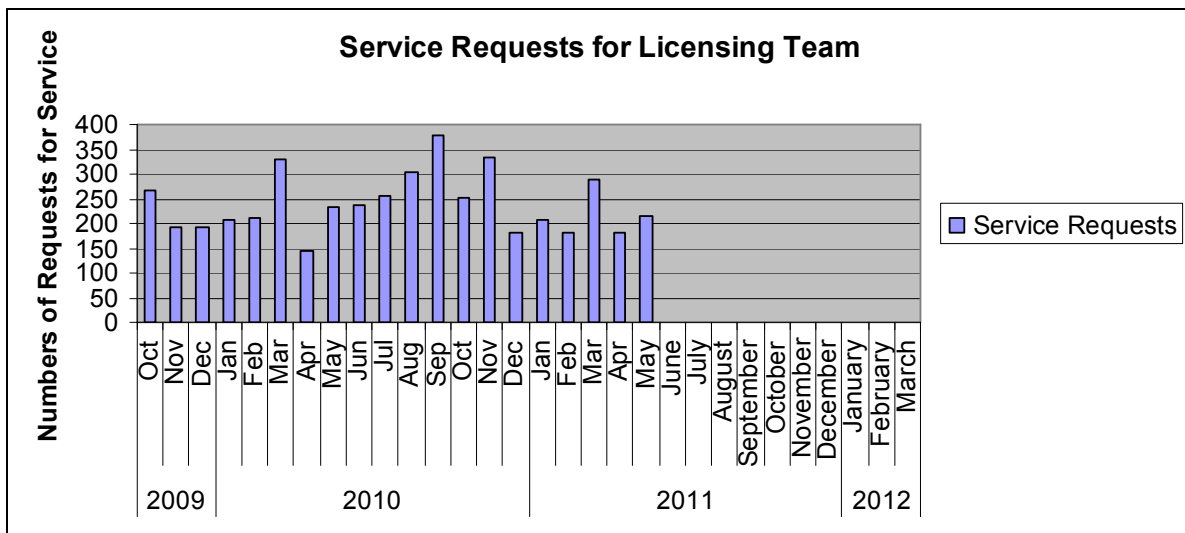
LICENSING TEAM

The Licensing Team encompasses key areas such as:-

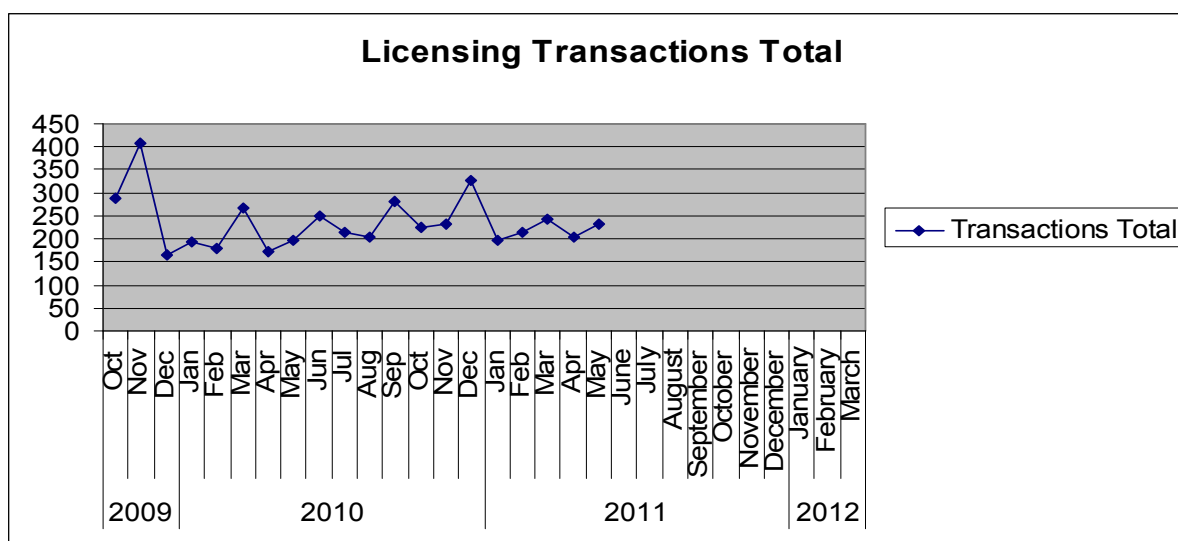
- Taxi Licensing
 - Licensing Act (pubs and clubs and events)
 - General Licensing (animal boarding, street collections etc)
 - Gambling Act Licensing
1. During the period April - May 2011 the Officers' Taxi Panel has met once on 12th April.
 2. During the period April - May 2011 the following matters were referred to committee by the Licensing Team:

2010/11	Reviews held by Sub Committees
April	20 th April – Big Chill Hearing 26 th April – Malhurst Northside Service Station, Hope under Dinmore 26 th April – Dukes head, Leominster – gaming machines 26 th April – Suspension of a taxi driver
May	13 th May – Prince of Wales, Ledbury 13 th May – The Bell Inn, Leominster 13 th May – The Man of Ross Public house, Ross-on-Wye 25 th and 31 st May – Randuni Restaurant, Ledbury – expedited review

3. In addition to the above review work, the Licensing Team deals with many enquiries and complaints from the public. In 2010/11 there were 2997 service requests and by the end of May in 2011 there have so far been 397 service requests, comparing to 378 for this same period last year, therefore work rates remain high. The workloads and trends are shown in the graph below.



4. In 2010/11 there were 2732 licensing transactions (granting of licences and variations etc). By the end of May 2011, we have had 437 transactions comparing to 364 for this same period last year, therefore transaction totals seem to be increasing. The workloads and trends are shown in the graph below.



Night Time Enforcement Work

- The Licensing Team are currently undertaking night time joint enforcement inspections with the police. The first operation is code named 'Verify' and relates to the procedures used by the city's pubs and clubs to challenge underage entry and sales of alcohol. The second operation is called operation "Hansom" whereby the Council's licensing officers and police are checking taxis and challenging taxi drivers who are not using the city's taxi ranks legally.

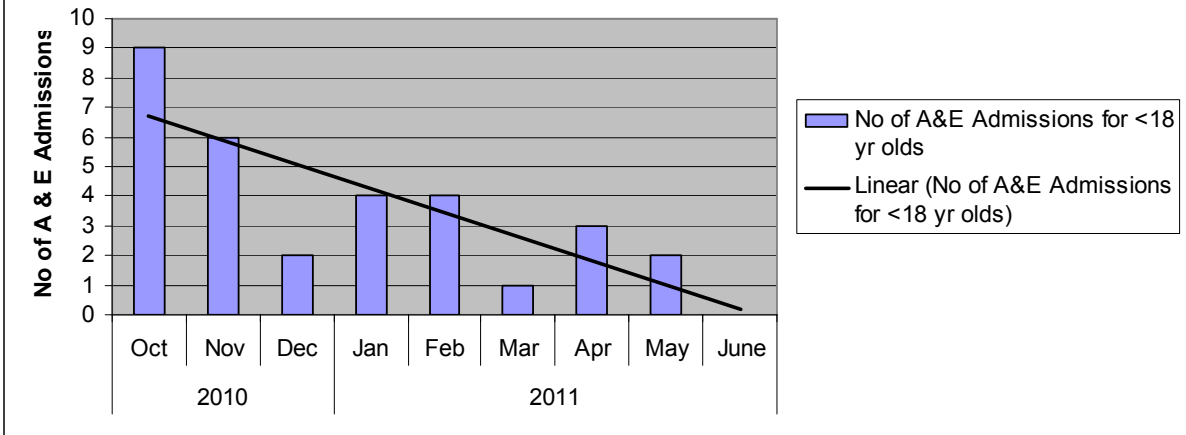
Festivals and Regulatory Work

- A number of festivals during the summer months will require extra regulatory effort in order to ensure compliance. The Big Chill is currently being planned with regular Safety Advisory Group meetings (SAGs). On 20th April 2011, the licensing team prepared and presented two reports for a committee hearing where the residents challenged the Big Chill licence in relation to its noise conditions.

Underage Test purchases

- The Licensing Team worked closely with the police and the Trading Standards Team in the continuation of covert underage test purchase of alcohol in licensed premises.
- The results of this operation imply that there has been a marked improvement, as initially in 2010 the fail rate was as high as 40%, whereas the most recent levels are now as low as 5% or less.
- Although this may be in part due to the licensed trade better detecting covert operations, it is probable that the door staff at the pubs and clubs have markedly improved their challenge of the under-aged, particularly for those pubs that have had their licences reviewed as a consequence. This could be the reason why A & E admissions of the under-aged have significantly fallen since the operations started in December 2010. This is demonstrated in the graph below which uses A & E alcohol related admission data to monitor the number of people under 18 who have sought medical attention from the hospital, typically on Friday and Saturday nights.

Number of Underage A & E Admissions

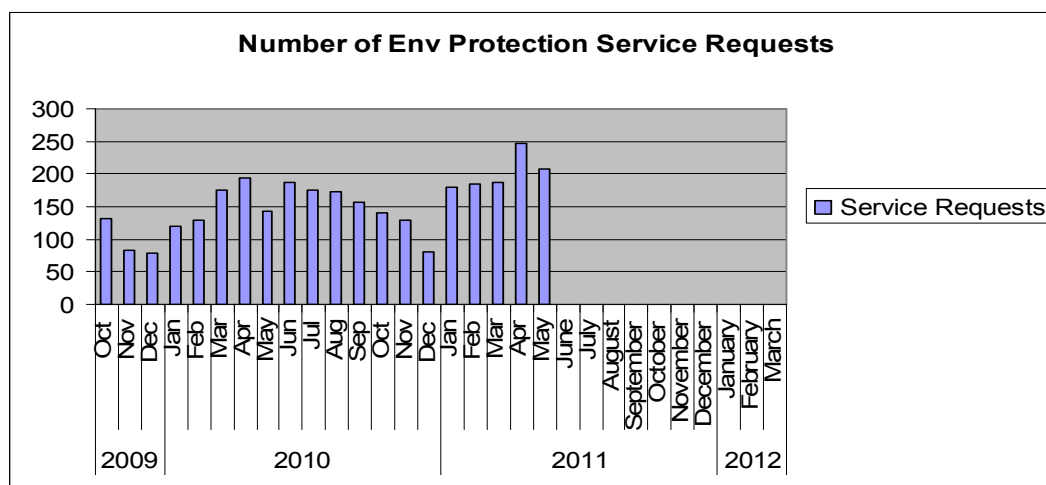


ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TEAM

The Environmental Protection Team encompasses key areas such as:-

- **Noise nuisance** – investigation and service of abatement notices
- **Other nuisances** – e.g. odour, dust, smoke etc
- **High Hedge complaints**
- **Burial of deceased without means**
- **Smoke offences** – e.g. Clean Air Act and dark smoke offences
- **Drainage** – clearance of drains and sewers and broken septic tanks
- **Public Health** – clearance of land or housing with rats, mice or rubbish
- **Planning Consultations**
- **Licensing Consultations**

10. In the calendar year of 2010/11 there were 1932 service requests in total.
11. During the period April - May 2011 there have so far been 455 service requests compared to 338 for the same period last year, therefore workloads have increased.
12. The graph below helps show the seasonality and long term trend compared to the previous year.



13. 172 of the 455 service requests relate to noise which equates to about 38%. This compares to 51% last year, implying that noise is slightly less of a problem so far this year. The team ran a “Noise Action Week” initiative in May 2011, which might have affected this data.
14. During the period April - May 2011 the team has responded to 59 planning consultations and 23 licensing consultations.

AIR, LAND & WATER TEAM (SPECIALIST POLLUTION)

The Air, Land & Water Team encompasses key areas such as:-

- **Closed landfill site management** – monitoring and project managing engineering works etc.
- **Contaminated land** – responses on planning applications and investigations
- **Private and mains water supply** monitoring and regulation
- **Industrial pollution control** – issuing of environmental permits for large factories
- **Air Quality** – monitoring and assessment of air quality across the county
- **Seagulls** – managing the contract for egg and nest removal

Although much of this team's remit is not enforcement based, during May 2011 the following regulatory work was undertaken by this team:

15. During May 2011 there were 17 planning Consultations undertaken for potential contamination.
16. There were 249 landfill monitoring events undertaken, meaning 38.4% of the monitoring programme was achieved. (This reduction was due to work involved with the drilling contract at Stretton Sugwas).
17. There were 95 PWS samples were taken and 4 notices were served.
18. There were 27 PWS risk assessments were programmed and 17 were completed.
19. The seagull control programme was started in April and will continue until the end of August 2011. The contractors report on the number of eggs taken and nests removed and this data implies that the actions taken are still having a marked effect on the colonies in Hereford. This year, industry and business are contributing to the cost of running this service. BBC Hereford & Worcester have featured this service.

GYPSY & TRAVELLER TEAM

Although much of this team's remit is the management of the six council owned gypsy & traveller sites across the county, during the period April May 2011 there were 8 illegal encampments moved on from council owned land by this team.