

Biodiversity Duty Reporting 2011-14

Publication date: 10 September 2015

Publication code: OD-0915-042

Biodiversity and the Care Inspectorate

We are the official body responsible for inspecting standards of care in Scotland. That means we regulate and inspect care services to make sure they meet the right standards. We also carry out joint inspections with other regulators to check how well different organisations in local areas are working to support adults and children. We help ensure social work, including criminal justice social work, meets high standards.

The Care Inspectorate operates from 16 locations across Scotland. Its headquarters are co-located with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) in Dundee. As an office based organisation, with varying office locations and sizes, it is considered that our primary contribution to the conservation of biodiversity is through the efficient use of the resources available and sustainable suppliers.

Our Executive Team, Resources Committee and Board are committed to being an efficient regulator, not only in terms of the way we provide our core function of improving care services throughout Scotland, but also by ensuring the resources we use are sourced in a sustainable way. We invest in more efficient equipment, recycle where possible and look at improvements in our business practices to meet our Carbon Reduction target and improve sustainability.

In order to regulate care services, we need to inspect them. This involves a high degree of travel for Inspection staff but through the continual reduction in the lease car CO₂ emissions threshold, restriction or hire car grades and priority given to the use of public transport where appropriate, we aim to keep the impact to a minimum. We are also promoting the use of bicycles through the introduction of a cycle to work scheme.

Actions Taken, Mainstreaming and Change Monitoring

The Care Inspectorate has taken a variety of approaches and actions in order to meet its Carbon Management targets and improve sustainability since 2011.

Office Based Improvements

The larger offices all have lighting control systems and building management systems, to minimise the waste of energy by the efficient heating and lighting of the offices.

- Voltage Optimisation – to reduce electricity consumption.
- LED Lighting Replacement – to reduce electricity consumption.
- Removal of desk bins – to encourage recycling.
- Cistern Optimisers – to reduce water consumption by toilets.
- Use of recycled paper for all documents and publications.
- Elimination of personal printers to use Multi-functional Devices with mailboxes – to reduce paper use and energy consumption.
- Server Optimisation – reducing the cooling required for server rooms and energy consumption.

- Replacement of monitors with energy efficient ones – reducing energy consumption.

Premises Selection

- When there is a lease break, the needs of the organisation are considered. Being an efficient regulator, we look at:
 - The size of the office needed, including the number of desks required against our desking strategy.
 - Location relative to the services to be visited, to reduce the travel required.
 - Property Condition – the better the condition, the less resources needed to maintain it.
 - Access to public transport – to allow for ease of access for both users and carers but also to reduce the impact on the environment of our staff commuting to the office.
 - Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating – the better the rating, the less resources used in the normal running of the office.

Travel

- Travel is strictly regulated with approval required from line managers for all but core activities. The expectation is that public transport will be used where possible.
- Improved, desk-based, videoconferencing facilities for remote offices or those managing staff in remote locations, reducing the need to travel for meetings and supervision events.
- Lease Car option with reducing CO₂ emissions threshold to make necessary journeys more efficient.
- Cycle to Work Scheme allowing cheaper access to bicycles for staff to cycle to work where possible.

Changing How We Work

- Looking to move from national, specialist teams to local specialist teams, reducing the business mileage for staff, allowing them to be more productive, reduce fuel usage and the knock-on improvements from that.
- Inspection Planning – using computer-based planning tools to plan inspections and promote the ability to monitor travel..

The improvements we make are monitored through our annual sustainability reporting requirements, measuring in our performance against targets set in our Carbon Management Plan.

Working in Partnership

We have registered with Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, attend Resource Efficient Scotland training sessions and work with waste contractors to ensure that we recycle as much of our waste products as possible in local areas.

Communications

Resource Efficiency is in our aims and objectives as published in and our Corporate Plan for 2014-18 as Strategic Objective 6 - To perform effectively and efficiently as an independent scrutiny and improvement body and work in partnership with others. This is central to all our activities, business cases and process changes. We also have a Healthy Working Lives group that promotes all aspects of healthy working and that has included pedometer challenges, to encourage staff to get out and walk more and we also have an annual photographic competition for staff which features Scottish wildlife and countryside.

Our digital-first approach to publications means we can reduce the use of paper and reduce waste.

Highlights and Aims for the Future

Our highlight with the change from national to local teams. After carbon costs associated with having offices, e.g. gas, electricity, water and recycling, travel is our largest. The reduction in staff travel in the performance of their duties and management of staff should have a significant effect on our sustainability and contribute to an improved environment for all.

For the future, we are hoping to get more involved with local and national biodiversity initiatives for example the Bumblebee Conservation Society and change some of the planting we have at our Head Office to include specific plant species to encourage bumblebees and butterflies.

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