



Establishment Licence Holder's Newsletter - December 2016

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to speak to many of you at the Establishment Licence Holder's Forum at the LASA meeting, Wembley. Such fora continue to be important for us as we discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. In particular, I thought the new Establishment Licence Holders (ELH) induction meeting was particularly successful in providing occasion for newer ELHs to get insights from experienced holders and also discuss specific matters with them.

At the ELH Forum this April a key topic we discussed was the resourcing of the inspectorate. I was pleased to announce earlier this year that we had recruited three new inspectors, taking our number to 20, and that we would be initiating a three month induction programme finishing before Christmas. We took a deliberate decision to involve a number of you, as well as other stakeholders, in delivering the programme and to give you the opportunity to explain your business and views. We have been delighted with your generosity, with the quality of the training provided and the care that clearly went into your preparation for the meetings. The discussions and sessions you have provided have been invaluable and will ensure we continue to inspect from a position of understanding the sectors we regulate.

We are likely to once again request your generosity as we are now in the process of recruiting two further inspectors, one to replace an inspector who left in November and a second to increase our capacity and resilience. We will contact you again when the appointments have been confirmed – currently their starting date with us is likely to be 1st May 2017.

As with any changes in staffing complement, there is an inevitable reapportioning of work. We are now finalising plans for the three new inspectors' responsibilities that will come into effect from December. The transition to the new arrangements should, in most cases, be completed by Easter. I am sure that for those of you where we have made changes to your assigned inspector there may be some disappointment since you will have built a strong working relationship with them. Nevertheless, maintaining some level of inspector change is part of any good regulatory system to ensure fresh eyes, ideas and contact. I can assure you that all members of the inspectorate team will seek to make this transition as smooth as possible and, where we have made changes, you can look forward to forging new professional relationships.

Should you be one of the establishments affected, your assigned inspector will inform you ahead of the formal change over.

Best wishes

Sue

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