



Ministry
of Defence



Defence Equipment and Support
Maple 0a, #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Your Reference:



Our Reference:
FOI2014/05296

Date:
15th October 2014

Dear

Your email dated 17th September 2014 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

Copies of all presentations made at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Local Liaison Committee meeting held on 17 September 2014.

Please also provide a copy of the minutes of the above meeting and any handouts given out to attendees at the meeting.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relevant to your request. Enclosed are the following documents:

- ◆ Environment Agency Report to the AWE Local Liaison Committee September 2014.
- ◆ Agenda for the 78th Meeting of the AWE Local Liaison Committee dated 17 September 2014.
- ◆ Chairman's opening remarks to the AWE Local Liaison Committee dated 17th September 2014.
- ◆ Environment, Safety, Health and Quality (ESHQ) Report May-June-July 14 Data Pack.

At the time your request was received, the minutes of the meeting had not been written, so were not held by the MOD. Under Section 16(1) of the Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to requesters, therefore, I can advise you that the minutes of the 78th Meeting of the AWE Local Liaison Committee will be published on the AWE website by the end of October 2014, and can be viewed at:

http://www.awe.co.uk/aboutus/Local_Liaison_Committee_b1478.html

Under Section 21(1) of the Act, the following documents are reasonably accessible to you by other means.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield 1st April to 30 June 2014 has been published and can be viewed on the ONR website at: <http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/2014/awe-2.pdf>.

Defence Equipment & Support

The Environment, Safety, Health and Quality (ESHQ) Report January to March 2014 has been published on the AWE website and can be viewed at:

http://www.awe.co.uk/publications_3732d1d.html

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.



**78th Meeting of the AWE Local Liaison Committee
09.30 am Wednesday 17th September 2014
10C10, AWE Burghfield**

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Actions from the last meeting**
- 4. Minutes of the 77th meeting**
- 5. Chairman's remarks**
- 6. Environmental, Safety & Health Update**
- 7. Site Update**

BREAK

- 8. Ask the Regulators**
- 9. Joint West Berkshire Council / AWE presentation**
- 10. AOB**
- 11. Dates for next meetings**
- 12. Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) update - MOD**
- 13. Lunch**

AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 17th September 2014

Chairman's opening remarks

1. Introduction

Welcome to the 78th meeting of the LLC. We have another full agenda covering some important topics and including presentations from Caroline Richardson from West Berks on the Aldex exercise and a return visit by the SDP project team, Linda Eadie and Nigel Parsons who will be updating us on the public consultation exercise and specifically arrangements in hand for the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites. Can I also welcome members from the AWE senior leadership team who will be presenting later this morning - Paul Rees, Mark Hedges, Geoff Druce, Lesley Grimes and Owen Rourke - together with representatives from our regulators, Andrew Pembroke is here from the Environment Agency and Matty Cowen from ONR is due to join us later this morning.

We also welcome emergency planning officers Tom Payne from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Brett Dyson from Reading Borough Council who are here to observe today's meeting.

2. Apologies & Actions from the last meeting

3. Approval of the 77th Meeting minutes

4. LLC membership changes

Cllr Jenny Williams has recently moved from Silchester to Pamber Heath Parish. We are waiting to hear who the new elected representative for Silchester will be. Our thanks go to Jenny for her support over her LLC membership period.

5. Chairman's update

We will be providing updates on a number of topical issues during the course of the meeting including updates on:

- Licensed Instrument 511
- Improvements to our Fire Detection Systems
- An update about the Wool for Weapons protest and
- An update on the Pangbourne Pipeline

AWE News

New Managing Director appointed

Last week AWE ML Board announced the appointment of Kevin Bilger as the new Managing Director, for AWE plc. Kevin joins the organisation from Lockheed Martin (LM), where he was most recently vice president, Programmes and Quality for Space Systems Company

Rob Fletcher takes on the role of AWE Deputy Managing Director.

AWE welcomes its largest intake of female apprentices

I am delighted to report that AWE has welcomed an increase in the number of female apprentices joining its Skills Academy this year. The number has increased from 5 to 15% of the total intake, representing seven out of the 45 new joiners. The work AWE's Skills Academy has done with local schools has been credited for this increase.

AWE's Skills Academy is an area of our business where females have traditionally been under-represented, so I'm delighted by this increase. Clearly there is more work to be done but this is a real step in the right direction.

I am pleased to say that the number of females working right across AWE has continued to grow over the last five years with women now accounting for 21.4 per cent of our total workforce. The largest increase during that period was 0.7 per cent between 2013 and 2014.

AWE staff recognised by MOD CSA Commendation Scheme

We are also particularly proud to report that of the 16 nominations for the MoD's Chief Scientific Advisor Commendation Scheme, 10 were successful. This scheme recognises AWE staff for their exceptional performance, effort and commitment within the defence, science and technology community.

A ceremony was held at MOD Main Building, London, with presentations made by MOD Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Vernon Gibson.

British Safety Council Awards

Consistently high standards of health and safety management on our new build construction sites have resulted in AWE being awarded the British Safety Council, Sword of Honour for the third year running.

AWE has also won five British Safety Council five star Awards for Occupational Health and Safety Management and a British Safety Council five star award for Environmental Management.

Community Matters

Since June, AWE's Community Committee can report £4,500 in donations have been made to local charities and in sponsorship of our staff in their individual fund raising activities. Local charities which have benefited include the Reading Association for the Blind, Basingstoke based St Michael Hospice, and The Pink Place, a local charity which provides free services to support cancer patients.

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This year has also seen record amounts of money being raised for charity by the AWE Team Challenge. Earlier this month, over 120 staff took part in this annual cross-company team development event, raising over £19,000 through their efforts. The money raised will be shared between the Team Challenge team's chosen charity, Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, and AWE's nominated Charities of the Year, Tadley First Responders and MacMillan Cancer Support.

As well as local charity fund raising, our staff have been continuing the important work we do with local schools to inspire young people in the important STEM subjects (Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths). Our scientists and engineers took part in a number of activities during the summer term. One such project, led by some of our graduates, was to organise and facilitate the annual Chain Reaction event. Thanks go to Cllr Roger Gardiner (in his capacity as Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane) and Councillor Mollie Lock, Mortimer and Stratified Parish for being part of the judging panel on the day. And for those of you who have never experienced a Chain Reaction, we thought you might like to see this short clip of the day.

And finally, at the last meeting we spoke about an independent stakeholder survey which was being carried out to seek the views of LLC members, local residents, schools and community groups. The aim of the survey was to gauge local perceptions about AWE, the effectiveness of our community programme and more generally our communication and engagement approach with the wider community.

This research is now complete and the results will be presented to the LLC at the December meeting.

Ends.

Radioactive Substances

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We check for compliance with the permits by making regular inspections of AWE facilities.

During the year we will inspect facilities to ensure that the company complies with the conditions of the Environmental Permits issued to AWE for disposing of radioactive wastes and using some radioactive sources. Since the last LLC meeting in June we have conducted inspections on the Hydrodynamics facility, a review of the Radioactive Waste Management Arrangements (RWMA) and a Radioactive Waste Quality Checking activity. We conduct our inspections following a programme developed for the year. Our programme covers areas where we have specific regulatory interest, including operational and decommissioning facilities, as well as new facilities currently being developed at Aldermaston and Burghfield.

We work together with other regulators, such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) whenever possible and particularly where there is an area of joint regulatory interest, such as the management and disposal of radioactive waste. We share information with other regulators to facilitate efficient regulation.

We produce assessment reports (Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports or RASCARs) for all our compliance work regulating radioactive substances, including checking discharge reports. These are available on our Public Register at our offices in Wallingford.

We have attended a range of regulatory interaction meetings with AWE covering current operations, development projects, waste management and decommissioning activities.

Radioactive waste quality checking activity.

We carried out a Waste Quality Checking activity. This work characterised wastes being produced from a range of facilities at AWE and we compared the results obtained by our contractors against AWE's waste monitoring, fingerprinting and sentencing results. This is the culmination of a long term project undertaken by AWE to improve its waste characterisation and sentencing procedures. Our contractor's report is being prepared.

Pangbourne Pipeline

We met with AWE to discuss the Pangbourne pipeline decommissioning. The pipeline presents a very low hazard to the public and is under surveillance to demonstrate it remains that way. Options for the management of the removal of the pipeline have been produced by AWE and trials on pipeline removal have been carried out on site. We support AWE's proposed activity to engage with stakeholders and landowners before decommissioning starts; this will allow the various options considered to be explained to the stakeholders and facilitate feedback. The MOD has no plan to require AWE to remove the pipeline in the near future; as the pipeline presents a low hazard. We are however pressing for detailed information on the options and a BAT assessment to support this.

Radioactive Waste Management Arrangements. (RWMA)

As part of the Environment Agency's (EA) Themed Inspection Programme, we conducted a series of interviews with the site director, senior managers and facility staff to assess compliance with those parts of the permit relevant to Radioactive Waste Management Arrangements (RWMAs). The inspections were assisted by the ONR and DNSR. The inspection focused on AWE's strategic planning for management of all wastes, and radioactive waste in particular, in an integrated way. We found the RWMA to be robust and we identified a number of areas of good practice. However, we issued a non-compliance for failure to comply with a general management condition of operating with sufficient competent persons to ensure compliance with the radioactive substances permits. We formed this view following a review of the environmental baseline document,

where key positions are required to ensure compliance with permit requirements. AWE has been without several baseline roles for some months, in particular some Facility Waste Officers, both Radioactive Waste Specialists and the Head of Environment role. AWE is taking steps to cover these baseline roles and appoint personnel where appropriate.

Other Environmental Permits

We permit other operations at AWE to protect the environment, including activities for generating power & steam, work using non-ferrous metals and the quality of surface water discharged from Aldermaston and Burghfield.

We had a meeting with AWE to discuss the next phase of installing further uninterruptable power supplies to a facility to allow safe and secure shut down of processes in the event of a national grid failure. This is part of the permitted combustion process and a permit variation will be required.

National Arrangements for Incidents involving Radioactivity (NAIR)

Radioactive materials are used for many purposes in industry, medicine and research and there are thousands of transport movements associated with these activities each year. Occasionally, things go wrong. NAIR was set up to protect the public from hazards arising from the use and transport of radioactive materials and in situations where no formal contingency plans exist. NAIR provides quick and widely available assistance to the police and other emergency services where no radiation expert is otherwise available. Assistance is provided from hospitals, the nuclear industry and government departments. AWE is part of the NAIR scheme and on 18th May AWE was contacted by the Police for advice. After appropriate safeguards AWE recovered the material and safely secured it until we could arrange for safe and secure disposal which we have now done.

Publications

There is a recent publication that may be of interest.

- The government has recently published a White Paper setting out the UK Government's framework for managing higher activity radioactive waste in the long term through geological disposal. This will be implemented alongside ongoing interim storage and supporting research.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/sy>

For more information contact:

Name **Andrew Pembroke**

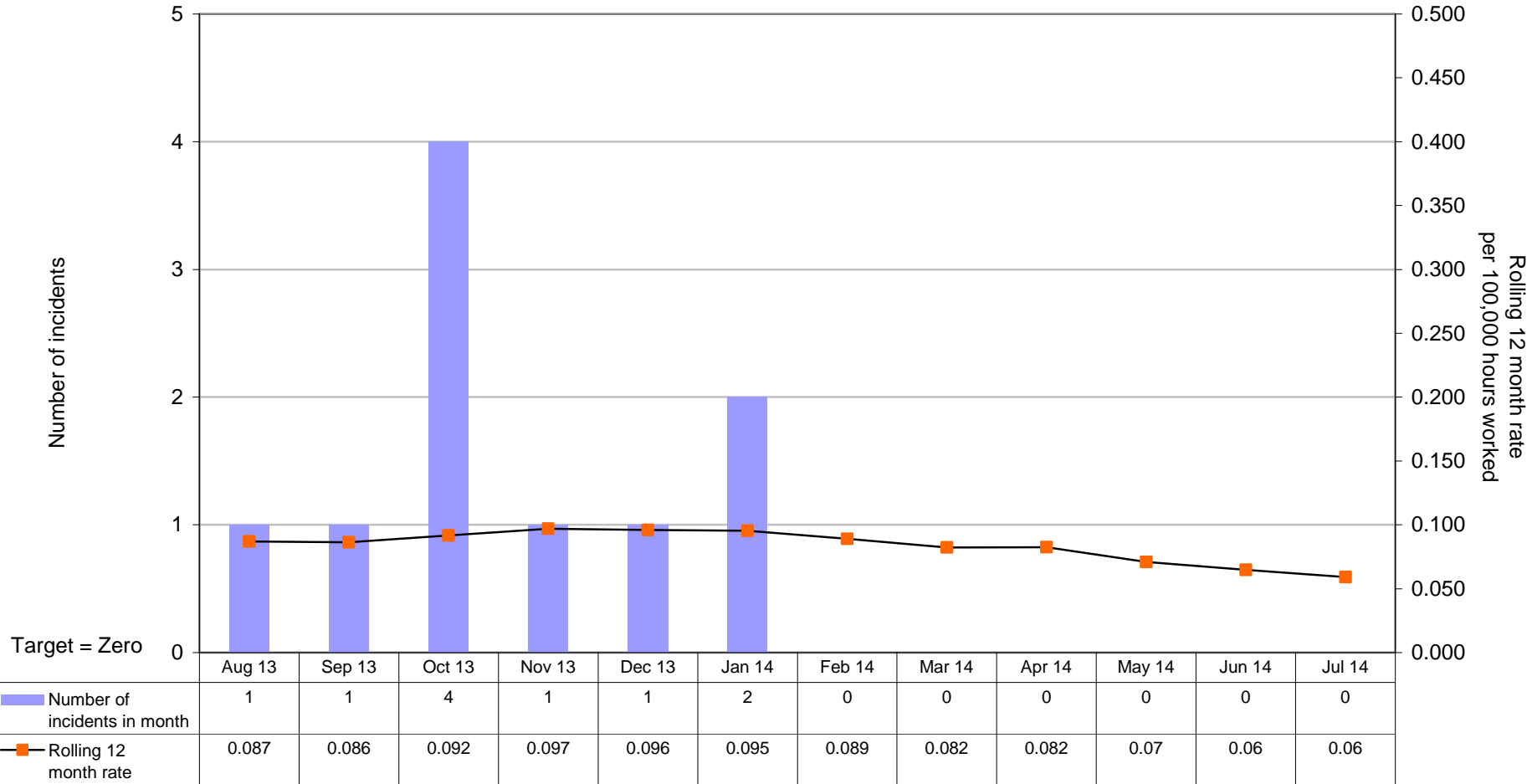
Job Title **Nuclear Regulator**

E-mail **andrew.pembroke@environment-agency.gov.uk**

Environment, Safety, Health and Quality (ESH&Q) Report

RIDDER Total Reportable Incidents

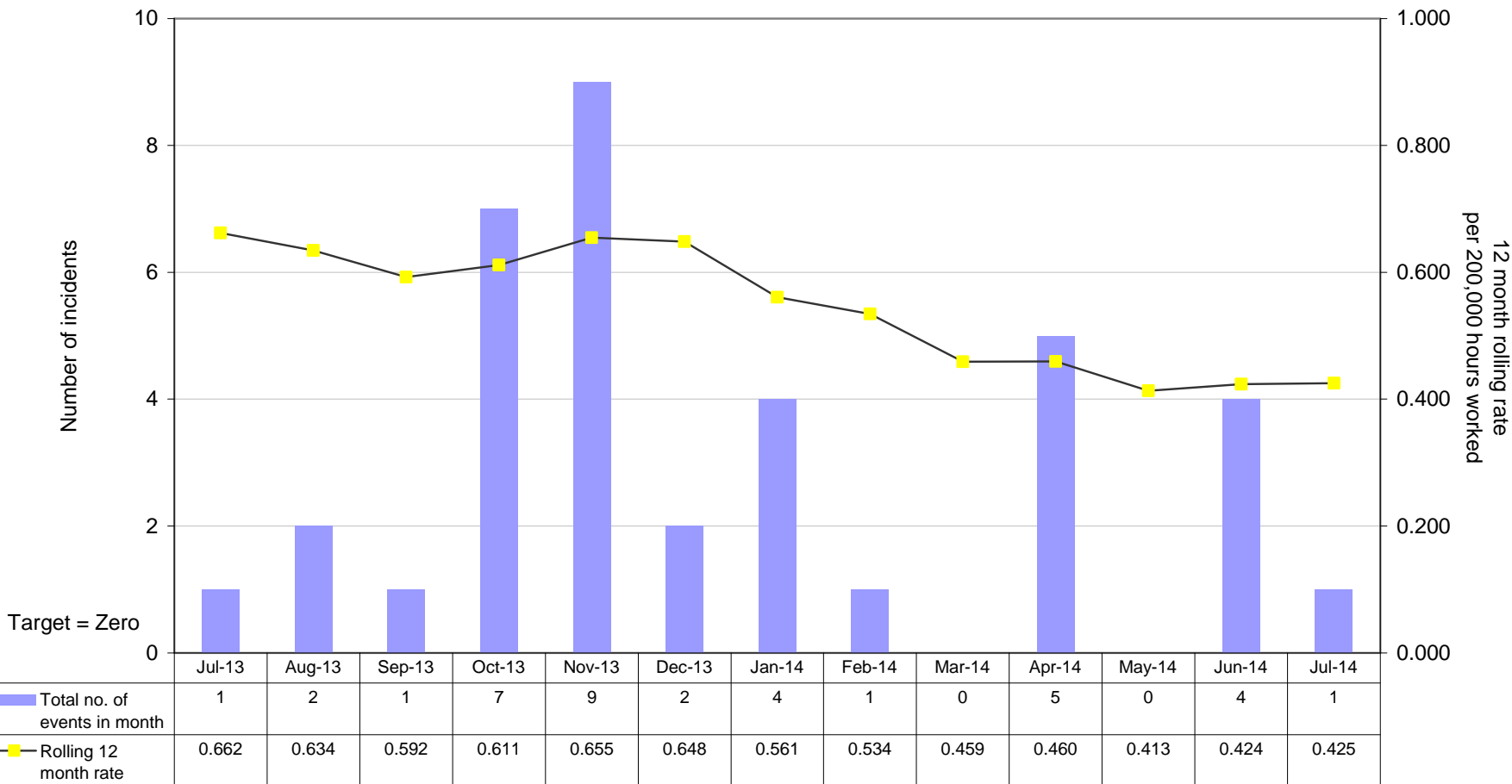
by number of events in month and rolling 12 month rate



Reduce work related injuries and ill-health, and improve employee wellbeing

OSHA Recordable Incidents

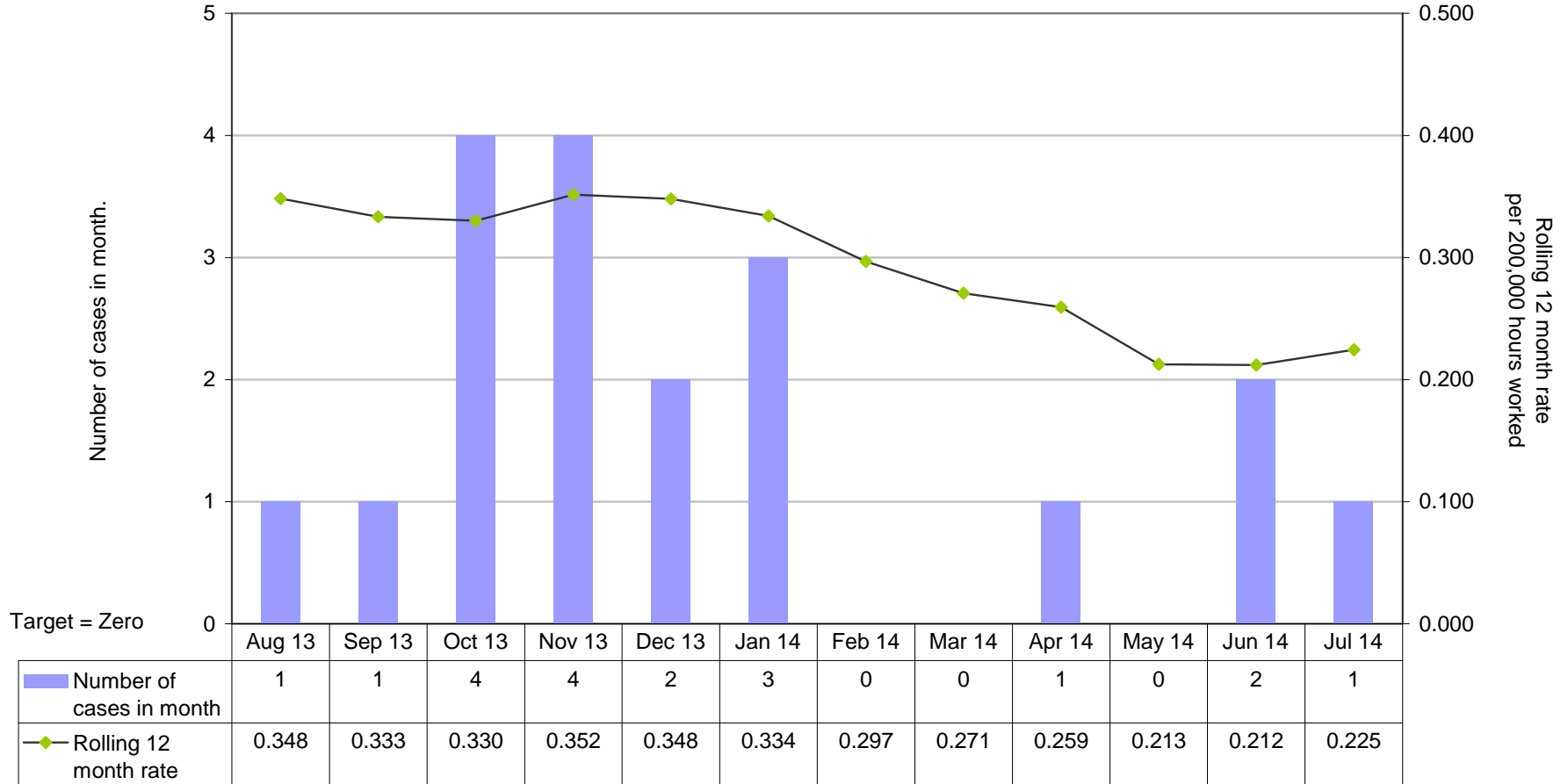
by number of events in month and 12 month rolling rate



Reduce work related injuries and ill-health, and improve employee wellbeing

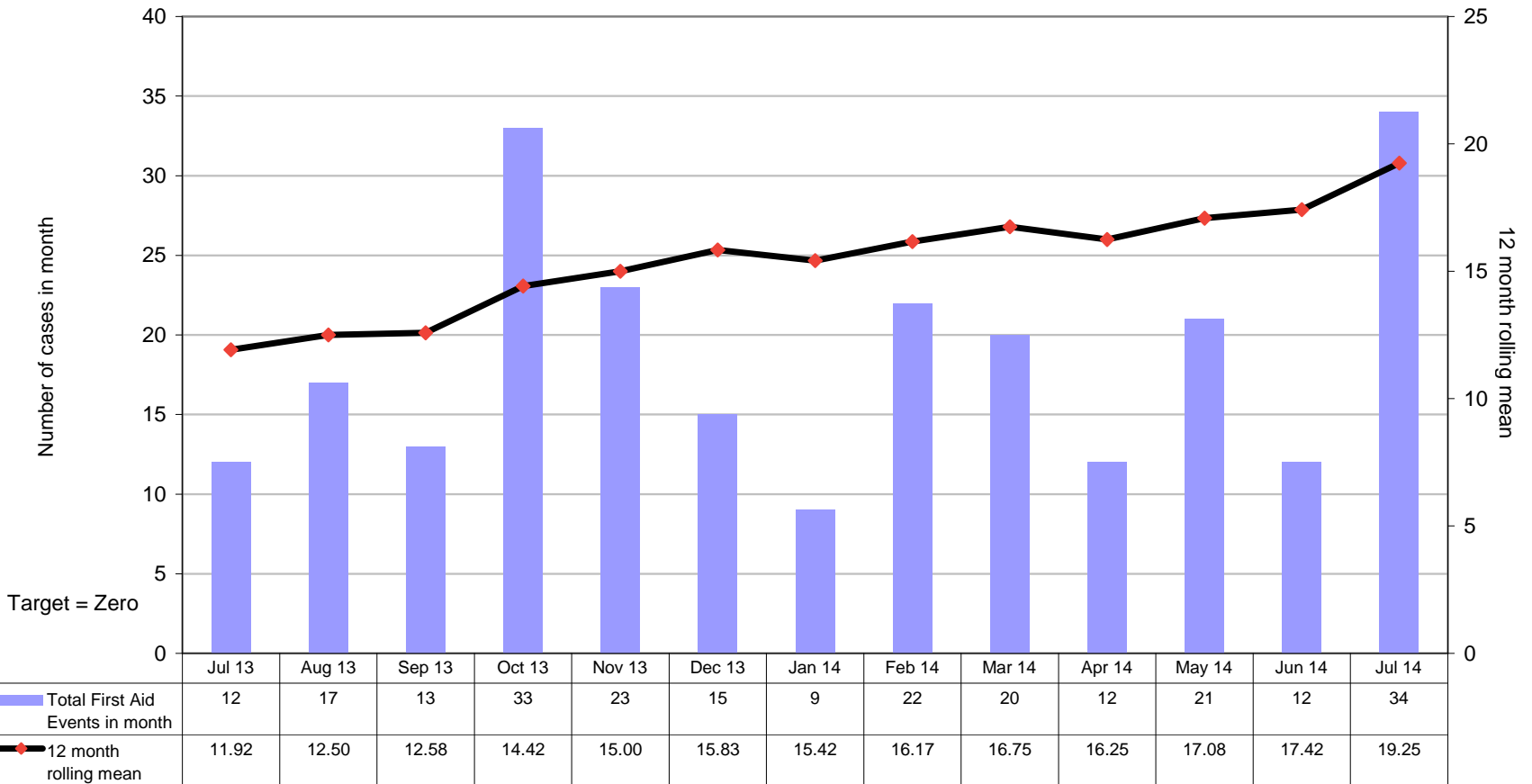
OSHA Days Away Cases

by number of cases in month and rolling 12 month rate

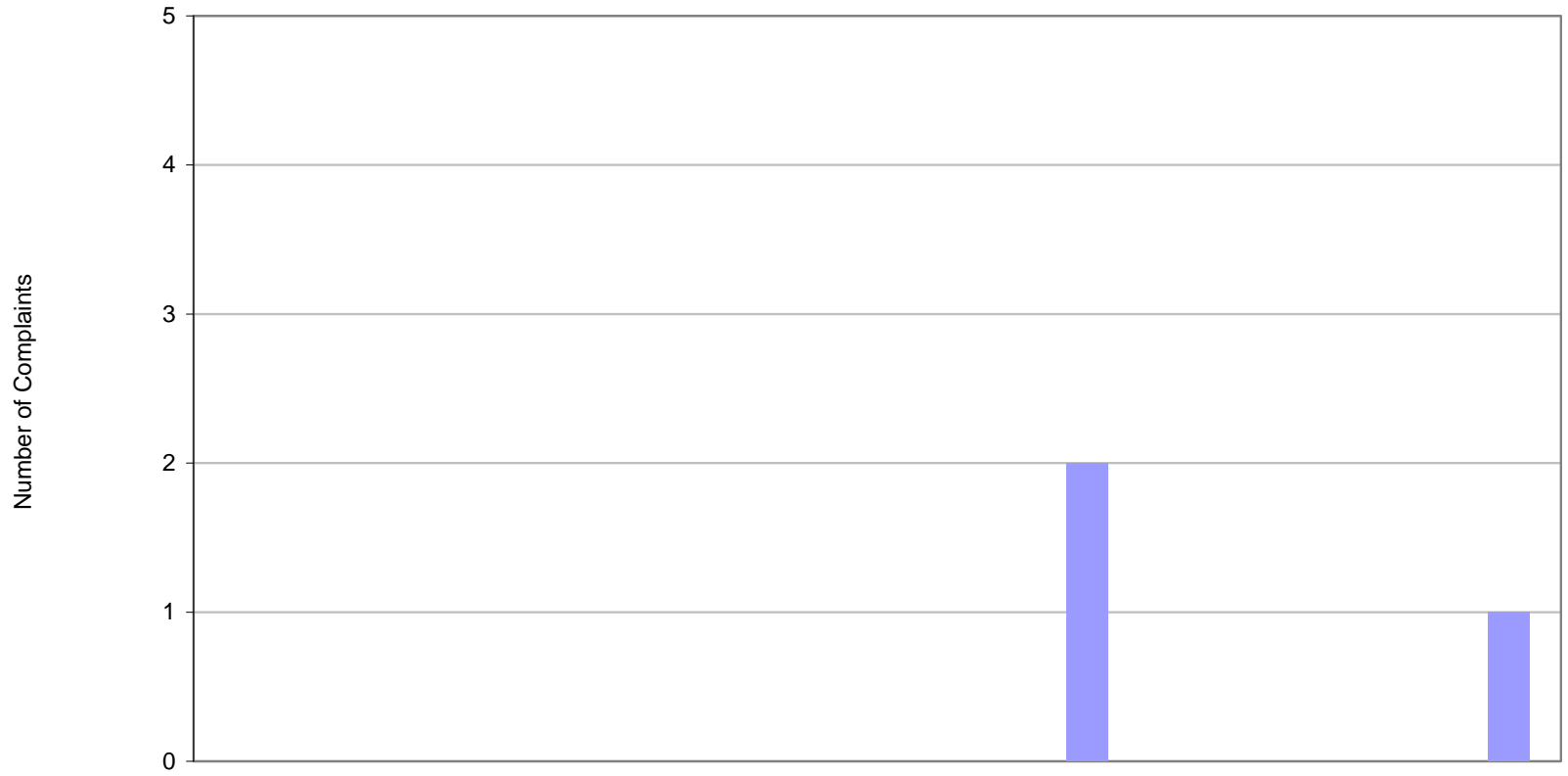


First Aid Injuries

by number of events in month and 12 month rolling mean



Number of Community Complaints Received

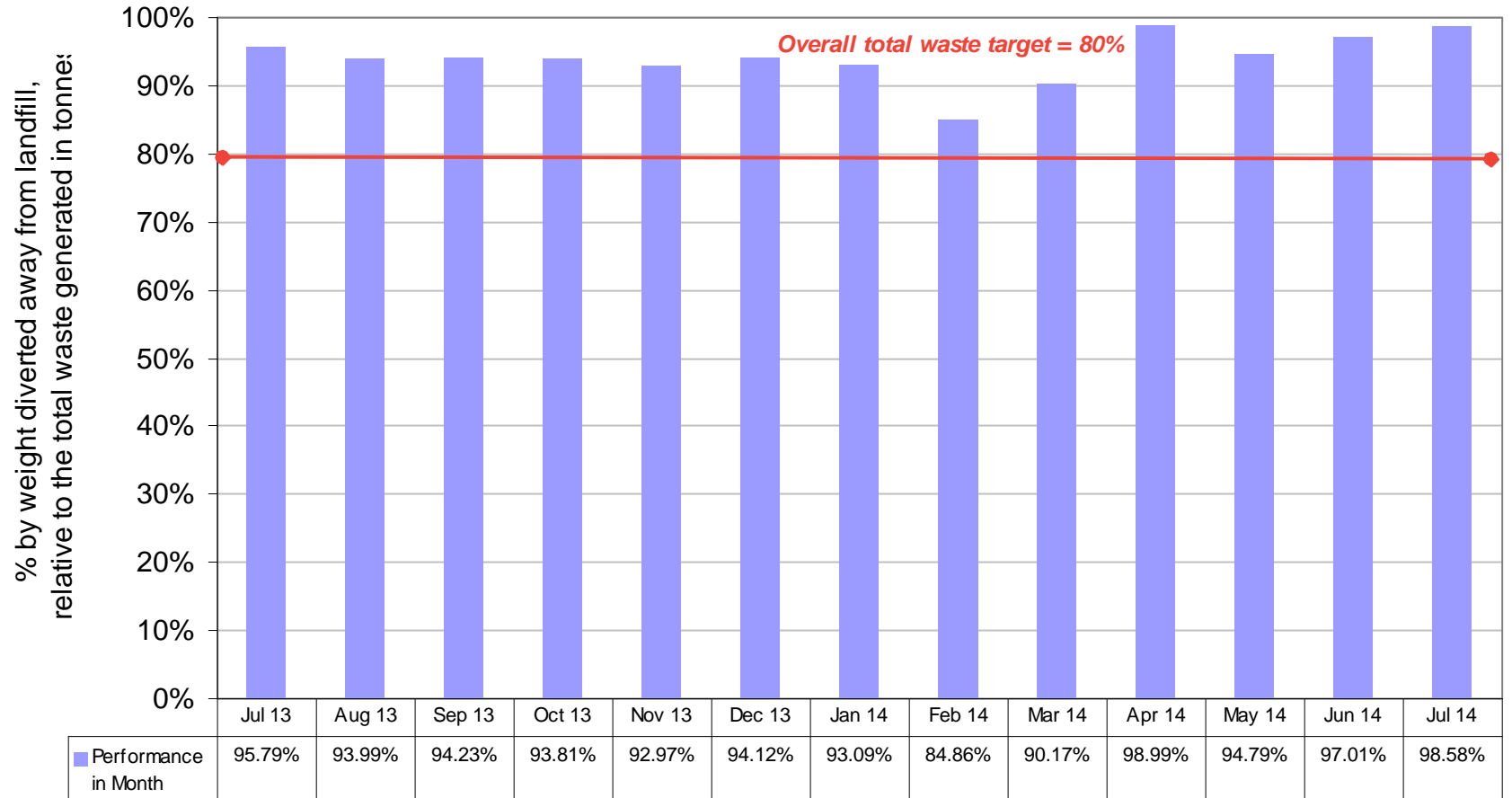


	Jul 13	Aug 13	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14
Total Complaints in month	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1

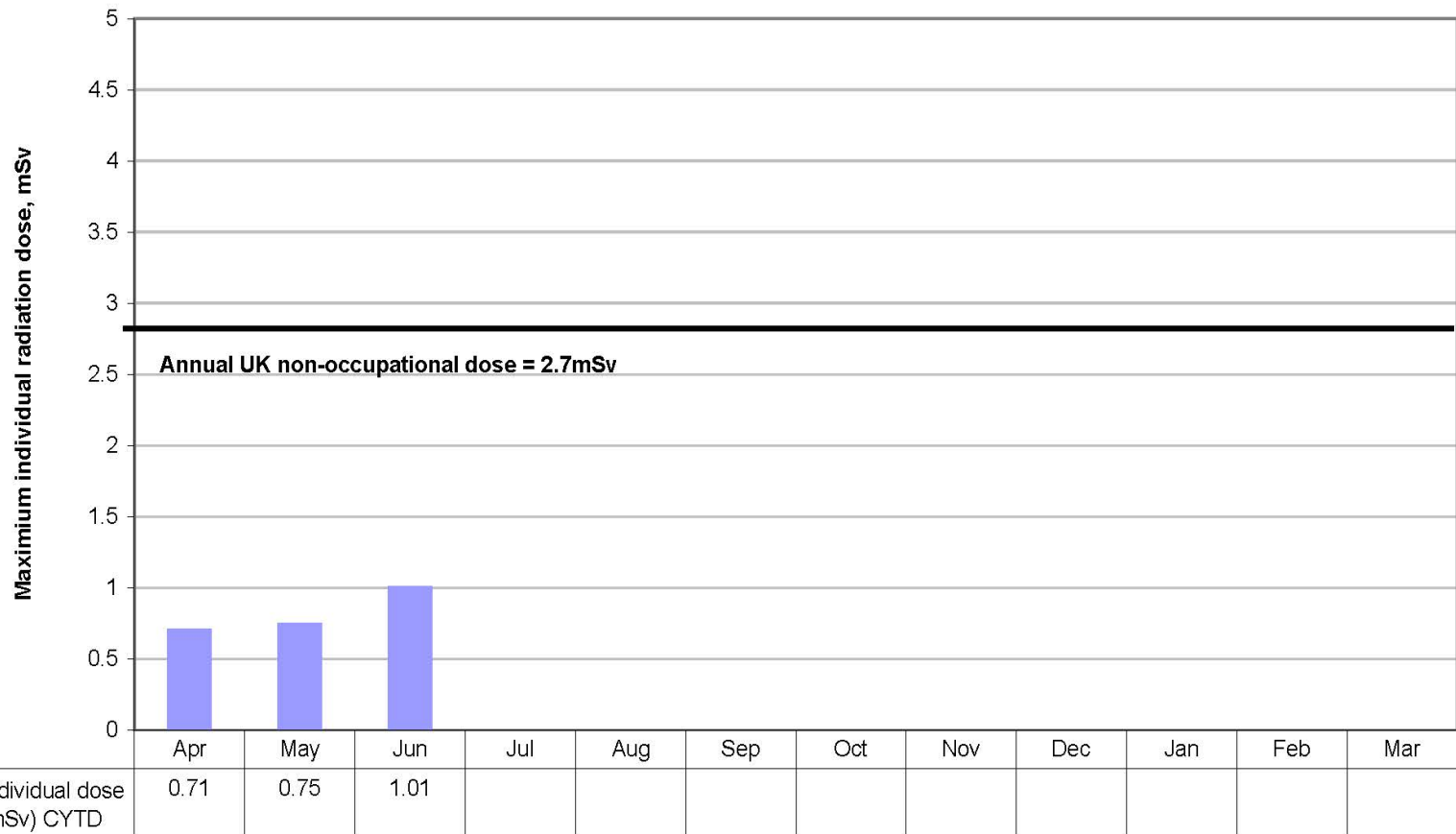
Reduce environmental impact

Overall total waste diverted away from landfill

(and therefore available for reuse, recycle or recovery)



Reduce work related injuries and ill-health, and improve employee wellbeing
Maximum individual radiation dose against the anticipated work program
 Contract Year 15 to date

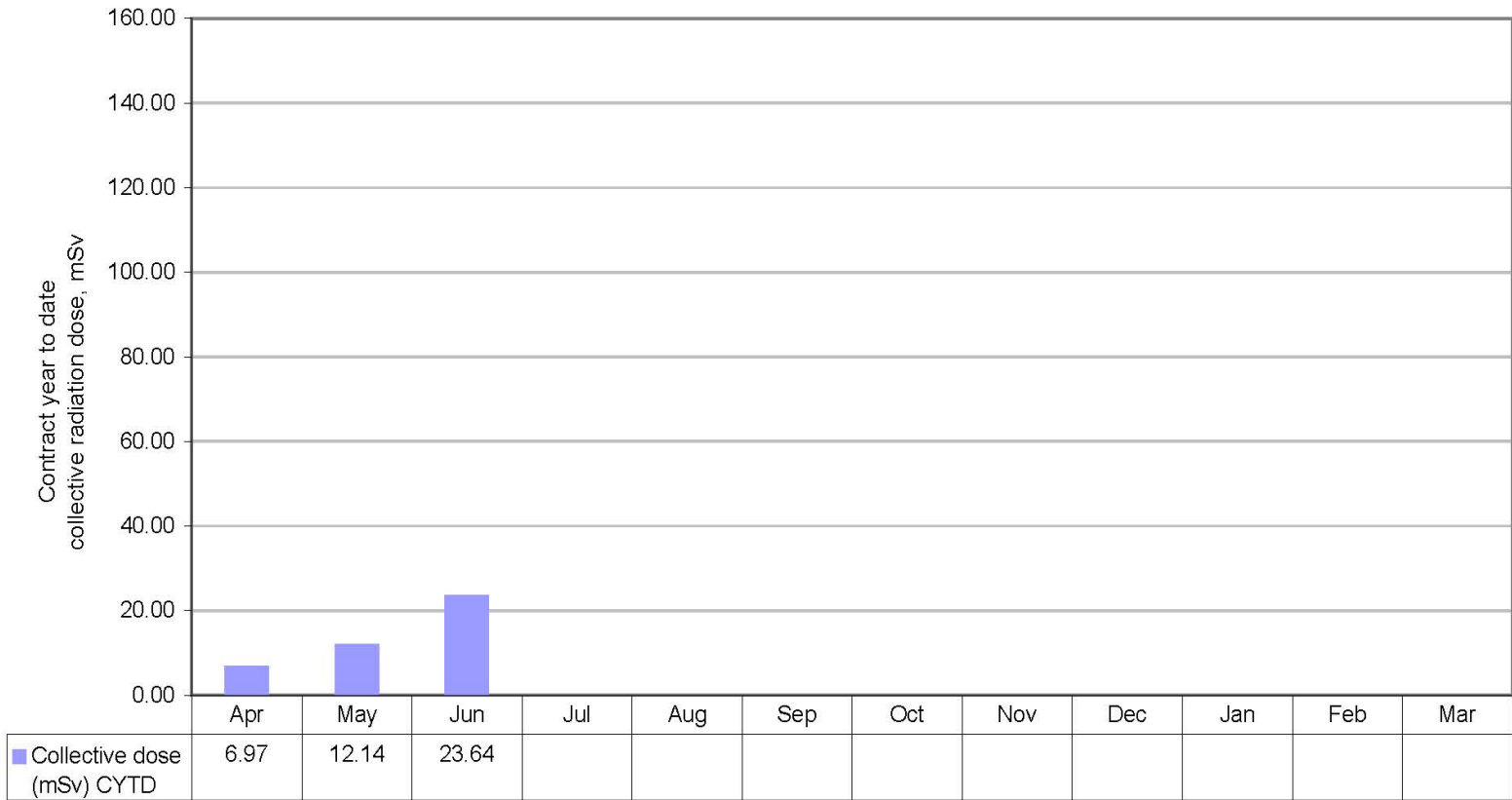


Dose Data As At 19 Aug 2014

Reduce work related injuries and ill-health, and improve employee wellbeing

Collective total radiation dose for higher exposed groups

Contract Year 15 to date



Dose Data As At 19 Aug 2014

Public Dose Assessment

Discharge	Aldermaston		Burghfield		Guidance Levels
	Q2 2014	JUL 13 to JUN 14	Q2 2014	JUL 13 to JUN 14	
Atmosphere	0.03 μSv	0.18 μSv	Less than 0.0001 μSv	Less than 0.0001 μSv	500 μSv
Trade Effluent	0.003 μSv	0.014 μSv			500 μSv
Aldermaston Stream	0.0001 μSv	0.0003 μSv			500 μSv