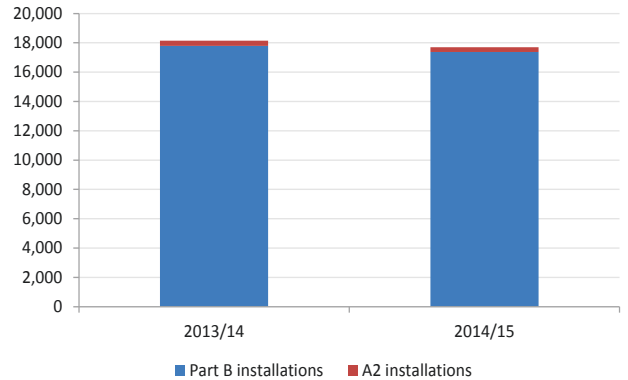




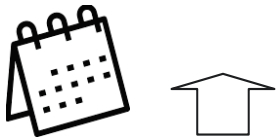
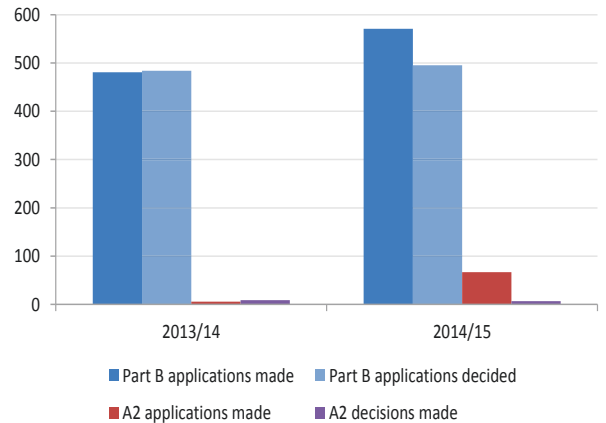
Local Pollution Control Statistics England and Wales 2014-15



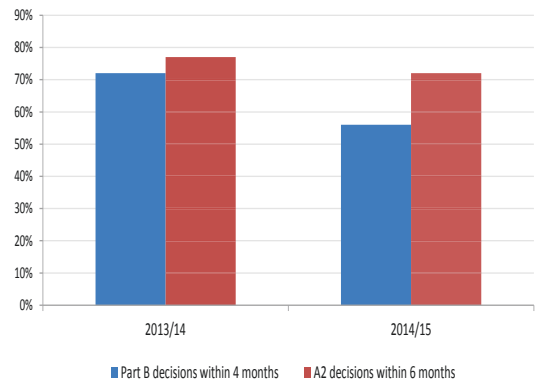
In 2014/15 there were fewer Part B and A2 installations than in 2013/14



In 2014/15 there were more applications made and overall more decisions made than in 2013/14



In 2014/15 there were a greater percentage of decisions on Part B applications made within 4 months, and a greater percentage of decisions on A2 applications/changes made within 6 months than in 2013/14.



Management Summary

Headlines

<p>Permitted installations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 17,368 [17,787] ↓ Part B and 336 [355] ↓ A2 permitted installations as of 31st March 2015 ▪ 166 [169] ↓ local authorities regulate A2 installations
<p>Applications and decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 571 [481] ↑ Part B applications received and 495 [484] ↑ decided ▪ 67 [6] ↑ A2 applications made and 7 [9] ↓ decided with 13 [8] ↑ revoked ▪ 77% [72%] ↑ of all decisions made on standard fee Part B applications decided within 4 months ▪ 71% [56%] ↑ of all A2 new installation/substantial change decisions made within 6 months
<p>Notices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 55 [64] ↓ Part B enforcement and prohibition notices served ▪ 1,659 [1,863] ↓ variation notices served on Part B installations ▪ 2 [5] ↑ successful prosecutions (total fines £61k [£130k] ↓) and 4 [1] pending ↑ ▪ 3 [8] ↑ A2 enforcement and prohibition notices served ▪ 51 [38] ↓ A2 variation notices served
<p>Inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Average of 1.1 [1.1] → inspections per Part B installation at application stage ▪ Average of 1.1 [2.2] ↓ inspections per A2 installation at application stage ▪ Average of 1.34 [1.40] ↓ inspections per group I* permitted Part B installation ▪ Average of 0.53 [0.52] → inspections per group II + III* permitted Part B installation ▪ Average of 2.8 [2.4] ↑ inspections per permitted A2 installation
<p>Risk Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2,602 [2,987] ↓ risk-assessed Part B installations in group I*: 5.0% [3.7%] ↑ high risk, 31.9% [29.7%] ↑ medium risk and 63.2% [66.6%] ↓ low risk ▪ 13,423 [13,594] ↓ risk-assessed Part B installations in groups II + III*: 0.6% [0.6%] → high risk, 7.2% [6.4%] ↑ medium risk, and 92.2% [93.0%] ↓ low risk ▪ 330 [351] ↓ risk-assessed A2 installations: 9.4% [11.1%] ↓ high risk, 33.6% [31.9%] ↑ medium risk and 57.0% [57.0%] → low risk
<p>Risk Assessed Inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8,937 [9,499] ↓ full Part B inspections, 1,151 [1,208] ↓ check, and 498 [560] ↓ extra ▪ 363 [374] ↓ full A2 inspections, 134 [158] ↓ check, and 395 [293] ↑ extra ▪ 34% [30%] ↑ of authorities with group I Part B installations carried out fewer full inspections than expected on these installations. ▪ 27% [25%] ↑ of authorities with high or medium risk group II* Part B installations carried out fewer full inspections than expected. ▪ 31% [31%] → of local authorities with high or medium risk group III installations carried out fewer full inspections than expected. ▪ All authorities report back to operators after inspections (85% both orally and in writing)
<p>Risk Assessed Inspections and Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 53% [51%] ↑ of standard fee Part B installations provide authorities with monitoring data ▪ 83% [83%] → of A2 installations provide authorities with monitoring data
<p>Charging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total income of £4.3m [£4.9m] ↓ from charges levied on Part B installations ▪ Total income of £691k [£683k] ↑ from charges levied on A2 installations ▪ 92% [91%] ↑ of authorities have cost accounts for Part B work ▪ There is no obvious correlation between local authorities' direct and indirect costs.
<p>→ no change/change <1% ↑ increase >5% ↑ increase ≤5% ↓ decrease >5% ↓ decrease ≤5%</p> <p>'group I' = more complex Part B installations, 'group II' = less complex, 'group III' = least complex</p> <p>Last year's figures in brackets; data on Part A2 permits in blue; data on Part B permits in black.</p>
<p>Note: During 2013 a large number of B installations were reclassified as reduced fee rather than standard fee which has had a significant impact on several of the reported percentages</p>

Management Summary

1 About the Local Pollution Control Statistical Survey

1.1 Background

Local authorities (i.e. councils, unitary authorities and port health authorities) across England & Wales are responsible for regulating a number of industrial processes whose emissions could have a detrimental effect upon the atmosphere.

The processes regulated by local authorities are partitioned into two types:

- Part A2 activities; and
- Part B activities.

A local authority's regulatory role encompasses:

- the initial authorisation or "*permitting*" of processes;
- inspecting operational installations;
- amending or revoking permits, where necessary; and
- prosecuting operators in those cases where processes fail to comply with regulations.

Defra's Local Pollution Control Statistical Survey (LPCSS) provides quantitative insight into each of these aspects of local authorities' regulatory roles.

Defra has commissioned its annual Local Pollution Control Statistical Survey (LPCSS) since 1991. The survey provides an annual snapshot of local authorities' regulation performance during the previous twelve months. The Department publishes the findings from the LPCSS in a form intended for several distinct groups:

- the general public;
- industry;
- policy groups within Defra; and
- the European Union.

This year's survey questionnaire asks local authorities about their performance during the twelve-month period from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015. It consists of three distinct parts:

- a Part B sub-survey captures information about installations regulated under the Local Authority Pollution Prevention Control (LAPPC) regime;
- a Part A2 sub-survey captures information about installations regulated under the Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC) regime; and
- a Common Questions sub-survey collects information that is common to, or independent of, the types of installation.

Four years ago, Defra adopted a new set of regions for analysing the returns from the LPCSS; it also made use of an updated set of indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). As a result, readers are advised to take care when comparing the figures from recent years' surveys, where broken down by region or deprivation quartile, with the corresponding figures from reports more than four years ago.

1.2 Changes to this year's survey

The bulk of this year's survey questionnaire is the same as that used last year.

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1.3 Response rate (Table 24, Annex A)

Defra asked all three hundred and fifty seven (357) local authorities and port health authorities in England and Wales to take part in the survey. The Department received a completed questionnaire from all but twelve (12) authorities: Falmouth & Truro PHA, Great Yarmouth PHA, Scarborough, Shropshire UA; Wolverhampton; Blackpool, Denbighshire, East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Forest of Dean, Herefordshire, and Oadby & Wigston. It later transpired that both Port Health Authorities had submitted data via neighbouring authorities.

Wolverhampton last submitted in 2009/10.

The table below lists the LAs which did not register for the survey, the year of last submission and the number of B and A2 processes in that year within the LA.

	Last Submission	B	A2
Scarborough	2013	54	1
Shropshire UA	2013	114	2

The table below lists the LAs which registered but did not submit data for the survey, the year of last submission and the number of B and A2 processes in that year within the LA.

	Last Submission	B	A2
Blackpool	2013	32	0
Denbighshire	2013	44	1
East Hampshire	2013	26	0
Eastleigh	2013	36	1
Forest of Dean	2013	43	3
Herefordshire	2013	83	4
Oadby & Wigston	2013	14	0

The response rate for the survey as a whole was 97% this year, down from 99% the previous year.

1.4 Format of returns (Tables 4a and 4b, Annex B)

All authorities that submitted a questionnaire completed the web-based version of the survey. As in previous years, Defra asked authorities to record the time that it took them to complete the survey questionnaire. This year it took authorities an average of 7.4 hours, some 0.8 hours shorter than last year's average of 6.6 hours.

1.5 Inconsistencies and grossing

As in previous years, members of the Defra and Hartley McMaster project teams contacted authorities and resolved inconsistencies by e-mail or over the 'phone.

2 Key findings from analysis of Part B installations

2.1 Applications and decisions (Tables 1 – 2 and 7 – 8, Annex A)

The numbers of applications received and decided for new Part B installations in 2014/2015 increased for the second year running. The number of withdrawn applications increased, in contrast to the previous year's fall.

Authorities across England & Wales received 571 applications for new B installations in 2014/2015, a 19% increase from the 481 applications received during the previous year.

Authorities made decisions on 495 applications during 2014/2015, a 2% increase from last year's figure of 484 decisions. Amongst this year's 495 decisions, 379 (77%) were for reduced fee Part B installations with the remaining 116 (23%) decisions for standard (full) fee installations.

The number of applications that authorities had on hand at the end of 31st March 2015 (viz. 146) was 23% higher than last year's figure of 119 and 10% higher than the 133 reported in 2012/2013.

The time taken to make a decision is defined as the time from an application being received to a permit being granted. During 2014/2015, authorities made 379 decisions for the categories of waste oil burners (<0.4MW), service stations, dry cleaners and vehicle refinishing: 70% of these applications were decided in under two months, 21% were decided in two to four months, while the remaining 9% took over four months to decide.

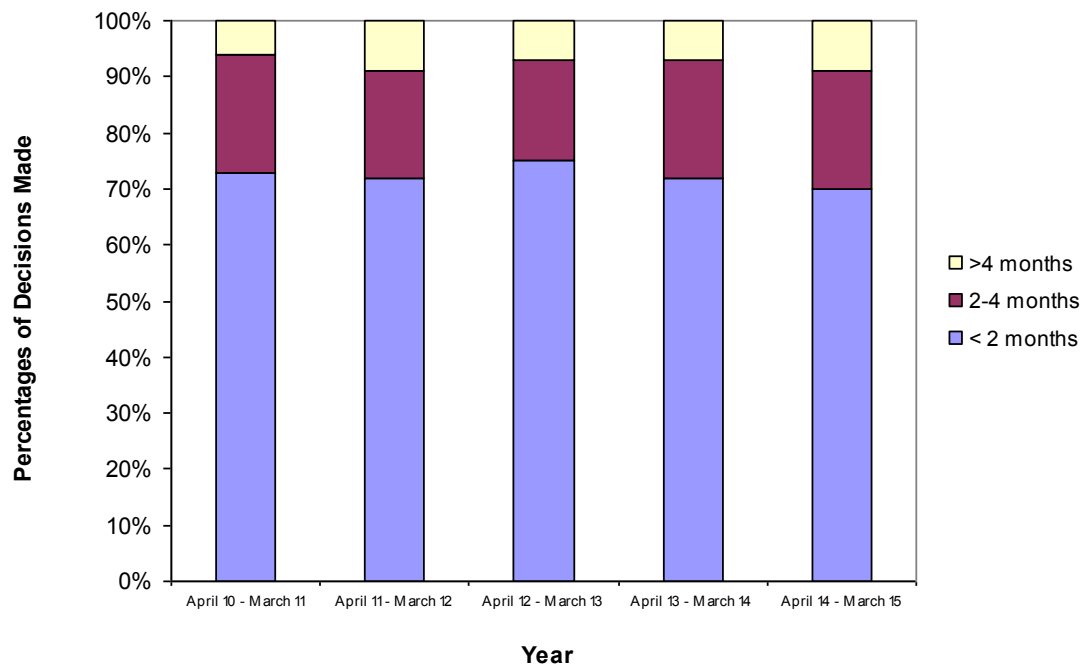
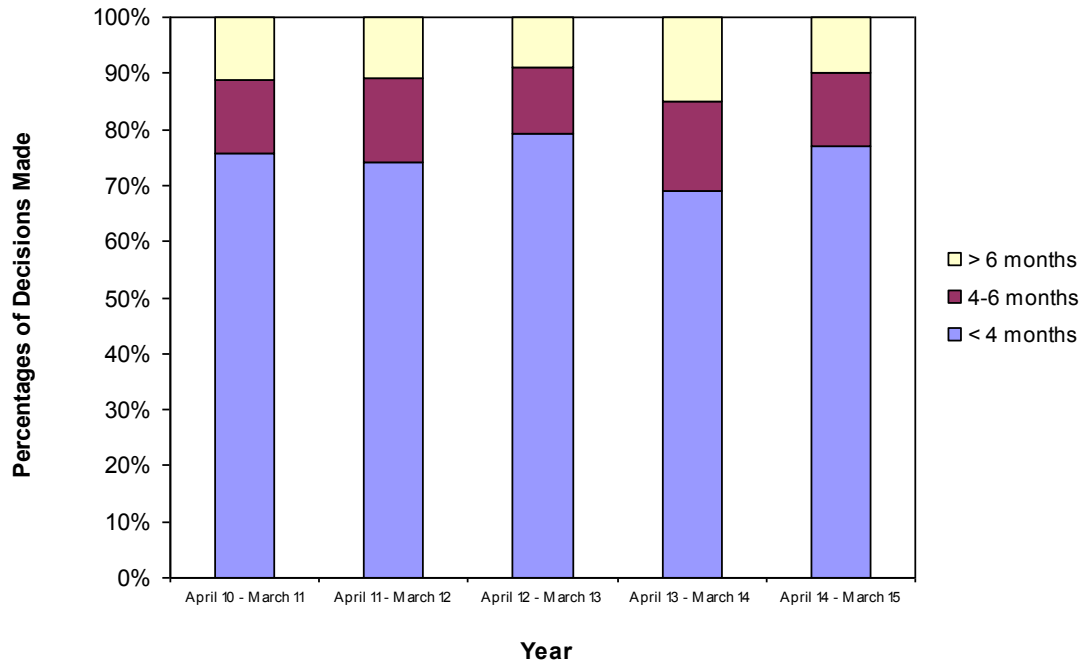


Figure 2.1: Percentages of decisions made within specified times on applications for reduced fee Part B installations, by year. (420 decisions in 2010/11, 359 decisions in 2011/12, 263 decisions in 2012/2013, 358 decisions in 2013/14 and 379 decisions in 2014/2015)

Management Summary

Between them, the remaining (standard) categories of installation accounted for 116 applications: of these, 77% took less than four months for a decision, 13% took between four and six months, while the remaining 10% of these applications took more than six months for a decision.



*Figure 2.2: Percentages of decisions made within specified times on applications for **standard (full) fee** Part B installations, by year. (228 decisions in 2010/11, 222 in 2011/12, 171 in 2012/13, 126 in 2013/2014 and 116 decisions in 2014/2015).*

2.2 Permitted installations (Tables 3 – 6, Annex A)

There were 17,368 permitted Part B installations throughout England and Wales in 2014/2015. This figure represents a small (2.4%) decrease from the corresponding figure (17,787) in last year's survey and a 3.1% drop from the level (17,930) recorded in 2012/2013. These figures continue a four-decline in the number of permitted Part B processes, from 18,405 in 2010/2011 to 17,368 in 2014/2015.

2.3 Notices (Table 11, Annex A)

Authorities across England & Wales served 1,729 notices (excluding revocations) on Part B installations in 2014/2015, a fall of 10% from the corresponding figure of 1,927 in 2013/2014. Amongst the 1,729 notices served this year, 1,659 were variation notices; the latter figure has fallen by 10% from 1,838 in 2013/2014. The number of enforcement and prohibition notices served decreased by 53% during the same period (from 64 in 2013/2014 to 30 in 2014/2015).

2.4 Enforcement policies (Table 13, Annex A)

99.7% of authorities reported that their LAPPC enforcement complies with the Regulators Compliance Code. This represents a 1.4% increase relative to last year's figure of 98.3%. The only non-compliant authority had between 11 and 21 installations, belonged to the English shire districts local authority group and fell into the South West region.

2.5 Inspections (Tables 15 - 16, Annex A)

Inspections – General Data

Before the 2010/2011 survey, the LPCSS asked authorities to account separately for

- the numbers of applications that they had received for new installations and
- the number of inspections carried out in support of these applications.

At the same time, authorities were asked to distinguish between

- applications for new installations under Part B and
- applications for substantial changes to existing installations under Part B.

Those pre-2010/2011 surveys then reported on the ratio of total (i.e. both new and substantial change) inspections to total applications. Since the 2010/2011 survey, Defra has continued to collect data separately for the number of inspections carried out in support of both types of application; however, the Department no longer asks authorities to specify the number of applications received for substantial changes to existing installations. With only the numbers of applications for new installations available, reports since 2010/2011 have quoted the ratio of the following quantities:

- the number of inspections carried out in support of applications for new installations; and
- the number of applications for new installations.

Given this change in the definition of the inspection rate, readers are discouraged from comparing the 2010/2011 or subsequent years' ratios with those from previous years.

In 2014/2015, authorities carried out an average of 1.07 inspections on a new installation prior to a decision being made.

The average number of inspections per permitted, full fee installation (excluding such processes as waste oil burners (<0.4MW), service stations, dry cleaning and vehicle refinishing) increased again this year to 1.47; it was 1.32 last year and 1.22 in 2012/2013. The average number of inspections for reduced fee activities (i.e. waste oil burners (<0.4MW), service stations, dry cleaning and vehicle refinishing) was 0.47; this continues the decline seen in this inspection rate since 2011/2012, when it was 0.58.

For inspections not in connection with applications, the majority (73%) of inspections last between half an hour and two hours. There was at least one installation requiring inspections over two hours for all process types except Waste oil burners (0.4-3MW), Ferrous metals, Cremation and Reduced fee using PG6/42 only. Six process types incurred inspections lasting longer than two hours for all inspections: Non ferrous metals, Reduced fee using PG4/02 only, Incineration (not cremation), Coating manufacture, Animal & vegetable treatment, Reduced fee using PG6/26 only.

Risk Assessment

Installations are classified into three groups:

- Group I – Standard installations
- Group II – Vehicle refinishing (PG6/34b only) and mobile plant
- Group III – Other reduced fee activities (small waste oil burners, dry cleaners, petrol stations (PVRI and II))

257 authorities reported that they had risk-assessed all of their installations during 2014/2015. In 2013/2014, the corresponding figure was 269 authorities. Seventy-nine (79) authorities reported that they had risk-assessed some (but not all) of their installations during 2014/2015, compared to 78

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authorities in 2013/2014. Seven (7) authorities reported having risk assessed none of their installations; last year, three authorities reported having risk assessed none of their installations.

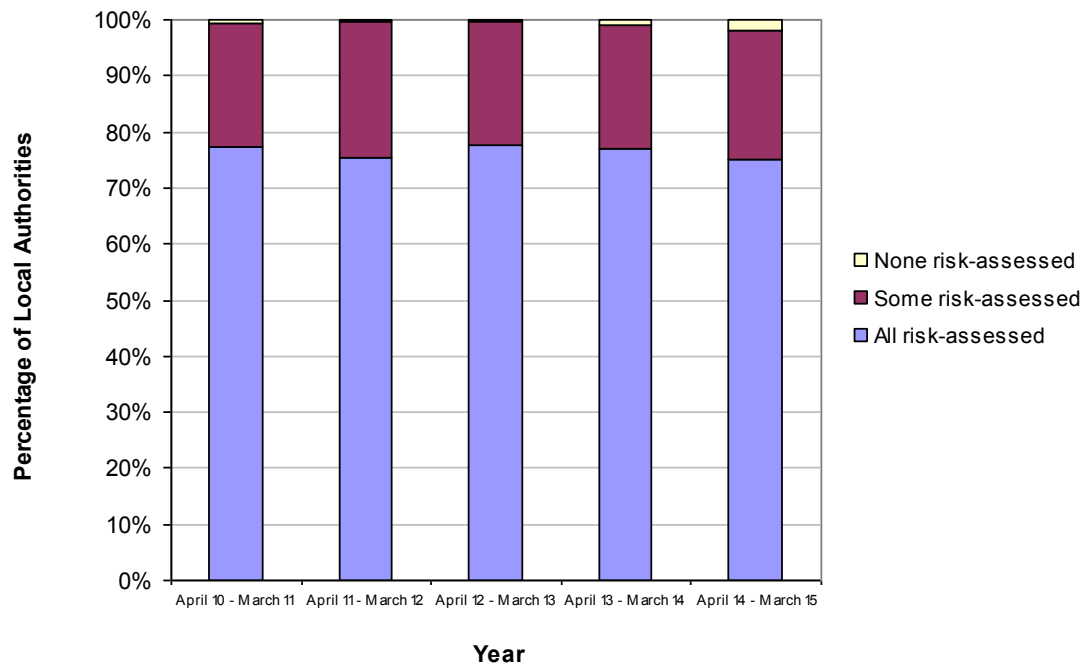


Figure 2.3: Percentage of local authorities, by year, that have risk-assessed all, some or none of their Part B installations. (354 authorities in 2010/11, 353 in 2011/12, 351 in 2012/2013, 350 in 2013/2014 and 343 local authorities in 2014/2015)

16,025 installations had been risk assessed by the end of 2014/2015; this represents 92.3% of all permitted Part B installations, 0.9% lower than the corresponding fraction in the previous two years, viz. 93.2%.

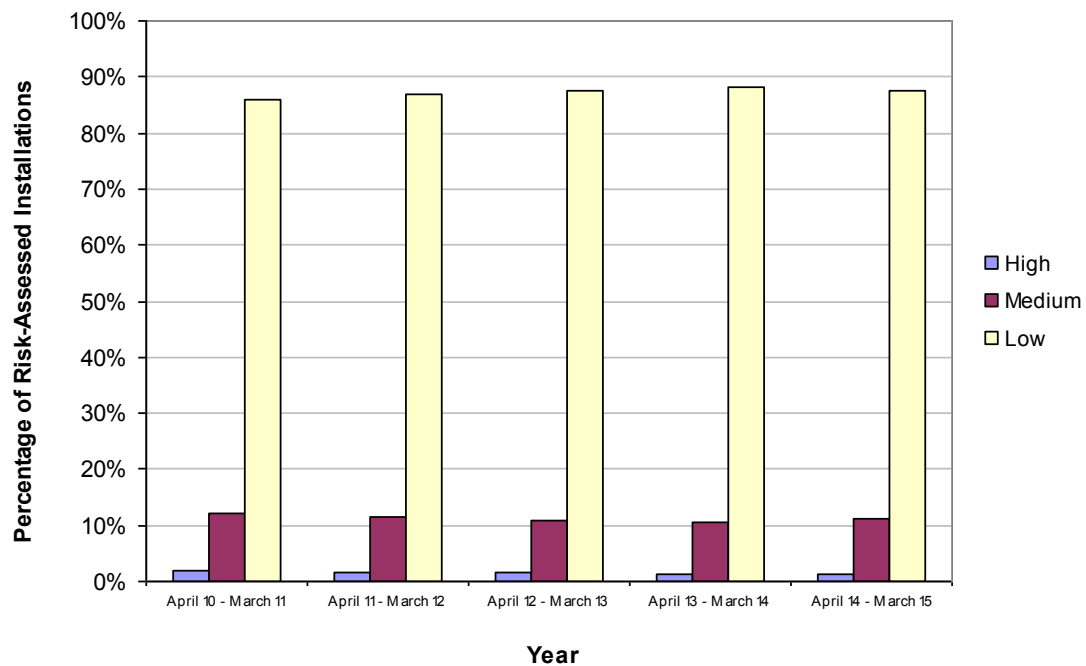


Figure 2.4: Percentages of risk-assessed Part B installations classified as high, medium or low risk, by year. (17,166 risk-assessed installations in 2010/11; 17,190 in 2011/2012; 16,716 in 2012/13; 16,581 in 2013/2014 and 16,025 in 2014/2015)

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Amongst risk-assessed installations in 2014/2015, 16% (2,602) were standard installations (Group I), 21% (3,432) were vehicle refinishers or mobile plant (Group II), while the remaining 62% (9,991) were other reduced fee activities (Group III). The breakdown of risk-assessed installations by category of risk is shown in the following table:

	Group I (previous years in brackets)	Group II	Group III
High	5.0% (3.7% in 2013/2014, 3.0% in 2012/2013, 3.3% in 2011/12, 3.5% in 2010/2011, 3.4% in 2009/2010, 3.3% in 2008/2009, 3.0% in 2007/2008 and 4.0% in 2006/2007)	0.7% (0.8% in 2013/2014, 1.1% in 2012/2013, 0.7% in 2011/2012, 0.9% in 2010/2011, 1.2% in 2009/2010)	0.6% (0.6% in 2013/2014, 1.0% in 2012/2013, 1.1% in 2011/2012, 1.2% in 2010/2011, 1.4% in 2009/2010)
Medium	31.9% (29.7% in 2013/2014, 24.2% in 2012/2013, 24.5% in 2011/2012, 25.7% in 2010/2011, 28.6% in 2009/2010, 29.2% in 2008/2009, 32.8% in 2007/2008 and 36.3% in 2006/2007)	7.9% (8.2% in 2013/2014, 7.4% in 2012/2013, 7.7% in 2011/2012, 9.2% in 2010/2011, 11.1% in 2009/2010)	6.9% (5.8% in 2013/2014, 6.2% in 2012/2013, 6.7% in 2011/2012, 6.7% in 2010/2011, 8.7% in 2009/2010)
Low	63.2% (66.9% in 2013/2014, 72.8% in 2012/2013, 72.2% in 2011/2012, 70.8% in 2010/2011, 68.0% in 2009/2010, 67.5% in 2008/2009, 63.2% in 2007/2008 and 59.3% in 2006/2007)	91.4% (91.0% in 2013/2014, 91.5% in 2012/2013, 91.6% in 2011/2012, 89.9% in 2010/2011, 87.6% in 2009/2010)	92.4% (93.6% in 2013/2014, 92.8% in 2012/2013, 92.2% in 2011/2012, 92.1% in 2010/2011, 89.9% in 2009/2010)

Inspections – Risk-based Data

Authorities carried out a total of 10,586 inspections on risk-assessed installations this year. Of these 8,937 were full inspections, 1,151 were check inspections and the remaining 498 were extra inspections.

Defra and WAG's guidance stipulates that a high-risk, standard (i.e. Group I) installation should receive two full inspections and one check inspection per year, while all other groups (i.e. Groups II and III) of high risk installation should receive one full inspection and one check inspection per year. A medium risk group I installation should receive one full and one check inspection per year; all other medium risk installations should receive one full inspection per year. The inspection frequency for a low-risk installation also depends on the group, with standard (Group I) installations requiring one full inspection per year, Group II installations requiring one full inspection every two years and Group III installations requiring one full inspection every three years. The inspection performance cannot be assessed for low-risk installations in Groups II and III as there is no fixed number of inspections required in any specific year.

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For standard (Group I) installations of all risk categories, 12% of authorities carried out more full inspections than were required – a decrease from the previous two years when the corresponding figures were 18% (2013/2014) and 19% (2012/2013).

107 authorities carried out fewer full inspections on Group I installations than required, compared to 97 last year. The proportion of authorities that carried out more check inspections than required on Group I installations in 2014/2015 is 11%, less than the corresponding fraction (13%) last year, while the proportion of authorities carrying out fewer check inspections than required has remained at 35% this year, i.e. the same fraction as in 2013/2014. The breakdown of inspection performance for Group I installations, by category of risk, is shown in the following table:

	More inspections than required	As many inspections as required	Fewer inspections than required
High Risk			
Full	5%	51%	44%
Check	8%	42%	49%
Medium Risk			
Full	17%	70%	13%
Check	3%	47%	51%
Low Risk			
Full	8%	59%	33%
Check	15%	85%	0%

For group II installations assessed as high or medium risk, 10% of authorities carried out more full inspections than required, 19% conducted more check inspections than required, while 28% conducted fewer full inspections than required and 8% conducted fewer check inspections than required.

For group III installations assessed as high or medium risk, 8% of authorities carried out more full inspections than required, 8% conducted more check inspections than required, while 32% completed fewer full inspections than required and 15% conducted fewer check inspections than required.

Overall, 40% of authorities carried out fewer full inspections than required. Of these 129 authorities, 50% provided a reason for the shortfall. Amongst those authorities that completed less than 80% of their expected full inspections, the most frequent explanations involved:

- Organisational issues, such as lack of staff, staff on maternity leave or off sick, departmental restructuring;
- Processes mothballed or not operating for other reasons;
- Mobile equipment being out of area

Seven (7) authorities reported having risk-assessed no installations.

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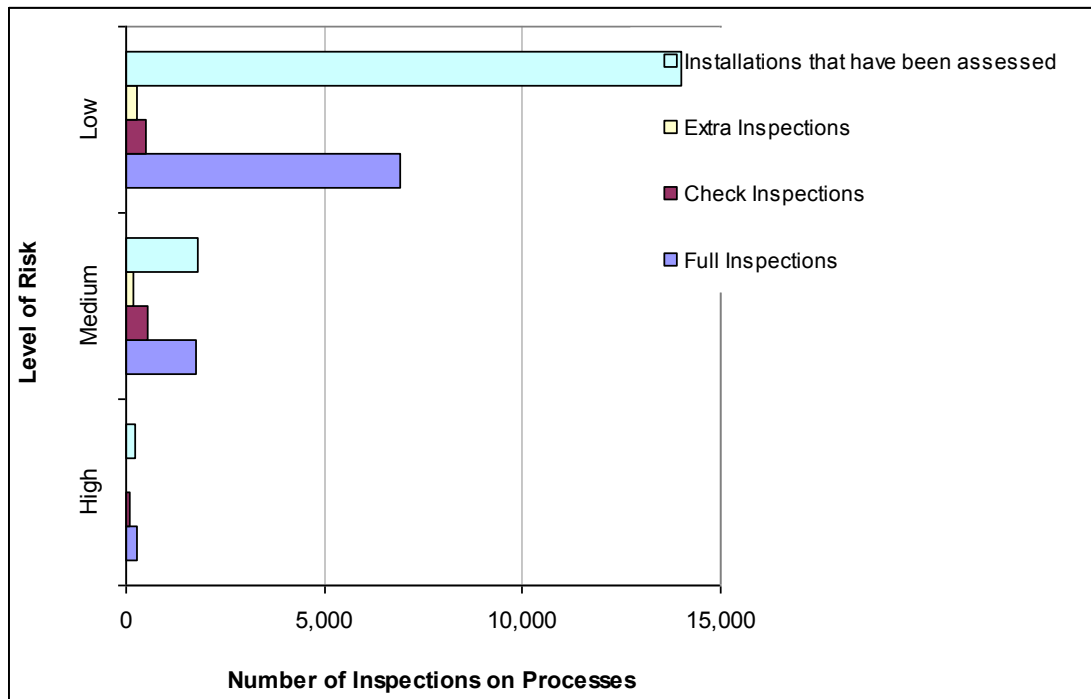


Figure 2.5: Inspections performed on risk-assessed Part B installations, broken down by level of risk. (10,586 inspections; 16,025 risk-assessed Part B installations)

2.6 Monitoring (Table 17, Annex A)

Data is reported in only two groupings: standard installations, and reduced fee activities. 55% of the 2,898 standard installations provided monitoring information, with the data from 20.9% of these requiring more than two hours to examine. Among the remaining 14,470 reduced fee activities, 23% provided monitoring information, with authorities having to spend more than two hours examining the monitoring data from just 8.2% of them.

2.7 Fees and charges (Tables 19 – 20, Annex A)

Authorities reported their total income received in 2014/2015 as £4.2m. The corresponding figures in 2013/2014 and 2012/2013 were £4.9m and £5.5m respectively. The 2014/2015 figure represents an average of £12,273 for the 321 authorities that reported their income.

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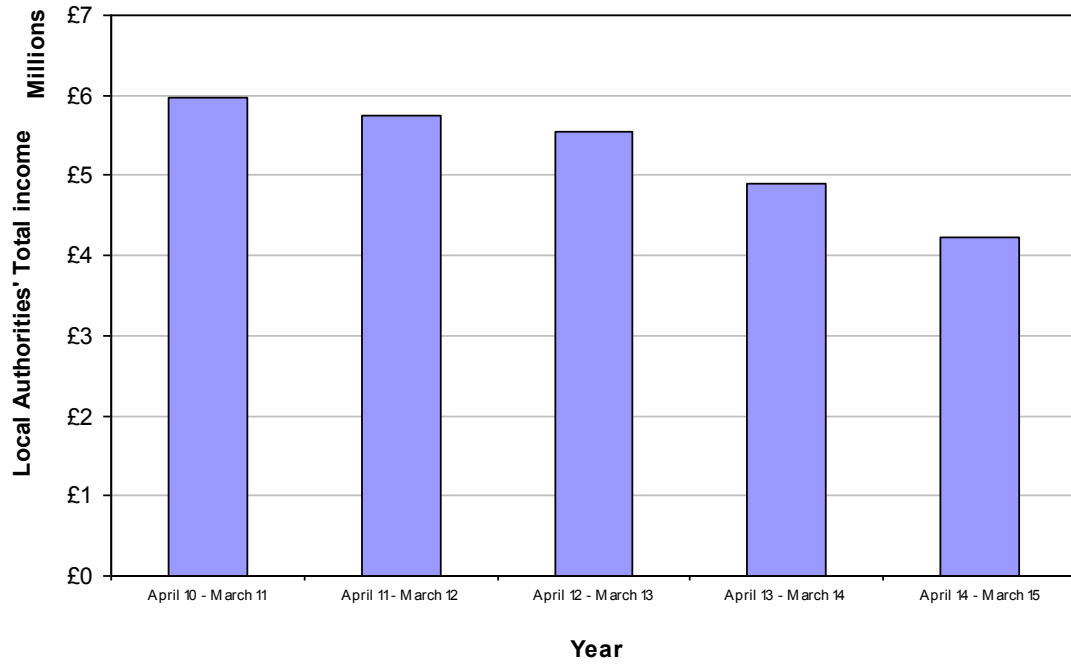


Figure 2.6: Total income from application fees and annual charges for Part B installations for local authorities across England & Wales, by year (2010-2015)

2.8 Cost accounting (Table 22, Annex A)

316 (92%) authorities accounted separately for costs and income associated with LAPPCC by 31st March 2015. The corresponding figures in previous years were as follows: 91% of authorities in 2013/2014, 91% of authorities in 2012/2013, 92% of authorities in 2011/2012, 90% in 2010/2011, 90% in 2009/2010, 91% in 2008/2009, 86% in 2007/2008, 82% in 2006/2007 and 83% in 2005/2006.

3 Key findings from analysis of the Common Questions

3.1 Prosecutions and cautions (Tables 1a and 1b, Annex B)

During 2014/2015, six (6) prosecutions were reported and three (3) formal cautions were issued. As of 31st March 2015, four (4) of the prosecutions were pending, while both of the other two (2) prosecutions had been successful. The successful prosecutions had resulted in fines totalling £61,130, with the largest being for £61,000. This is a decrease from last year's figure of £130,000 for total fines; in 2012/2013 the corresponding total fines figure was £18,948.

3.2 EU Legislation Data (Tables 2a-2e, Annex B)

Almost all (99%) authorities think that their installations comply completely or substantially with the legislation on Minimum Inspection Criteria. 143 (41%) authorities carried out more inspections during 2014/2015 than they had planned, whereas 106 (31%) carried out fewer than planned.

As in recent years' surveys, over nine tenths (94%) of authorities reported that they draw up an inspection plan at the beginning of the reporting year. 16% of authorities carry out visits that are co-ordinated with other agencies.

The majority (85%) of authorities communicate their inspection reports to the site operators both orally and in writing. A further 10% of authorities communicate their inspection reports just in writing. 90% of authorities now make their inspection reports available to the public.

3.3 Solvents Emissions Directive (Table 3a, Annex B)

There were 2,241 Solvent Emissions Directive (SED) installations holding permits, with four (4) having been withdrawn. 26.6% of SED installations holding a permit use the reduction scheme, 6% did not submit a solvent management plan and 4% of operators are breaching SED requirements.

3.4 Paints Directive (Table 3b, Annex B)

There were two (2) instances of non-compliance with the Paints Directive during 2014/2015. Both of these were due to mislabelling. In total, there were twenty-six (26) litres of non-compliant paint.

3.5 Costs of running the service

There is considerable interest in whether there is any obvious relationship between direct and indirect costs; it was suspected that indirect costs in particular may not be recorded correctly. Figure 3.1 shows (non-zero) direct costs plotted against (non-zero) indirect costs, excluding three outliers with very large costs. If a correlation exists, the data would lie roughly on a straight line. Given how scattered the points on the chart are, there would appear to be little correlation between direct and indirect costs. This informal conclusion is reinforced by the regression line shown superposed on the data points; the relatively low value of the accompanying R^2 indicates that the straight-line relationship is a poor fit to the data. [R^2 values close to one indicate a good fit; values closer to zero indicate a poor fit.]

A second graph provides an expanded view of the region closest to the origin of the graph. Again, there appears to be little evidence for a linear relationship between direct and indirect costs.

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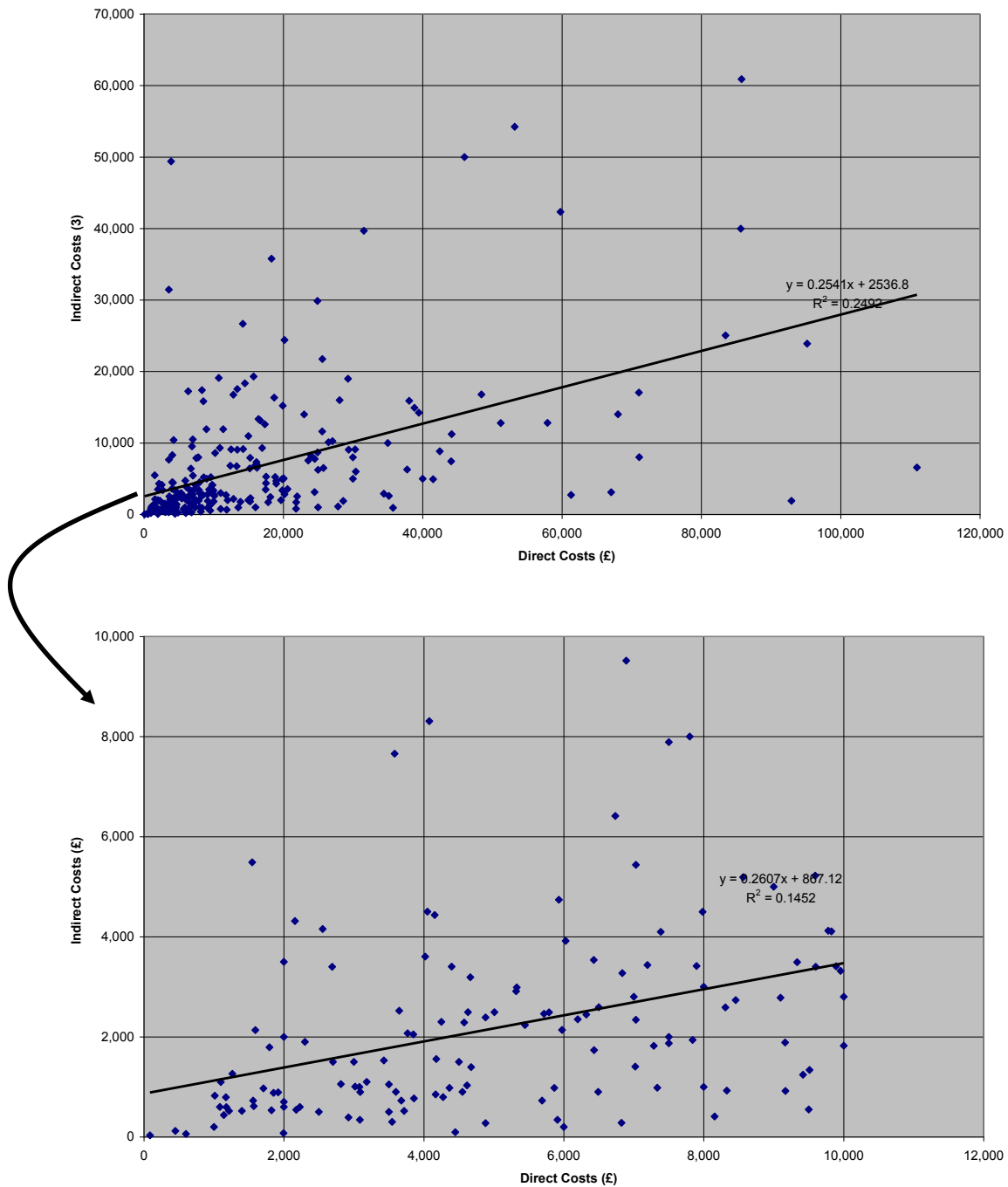


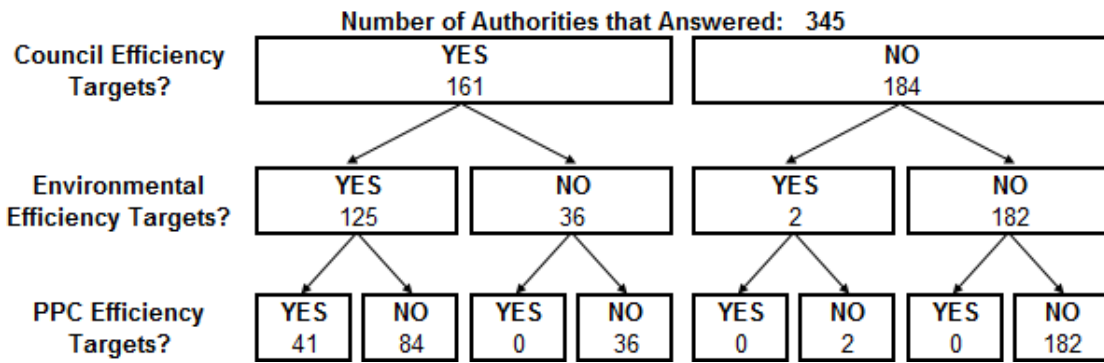
Figure 3.1: Direct and Indirect Costs (Excluding Outliers) with a superposed regression fit and an expanded view of the area around the origin of the plot.

Thirty-three (33) of the authorities that provided a value (greater than zero) for their direct costs stated that their indirect costs were zero.

3.6 Efficiency Savings (Tables 5a-5d, Annex B)

The diagram below shows the number of authorities with efficiency savings targets for 2014/2015 at council, environmental services and PPC function levels.

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41 authorities (12%) reported having efficiency savings at all three levels. 84 (24%) authorities had targets for council and environmental services but not for the PPC function. 36 (10%) authorities had efficiency savings only at the level of all council services.

85 authorities reported a 0% target at the council level. 108 authorities reported no efficiency target (as opposed to a 0% efficiency target) at the council level.

Amongst the 76 authorities reporting an efficiency target greater than 0% at the council level, the most frequently reported figure (i.e. the mode) for all council service targets was 10%, the same as last year.

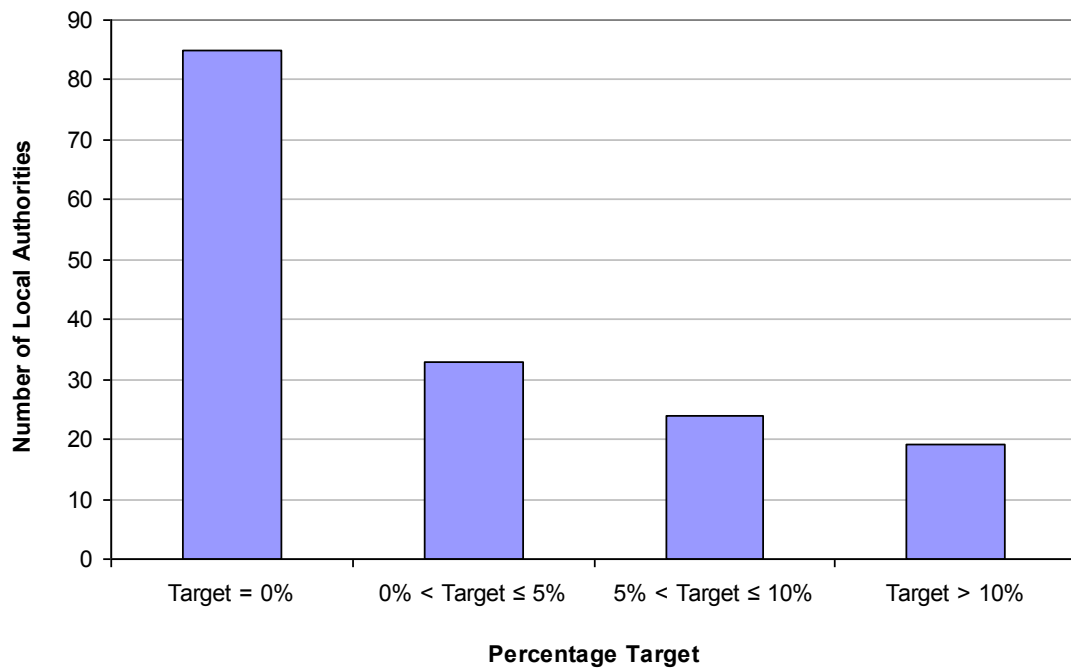


Figure 3.2: Numbers of local authorities with percentage targets for efficiency savings, at the level of all council services for 2015/2016, within specified intervals (161 local authorities with council-level targets)

Most (68%) of the 41 authorities that gave a percentage target for each level specified the same figure in all three cases. Of the 84 authorities that gave a percentage target just for the council and environmental services levels, 64 (76%) gave the same percentage target figure.

The survey asks authorities what percentage of their efficiency savings is cashable as opposed to non-cashable. Cashable efficiency savings mean increasing the production or maintaining current production with reduced resource inputs. This represents a direct financial saving which can be recycled into the service or put elsewhere in the local authority. Non-cashable efficiency savings mean

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increasing production or improving the quality of the service with the same resource inputs. There is no direct financial saving even though it is still an efficiency saving.

At the level of the Council as a whole, 67% of authorities did not know the cashable percentage, 17% had <25% cashable, 12% had >75% cashable, 3% had 25-50%, while the remainder (<1%) fell into the 50-75% cashable bracket. The splits for environmental services were similar (66%, 12%, 17%, 4% and <1%).

For the PPC function, 66% did not know the cashable percentage, 22% had <25% cashable, and 10% had >75% cashable. 2% were in the 25-50% bracket while no authorities reported a split of between 50% and 75% cashable savings.

The continuing high percentage of “not known” suggests that the concepts of cashable and non-cashable efficiency savings have yet to filter down to frontline officers.

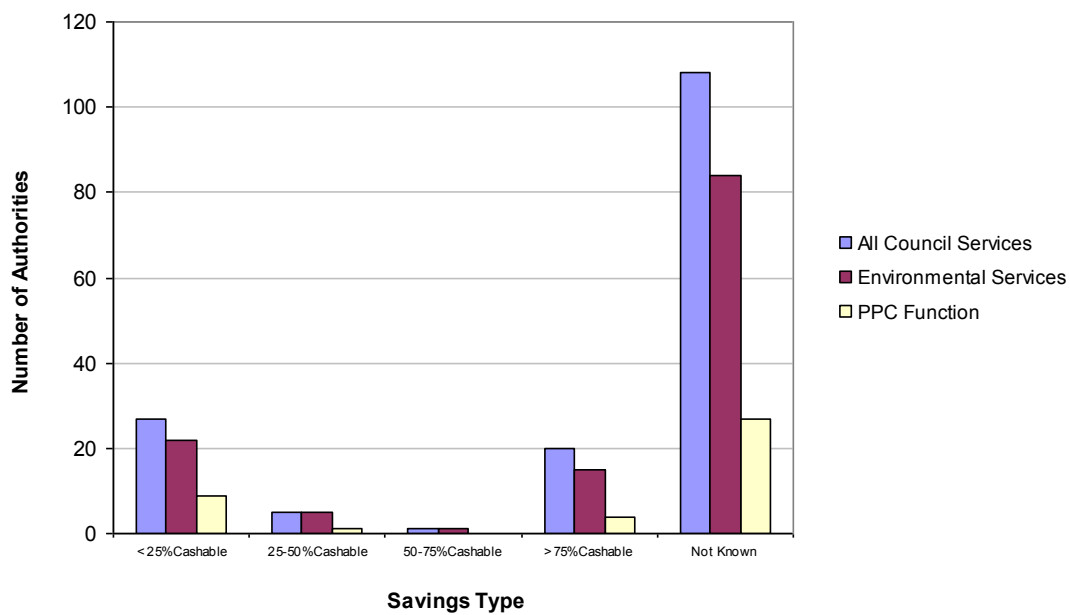


Figure 3.3: Numbers of local authorities with specified levels of cashable savings targets at the levels of council, environmental services and the PPC function (161 LAs with targets for all council services; 127 LAs with targets for environmental services; 41 LAs with targets for the PPC function).

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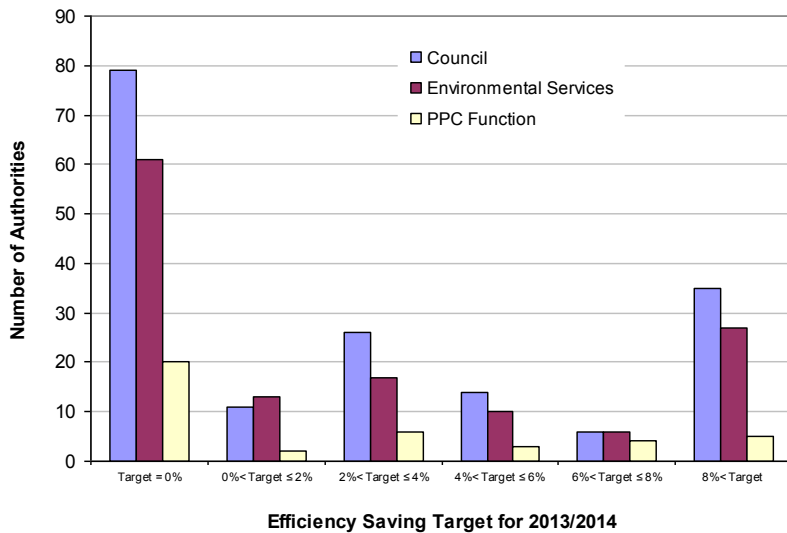


Figure 3.4: Numbers of authorities with specified levels of efficiency savings targets at the levels of council, environmental services and PPC function.

3.7 Cremations in Regulated Crematoria (Table 6, Annex B)¹

In 2014/2015, 190 authorities across England & Wales regulated 228 crematoria, with their cremators performing 362,089 cremations. 245,921 (68%) of these cremations took place in cremators fitted with mercury abatement.

As shown in the figure below, there has been a marked shift towards the use of mercury abatement techniques in cremations over the last four years. In 2011/2012, just 29% of cremations made use of mercury abatement; by 2014/2015 that percentage had risen to 68%. The number of cremations each year, across England & Wales, has remained at around a third of a million throughout this period.

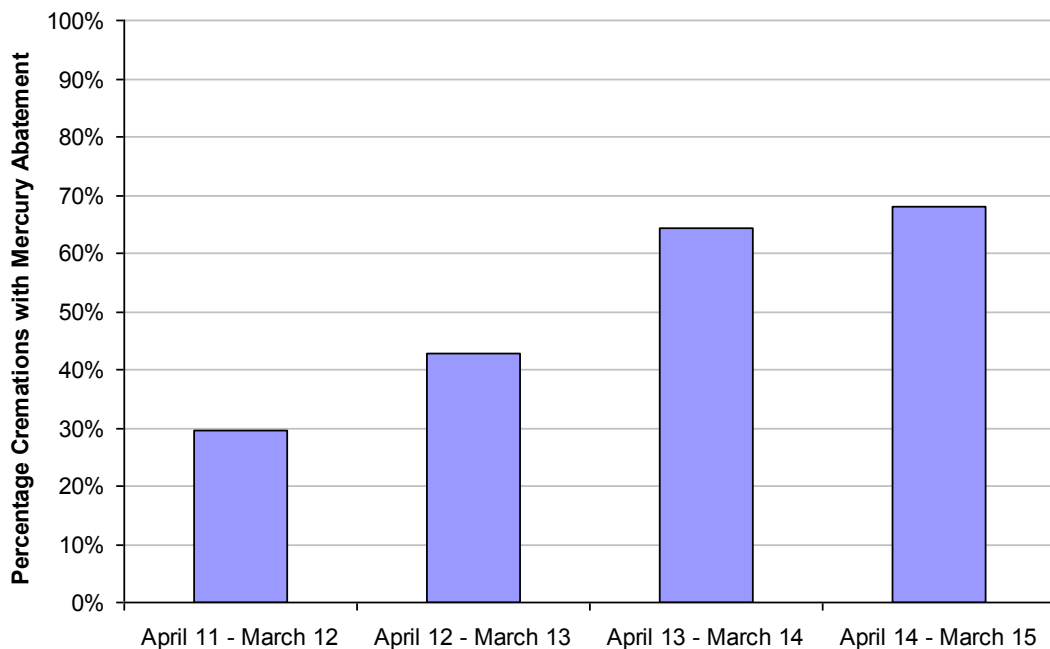


Figure 3.5: Percentage of cremations across England & Wales using mercury abatement techniques.

¹ Last year's LPCSS report incorrectly reported the 2011/2012 figures for cremations in regulated crematoria, rather than those for 2013/2014.

4 Key findings from analysis of Part A2 installations²

4.1 Applications and decisions (Tables 1-3 and 7-8, Annex C)

In 2014/2015, authorities across England & Wales received sixty-seven (67) applications for A2 permits; this represents almost a ten-fold increase in the levels of applications seen over recent years, viz. 6 applications in 2013/2014, 6 in 2012/2013 and 9 in 2011/2012.

In addition to new applications, authorities had four (4) applications on hand at the beginning of 2014/2015. One application was withdrawn and seven (7) decisions were made on applications during 2014/2015. The number of decisions this year (7) is two fewer than last year and one fewer than the year before that. Five (5) of this year's decisions were made in less than six months; one took between six and nine months; the remaining decision took over nine months. Sixty-two (62) applications were still on hand at 31st March 2015.

Year	Number of Decisions	< 6 months	6-9 months	> 9 months
April 09 - March 10	12	7	2	3
April 10 - March 11	9	3	3	3
April 11 - March 12	8	2	3	3
April 12 - March 13	8	3	0	5
April 13 - March 14	9	5	1	3
Total	46	20	9	17

Table 4.1: Number of decisions made within specified times on applications for Part A2 installations, by year.

There have been 102 applications for new installations since 2010/2011, 6 applications have been withdrawn and 41 decisions have been made. Up until this year, authorities had been making roughly the same number of decisions as applications received. This year's figures mean that authorities have made decisions on only 10% of the number of applications received.

4.2 Permitted and revoked installations (Tables 4, 5, 6 and 8, Annex C)

Authorities reported having 336 permitted A2 installations in England and Wales at the end of 2014/2015, nineteen (19) fewer than at the end of 2013/2014. The West Midlands region reported having the most authorised A2 installations (62), with North Wales reporting the least (9).

Thirteen (13) A2 permits were revoked or surrendered during 2014/2015; a further installation was partially surrendered or revoked.

4.3 Notices, prosecutions and cautions (Table 10, Annex C)

There were 48 notices (excluding revocations) issued to A2 installations during 2014/2015, compared to 46 in the previous year and 57 in 2012/2013. There was an increase in the number of variations, from 38 in 2013/2014 to 45 in 2014/2015. There were three (3) enforcement notices issued in 2014/2015, compared to eight (8) the previous year.

Prosecutions and cautions are dealt with in the common questions part of the survey form.

² The reader is reminded that the figures reported here exclude Scarborough, Shropshire UA, Denbighshire, Eastleigh, Forest of Dean and Herefordshire. Between them, these authorities reported twelve (12) A2 permits when they last submitted a completed survey questionnaire.

4.4 Fees and charges (Tables 12 and 13, Annex C)

The total income received in 2014/2015 relating to A2 installations was £691,112, i.e. an average of around £3,900 for those authorities reporting on fees and charges for Part A2 permits. This represents a reduction of 8% relative to the corresponding average of £4,200 in 2013/2014.

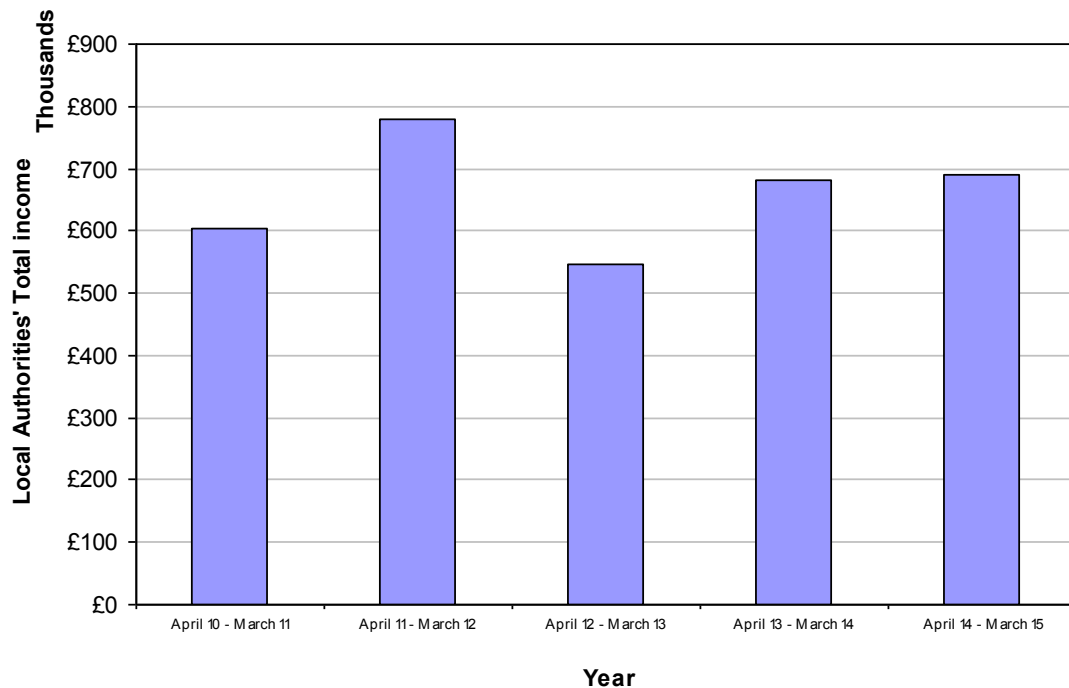


Figure 4.2: Total income from application fees & annual charges for Part A2 installations across England & Wales, by year (2010-2015)

The Metropolitan districts continue to have the highest average income at £5,587, although this is 41% lower than the corresponding figure of £9,533 that was reported in 2013/2014. The Port Health Authorities continue to have the lowest average income, viz. £1,384, in 2014/2015.

In 2014/2015, the West Midlands region received the highest income (£128,448) with 19% of the total; at the opposite extreme, the North Wales region received (£17,320) just over 2% of the total income.

4.5 Inspections (Tables 16 and 18, Annex C)

There were 73 inspections carried out in respect of applications for A2 permits; this equates to 10.4 inspections per application decided upon but 1.1 inspections per application received.

For those categories of process in which at least one decision was made: Timber preservation activities received the most inspections per decision (3); Ceramic and Incineration (not roadstone coating) installations received the fewest inspections per decision (1) during 2014/2015. A total of 924 inspections were carried out after a permit had been granted: 506 (55%) of these were for routine or programmed inspections; 371 (40%) were in response to complaints and 47 (5%) were for other reasons.

44% of inspections at A2 installations conducted in respect of applications took longer than two hours; 56% took between half an hour and two hours; none took less than half an hour. For inspections not in respect of applications, 40% took more than two hours, 45% took between half an hour and two hours, while 15% took less than half an hour.

The 924 inspections (not in connection with applications) conducted at the 336 permitted installations gives an average of almost 2.8 inspections per installation, a slightly higher rate than that reported in last year's survey, viz. 2.5 inspections per installation.

Inspections – Risk-based Data

Amongst the 166 authorities that completed the relevant section of the A2 questionnaire, 159 reported having risk-assessed all of their installations, with a further authority reporting that they had risk-assessed at least some of their installations. Six (6) authorities reported having risk-assessed none of their installations.

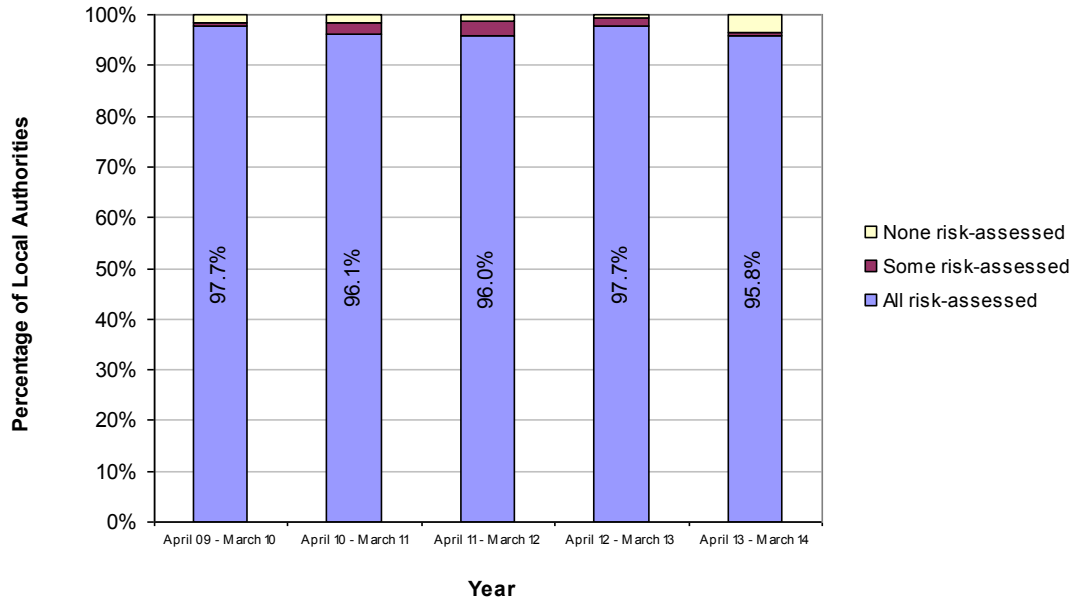


Figure 4.3: Percentages of local authorities that have risk-assessed all, some or none of their Part A2 installations, by year. (177 risk-assessed installations in 2010/11, 179 in 2011/12, 175 in 2012/13, 171 in 2013/2014 and 166 in 2014/2015).

161 authorities had at least one permitted installation at the end of 2014/2015. Of these, only 6 (Ashford, Flintshire, Liverpool, Ribble Valley, South Staffordshire and Wellingborough) had not risk assessed any of their installations.

In total, 330 installations had been risk assessed and 9% of these were assessed as high risk, 34% were medium risk and the remainder (57%) were low risk. The corresponding figures last year were 11% (high), 32% (medium) and 57% (low)

A total of 363 full inspections were carried out during 2014/2015, along with 134 check inspections and 395 extra inspections. Overall, for A2 installations of all risk categories, 13% of authorities carried out more full inspections than were required, with 18% carrying out fewer full inspections than expected. For check inspections, 16% carried out more than expected, while 18% carried out fewer than expected.

Of the 29 authorities carrying out fewer full inspections than expected, 20 provided reasons for the shortfall in inspections.

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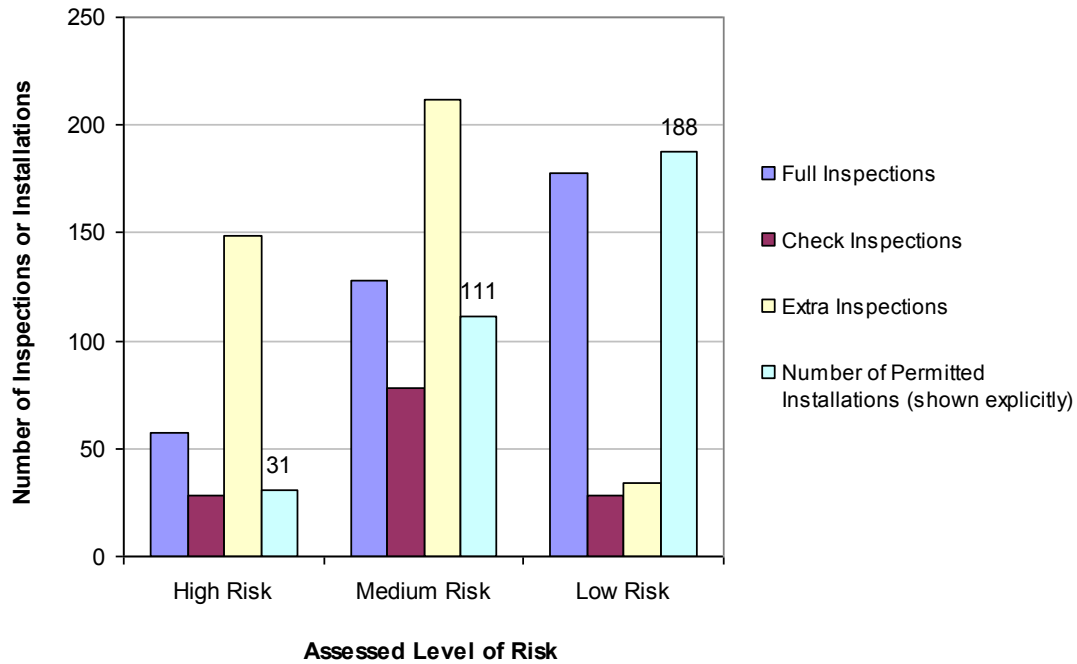


Figure 4.4: Number of inspections of risk-assessed Part A2 installations, broken down by type (i.e. full, inspection or extra inspections), with numbers of risk-assessed installations shown explicitly above final columns.

At a more detailed level, amongst the 24 authorities with high risk A2 installations, 13% conducted more full inspections than required while 37% conducted fewer full inspections than expected. When it came to check inspections, 21% conducted more than were required, with 37% conducting fewer check inspections than required.

Amongst the 70 authorities regulating medium-risk A2 installations, 20% of authorities conducted more full inspections than required, with 6% conducting fewer than required. For check inspections on medium-risk installations, 6% conducted more than the required number, with 37% conducting fewer than required.

Amongst the 117 authorities regulating low-risk A2 installations, 9% conducted more full inspections than required, with 16% conducting fewer than required (check inspections are not required for low risk installations). For check inspections on low-risk installations, 15% conducted more than the required number, with no authority conducting fewer than required.

The table in Annex E details the full and check inspection rates, in terms of risk, achieved by each individual authority.

4.6 Monitoring (Table 17, Annex C)

83% of installations provided monitoring data in 2014/2015. Of these, 3% produced data that was examined for less than half an hour over the year, 49% was examined for half an hour to two hours over the year, while the remaining 48% was examined for more than two hours.