

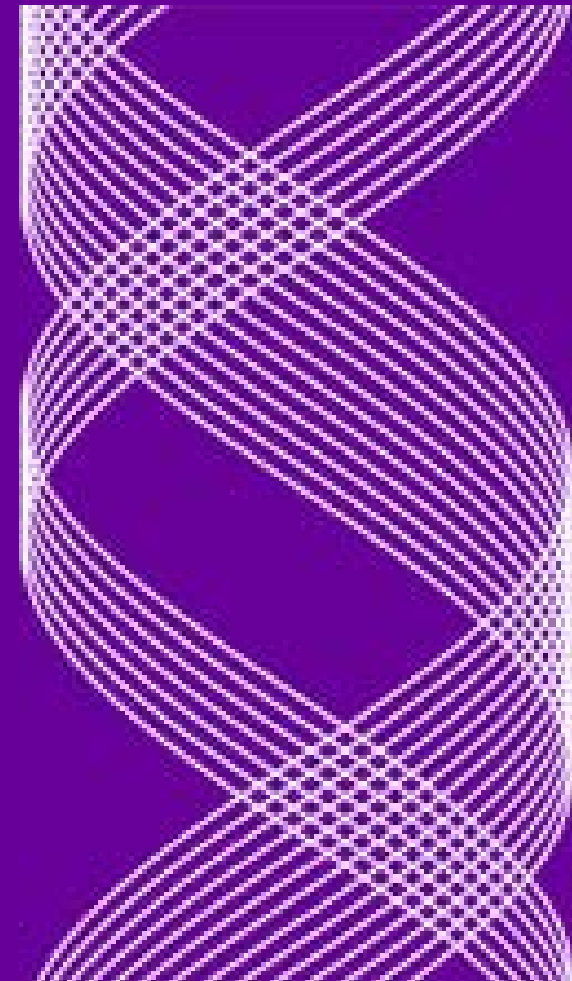


Retail Enforcement Pilot (REP) Barber- Surgeons' Hall, London, 28 March 2007

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The BRE

- Established in May 2005 within the Cabinet Office
- Taking forward the Government's commitment to regulatory reform
- Driving reform across private, public & voluntary sectors
- Supporting & challenging government departments & regulators
- Making regulation work for everyone

REP Background

- DTI initiative to test ways of rationalising delivery of local regulatory services to retail sector
- Phase 1 indicated encouraging outcomes so Chancellor announced scaling up from 2 to 70 local authorities
- Moved to BRE – consistent with Better Regulation agenda and implementing Hampton principles:
 - Reducing regulatory burdens e.g. joined-up routine planned inspections
 - Addressing concerns about consistency
 - Promoting partnership working between local regulators
 - Further developing risk based approach
- Funding for roll-out of Phase 2 provided for 2007/08

The Pilot (Phase 1)

- Joining up planned routine inspection programmes to fixed retail premises of:
 - Trading Standards
 - Environmental Health (food safety and health& safety)
 - Fire safety
- Pilot areas: Warwickshire Partnership, Bexley Council, London Fire Brigade
- Demonstrated feasibility of model and potential benefits – further development still required

The Project (Phase 2)

- Chancellor's support for further development
- REP moved (with LBRO) from DTI to BRE from January 2007
- Independent review of project structures conducted to inform BRE project management
- Project Team put in place – greater resource and support from wider BRE Regulatory Services Team
- Project and implementation plans being developed
- Building understanding of further development work needed

What Happens Next?

- Phased roll out across 70 local authorities:
 - Clusters of LAs e.g. Cornwall, West Yorkshire, Oxfordshire
 - Central co-ordinator of each cluster
 - Testing benefits across LA boundaries as well as Reg Services
- Continued product development of REP:
 - Systems integration
 - Confidence in Management methodology
 - Trial of different delivery mechanisms
- High-level Steering Group to be established, chaired by Gerry Murphy, with LACORS and FSA membership
- Meeting as many LAs as quickly as possible to establish roll-out implementation plan

Benefits

- Savings from routine visits re-directed to business education and intelligence-led campaigns
- No officer is conducting out of discipline inspections but...
- Cross-referrals provide intelligence – additional eyes and ears
- Reduced burden on businesses of unnecessary inspections – target those where the risk is
- Enhanced consumer and worker protection
- Influence central government regulatory reform

Issues

- Data cleansing at start of exercise
- Agreeing lead inspector and ensuring additional information effectively fed back
- Back office system integration
- Culture change – training and working together
- Outcome-based reporting requirements: requirements of e.g. Audit Commission and FSA
- Ensuring robust and sustainable model is put in place to enable long-term benefits and further roll-out (for LBRO to consider)

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