

## Regional EMS Group Meeting

Meeting: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### NOTES

#### *Attending:*

Stephanie Chesters	University College London	SC
Lloyd Chitando	Middlesex University	LC
Jason Clarke	City University	JC
Alan Cumber	The Institute of Cancer Research	AC
Jon Emmett	London School of Economics	JE
Emma Leacock	The Institute of Cancer Research	EL
Ricky Taylor	London School of Economics	RT
Kat Thorne	University of Greenwich	KT
Richard Woods	Kings College London	RW

## **1. Introduction**

- AC welcomed all to the workshop
- AC explained that the first half of the workshop would be a talk on space management with the second workshop focusing on legal register/compliance.

## **2.0 Workshop 1 Space Management, presentation by Chris Abell, Abell Nepp Architects**

- Chris Abell, Abell Nepp Architects gave a talk on space management and requirements.
- CA began the session by giving an overview of the common user requirements analysis and trends. Their main remit is to produce the best facilities for the best science, improve the interactions between lab space and non-lab space and improve operational efficiency.
- CA explained there has been a new emphasis on shared secondary laboratory space with primary space needing to accommodate a wider range of science.
- Benchmarking space metrics was discussed using the ICR as an example. The total space across both sites was looked at in relation to write up space and lab space. Comparisons are made with other Institutions that carry out similar type of work/research. Benchmarking against Primary, Secondary and Tertiary areas are also made with the split of secondary space into shared secondary space.
- Primary space – office and write up space can include bench.
- Secondary space – space that is often shared with the group including resources such as fridges, freezers, cold rooms.
- Lab bay metrics 3.2 metres grid refers to old style labs, 3.3m refers to more modern labs such as biomedical wet labs. 3.6 meter grid with 7.2 bay refers to chemistry lab. Traditional labs have write up space behind the primary lab allowing visibility and good interaction (Francis Crick Institute). The University of Glasgow follow a 'race track' plan style, this type of design limits primary space. Some designs have the write up space in the middle creating a more collaborative space. Write up space can also be split from lab space.
- Secondary lab space can be split into dedicated secondary lab space and shared secondary lab space allowing for more flexible working. Dedicated secondary space relates to specialist equipment

- A number of new designs have split the secondary area

### **3.0 Workshop 2: Legal Register/legal compliance**

- RW began the session by holding a short quiz to establish the scope of Institutions legal registers.
- RW gave an overview of the history of environmental law. RW noted that 15 H&S Approved Codes of Practice (ACOP) are being reviewed; including those with environmental impacts (DSEAR, asbestos, legionella, etc). These ACOPs will be streamlined, with a number of them being removed completely.
- The HSEs 'Fees for Intervention' (FFI) scheme was explained. RW noted that the government is proposing to make the scheme self funding with this implementation of cost recovery. The HSE are able to charge if 'in the inspectors view' they identify something wrong at any time. Charges apply as soon as an issue is identified and are cumulative for all inspectors that are involved in the investigation, site visits and research time. There are also charges for any lab time (anything they take off site and analyse in the laboratory). Local Authorities don't have the power to do this currently, however they can instruct HSE to investigate on their behalf; the EA may in the future follow a similar working practice.
- The EA have the power to enforce notices including works notices, prohibition notices, suspensions or revocations of environmental permits and licences, injunctions, remedial works, criminal sanctions including prosecutions and civil sanctions including financial penalties. The EA can come onto site at any time and can take samples away. Regulatory Enforcement is a new legislation which gives regulators including the EA and other environmental regulators (i.e. local authorities) the power to impose civil sanctions on businesses. There are 6 types of civil sanctions; compliance notices, restoration notices, fixed monetary penalties, enforcement undertaking, variable monetary penalties and stop notices. Civil sanctions are available for a number of environmental regulations.
- On overview of regulations relating to Air, ODS, laboratory ODS use, water, land, hazardous chemicals, transport and buildings was given. With regards to waste regulations RW noted that University waste is no longer classed as household waste.
- A requirement of WTNs is a declaration that an assessment against the waste hierarchy has taken place, this assessment needs to be documented within the institution. Kings College London does duty of care audit across all their waste companies, taking a sample of waste transfer notes and tracing them through the disposal route. This includes any new waste contractors.

- Hazardous chemical storage areas require bunding, to ensure the bundings suitability to contain its contents an integrity test should be carried out to a risk assessed frequency (interspersed with visual inspections).

- RW referred the group to the following sites:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/144676.aspx>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/news/139117.aspx>

<http://www.environmentlaw.org.uk/rte.asp?id=1>

<http://www.ukela.org/>

<http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/themehome/environment-2/>

#### **4.0 Any other business**

There was no other business discussed at the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> June at The University of Roehampton