

NHS Grampian – by email

Dear Sir Madam,

Please see the following comments below:

How well do you believe public bodies understand the biodiversity and reporting duties placed upon them?

I believe that there is a varying degree of knowledge across all of the public, in relation to the biodiversity duties placed upon them, from an NHS perspective there is quite a high level of knowledge shared across the boards as there are other aspects which tie in with the biodiversity report. However, I believe that there could be more information provided either online or through workshops to ensure that both parties achieve the maximum out of the reports both from the creation of them and the information which is gleaned from them.

☐ Do you believe that public bodies are adequately resourced to comply with the biodiversity and reporting duties?

As previously mentioned there could be more resources/assistance provided to the public bodies, as the adequacy of what is provided this is difficult to quantify as it depends upon what is requested and as this is not stated then the adequacy of the resources can't be quantified. However, if "we" NHS were asked to increase from what I am aware of other boards to report in was increased a greater amount of resources would be required then what is currently applied, which could be seen as a positive if there was more emphasis put on the report at a national level with greater impact.

☐ Do you think the requirement to report on the biodiversity duty leads to effective actions for improving and conserving biodiversity by public bodies?

Unfortunately I don't believe that the report is as effective as it could be, this is in part due to the fact that it is not supported/backed up by any other legislation which enforces any actions. Whilst it is a useful tool in so far as it makes the reportee aware of their current status and then be used to highlight any areas for improvement, it can't be used as a tool to actively insist upon work being done.

☐ Are there any changes that could improve the actions taken by public bodies in respect of the biodiversity and reporting duties?

I believe that this has been covered in the previous answers, in so far as the public bodies could improve their overall biodiversity if they were to have a more prescriptive report and set of targets to achieve as this would then lead to a greater degree of relative enforcement that the public bodies would have to enforce the targets that they must reach, which would then lead to both a better comparison across all public bodies through a better comparison and see where there are national trends and areas of focus improvement required.

Many Thanks,

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