

Delivering Health & Safety to Local Government



The Source
for Critical Information and Insight™

The Occupational Health & Safety Information Service
West Lothian Council

Objective

To provide West Lothian Council with an online information service delivering essential documents. Helping the health & safety practitioner to support their local government front-line colleagues apply to standards correctly whilst supporting the local community.

Solution

IHS a leading edge supplier of standards and regulations, providing critical information to support local government in meeting their health & safety and environmental health needs. Information delivered directly to the desktops of health & safety professionals, quality assurance managers, compliance officers and strategic planners.

Why IHS?

IHS provides West Lothian Council with current regulations, standards, guidance and best practice documents that are delivered direct from our Info4localgov.com. These combine all the relevant IHS information services presented as a complete reference source to suit the requirements of local government needing rapid, reliable and up-to-date online access to complete documents which are relevant to health and safety, environmental health, trading standards, building control, planning, highway, engineering and technical services including The Occupational Health & Safety Information Service.



The Occupational Health & Safety Information Service provides health, safety and environmental practitioners with the only comprehensive, online information service which has daily updates.

West Lothian Overview

West Lothian Council manages the central belt of lowland Scotland, bounded by Edinburgh on the east and Glasgow to the west. It's a busy, thriving, vibrant area, home to 160,000 people. Large-scale investment in the area has resulted in new jobs, new housing and new infrastructure. Its population is now the youngest and fastest growing in Scotland.

The Council prides itself on its innovative and proactive approach to delivering local government services. In 2006 it won the prestigious UK Council of the Year award which recognises and highlights excellence in local authorities.



Marion Johnstone is the Council's Occupational Health & Safety Manager. Leading a team of five advisers, she is responsible for ensuring that 8,500 council staff working in eight 'service areas' (departments) have constant access to up-to-date health and safety criteria and standards. *"Our role is internal,"* says Marion. *"We help our front-line colleagues to apply the standards correctly, and ensure that the health and safety mindset is instilled throughout the organisation."*

"We have a wide variety of industries and enterprises here in West Lothian," says Marion. *"From construction through to agriculture, as well as community-based activities such as schools and hospitals. So our people need to have access to an equally wide range of health and safety information."*

The answer is IHS's Occupational Health & Safety Information Service (OHSIS), an online database of standards which gives instant access to all the relevant sources.

The eight service areas that have access to Info4localgov.com are: Highways, Construction Services, Health & Safety, Libraries, Building Control, Environmental Health, Building Services and Roads.

"Each of the departments has front-end responsibility for ensuring that they apply the correct standards in individual cases," says Marion. *"Staff from my team are allocated to each of the service areas to ensure we know what is happening on the ground, and to provide a channel for specialist advice if they run into difficulties."*

So what are the main benefits of OHSIS? *"It's a very effective system that is well used by the staff here. Regulations and standards are being constantly reviewed and changed by the central authorities, but IHS do a professional job in keeping the site up to date. They also respond quickly to requests for additional information."*

"Because it's online, every user has instant access to relevant data. This helps to speed up the decision-making process, providing a further potential benefit for the people of West Lothian."

If you would like further information as to how IHS can support your organisation or require additional information about The Occupational Health & Safety Information Service, then contact us on 01344 328000 or email marketing@ihs.com.



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