

60887 Public Safety Provision

I am researching trends in public safety provision across major UK cities and would appreciate the following information relating to your local authority area.

Please provide the information annually for the last 5 financial years.

Inspections

The number of Health & Safety inspections carried out on businesses each year by council officers.

In terms of Environmental Health, the information related to enforcement activities by the City of Edinburgh Council as an Enforcing Authority under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSAWA 1974), can be found at:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/enforcement-lae1-returns.htm>

The number of housing inspections carried out each year, relating to housing safety or housing standards.

For clarification, I am seeking information on housing safety inspections relating to the identification and assessment of hazards to occupants, using the relevant framework applicable in your area.

This should include inspections carried out in both private rented housing and council or social housing where these inspections are undertaken to assess safety risks, housing standards, or compliance.

This may include (but is not limited to); inspections to identify hazards (e.g. falls risks, fire safety, electrical safety), inspections linked to enforcement or regulatory action, stock condition or compliance inspections where safety hazards are assessed.

I am not seeking routine repairs visits unless they are specifically recorded as part of a safety or hazard assessment.

The housing inspection data we have identified is provided in the table below.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
EICRs*	1,802	3,879	2,291	4,318	5,011
Electrical Inspections/ Checks	450***	450***	450***	493	511
LGSR** (Based on stock data)	16,183	16,198	16,207	16,288	16,384
Gas Inspections/Checks	500***	500***	500***	551	564
Damp Surveys	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	NR	1,946	1,064
Asbestos Conditional Monitoring (Data based on FY - not calendar year)	75	25	800	1,200	1,425

Asbestos Audits	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	44	10	59
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*EICRs – Electrical Installation Condition Reports

**LGSR - Landlord Gas Safety Record

*** Approximate figures

In addition, the table provided below shows property inspections (HMO and Short-Term Let) carried out by the Licensing Service.

Financial Year	Number of Inspections
2025/26	1,491
2024/25	1,660
2023/24	116
2022/23	21
2021/22	5

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, HMO inspections of all properties were carried out by Licensing staff as part of the new and continuation application process.

Routine inspections were paused in March 2020 while the Licensing Service continued to consider licence applications based on the information and safety certification provided by applicants. Inspections of new premises were carried out by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) while inspections of existing HMOs were carried out by Licensing Officers in certain circumstances, including where requested by the Council's Licensing Sub-Committee.

In September 2025, the Licensing Service recommenced planned physical property inspections of all existing HMO properties using a phased, risk-based approach. This Business Bulletin is published on our website at:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s88635/6.1 - Regulatory Business Bulletin.pdf>

The Short-Term Let (STL) licensing scheme came into effect on 1 October 2022 with the application deadline of 1 October 2023 for existing STL hosts. Licensing officers inspect all properties as part of the secondary letting STL licence application process (new and renewal applications).

The number of inspections carried out by council Trading Standards Officers each year.

Trading Standards no longer generally conduct a programmed set of comprehensive inspections; however, they hold the following information regarding 'visits' undertaken. These will not be fully reflective of all 'inspections' undertaken, however:

2020/21 – 102

2021/22 – 80

2022/23 – 157

2023/24 – 325

2024/25 – 236

2025/26 (to 20TH April) – 425

In addition, they separately undertake specific metrological inspections (weights and measures) which are recorded as follows:

2020/21 – 0

2021/22 – 17

2022/23 – 67

2023/24 – 75

2024/25 – 73

2025/26 (to 20TH April) - 44

The total number of playground inspections conducted each year by council officers.

Playground inspection data prior to 2024 was not consistently or centrally recorded. From 2024 onwards, inspections undertaken for playparks, ball courts, and outdoor gyms are recorded as follows:

2024 - 1,897 inspections

2025 – 2,605 inspections

Enforcement

For Q1 to Q3 in the above areas, where available:

- a. The number of enforcement actions taken, broken down by type (e.g. improvement notices, prohibition notices, civil penalties)

In terms of Environmental Health, the information related to enforcement activities by the City of Edinburgh Council as an Enforcing Authority under HSAWA 1974, can be found at:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/enforcement-lae1-returns.htm>

In terms of Trading Standards, all seizures of non-compliant vapes were dealt with by way of a warning and destruction of the goods.

There were no seizures of illicit nicotine-based products recorded in the Financial Year 2020/21.

In 2021/22 there were two seizures.

In 2022/23 there were fifteen seizures

In 2023/24 there were twenty-six seizures

In 2024/25 there were fifteen seizures

In 2025/26 there was one seizure

In addition, in 2024, 18 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued to retailers of vapes for selling such products to persons under 18, as follows:

1 was issued in May 2024

6 FPNs were issued in August 2024

5 FPNs were issued in October 2024

1 FPN was issued in November 2024

5 FPNs were issued in December 2024

In 2025, 25 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued to retailers of vapes for selling such products to persons under 18, as follows:

13 FPNs were issued in February 2025

1 FPN was issued in March 2025

9 FPNs were issued in June 2025

2 FPNs were issued in November 2025

In addition to the FPNs above, two separate Tobacco and NVP Banning Orders were sought from the Court prohibiting two retailers from selling tobacco and vaping products.

The first Banning Order was granted in April 2025 and the second order was granted in July 2025.

In 2026 2 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued to vape retailers for selling such products to persons under 18. Both these FPNs were issued in February 2026.

b. The number of prosecutions completed.

In terms of Environmental Health, The City of Edinburgh Council is a Specialist Reporting Agency to the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland. The Fiscal is the sole prosecution service in Scotland. Since April 2021, two cases under the HSAWA 1974 have been successfully prosecuted by the Fiscal in relation to reports submitted by the Council.

Please also refer to the Trading Standards information provided above.