

AGENDA ITEM No.⁹..... NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: Working Time Regulations.
From: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Date: 9th November, 1998. Ref: GB/MC	

PROPOSED DECISION

To note the Report.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

As discussed in the Report there has been no additional financial grant agreed with local authorities for this extra work.

REPORT

Members will be aware that the Working Time Regulations 1998 which enact the EC directive on the organisation of working came into force on 1st October, 1998.

The Regulations were drafted by the Department of Trade and Industry (Dti) and deal with provisions concerning working time and also the protection of young people at work with regard to their working hours.

It was decided by the DTI in conjunction with the Health & Safety Commission (HSC) that this legislation should be enforced along with the Health & Safety at Work legislation and accordingly local authorities are required to enforce it in the premises where they enforce the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act, 1974 as detailed in the Health & Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998.

Earlier this year the various local authority associations in England and Wales and COSLA in Scotland along with the Health & Safety Executive were consulted on the additional resources required to enforce the new legislation and the guidance given at that time by the Dti was that this costing should be based on a "reactive" as opposed to a "proactive" basis approach to enforcement.

COSLA and the other Associations submitted their estimated costs but to date there has been no agreement reached on the additional finance to be given to local authorities for this work. Neither has there been any direction given to local authorities as to how the legislation is to be enforced and whether inspections of company records are required or whether the local authority is only expected to respond to employees' complaints..

Members will be advised when the above matters have been resolved and in the meantime the Department will attempt to deal with any queries from the public concerning the new Regulations based on the information contained in a booklet explaining the Regulations supplied by the DTI.

M'Kenzie L. Hutton