

Chorley and South Ribble use of RIAMS by Public Protection Teams.

Position Statement

Summary

RIAMS provides Public Protection Officers at Both Chorley and South Ribble with Guidance for environmental health, housing and community safety services and supports them across all specialisms of environmental health to work smarter, network and share good practice.

It provides officers with reliable daily access to procedures, notice templates and guidance to support them in carrying out enforcement but also reassures experienced and new officers that they are following industry best practice within legislative framework, working consistently within the team and nationally.

Although it is recognised that the procedures provided in RIAMS represent best practice in some circumstances Chorley and South Ribble may not have the resources to meet timescales suggested within a procedure or the Authorities may not have adopted certain legislation meaning that the legislation suggested could not be enforced.

As an Authority we have recently started to verify a small percentage of work against the RIAMS procedures and some of the issues highlighted above have already been identified.

What has been agreed is that when such issues are identified a local context will be provided in the procedures explaining why we are not following the procedure to the letter.

It is recognised that because of the sheer number of procedures covering many different topics that it will take a long time to review all the procedures, but we will initially prioritise procedures that are used most by the Local Authority to be verified.

Access to RIAMS equips our public protection teams with all the resources that they need. The Communities and suite of training courses provided by RIAMS empower our professional staff, helping them to be completely up to date with all best practice and legislation across the sector.

RIAMS Libraries

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They are easily accessible and flexible, RIAMS Libraries offers expertly curated and reviewed documents. Each specialist discipline has its own module of content, which can be complemented and adapted for local practice.

Chorley and South Ribble Council do not have the capacity to develop and maintain bespoke procedures and guidance, which is resource-intensive and costly. RIAMS provides the solution and the reassurance that our officers will be supported when they carry out enforcement. Through a quality-assured, comprehensive document management system that is accessible from any location, officers have all the tools needed to deliver efficient and consistent enforcement.

A significant advantage of using RIAMS is the notices as it reduces anxiety about them being invalid because of small [legislative] amendments – these documents are regularly reviewed and updated [by the company]. The prompts are also helpful in supporting officers, particularly when taking action using less familiar powers.