

Health and Safety Update – April 2017 to September 2017

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<p><b>Forward Plan Reference:</b></p>	<p>SWB/17/09/07</p>
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>	<p>This report updates the board on health and safety in the first two quarters of the 2017/18 financial year by our principal contractors Kier Environmental Services (Kier ES) and Viridor (Somerset) Waste Management Ltd, identifying the trends and any reasons underlying these, and the actions being taken by our contractors and SWP in response. The key highlights are:</p> <p><b>Kier</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accidents reduced further to 23 (down by 4) to the lowest level seen under the SWP contract.</li> <li>• Near Miss reports reduced by 68%.</li> <li>• No notifications under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation. 2013 (RIDDOR)</li> <li>• No incidents involving members of the public reported.</li> <li>• One Environmental Incident reported.</li> <li>• Kier received ‘gold award’ from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) for 2016 performance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Viridor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accidents rose to 17 (up by 4).</li> <li>• Near miss reporting reduced by 22%.</li> <li>• 1 RIDDOR accident reported.</li> <li>• No Dangerous Occurrences reported.</li> <li>• 9 incidents involved members of the public (up by 1)</li> <li>• 5 Environmental Incidents reported.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>	<p><b>That the Somerset Waste Board notes the contents of this report and its appendices.</b></p>
<p><b>Reasons for recommendations:</b></p>	<p>The waste management sector has an injury and fatality rate significantly higher than the all-industry average. Health and Safety management within the scope of the Somerset Waste Partnership has therefore always had a very high profile. A public report for members on a six monthly basis helps maintain awareness.</p>

<b>Links to Priorities and Impact on Annual Business Plan:</b>	Business Plan 2017-22 Section 4 – Key Issues
<b>Financial, Legal and HR Implications:</b>	There are no direct financial, legal or HR implications arising from this report. There are however substantial ‘hidden savings’ to the Board and the Somerset community arising from low incident/accident rates, resulting in savings from avoided investigations and reduced lost working time.
<b>Equalities Implications:</b>	There are no equalities implications arising from this report.
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	There is the potential for serious risk to the health, safety and welfare of personnel deployed in providing waste management services, particularly considering the diversity of operations provided through SWP. While the contractors take primary responsibility for the safety and health of their workforce, the SWP has a role in encouraging, monitoring and fostering a culture of safety.

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Our principal contractors provide the SWP with detailed reports every 6 months, breaking down accidents and incidents on a depot and site basis. These are scrutinised by the SWP, challenged for further clarification when required, then edited to compile this summary report.

Members familiar with this report will identify that it has been shortened to allow a more focused commentary on performance indicators that require close attention, along with any resultant actions. Only reference to the statistics for the previous 6 months is now included in the main body of the report. The historical comparisons (such as the rolling 3 year graphs) have been included as appendices on this occasion - pending input from members. These can be included, deleted, or re-integrated as required for future reports. The appendices removed from the report are identified below and can be found in the corresponding location.

### Appendix 1

- Fig (1) Kier ES - Rolling 3 Year AAFR.
- Fig (2) –Kier ES - Rolling 3 Year AFR.
- Fig (3) – SWP monitoring of Kier kerbside collection vehicles.

### Appendix 2

- Fig (1) – Viridor - Persons injured on recycling sites.
- Fig (2) – Viridor - Causation factor for recycling site injuries.
- Fig (3) Viridor - Type of injury sustained in accident.
- Fig (4) – Viridor - AAFR rolling 3 year period.

## 1.2. Statistical Reporting

Both Kier ES and Viridor (Somerset) Waste Management Ltd use the industry recognised standard of the All Accident Frequency Rate (AAFR) for reporting accident statistics and, the Accident Frequency Rate (AFR) for reporting RIDDOR qualifying accidents - calculated as: Total number of Injury / Accident events in the period on their respective operations for the SWP, divided by the total number of hours worked in the period; x 100,000.

## 2. Kier Environmental Services:

**2.1. All Accident Frequency Rate (AAFR):** Kier ES report an AAFR of 4.71, down a further 0.68 from the previous figure of 5.39. Accidents reduced by 4, to now stand at 23 recorded over 488,389 hours worked on the Somerset contract. The 3 most frequent types of accident are shown in the table below, with the trend of accident reporting continuing downward to its lowest level on the SWP contract.

HSE categorised Causation Factor	April 2017 – September 2017	October 2016 – March 2017
Slipped, tripped or fell on the same level	6 (26%)	12 (44%)
Injured whilst handling, lifting or carrying	6 (26%)	9 (33%)
Hit by a moving, flying or falling object	4 (17%)	3 (11%)

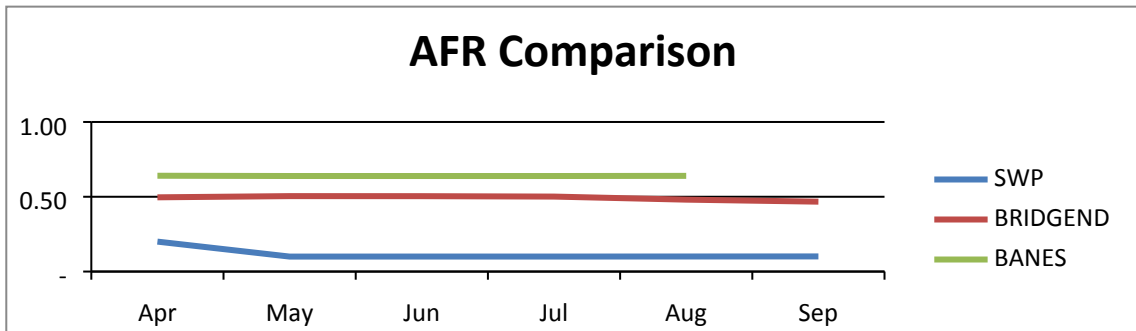
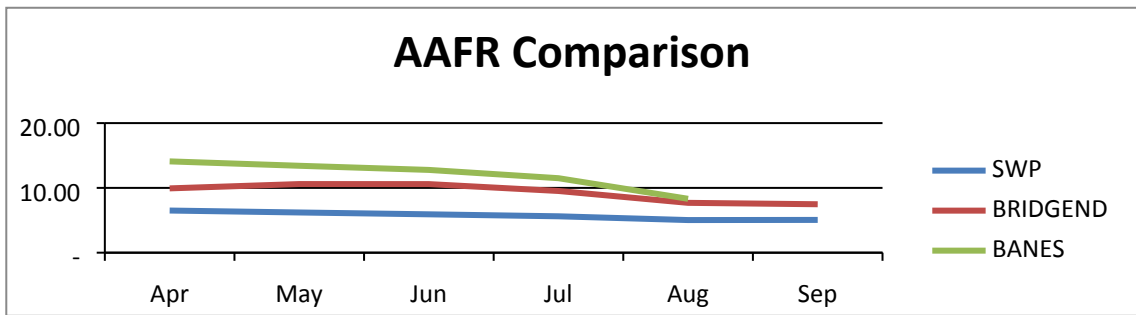
**Accident Frequency Rate (AFR):** No RIDDOR's notified, therefore the rolling one year AFR figure is 0.10 for the current period.

**Near Miss Reporting:** Kier ES have a 'Near Miss' (hazard spot) procedure for reporting actual or potential health, safety, or environmental concerns. The number recorded for this reporting period is 77, down 68% from the previous figure of 243. The 3 largest contributors to this number are shown below by number, then percentage.

Category	Number of Reports	Percentage of Total
Environmental/Waste/Ecology	28	36%
Unsafe place of work	16	21%
Paperwork/Training	13	17%

Whilst the 68% reduction in this figure appears a positive, it is important that all 'near misses' be reported to raise awareness of potential risks and to avoid accidents. The SWP and Kier ES recognise this and are actively seeking to drive this figure upwards, through a campaign of further awareness training and toolbox talks aimed at recognising and reporting risks, along with a planned increase in SWP monitoring of Kier collection crews. The aim is to help identify any areas of concern not currently reported that may need further investigation.

**Benchmarking:** Comparison of the Kier performance on the Somerset contract measured against similar Kier contracts follows. The first graph is for the AAFR over the reporting period of April 2017 to September 2017 (inclusive) and the second is the RIDDOR reportable accidents (AFR) graph for the same period. It can be seen that the Somerset contract performance compares favourably to others. Please note that the reporting for Bath & North East Somerset ceases in August as the information from that contract is no longer available through Kier.



**Reportable Occurrences:**

- There were no RIDDOR accidents notified in this period.
- There were no reportable Dangerous Occurrences in this period.
- There were no incidents involving members of the public in this period.
- There was one Environmental Incident in this period (details below).

Environmental Incident	
Date	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Location	Folly Road, Kingsbury Episcopi
Incident Details	A kerbside recycling collection vehicle suffered a hydraulic leak, causing its tank contents of 20 litres to discharge onto public highway.
Direct Cause	Main Hydraulic Feed pipe from tank to Sliding Door ram had deteriorated causing a split
Corrective Actions	Area isolated by crew, supervisor called out with additional spill kits and absorbent granules to assist in containing spillage and cleaning up.

**SWP monitoring of Kier Health and Safety:** The number of vehicles monitored by the SWP for this period was down considerably on the previous 6 months, from 143 to 80. The reduction in monitoring is largely attributable to operational issues on kerbside collections taking up more officer time than is standard. This has been recognised and a more systematic schedule for monitoring is being implemented as part of a wider review of how we manage the Kier contract.

**2.2. Kier ES – Health & Safety Award:**

Kier report the good news that their performance in 2016 (January 01 to December 31) was rewarded with a ‘Gold Award’ by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) adjudication panel.

### 3. Viridor (Somerset) Waste Management Ltd:

- 3.1. Viridor report an AAFR of 28.16 up from 21.54 previously reported, over the 60,350 hours worked on the Somerset contract. The total number of injuries & accidents in the period was 17, up 4 from the previous 13. Members of the public injured rose by 1, from 8 to 9.

Analysis of the accident figures shown below indicates a 31% increase in accidents but, when this is compared to the increase in visits to HWRCs in the summer months (41% up compared to the winter period - October to March) it shows that there is a slight proportional reduction (accidents per visitor number).

Member of the public	9
Viridor Employee	6
Contractor	2
<b>Total reportable accidents</b>	<b>17</b>
Sub-Contractor	1

It has not been possible to include the injury to the sub-contractor working on a specialist collection within the calculation for the AAFR listed above, because this is an independent collection and the injured person is not directly employed by Viridor, or solely used on the SWP contract.

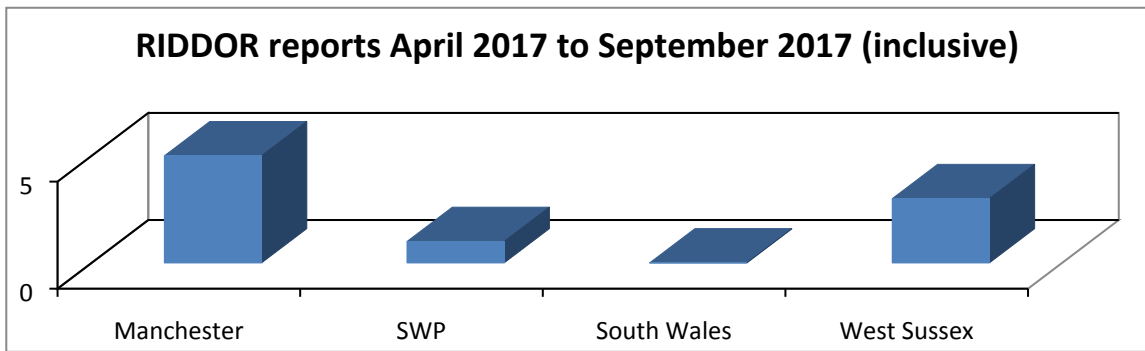
Accidents are broken down into more detail in the table shown below, starting with the causation factor. We list the top 3 by number of accidents in this reporting period and, include the figures from the previous report for continuity.

Categorised Causation Factor	April 2017 – September 2017	October 2016 – March 2017
Contact with a sharp object	<b>5 (28%)</b>	<b>1 (8%)</b>
Injured whilst handling, lifting or carrying	<b>4 (22%)</b>	<b>2 (15%)</b>
Hit by a moving, flying or falling object	<b>3 (17%)</b>	<b>1 (8%)</b>

**Near Miss Reporting:** Viridor also follow the good practice of using a 'Near Miss' reporting system to identify potential hazards and risks as a way of highlighting issues and concerns that need to be addressed, or investigated further. The figure for this period is 91, down by 25 from the previous figure. Only 6 of these were classed as actual 'near misses', the vast majority (85) were classed as 'unsafe acts' observed by staff.

Breaking the figure down further shows that prior to the SWB decision to amend the permit process at the June 2017 board meeting (paper SWB/17/03/07), 34 out of 46 (74%) of these unsafe acts were related to the permit process as it stood at the time. Since the implementation of the revised permit process at the start of July, this figure has now dropped to 9 out of 39 (23%), with the majority linked to lack of knowledge of the scheme.

**Accident Frequency Rate (AFR):** Viridor's (AFR) for the period based on RIDDOR reportable accidents for Somerset Recycling Centres is currently 1.66. There is one RIDDOR reported due to a back injury to a member of staff. This is the first RIDDOR reported in 4 years. The Somerset RIDDOR comparison to similar Viridor contracts that we include in these reports is shown below.



### 3.2. Reportable Occurrences

- There was 1 RIDDOR.
- There were no Dangerous Occurrences.
- There were 5 Environmental Incidents as listed in the table below.

19/04/17 – Crewkerne CRC – A small spill of creosote that was treated by the staff to prevent it travelling into the site drainage system. There was no risk posed to the watercourse due to actions taken.

22/04/17 – Crewkerne CRC – A small spill of liquid adjacent to the bottle bank on the upper level. Treated with granules and disposed of as hazardous waste due to its unknown origin.

23/06/17 – Chard HWRC – A fire in the metal container that occurred during compaction. The fire brigade was called and the fire extinguished within 15 minutes. Attending fire officers suspected the cause was an aerosol can that had been disposed of incorrectly in the container.

13/07/17 – Crewkerne – A contractor’s vehicle split a hydraulic pipe whilst servicing containers on the upper level. The resultant spill was treated quickly with absorbent granules and the waste disposed of as hazardous. There was no spill into any watercourse.

17/09/17 – Saltlands HWRC – A hydraulic leak occurred on the site compaction vehicle during operation. This was treated with absorbent granules and the waste disposed of as hazardous.

**SWP monitoring of Viridor Health and Safety:** SWP officers continue to monitor Viridor H&S performance on a daily basis; through scheduled and unscheduled site inspections, direct participation in H&S meetings with workforce and managers, analysis of incident/accident and, performance reporting. The current scheduled inspection schedule is bullet pointed below.

- SWP annual H&S inspections of Recycling Centres - currently ongoing.
- H&S inspections of Viridor composting facilities - scheduled early 2018.
- Closed Landfill annual H&S audits are scheduled for early 2018.
- A review of pedestrian access to recycling sites - with the intention of making more sites safely accessible for those that wish to walk in.

## 4. Consultations Undertaken

4.1. No consultations undertaken during this period.

## 5. Background Papers.

5.1. H&S report to the Somerset Waste Board 30th June 2017 - SWB 17/03/06