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The Chief Executive

This is the third year that the Institute has published the Annual Review in which it highlights and celebrates Scotland’s environmental health partnerships. The importance of positive partnership working, especially in environmental health, cannot be overstated. The Institute continues to work in partnership with the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government, the Food Standards Agency Scotland, Health Protection Scotland, the Health and Safety Executive, the Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland, ASH Scotland, the Environmental Health Officers’ Association (Ireland) and the International Federation of Environmental Health, and its commitment to developing the partnership with the Malawi Environmental Health Association continues.

It is, however, with much regret that I must again record that the Institute no longer enjoys the positive relationship that it once had with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) – the organisation that represents the Environmental Health Profession in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its decision, taken in 2009, to establish a CIEH Region in Scotland has not been rescinded and it is unlikely that the once positive relationship will be restored until it does. Once again I record the Institute’s gratitude for the support given by many members of the Scottish Parliament over this issue. The Institute is especially grateful to Robin Harper MSP, Ken Macintosh MSP and Stewart Maxwell MSP, all of whom are Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Institute.

The Institute is an unusual organisation. It is governed by a Royal Charter and Bye-Laws, is a registered Scottish charity, is a membership-based society, is an organisation which governs the Environmental Health Profession in Scotland, is an awarding body for a wide range of environmental health qualifications and is a national training organisation with Approved Training Centres across Scotland, the rest of the UK and further afield.

As a registered Scottish charity the Institute, through its Charity Trustees (all Members of the Institute’s Council are designated as Charity Trustees - Appendix 1), must act for the benefit of the public and must continue to comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and with guidance from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the individuals from all the partner organisations who contributed to the 2010 Annual Review. The names of these individuals and of the organisations they represent are listed on page 48.

In closing I record my thanks to all of the Institute’s staff for their support and excellent quality of work throughout the year. Further information on REHIS is available at www.rehis.com.
The President

2010 in many respects was a challenging year while being a very successful and enjoyable year and, on reflection, it has gone all too quickly. I am however reassured that the interests of the Profession and the Institute will be guarded and promoted under the able stewardship of our current President, Alistair Thomson and our erstwhile and ever present Chief Executive, Tom Bell.

Our 2009 review informed readers that we had purchased new HQ premises in Torphichen Street, Edinburgh. I am pleased to say, early in 2010 we completed the refurbishment and we now have an HQ which is not only fit for purpose and will provide flexibility in our service to members but is also wholly owned by the Institute. We now have an asset that the Institute can be proud of and plans are now in place to have an official opening in the spring of 2011.

The work of the Scottish Government Short Life Working Group which started back in 2008 finally concluded, however the early promise and anticipated outcome the institute hoped for did not materialise and it is now clear that it will be up to the Institute, working with its academic partners and the Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland to arrive at a sustainable solution for our professional education and training programme and the future of the profession as a whole. In addition, however, the number of students and viability of the degree course at Strathclyde University continues to give concern and the Institute is working hard to provide a sustainable solution for future entrants to the profession.

The early months of 2010 were spent putting the final arrangements in place for our Annual Conference which was held in Renfrew. This year’s theme was REHIS being 135 years old and its members protecting the health of the people of Scotland over this time. The conference enjoyed a wide range of speakers including the Chief Medical Officer, the Medical Director of Health Protection Scotland and Professor Hugh Pennington. The conference was well received by delegates, enjoyed a high level of media coverage and also, in these challenging financial times, was well supported.

In order to acknowledge and commemorate the Institute’s 135th anniversary, Tom Bell our Chief Executive suggested that the Institute organise an international essay competition. The Institute’s Council endorsed this recommendation and we received many excellent entries from across the world. In the end, the independent panel finally agreed on the winner who was from Canada who received an award certificate and £500.

The Institute values strong links with sister professional bodies and continues to work closely with the Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland in the interests of Environmental Health Officers serving in local government. This close relationship will become more important in the foreseeable future as we meet the challenges faced by local government in the coming months and years. We also continue to have a close and developing relationship with our colleagues in the Environmental Health Officers’ Association of Ireland and this wider liaison can only be to the benefit of our respective associations. This close liaison results in reciprocal attendance as guests at each other’s annual conferences and I had the privilege of representing the Institute at the Irish annual conference in Athlone.

Unfortunately our relationship with our sister body in England, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, continues to be problematic after they unilaterally established a Scottish Region despite our formal protest and objection to such action. This resulted in a breakdown in formal relations between the two Institutes, but we received wide support in Scotland including from MSPs in the Scottish Parliament and the Public Health Minister. At the AGM of the International Federation of Environmental Health, on behalf of the Institute I presented a motion to the meeting in relation to the CIEH’s unilateral action in Scotland and the motion was fully supported by the IFEH members.

However, towards the end of the year I agreed to meet with the President of the CIEH who wished to commence dialogue on an informal basis between elected members. While he advised that the CIEH will not, in the foreseeable future, rescind their current position on the administrative region in Scotland and, equally, I reinforced the Institute’s position, there was an acceptance by the CIEH President that the situation had been poorly managed. There was also a full understanding by the CIEH President of the REHIS position. We both agreed, as a prelude to finding a way forward, to revisit our outstanding Memorandum of Understanding agreed between both organisations and hopefully this dialogue will lead to a solution that is agreeable to both parties. After all, in these challenging times for environmental health, the two leading environmental health institutes in the UK should be working together to protect public health rather than be in professional dispute.

In the wider area of professional links I am proud to advise that the Institute has continued its positive support for the development of Environmental Health in Africa. We agreed a Deed of Partnership and Twinning with the Malawi Environmental Health Association and added financial support for the Association as it revitalises itself and moves forward. In the wider context we also supported financially this year’s All African Congress in Environmental Health, which, was held in Malawi and, in addition to this support, our Chief Executive, Tom Bell, attended the Congress, presented a paper and chaired sessions. Tom was accompanied by Past President, Bernard Forteath, in his capacity as President of the International Federation of Environmental Health. REHIS’s support for Malawi and the Congress has been acknowledged and I know that our support is highly valued.

In September this year I was honoured to represent the Institute at the IFEH World Congress in Vancouver. I was supported at the Congress by Past President, Bernard Forteath and Chief Executive, Tom Bell. We continued to support the Congress by taking an exhibition stand and throughout the week we had numerous delegates enquiring about the Institute at the Congress and our support is highly valued.

In the wider area of professional links I am proud to advise that the Institute has continued its positive support for the development of Environmental Health
presenting a paper at the Congress on the Management of Legionella Incidents and Outbreaks in Scotland and Europe which I found both enjoyable and valuable. The highlight however was, as President, presenting the award to the winner of our international essay competition which I alluded to earlier and who fittingly was Canadian.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of REHIS for affording me the opportunity to attend the Congress and this will personally remain one of my Presidential highlights over the past year.

Despite our current recession our community training courses continue to maintain their numbers and, while the outcome of better trained and informed individuals supports protecting the health of Scotland's population, it also provides a valuable income to REHIS. Without this income we could not function in the way we do. I would therefore like to pay tribute to the work of Graham Walker, our Director of Training. Through his leadership and the excellent work of our Approved Training Centres, our community training programme continues to deliver a valued service across the whole of Scotland.

I would also like to share with you my visit with Graham to Dundee College where I presented six Elementary Food Hygiene Certificates. Not particularly significant you might think, but the students were all deaf and they had the course content and the exam delivered through an interpreter in sign language. This visit was humbling for seeing the enthusiasm of the students and the challenges they faced in achieving their goal.

The Northern and Southern Centres’ work is invaluable to the members, especially in regard to the CPD update training sessions they organise which afford the opportunity to access low-cost training in convenient locations. Having experienced at first hand the provision at both centres, I would highly commend this service which is available to all members.

A most enjoyable and challenging year came to an end with our Annual Awards Ceremony where students embarking on a career in Environmental Health were acknowledged for their hard work along with, shall I say, more mature recipients who were acknowledged for their past and continued contribution to the environmental and public health agenda.

Roderick House
2010 was also a busy year for post-qualification professional development. The Institute organised and ran the usual range of professional update courses and, in addition, the Southern and Northern Centre Management Committees ran a number of smaller, local events. These events provide opportunities for professionals to keep themselves abreast with the latest developments in the field of environmental health and share good working practices. Furthermore, for those members who are EHOs, these continuing professional development events are key to achieving Chartered status. 205 EHOs achieved and maintained Chartered status in 2010.

The Institute again endorsed the FSA Scotland’s low-cost training programme for local authority enforcement staff. A range of events covering a variety of topics were awarded maximum hour values consistent with the Institute’s Schemes of Continuing Professional Development for EHOs and non-EHOs.

The Institute made significant contributions to the development and formation of the Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register culminating in the formation of OSHCR Limited. The Register has been established by a number of professional bodies including REHIS with support from the Health and Safety Executive. The Register is voluntary and open to individuals who provide commercial advice on general health and safety management issues. REHIS members wishing to join the Register must possess Chartered status and declare that they will:

- demonstrate adequate continuing professional development,
- abide by the Institute’s code of conduct,
- provide sensible and proportionate advice, and
- have professional indemnity insurance or equivalent.

The Register will be freely accessible and searchable for employers from early Spring 2011.

In 2009 the Institute developed and improved its Scheme of Practical Training for Student and Graduate Trainee EHOs, ‘Learning by Experience’. The Scheme was amended to incorporate a written examination into the Professional Examination and provide a wider choice for candidates’ case studies which can now be based on any one of the seven programme areas. Further changes were made to the Scheme in 2010 which reduce the number of interviews in the Professional Examination from seven to five. Programme areas in relation to Public Health and Built Environment are now incorporated in one interview and likewise Pollution Control and Waste Management programme areas are now undertaken within the one interview. This change has been implemented with immediate effect and will affect the Professional Examination diets in March and November 2011.

The Institute continued its work supporting the structured practical training of Student and Graduate Trainee EHOs across Scotland. This support took the form of visits to workplaces, arranging student seminars with key partners and holding the Professional Examination. The number of Student and Graduate Trainee posts within local government remains at a similar level to that of the last three years, however, the Institute is aware that financial constraints in the public sector could have an adverse effect on posts. In this regard the Institute intends to develop options for consideration which will sustain the number of students undertaking the Scheme of Practical Training.

During the year, two Professional Examination diets were held in Edinburgh and 19 candidates were successful in gaining the REHIS Diploma in Environmental Health, the Scottish Environmental Health qualification.
Qualifications for Communities

The Institute is Scotland’s awarding body for a wide range of courses and qualifications including food hygiene, food and health, HACCP, occupational health and safety, and infection control all of which are aimed at the general public as well as industry. The courses leading to these qualifications are presented by a network of over 700 REHIS Approved Training Centres throughout Scotland, from Shetland to Dumfries and in Germany, Malawi, Ghana and the Middle East. A range of qualifications is also available as International Certificates which can be delivered abroad. A strict quality assurance system is in place in order to maintain a consistent standard of training across the network of Approved Training Centres. The Institute also organises specific subject update seminars for the training community and a wide range of resources is provided for our Approved Training Centres.

REHIS recognised the need for Elementary Food Hygiene training for school students some years ago and the Food Hygiene in Schools Initiative was launched to meet that need. Schools can be approved to deliver the Elementary Food Hygiene Course to students aged 13-18 inclusive, attending school full-time. The Food Standards Agency Scotland provided funding during 2010 and 160 secondary schools were registered to deliver the Elementary Food Hygiene Course, with 8,560 pupils participating.

Following on from pilot work, funded by Community Food and Health Scotland (CFHS), carried out by dieticians from the Scottish Learning Disability Dieticians Clinical Network (SLDDCN) in 2008, the Glasgow Learning Disability Partnership submitted a successful proposal for the Scottish Government’s ‘Equally Well’ Implementation Funding over a three-year period.

The proposal focused on piloting and refining a Glasgow-based Healthy Eating/Healthy Living Educational Programme, which aimed to make the national healthy eating messages accessible to people with learning disabilities. The need to continue to work with SLDDCN towards a training manual for carers was accepted as pivotal to supporting the delivery of this Healthy Eating/Healthy Living Educational Programme. Part of the funding was used to produce a REHIS-accredited tailored food and health course, called the ‘Food and Health Course for Carers of Adults with a Learning Disability.’

The course was developed by a short-life working group consisting of representatives from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Lothian, NHS Tayside, the Care Commission, the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability, Enable, Learning Disabilities Service Users and Community Food and Health Scotland.

With the original REHIS Food and Health Course resource pack as its base, a professional dietician writer, directed by the Working Group has produced a tailored learning disabilities course resource pack (consisting of a PowerPoint presentation, trainers’ notes and candidate handouts), a course syllabus and an examination. The course is aimed at people responsible for supporting and caring for adults with learning disabilities. Following a series of pilot courses, again funded by Community Food and Health Scotland, the course will be available for delivery by suitably approved centres in early 2011. The Institute is grateful for the support received from all the members of the Learning Disabilities Working Group.

Under the terms of the Institute’s ‘Training for the Unemployed’ initiative, Argyll College UHI delivered a food, health and hygiene programme on board the sail training schooner, the ‘Spirit of Fairbridge.’ The College delivered a considerable number of Elementary Food Hygiene courses in 2010 which meant that it was eligible for ten free Elementary Food Hygiene course registrations. Fairbridge is a charity that works with young people aged 13-25 to develop their skills to a level where their prospects of engaging with other organisations are greatly enhanced. The organisation uses long-term goals, giving young people the motivation, self-confidence and skills they need to change their lives. By harnessing their motivation, Fairbridge is able to help young people make life-changing decisions. The excursion on the Spirit of Fairbridge is a very positive experience and fits in with the goals and ideals of Fairbridge.

Darlene Russell, Curriculum Manager from Argyll College UHI, spent seven days on board the vessel delivering the Healthy Living programme developed by Argyll College UHI, the Elementary Food Hygiene and the Elementary Food and Health qualifications awarded by REHIS.

The successful course participants were awarded with their certificates by Drew Hall, Chairman of the REHIS Southern Centre at a presentation on board the ‘Spirit of Fairbridge’ whilst anchored in Greenock Harbour on 27 November 2010.

The annual REHIS Trainers’ Seminar took place on 20 October in the Trades Hall, Glasgow and, as ever, this proved to be a popular event with 120 trainers attending. The seminar provided an update on developments in the areas of infection control, food safety and health and safety. The event was chaired by Martin Henry, REHIS Council Member for Community Training. The early part of the morning included presentations from Graham Walker, REHIS Director of Training and Craig Cunningham, Health and Safety Manager with the Compass Group.
Graham gave an update on REHIS community training issues and Craig delivered a presentation on Risk Management in the 21st Century. After the break Dr Jacqui McElhinney, Food Standards Agency Scotland, continued with a presentation on the FSA Foodborne Disease Strategy and the morning concluded with a presentation on current foodborne disease issues by Dr John Cowden, Consultant Epidemiologist, Health Protection Scotland. After lunch Peter Midgley, Food Standards Agency Scotland, gave an update on current issues being dealt with at the Food Standards Agency Scotland and this was followed by a presentation on modern food premises design and construction by Adi Schmidt from Encore Catering. The presentations were very well received by the delegates and the Institute is very grateful to all the presenters and the delegates for their participation in the event.

During 2009 the Institute developed e-learning support packs for the REHIS Intermediate Food Hygiene Certificate. The e-learning pack allows flexible and cost-effective training throughout the UK. This programme is ideal for participants at supervisor and management level and is now available through REHIS Approved Training Centres. Successful completion of the course leads to a nationally recognised certificate and the Institute’s network of centres ensures that the course and the final examination can be arranged at a convenient time and venue to suit the participant.

The demand for the Intermediate e-learning pack grew during 2010, following this success the Institute has worked with Highfield.co.uk Limited to produce support packs for the REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene and the Elementary Food Hygiene Courses.

The 8th joint symposium ‘The Future of Food’ run by the Scottish Food and Drink Federation (SFDF), the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) and the Institute was presented this year. The event attracted representatives from all parts of Scotland’s food and drink industry, government and its agencies and the enforcement community. The event was well received by the delegates at the George Hotel in Edinburgh. Speakers from the Food Standards Agency, The Royal Society, the Scottish Government, industry advisory agencies, Scottish food researchers and academic bodies all featured on the programme along with opportunities for networking. REHIS is grateful once again to Highfield.co.uk Limited for sponsoring the annual training awards for the course participants achieving the highest marks in a range of REHIS examinations. The awards were presented by the President of the Institute, Rod House and Jayne Sprenger, Highfield’s Customer Services Director at the Annual Awards Ceremony, held in Edinburgh in November.

REHIS and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) continue to work closely together and have produced NQ and HN units and modules which are also accredited by REHIS. These units and modules are regularly reviewed by both partners to ensure that they meet the requirements of the candidates. Joint REHIS/SQA certificates are available for these awards.

The Institute has a number of overseas centres approved to deliver the Institute’s international qualifications. In 2010 the REHIS International Elementary Food Hygiene Course was delivered in Ghana by our new International Training Centre, Kumasi Polytechnic based in Kumasi, Ghana. The Polytechnic was approved to deliver the REHIS International Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate Course. They ran their first course on 23 August 2010 and all the candidates achieved excellent pass marks in the examination that followed the course.

Professor Kofi Aidoo was awarded a PMI2 Partnership Development grant to visit academic institutions in Ghana by the British Council, the UK’s international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations.

The Institute now has 14 standard qualifications available for delivery by Approved Training Centres. During 2010 a total of 45,426 certificates were issued for these qualifications.
Scottish Pollution Control Co-ordinating Committee

The remit of the Working Group is to discuss matters pertaining to pollution control, noise control, air quality and contaminated land and to advise the Institute on these matters. In 2010 the committee met on three occasions in Glasgow, in March, June and October.

In addition to local authority officers from all spheres of pollution control we are fortunate to have on the group representatives of SEPA, the Scottish Government, Environmental Protection UK and Health Protection Scotland. The input from these officers is much appreciated by all. The Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland is also invited to send a representative.

The local authority representatives attend on behalf of the Local Pollution Liaison Groups (LPLGs) and the Secretaries of these groups ensure feedback to their members.

Throughout the year the committee was kept fully informed of training for officers engaged in contaminated land and we are indebted to Helen Barron and Nicola Paton for this.

At the core of each meeting is the report back from the Local Pollution Liaison Groups and the Contaminated Land Sub-groups of each LPLG. With representatives of Scottish Government on hand to present updates on air quality, biomass, noise, Antisocial Behaviour Act (Noise), domestic wind turbines, odour problems, nuisance provisions and contaminated land they can also address specific concerns raised by the LPLGs, failing that they can take the matter away and report back at a later date.

This is something which is appreciated by both the local authority representatives and the Scottish Government representatives. Mention has to be made of one Scottish Government representative who has risen to the challenge set by ill-health and early retirement within the Air, Noise and Nuisance Team at Victoria Quay and responded in excellent fashion covering the full range of the Team’s remit whilst still delivering his own report on air quality, and the Institute would like to record its appreciation of the work of Andrew Taylor.

The Institute appreciates the time given by all those attending as it ensures that pollution control matters are fully discussed. Following the final meeting of 2010 the Chairman, David Paris, intimated his desire to stand down meaning that a new Chairman will have to be found in 2011. David has been a very loyal and hard working Chairman and the Institute is sorry to see him go and should like to record its admiration for his dedication to pollution control whilst chairing SPCCC.

Public Health and Housing Working Group

The Public Health and Housing Working Group (PHHWG) meets quarterly to discuss the relevant topics of the day and provides a valuable forum for Environmental Health representatives from all Scottish local authorities to share good practice and ensure consistency in enforcement. Health Protection Scotland and REHIS are also represented at the meetings. Prior to the main business of the day we have a presentation from a guest speaker on subjects that are of interest to the Group. We are fortunate that we can tap into other organisations’ desires to connect with the Environmental Health profession and have had representatives from the Coal Authority, Chartered Institute of Housing, Ultimus Haeres Unit of the Crown Procurator Fiscal Service, and the Scottish Government Justice Department.

Some of the topics which have taxed the Group in recent times have been the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010, the insect nuisance provisions introduced by the Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008, animal boarding standards, and the implementation of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006.

Part of the Group’s remit includes identifying training needs and arranging seminars and conferences to inform enforcement officers and so we organised a two-day update course in September which focused on recent changes to legislation and current public health matters. The course was well received by all who attended and provided a platform for further discussion and sharing of experience for the delegates.

The Group is vital in ensuring that Environmental Health is relevant in practice and consistent in application and looks forward to continuing this work on behalf of the Environmental Health profession in Scotland.

Health and Safety Co-ordinating Group

The Health and Safety Co-ordinating Group (HASCOG) sets out to co-ordinate and strategically manage the future direction and policy for local authority enforcement of workplace occupational health and safety in Scotland.

HASCOG meets on a quarterly basis every year in Edinburgh, in January, April, July and October and has met on 79 occasions since its inception in 1992.

In addition to local authority officers representing their respective liaison groups, we also have representatives from HSE Local Authority Unit, HSE Partnership Manager, Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland and Health Protection Scotland.

HASCOG actively promotes consistency in enforcement activities and continues to be the forum for local liaison groups to feed into the Health and Safety Executive/local authority liaison system. In turn the group provides HELA, Scottish HELA and the HSE Local Authority Unit effective access to the local liaison group network.
The Group continues to support the partnership working between local authorities and HSE and has been discussing such aspects as flexible warranting and premises transfer as we look to the future in maximising the resources from both regulatory authorities.

HASCOG also continues to identify the ongoing training needs for local authority enforcement officers in association with colleagues in the HSE LAU, in order to maintain the competence of officers and to harness the specialist expertise within the Environmental Health profession.

To support this we’ve seen the introduction of the Regulatory Development Needs Analysis or RDNA Tool and REHIS continues to be an active member of the RDNA Steering Board as the tool develops into a core competence framework for other regulators outwith health and safety.

To support the ongoing training needs REHIS is committed to delivering the annual Health and Safety Update Course, which continues to be well supported by local authorities throughout Scotland.

The time and effort by those attending is very much appreciated by the Institute as we look to the future.

The Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland

The Society comprises representatives from all of Scotland’s 32 local authorities. Each Council is permitted to have up to three members, who should be chief officers of the service which deals with Environmental Health.

Partner organisations are also invited to attend meetings and there are generally representatives from the Food Standards Agency Scotland, the Health and Safety Executive, Health Protection Scotland, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland.

An Annual Congress is held each year, usually in March, with other general meetings held at other times hosted by member Councils around Scotland and, occasionally, partner organisations.

The Society plays an important role in facilitating discussion between members and sharing good practice. In addition, there are very strong links to Government Departments and with bodies within Scotland as well as throughout the UK. An important role is to represent the collective view of chief officers in consultations to government at various levels, whether in written submission or by ongoing dialogue with officials.

The Society is currently developing a website for use by members and others as a reference facility. The site may be found at www.socoeh.com.
Food Standards Agency Scotland

Partnership working with REHIS

The FSA and REHIS agreed a Statement of Intent for Partnership in November 2008. On 19 August 2010 REHIS and the FSA met to discuss issues of mutual interest and agreed that the 2008 Statement remained robust and relevant.

Significant areas of partnership working between FSA and REHIS during 2010 included the production of a competency matrix for food law enforcement officers through the resources of the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee, joint working to update the Food Law Enforcement in Scotland document, due to be published by REHIS in early 2011, and support for and participation in REHIS's Food Update Course, Trainers' Update Course and Annual Conference.

Foodborne Disease Strategy

In June, the FSA consulted on its draft Foodborne Disease Strategy (FDS) for 2010-15, which aims to reduce foodborne disease through a focused UK-wide programme of action, prioritising those pathogens which are responsible for the highest burden of disease in the UK population.

Targeted Risk Management Programmes have now been developed to tackle Campylobacter and Listeria monocytogenes, which include industry-focused workstreams aimed at controlling these pathogens in the food chain and work to improve public awareness and messaging on good food hygiene practice in domestic and catering kitchens.

A significant milestone for the FDS was the publication, in December, of a target for the reduction of Campylobacter in UK-produced chicken, which was developed through joint agreement between the FSA, the UK poultry industry and major retailers.

The FDS also includes a research programme on verotoxigenic E.coli, initially focused on shedding of E.coli by livestock prior to slaughter. FSA has also commissioned research to improve our understanding of the contribution of food to the burden of norovirus infection the UK. In addition, the FSA will continue to monitor trends in the other important pathogens that cause foodborne illness in the UK, and re-evaluate the need for further action as part of the FDS.

Consumer Information and Education

Food Hygiene Information Scheme and the Eat Safe Award

During 2010 the number of local authorities operating the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS) jumped from six to 17, thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of the authorities involved and the continuing support and encouragement from those already operating the scheme. The FSA launched its UK web platform in October as a single consumer portal for the FHIS and the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme elsewhere in the UK. By the end of December, details of over 16,000 food establishments in Scotland had been published on the FSA site.

Twenty-six local authorities have so far indicated their intention to launch the FHIS and many of these are currently working towards their planned launches. A notable highlight during the year was the incorporation of the FHIS as an indicator of food safety in the Scottish Government’s Recipe for Success - Scotland’s National Food and Drink Policy.

The Eat Safe Award scheme has continued to make steady progress, with 775 awards having been issued in Scotland by the end of December. The award scheme is designed to recognise businesses that have achieved standards over and above the legal requirements. This has proved fully compatible with the FHIS, which is based on compliance with hygiene legislation.

Elementary Food Hygiene Training in Secondary Schools

During 2010 the FSA has continued to make funding available to Scottish secondary schools to allow home economics teachers to deliver the REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene Course. During the year, 160 schools received funding and over 9,500 pupils have been registered to complete the REHIS training. Feedback from teachers is currently being collated which demonstrates the benefits this funding initiative provides to both pupils and schools.

FSA has been working with a selection of Scottish local authorities to pilot healthy eating factsheets with specific SME businesses in Scotland, eg, sandwich shops. Guidance for fish and chip shops was published in October and disseminated to Environmental Health Officers and Food Safety Officers across Scotland. The FSA greatly appreciated REHIS’s support for the initiative.

Local Authority Audit and Enforcement Support

Official Controls Audit

The FSA’s 2010-2014 audit programme for Official Controls in Scotland commenced in April. During the year seven audits were carried out on local authority Assessment of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs in Food Business Establishments. Each audit included reality checks at two food businesses, in line with European Commission guidance on the conduct of audits and the recommendations of the Public Inquiry into the 2005 E.coli outbreak in Wales. All of the audits have had positive outcomes, with good practices identified in all local authorities. The audit reports are now published on the FSA’s website.
In December, an information gathering exercise was completed by local authorities on resources available to deliver their food official controls services. This repeated an exercise carried out in 2009. In both questionnaire surveys around two thirds of authorities (32 and 21 in the successive years) reported adequate resourcing was available for their services. However, in both years respondents pointed to future uncertainties in relation to resourcing. The underlying reasons for shortfalls reported by the remaining authorities will be explored individually but, in some cases, these appear to include difficulties in filling vacancies, even where sufficient funding was available.

**Low Cost Training**

Local authority officer training provided by the FSA in Scotland included a significant element of web-based training that was taken up by all 32 local authorities. From initiation of the training in October to the end of December, a total of 594 modules have been accessed.

**Food Standards Training Manual**

In response to requests from officers, the FSA developed a food standards training manual for Scotland. It is based on an existing manual developed by FSA in Northern Ireland in 2009. Representation from the SFELC Food Standards Sub-Committee has worked with the FSA in developing the manual which will be finalised in February 2011. Two training events are scheduled for 28 and 29 March at which the manual will be launched. The manual will be available both in hard copy and on the FSA website.

**Incidents**

The FSA was involved in 1,513 food and feed incidents in 2010, with FSA Scotland leading on 142 of these. It is also notable that there has been a significant increase in reports of suspected food fraud. We are very grateful to local authorities for sharing intelligence on suspected fraud.

A widespread outbreak of Salmonella bareilly infection in Scotland and England in 2010 provided an excellent example of joint working between local authorities, health boards, Health Protection Scotland and the FSA. Local authority investigations in Scotland allowed the FSA to undertake a traceability exercise which conclusively identified beansprouts as the vehicle of infection. Subsequent local authority investigation found that the beansprouts had been mishandled. As a result, the FSA was able to issue specific targeted advice on the handling and labelling of beansprouts, aimed at preventing future incidents.

**Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee**

The Scottish Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) is a group that co-ordinates the food law enforcement and sampling and surveillance activities of Scottish local authorities and comprises representatives of central and local government, consumers and industry. The Committee provides a forum for discussion of topics relevant to any current problems and may initiate surveys or projects or co-ordinate specific investigations initiated by the local Food Liaison Groups that have been set up in four geographical areas. Food Liaison Groups consist of representatives from Scottish local authorities and are concerned with consistency of food law enforcement activities in their area.

Following a successful national workshop at the end of 2009, which resulted in the establishment of several priorities to build on the strengths of the current food enforcement model, SFELC agreed to set up a Working Group to consider the issue of Enforcement Resources, Competency of Officers and Training Methodology. Its remit was to consider current difficulties, suggest improvements, guidance or good practice. After considerable deliberation this culminated in a comprehensive Food Law Enforcement Service Matrix designed to assist enforcement officers and senior officials within local authorities. The major piece of work covers relevant activities and details minimum qualifications, expected outcomes, evidence of competency and additional training considerations. The approved guidance has since been circulated for use to all local authorities.

George Fairgrieve, a Chartered Environmental Health Officer and a Fellow of the Institute, is the SFELC Chairman.

**Health Protection Scotland**

During 2010 Health Protection Scotland (HPS) welcomed the opportunity to work closely with REHIS over a range of issues and in particular being able to contribute to the working of the Health and Safety Co-ordinating Group and the Public Health and Housing Working Group.

In relation to Student Environmental Health Officer support, HPS continues to organise an annual training day for students working towards their Professional Examinations. In line with positive feedback from 2009 we continued with scenario-based training which was very well received by the participants. HPS was pleased to continue to partner REHIS in supporting and sponsoring student placements in partner local authorities and also for the first time sponsored the best student award for the Public Health Programme in the Professional Examinations. Unfortunately due to the reduction in available expenditure HPS will for the foreseeable future be unable to sponsor future student placements.

At the end of 2009 and throughout the whole of 2010, HPS led the national response to Anthrax in injecting drug users. Initial cases were identified in Glasgow but this soon spread to other areas of Scotland, the United Kingdom and into Europe. Management of the outbreak was led by the Environment and Health Team in HPS and continued through to December 2010.

Through our operational support function HPS continues to support local NHS boards and local authorities over a wide range of issues and during 2009 we have offered expert advice on water quality, air quality, contaminated land and public health nuisance. Enquiries relating to the water quality of domestic supplies from both public and private sources continue to be received and related to both microbiological and chemical contaminants. The major response during 2010 was of course the co-ordinated response in Scotland to the Icelandic volcano eruption in April. HPS played a leading role in this response along with other agencies such as SEPA and we were the first agency to recognise the potential threat to the population in relation to possible deterioration of air quality.

HPS values the links with key stakeholders and the Environmental Health team is no exception. So, in accord with HPS policy, we now have established an Environment and Health Stakeholder Group. The purpose of the Stakeholder Group is to provide a forum for discussion on environment and health issues and to advise HPS on priorities and a programme for action consistent with the agreed roles and responsibilities of HPS. During its considerations the Group will have regard for the importance of public awareness campaigns.
to the Scottish Government’s strategy on Environment and Health which is outlined in their Implementation Plan titled ‘Good Places, Better Health’ and will report
to the Health Protection Advisory Group. The
Group was established in the autumn of 2010 and we
look forward working closely with stakeholders in 2011.

Under the direction of our Port Health Oversight Group
and in conjunction with UK, European and WHO partners
we continued to deliver the national port health agenda,
with the aim of reducing public health risk associated
with imported infection. This is being achieved by developing
standards for Designated Ports of Entry for Scotland and
auditing these ports and airports against those standards.
The Oversight Group has representation from port health
authorities, NHS boards, Scottish Government and the
Health Protection Agency.

HPS continues to play a key part in the work of the
Health Protection Network and all guidance to date,
can be found on the HPS website:
www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/about/HPN.aspx.

During 2010, Guidelines for the Control of Measles
Incidents and Outbreaks in Scotland; Rabies Guidance
on Prophylaxis and Management in Humans in Scotland
and Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare
Settings, (Day Care) were published. Further projects are
now progressing and substantive guidance is due for
publication in 2010.

In relation to education and professional development,
HPS has provided a number of speakers at update training
events and seminars organised by REHIS including the
Annual Conference. HPS particularly welcomed the
opportunities to provide several key speakers at the REHIS
Annual Conference which reflected on the Environmental
Health Profession’s contribution to protecting the
health of Scotland’s population over the past 135 years.

Opportunities such as these allow for improvement in
networks with partner agencies and the opportunity to
promote the benefits of working in partnership.

HPS values its partnership with REHIS and looks forward
to continuing to progress these in the challenging times
ahead in 2011.

Health and Safety Executive

Partnership working in Scotland has matured during 2010
where close working relations between HSE and local
authorities has become the norm. Both HSE and local
authority health and safety professionals have a greater
understanding of each others’ roles and strengths, each
working in their respective spheres and together to help
deliver HSE’s strategy for workplace health and safety for
Great Britain.

Scottish local authority health and safety professionals
have also had a strong voice and played an important
role in the governance of partnership working. In addition
to their representation at Scottish forums, Scottish
local authorities have had representatives at various
national forums alongside HSE and other local authority
representative bodies including the Health and Safety/
Local Authority Liaison Committee (HeLA), the
Local Government Regulation Policy Forum and the Regulator’s
Development Needs Analysis Partnership Board.

As in previous years, local authorities have targeted their
interventions to deliver the national priorities identified
by HSE and their own local priorities. Work on the duty
to manage asbestos has been of particular interest to
Scottish local authorities.

A major national priority this year has been the liquefied
petroleum gas (LPG) pipework inspection campaign in
response to the recommendations of Lord Gill’s public
enquiry into the explosion at ICI Plastics which resulted
in the death of nine people. This campaign has been no
small task for Scottish local authorities as many remote
areas rely on LPG as a source of fuel, eg, at hostels, cafes
and hotels. On the whole, issues found by local authority
sites are the same as those found at HSE-regulated sites.

HSE has provided training support to local authorities
in response to emerging local needs. A large training
event on local exhaust ventilation (LEV) and Control of
Hazardous Substances to Health (COSHH) was delivered
by HSE specialists as was a series of four legal workshops.
Other events were organised by liaison groups, with
some support from HSE, on topics such as gas safety
and sunbeds and lasers.

In addition to local training HSE provides information
for local authorities via the Guidance for Regulators
Information Point (GRIP). The GRIP website has been
designed as a one-stop shop for regulators to access
legislation, guidance, training and other information to
assist with development needs identified through the
Regulator’s Development Needs Analysis tool, all of
which has been enthusiastically embraced across local
authorities in Scotland.

Local authorities have demonstrated their commitment
in implementing the Section 18 Standard on Enforcement
‘Making a Difference’, so ensuring they have suitable
measures in place to regulate workplace health and safety.
As of January 2011 all local authorities in Scotland have
implemented the standard or are well on their way to full
implementation by April 2011. Following self-assessment
against the standard and associated toolkits, peer review
exercises by all four liaison groups were held with HSE
facilitating. Most found the exercise rewarding, as it
helped local authorities assess how well their procedures
worked. The provision of support by the liaison groups for
a small number of local authorities who initially struggled
has been a particularly encouraging feature.

In November following the publication of the Lord
Young report ‘Common Sense, Common Safety’ and the
announcement of the Government’s comprehensive
spending review and its implications on funding, it
became apparent that HSE and local authorities needed
to reconsider their priorities. Given this, HSE decided
to postpone the series of partnership events (and
associated planning work) scheduled to take place in
Scotland and beyond during November until resourcing
and the future direction became clearer. In Scotland it
was decided to put on hold work to implement a scheme
to transfer higher risk work to local authorities along with
several measures to encourage more joint work/mutual
support through joint warranting.

So to the future - whilst there are challenges ahead,
including significant resource constraints for the public
sector there remains a need for local authorities and
HSE to continue to work together to seek to provide an
effective regulatory service and secure the best health
and safety outcomes with the resources available. This
is all the more important given the contribution effective
health and safety risk management, proportionately
applied, can make to improving business productivity
and improving health and wellbeing. Further information
on the Health and Safety Executive can be found at
www.hse.gov.uk.
ASH Scotland

ASH Scotland has been pleased to continue our strong and productive working relationship with REHIS throughout the past year. REHIS remains a consistent and helpful partner in groups such as the Scottish Coalition on Tobacco and the Scottish Parliamentary Cross-Party Group on Tobacco Control which seek to highlight the harm caused by tobacco. Your expertise and the contributions made through these groups have been invaluable.

Once again, REHIS in partnership with ASH Scotland recognised the achievements of young people in reducing tobacco and smoking-related harm in Scotland through the Crofton Award, which is funded and awarded by REHIS. The Crofton Award is unique in that it contributes towards the development of new ideas and innovation by and for young people themselves. It highlights not only that young people are interested in the issue of tobacco and its impact on themselves, their friends and family, and their community, but that they have ideas for both prevention and quitting smoking that are innovative and imaginative and are well worth rewarding.

Bridges Project, based in East Lothian, and supported by Lothians-based Fast Forward, a national voluntary organisation which promotes health and wellbeing through education, was awarded the £1,000 Crofton Award which they will use to achieve their ambition to create a tobacco peer education project for East Lothian. The Crofton Best Newcomer winners, the Golspie Youth Action Project will use their £500 prize money towards developing an animation about the negative impact of smoking which they plan to use in their work at schools and youth clubs. REHIS is to be congratulated for promoting an award that recognises the work and achievements of young people.

ASH Scotland has a key ongoing interest in Scotland’s current national measures to prevent youth initiation into smoking contained in the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services Act 2010, some of which will be delayed in implementation due to tobacco industry legal challenges. Measures like covering the promotional displays of cigarettes in shops, creating a register for tobacco retailers, ending the sale of cigarettes from vending machines, and making it illegal to buy tobacco for children should help reduce youth awareness of and access to tobacco. Strong penalties for selling tobacco unregistered will also help in tackling illicit tobacco sales. At UK level, we welcome the announcement of a consultation on plain packaging for cigarettes this year.
In previous contributions to the REHIS Environmental Health Review I have spoken of my continuing belief in the importance of the physical environment for Scotland’s health and wellbeing and also of my enthusiasm for ‘Good Places, Better Health.’ For me, the approaches introduced by that policy offer the modern, holistic, multi-agency response on environment and ‘place’ necessary to meet a rapidly changing environmental context and offer an appropriate response to Scotland’s public health challenge. The way forward on environment and health must continue to respect the enduring importance of measures to control environmental hazards but also recognise the relevance of environment and place to Scotland’s health improvement and health equity agenda.

I believe the ‘Good Places, Better Health’ approach supports both these goals and I am delighted at the significant progress we have made over the last year. This has included engagement with the environmental health profession in many ways including workshops to gather examples of good practice and potential solutions to the public health challenges we face. ‘Good Places, Better Health’ has also been undertaking some innovative work to tackle obesity in Ayrshire. In North Ayrshire a partnership with Healthy Futures is looking at how the environment can help families and children make healthy behaviour choices. This work involves engaging with practitioners and professionals to help them identify the influence physical environment has on healthy weight and the actions that they can take. At a more strategic level we are supporting NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the three Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships to develop an Ayrshire-wide obesity strategy.

All of this exciting and innovative work highlights that there is a very practical solution to achieve a holistic and modern approach to environment and health. As well as continuing this important work we also need to think about the connections between public health aspirations and other key policy agendas within government. Nowhere is this more evident than in the links between public health and the sustainability and climate change mitigation agenda.

Globally, climate change is already costing lives and impacting significantly across the spectrum of human activity. It will increasingly harm human health and exacerbate inequity between and within countries with the poor most severely affected. The changing climate can be expected to have both direct and indirect impacts on Scotland’s health.
Heatwaves, although less likely in Scotland than in more southerly parts of the UK, can be welcome events but can also bring health threats and misery for the elderly and those in particular circumstances. Warmer weather also carries the risk of reduced air quality placing those with pre-existing respiratory conditions at particular risk. Other direct threats include an increase in respiratory allergy due to an extended pollen season, an increase in skin cancer associated with greater exposure to UV radiation and a greater incidence of microbiological food poisoning. More storms and floods are another predicted manifestation of a changing climate with health implications extending beyond immediate physical danger to illness linked to chemical and sewage contamination and psychological stress. However, some have argued that, for Scotland, perhaps the greatest health implications of a changing climate are indirect and will come from beyond our borders. These include widening health and social inequalities linked to rising global food prices and the impacts (including migration) caused by extreme weather events and climate change-related conflict elsewhere.

The threat of climate change has generated a plethora of mitigation policies across the world, with Scotland’s own policy targets on carbon reduction amongst the most ambitious. Meeting these targets implies an individual, corporate and societal response, perhaps on an unprecedented scale. A perception that measures which reduce carbon emissions, and mitigate climate change will, of necessity, be socially uncomfortable and economically painful is stubbornly entrenched. Yet many of the most effective carbon reduction measures offer enticing benefits for health improvement and health equity for Scotland, immediately and in the longer term.

Policies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions can bring important reductions in many disease outcomes which present real challenge for Scotland and its people. These include heart disease, various types of cancer, obesity, diabetes, road deaths, injuries, inequalities and urban pollution.

By developing a low-energy, low-carbon transportation system involving substantially increased levels of active transport - walking, cycling etc, Scotland could experience substantial health benefits including reductions in obesity and the diseases it promotes. However there are other potential benefits including reduced road deaths and injuries, improved air quality and reduction in pollution related disease and improved mental health and wellbeing.

Policies which reduce animal fat consumption in countries like Scotland are essential to permit increased consumption in low income countries without devastating climate impacts. This offers many potential benefits for Scotland’s health. Specifically, reduced animal by-product consumption is likely to lead to reductions in obesity, cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

More trees and more good quality accessible green space are consistent with both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and have potential to deliver improved mental health and wellbeing and reduced obesity levels.

As a country with more than its fair share of health problems we need to grasp the opportunities which a low carbon economy offers to improve public health. The continuation of ‘Good Places, Better Health’ beyond the initial prototype phase will help us develop our capacity to do this. Despite the many uncertainties that exist at the moment, what is certain is that environment’s significance as a determinant of health will continue to grow and that the involvement of those working to improve environment and health in Scotland will be essential to achieving our public health goals.
Throughout 2010 there was formal support for REHIS within Scottish Parliament through our Honorary Vice-President MSPs - Robin Harper, Ken Macintosh and Stewart Maxwell.

In motion S3M-5367 Stewart Maxwell MSP moved That the Parliament is disappointed to note that CIEH, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, has decided to set up an administrative region in Scotland; asserts that The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) meets all of Scotland’s needs with regards to environmental health, support and training; commends the good work done by REHIS; notes that REHIS overwhelmingly expressed its disapproval at CIEH’s decision at its recent AGM, and fully supports the REHIS position. This motion received cross-party support from MSPs including Honorary Vice-Presidents Robin Harper and Ken Macintosh.

In motion S3M-6973 Stewart Maxwell MSP moved That the Parliament commends The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) on launching an international essay competition to celebrate its 135th anniversary; congratulates the winner, Ms Parker-Allotey from Canada, the runner-up, Ms Kerwin from West Lothian, and Mr O’Connor from Ireland and Mr Simiyu from Kenya who were both commended, and notes with interest that REHIS is a founding member of the International Federation of Environmental Health and that the aims of this new competition are to raise the profile of international environmental health issues, to encourage student environmental health professionals to consider environmental health in a global perspective and to promote the work of the Federation as the global umbrella organisation for environmental health. This motion received cross-party support from MSPs including Honorary Vice-Presidents Robin Harper and Ken Macintosh.

In motion S3M-7202 Dr Richard Simpson MSP moved that the Parliament mourn the death of Dr Eileen Crofton who, along with her late husband, Dr John Crofton, was a tireless campaigner for tobacco control and for smoke-free public places long before it became legislation. The Parliament noted the key role played by the Drs Crofton in founding ASH Scotland in 1973 and noted that The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland, in partnership with ASH Scotland, presented the inaugural Crofton Award in recognition of

“...the Scottish Government will continue to work closely with REHIS as an acknowledged body for environmental health in Scotland and will look to REHIS and to the Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland ... for advice and input on matters relating to environmental health”

the achievement of young people in reducing tobacco and smoke-related harm in Scotland. The motion went on to note that there has been a substantial cultural change in Scotland’s attitude to tobacco over the past 40 years and that this is not least due to the efforts of these two notable Scots. This motion received cross-party support from MSPs including Honorary Vice-Presidents Robin Harper and Stewart Maxwell.

Note: A motion, in the context of the Scottish Parliament, is one of the means by which MSPs can initiate debate or propose a course of action. All motions lodged are published in the next Business Bulletin. The majority of motions are not intended for debate and are lodged for a variety of reasons, such as drawing attention to a particular topic, seeking support for a cause or highlighting a particular event.

The Scottish Parliament’s Cross-Party Groups provide an opportunity for Members of all parties, outside organisations and members of the public to meet and discuss a shared interest in particular cause or subject. REHIS takes an interest in a wide range of Cross-Party Groups and is actively involved in Cross-Party Groups on Tobacco Control, Cancer and Food.

International Federation of Environmental Health

During 2010 REHIS continued to be heavily involved in the work of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH). Bernard Forteath, a Past President of REHIS, completed his term of office as President of the Federation at the 11th World Congress on Environmental Health held in Vancouver, Canada in September 2010. The new President of the IFEH is Robert Bradbury, a member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. At the Federation’s Annual General Meeting Bernard Forteath was elected to the position of Public Relations Officer and now chairs the IFEH Communications Committee.

The Federation is an organisation whose full members, like REHIS, are national associations representing the interests of environmental health professionals throughout the world.

The Federation works to disseminate knowledge concerning environmental health and promote co-operation between countries where environmental health issues are transboundary. It promotes the interchange of people working in this sector and the exchange of members’ publications of a scientific and technical nature.

Among other things, the Federation seeks to provide means of exchanging information and experience on environmental health, to hold Congresses and meetings to discuss subjects relevant to environmental health science and administration, to represent the interests of environmental health to state agencies, national governments and international organisations and to promote field studies of environmental health control.

During the year the Federation continued to issue a quarterly web-based newsletter, aimed at keeping members up-to-date with what is happening within individual member organisations. ‘Environment and Health International’, the Federation’s twice yearly magazine, previously published in paper form, is now available only on the Federation’s website. The last hard copy of the magazine was published to coincide with the 11th World Congress in Vancouver.

In May 2010 the 2nd All Africa Congress on Environmental Health took place in Lilongwe, Malawi. The Congress was organised on behalf of the Africa Group of the IFEH by Dr Tracy Morse, a Scottish EHO, who lives and works in Malawi, and the Congress Secretariat.
The IFEH Member Organisation for Malawi is the Malawi Environmental Health Association (MEHA) which, after a few years of inactivity, was re-launched during the Congress. MEHA received a lot of help, guidance and support over the past few years from our own Chief Executive, Tom Bell. In recognition of his significant contribution to MEHA Tom was presented with Honorary Membership of the Association by the Minister of Health during the opening ceremony. Tom is one of only five people to receive Honorary Membership.

REHIS also plays an active role in one of the Regional Groups of the Federation, the European Federation of Environmental Health (EFEH), which is now under the chairmanship of the Bundesverband der Lebensmittelkontrolleure – BVLK (German Federal Association of Food Safety and Consumer Protection). The European Federation is one of five groups, the others being Africa, Americas, Asia Pacific and Middle East, who meet and exchange information on environmental health on a regular basis. Although the system has been devised to take account of geographical location, some work, such as co-operation on Environmental Health Officer training, sustainability indicators and climate change, continue to take place with other regional groups and stakeholders. The existing members of the EFEH come mainly from countries in membership of the European Community.

REHIS representatives to the Federation during the year were Rod House, Bernard Forteath and Colin Wallace.

For further information on the work of the Federation please visit www.ifeh.org.
2010 was another busy year for the Malawi Environmental Health Association (MEHA) and the Institute continued to work closely with MEHA President, Young Samanyika.

In May the 2nd International Federation of Environmental Health Africa Group All Africa Environmental Health Congress was held in Malawi’s capital city Lilongwe. The Congress, with the theme ‘Environmental Health – The Key to a Better Life for All’, was presented over four days and consisted of four plenary sessions with 12 presentations, 18 parallel sessions with 75 presentations, several poster sessions and two field trip options. The Congress was a huge success and credit must go to the Organising Committee and to the Congress Secretariat which included MEHA members and Malawian environmental health academics Dr Steve Taulo, Kingsley Lungu and Dr Geoffrey Chavula. REHIS supported the Congress by providing local delegate and session sponsorship. During the Congress, Tom Bell (REHIS Chief Executive), Young Samanyika (MEHA President) and Bernard Forteath (IFEH President) took the opportunity to meet with Dr Tony Grimason and Dr Tracy Morse and Mr Humphreys Masuku (Chief EHO at the Ministry of Health) and MEHA office-bearers to discuss the development of a scheme of structured practical training for students of Environmental Health and the development of MEHA as an organisation.

MEHA continues to develop a scheme of continuing professional development and regulations for the professional conduct of its members and REHIS continues to provide advice on these issues.

MEHA, with financial support from REHIS, developed and launched a website www.malawieha.org that will act as a central point of information for its members and for the wider environmental health community in Malawi.

It is fair to say that, during 2010, the profile of MEHA within Malawi, Africa and worldwide was raised and enhanced.
Appendix 1

Members of the REHIS Council 2009/2010

President: Rod House
Senior Vice-President: Alistair Thomson
Junior Vice-President: Colin Wallace
Past President: Vacant

Centre Chair (Northern): Karen Foote
Centre Secretary (Northern): Bob Drummond
Centre Chair (Southern): Drew Hall
Centre Secretary (Southern): Andrew McPherson

EHO (NORTH): OTHERS:
Bob Drummond
Lynsey McNair
Graham Robertson
Christine Fraser
Raymond Hubbocks
Wendy Barrie
Sandy Fraser
Martin Henry
Sarah MacLeod-Bonnar

Appendix 2

Institute staff

Chief Executive: Tom Bell
Director of Training: Graham Walker
Director of Professional Development: Robert Howe
Training Advisers: Ian McGruther
Dr Jane Bunting

Appendix 3

Fellows of the Institute

Kofi Aidoo
Tom Bell
John M Beveridge
Paul Bradley
David J Cameron
Elizabeth S Corbett
John F Crawford
George M Duffus
George Fairgrieve
Robert P Findlay
Bernard J Forteath
Christine Fraser
John W B Frater
Charles Gibson
Michael Halls
Michael Jackson
Brian Kelly
Angus Lowden
Eoin M MacLure
George McCracken
Keith McNamara
George P Morris
Gilbert Robertson
Graham Robertson
John Sleith
Kenneth Stewart
John R Stirling
John P Summers
Alexander S Taylor
James A Thomson
R Graham Walker
Colin Wallace
David G Watson

Appendix 4

Honorary Members of the Institute

James Fallens
Robert P Findlay
Bernard J Forteath
Anthony Grimason

Appendix 5

Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Institute

George Georgallas
Stewart Maxwell MSP
Robin Harper MSP
Ann Marie Part
Kenneth Macintosh MSP
Appendix 6

Recipients of the Award for Meritorious Endeavours in Environmental Health

This award was introduced in 2006 to recognise the efforts/achievements of individuals and their contributions in the context of environmental health.

Recipients:

- 2006 Stewart Maxwell MSP
- 2007 Ken Macintosh MSP
- 2008 Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer Scotland
- 2009 Dr Tracy Morse
- 2010 Professor T. Hugh Pennington

Appendix 7

Annual Awards Ceremony 2010

REHIS Diploma in Environmental Health

Carrie Cooper  Paul Couper
Stephen Duffy  Linda Kain
Karen Lamb  Ruth Macaskill
Lindsey-Anne McNeil  Jeffrey Roxburgh
Alison Wood  Natasha Connelly
Louise Cunningham  Michelle Donaghy
Mark Ford  Andrew Hill
Calum Keenan  Christine Rogers-Bald
Patrick Smyth  Rachael Stobbs

REHIS Award for the Best MSc Student at the University of Strathclyde

Lynne Elizabeth Steele (née Wallace)

REHIS Award for the Best EHO Student at the REHIS Professional Examinations

Rachael Stobbs

A M M Connell Award for the Best EHO Student at the REHIS Professional Examinations

Rachael Stobbs

Alistair Orr Award for the Best Final Year Student at the University of Strathclyde

Derek Duncan

SFSORB Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection

Suzanne Hay  Rosemary Third
Samantha Bull  Darren Johnson

SFSORB Higher Certificate in Food Standards Inspection

Laura Fauds

SFSORB Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection

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A M M Connell Award for the Best EHO Student at the REHIS Professional Examinations

Rachael Stobbs

Alistair Orr Award for the Best Final Year Student at the University of Strathclyde

Derek Duncan
Iain McDonald Award for the Best EHO Student in the Occupational Health and Safety Programme Area at the REHIS Professional Examinations

Linda Kain

FSA Scotland Award for the Best Candidate in the Food Safety Programme Area at the REHIS Professional Examinations

Rachael Stobbs

FSA Scotland Award for the Best Candidate in the Food Standards Programme Area at the REHIS Professional Examinations

Andrew Hill

Highfield Award for Advanced Food Hygiene

Jan Douglas Winner
Gillian Shepherd Runner up

Highfield Award for Intermediate Food Hygiene

Suzanne Mattison Winner
Carol Horsburgh Runner up

Highfield Award for Intermediate Health and Safety

Stephen Acornley Winner
Alexander Reid Runner up

Highfield Award for Intermediate HACCP Practices Certificate

Ishbel Rose Winner

The Crofton Award

Bridges Project Winner
The Golspie Youth Centre Best Newcomer

REHIS International Essay Competition for Students of Environmental Health

Claudette Parker-Allotey (Canada) Winner
Gwyneth Kerwin (Scotland) Runner-up
John O’Conner (Ireland) Commended
Sammy Wafula Simiyu (Kenya) Commended

Claudette Parker-Allotey receives her winner’s award at the 11th World Congress on Environmental Health in Vancouver. By Rod House, REHIS President. Also present are Bernard Forsyth, Past President of the International Federation of Environmental Health and assessors Barbara Delaney and Koos Engelbrecht.

Gwyneth Kerwin, runner-up in the REHIS International Essay Competition.
Appendix 8

Chartered Environmental Health Officers

The following Environmental Health Officer members have been designated as Chartered Environmental Health Officers:

| William Anderson   | Alasdair Cruikshank      |
| Sheila Baird      | Fiona M Hamilton         |
| Helen Barron      | Denise Hamilton          |
| Anthony P Barker  | Joseph Harkin            |
| Tom Bell          | Stephen Harold           |
| John N Bell       | Silke Hattenhauer        |
| Alan J Bentley    | Carol Heaton             |
| John M Beveridge  | Anne Higgins             |
| Lynne M Bissett   | Patrick Hoey             |
| Philip Bloomer    | Roderick D House         |
| Margaret Blyth    | Robert C Howe            |
| Kevin Boyle       | Julia Howe               |
| Paul Bradley      | David Hunter             |
| Linda Bradley     | Cola Hunter              |
| Aileen A Brodie   | Andy Hurst               |
| David A Brown     | John Hutchinson           |
| David W Brown     | Barry G Inglis           |
| Anna M Brown      | Alexander Imes           |
| Claire Burrows    | Clare Ireland            |
| Kathyn Cairns     | Ailsa Johnson            |
| Douglas A Caldwell| Ken Jones                |
| Valene Bloomer    | Jennifer Jones           |
| Anthony R B Carson| Gordon Fairgrieve        |
| Andrea Carson     | Lyn Farmer               |
| Angus J Clark     | Karen Foote              |
| Ann J Connolly    | David Forrest            |
| David A Cooper    | Bernad J Forteath        |
| Graeme G Corner   | Peter Fowler             |
| Maria Corrigan    | Kevin Freeman            |
| Cateriona Cowan   | Brian Finel              |
| Andrew Crawford   | John Gannon              |
| John F Crawford   | Steven Glass             |
| Lynn Cree         | L Helen Gordon           |
| Lynn Crothers     | Lindsey E Green          |
| Brian Lawrie      | Henry A Hall             |
| Elana J Leach     | Martin R Hall            |
| John M Lee        | Matthew Murdoch          |
| Lesley Lees       | Alexander S Ness         |
| Sharon I Lindsay  | George M Niblock         |
| Elaine Little     | Colin M Nicoll           |
| John Love         | Bronny Norris            |
| Gregor MacCormick | Derek A Oliver           |
| Lorraine MacGillivray | Nonina MacPhail          |
| Donald Mackay     | Dawn Manson              |
| Nonina MacPhail   | J Lindsay Matthew        |
| Dawn Manson       | Lisa McCann              |
| Roderick D House  | Aidan McCormack          |
| Robert C Howe     | George McCracken         |
| Julia Howie       | Gail McIlroy             |
| David Hunter      | James McGibbon           |
| Cola Hunter       | Ian D McGruther          |
| Andy Hurst        | Emma McGuinness          |
| John Hutchinson   | Karen McIndoe            |
| Barry G Inglis    | Rachel Munnes            |
| Alexander Imes    | Jim McIntyre             |
| Clare Ireland     | James G McLennan         |
| Ailsa Johnson     | Iain R McCluskey         |
| Ken Jones         | Martin McIab             |
| Jennifer Jones    | Lynsey McIair            |
| Gordon Fairgrieve | Margaret J McWhinnie    |
| Lyn Farmer        | Peter J Midgley          |
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| Peter Fowler      | Irene B Morrison         |
| Kevin Freeman     | Susan Morse              |
| Brian Finel       | Richard Mowat            |
| John Gannon       |                           |
| Steven Glass      | Matthew Smith            |
| L Helen Gordon    | Matthew Smith             |
| Lindsey E Green   |                            |
| Henry A Hall      |                            |
| Martin R Hall     |                            |
| Andrew Law        |                            |
|                         |                           |
| Bylaw 8.3A allows members or Fellows who are Chartered Environmental Health Officers the privilege of using the designatory letters ‘Ch.EHO MREHIS’ or ‘Ch.EHO FREHIS’. REHIS is the only organisation able to confer ‘Chartered EHO’ status and only REHIS members can be described as Chartered Environmental Health Officers.
Appendix 9

Scottish Local Authority Environmental Health Staffing Statistics

As a result of a Freedom of Information Request to all 32 Scottish local authorities by Stewart Maxwell MSP the following staffing statistics were obtained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 March 2009</th>
<th>16 September 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Health Officers</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>535.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Safety Officers</td>
<td>105.5</td>
<td>99.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Support Staff</td>
<td>429.5</td>
<td>423.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The number of Environmental Health Officers employed within Scotland's local authorities has fallen from 677 in 1985 to 535.5 in 2010.

List of Contributors:

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Bernard Forteath, Past President, International Federation of Environmental Health

Core values and vision

REHIS is established to promote the advancement of Environmental Health for the benefit of the community. Environmental Health embraces all aspects of public health, hygiene and safety in all or any of their branches.

In particular the Institute aims to promote:
- improvements to the environment which can have a positive impact on public health or safety
- safe and healthy housing
- an environment which is safe and prevents harm to human health
- good standards of occupational health, safety and hygiene
- food which is safe, wholesome and accurately described
- sustainability, locally, nationally and internationally
- effective education and training to ensure environmental health standards are maintained and improved
- the resolution of health and environmental health inequalities
- equitable, practical and consistent regulation and enforcement
- high standards of professional training and conduct amongst Environmental Health Officers and others engaged in maintaining and promoting environmental health.
About REHIS

The Institute was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 18th February 1983, to give effect to the amalgamation of The Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland and The Scottish Institute of Environmental Health. The Institute was incorporated by Royal Charter on 8th March 2001, following which the Company was wound up.

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland is a registered Scottish charity, Number SC009406.

The objects for which the Institute is established, contained in Article 3 of the Charter, are for the benefit of the community to promote the advancement of Environmental Health by:

a. stimulating general interest in and disseminating knowledge concerning Environmental Health;

b. promoting education and training in matters relating to Environmental Health; and

c. maintaining, by examination or otherwise, high standards of professional practice and conduct on the part of Environmental Health Officers in Scotland.

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland is an independent and self-financing organisation. It neither seeks nor receives grant aid. The Institute’s charitable activities are funded significantly by the subscriptions received from its members.

The Institute’s affairs are managed by a Council which is elected by members. The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland is a founding member of the International Federation of Environmental Health.

The Institute frequently uses the acronym: REHIS®.

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