



## PDS Welcomes Kinga Zmijewska

PDS has a new addition to the group: replacing Flavio Jose, we have recruited Kinga Zmijewska as our new Technical Operations Manager.

Kinga recently graduated from the University of Exeter where she studied Human Biosciences and she therefore joins the group brim full of new ideas, a fresh mind and an eagerness to learn. Kinga has been attending various conferences, exhibitions and meetings, where some of you might have met her already; if you haven't yet, we're pretty sure you will soon.

Kinga has settled in well, working with Dose Records on the new DORIS/DOL project, as well as spending time with the Customer Services team to understand their work better.

In her spare time Kinga loves to walk alpacas (see photo) and this year has taken on the challenge of running 2020km to raise money for the *Mind* charity. Kinga's contact details can be found at the foot of page 4 of this copy of *Monitor*.



**Kinga walking an Alpaca.**  
(NB: Kinga is on the right – Ed.)

## Retirement of Neil McColl



After over 35 years at Chilton, latterly as Head of the Dosimetry Services Department (of which PDS is a part), Neil McColl retired from PHE at the end of December 2019. Neil had been at Chilton since 1984 – fresh out of University – successively with the NRPB (the National Radiological

Protection Board – for those who remember), the HPA (the Health Protection Agency – ditto), and then PHE, where he served both as a Group Leader from 1993 and then as a Department Head from 2005.

To quote Dr. David Rhodes, Director of Environmental Public Health at PHE Chilton, "Neil is one of the most outstanding colleagues with whom I have had the privilege to work. Not only is he a first-rate scientist, but also an excellent people manager with impressive commercial abilities and financial skills, who knows how to think creatively. He can always be relied on to provide an honest and thoughtful opinion, and everything he does is delivered to the very highest standard".

Neil will be pursuing a range of outdoor interests in the future, including running, long-distance cycling and walking, as well as starting a part-time role as a volunteer adult mathematics tutor at a local college. Needless to say, all of us in PDS wish Neil every success in the next phase of his life and career. He will be missed.

Once a suitable candidate is found to replace Neil, an update and profile will be provided in a future edition of *Monitor*.

### STOP PRESS!

It has just been announced that Duncan Cox, currently heading up the Radiation Hazards & Emergencies Department, has been appointed as Neil McColl's replacement.

We will have a more detailed piece about Duncan, his expertise and his many years of experience at PHE Chilton in the next issue of *Monitor*.

## The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) & RPA Access

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a regulation in EU Law which was issued in May 2018 and which covers data protection and privacy in the European Union. Public Health England (PHE) has put in place robust plans for adhering to this legislation, as the organisation, being part of HM Government, takes information security very seriously. PDS holds large amounts of worker-related information in its database of dose data and associated personal details. This is required for our Co-ordination & Record Keeping purposes to fulfil the legal requirement.



As the GDPR rules restrict access to personal information, PDS has withdrawn routine access to data for Radiation Protection Advisors (RPAs). However, access *can* be set up again by providing written authorisation from the employer.

The PDS Dose Record Office team will soon be sending out a consent form for completion to establish authorisation of access. If you would like to give your RPA access to your employees' dose records, then please fill out the consent form and return to [doserecords@phe.gov.uk](mailto:doserecords@phe.gov.uk). Once received, we will then be able to share employee dose information securely with your RPA. They will be able to view the dose data for the organisation to help advise on best practice in radiation protection.

## PDS Customer Services Does Its Bit ...

A big "Well Done!" to Jo Potter and Lou Anderson from our Customer Services team, who raised a bit of much-needed cash for charity just before Christmas 2019 by going for a lunchtime run. In the bleak midwinter. In funny costumes. Lou's diary entry for the day goes something like ...

4th Dec 2019, 11:30: It still seemed like a great idea.

I mean, what could possibly go wrong? You dress in your best festive (warm) gear, run (well, stagger) 5k and raise money for *Oxfordshire Be Free Young Carers*.

12 noon: Hottest December day on record (or so it seemed). We began a six-circuit slog of a nearby field with a community of Christmas elves, reindeer and fellow Santas. Quite a sight to behold (as long as your hat didn't keep slipping over your eyes).

12:35: Running in Santa hat not a good idea in a heatwave. Got even hotter when we finished. Ended up as red-in-the-face as our T-shirts.

12:45: Presented with a prize for the best-dressed team (NB: not the quickest!).

13:00: Recovery at desk, prize eaten. Oh well ... (there's always next year? – Ed.)



Jo (left) and Lou doing their bit for *Oxfordshire Be Free Young Carers* charity

## Conferences & Exhibitions – 2020

Please note that during the current COVID-19 pandemic, most of the Radiation Protection & Nuclear Medicine conferences and exhibitions have been postponed till later on this year or indeed till 2021. PHE/PDS fully agrees with this approach and looks forward to meeting with all of you in the future as circumstances improve.

## Printed Reports – Our Environmental Approach

In the interests of the environment and in line with PHE's Environmental Policy Statement, PDS continues to review and improve on its environmental impact in its day-to-day operations. The department has been striving to reduce the amount of paper used in its daily workload, typically by reducing the use of paper internally and, equally importantly, the amount of paper that we send out to clients. During 2019, we moved to e-invoicing which, overall, will help PDS clients to minimise their own environmental footprint also.

From 1st April 2020, we will also be switching to full electronic reporting, avoiding printing where possible. This will mean all dose assessment and summary reports will be sent via e-mail or can be downloaded from our customer portal, Dosimetry On-Line. Termination Records for classified workers will remain paper-based for an authorisation signature (but we are working on this too).

For PDS clients who still wish to receive paper-based documents, a flat fee of **£100 per client p.a.** will apply.

For those people who ask, "Does this actually work?", we would highlight PHE's annual sustainability report for 2018/19 which shows a reduction in carbon emissions of 11% on the previous year and gives an in-depth analysis of the progress made both within PHE and with our partner organisations (this includes PDS customers). As an organisation of over 5,500 staff, PHE aims to lead by example in terms of environmental sustainability, with PHE's total reportable carbon emissions for 2018/19 being a reduction of 11% on the previous year, and a 22% reduction on our baseline year overall.

So yes – our approach is delivering sustainable material benefits to the environment.

Please do provide us with a reporting e-mail address if you haven't done so already.

## The National Registry for Radiation Workers

The National Registry for Radiation Workers (NRRW) was started in 1976 with the aim of providing direct evidence to protect radiation workers and the public from adverse health effects due to exposure to ionising radiation. Although the primary health effect of interest is cancer induction, the register can be used to examine risks from other diseases. Recent evidence from studies of Atomic Bomb survivors and of patients indicates a possible increased risk of heart disease at high exposure levels. A first paper examining heart disease (HD) in the NRRW has just been published (Zhang et al. 2019).

Among the 174,541 radiation workers analysed, 11,014 cases of heart disease were seen, of which 89% of HD deaths were attributed to ischaemic heart disease (IHD). Focusing on IHD, a simple linear relationship between excess risk (relative to baseline) and cumulative exposure across the whole dose range fitted the data best. However, a categorical analysis showed that there was no evidence for any excess risk below a cumulative exposure of 0.1Sv and that risks at doses above 0.4Sv fell below what was predicted by the linear trend. This smaller risk at high doses appears to be primarily associated with workers who started employment at a younger age and who were employed for longer than 30 years, reflecting possible healthy worker survivor effects.

Analyses of age and duration of exposure revealed that, for IHD, increased risk was not seen until at least 20 years *after* first exposure and peaked between 30 and 40 years after this first exposure.

More detailed investigation of the risk from HD will be possible in the future as the number of cases in the study continues to grow. Taking account of the possible impact of lifestyle and medical factors such as hypertension, high blood LDL, smoking and diabetes, will also be very valuable but such information, where available, is difficult to collect.

**Dr. Wei Zhang, Medical Statistician  
Radiation Epidemiology Group, Radiation  
Effects Department**

## Prices from April 2020

Listed below are PDS prices for dosimeters and associated services effective from 1st April 2020, which do not show any volume discounts at this stage. However, the prices shown do attract such discounts, with many of our existing customers paying less than these prices. For example, a client receiving four TLDs every four weeks (i.e. 52 per annum) would be priced as per the first discount band. Note also that discounts are calculated automatically by the PDS invoicing system, meaning these discounts need not be 'claimed'. Please contact PDS for volume-discount details.

DOSEMETER TYPE	WEAR PERIOD	PRICE (EA.)
TLD	2-Weekly, 4-Weekly & Monthly *	£6.50
TLD	8-Weekly & Bimonthly *	£7.25
TLD	12-Weekly, 13-Weekly & Quarterly*	£8.25
Extremity Stall	All Wear Periods *	£8.65
Extremity Ring	All Wear Periods *	£9.95
PADC (Neutron)	All Wear Periods *	£36.80
	<b>Quantity</b>	
PADC (Radon) All Wear Periods	1 to 5	£100.00 to £200.00 p.a.
	6 – 250	£36.80
Unreturned TLDs	All Wear Periods	£24.00
Dose Record Keeping using PHE Dosimeters	Initial registration fee covering a minimum of 12 months	£31.50
	Renewal fee for subsequent years <b>NB:</b> Price decreases with quantity	£18.65
Dose Record Keeping ( <b>not</b> PHE Dosimeters)	Initial registration fee covering a minimum of 12 months	£125.30
	Renewal fee for subsequent years <b>NB:</b> Price is regardless of quantity	£100.00
Special Entries to Dose Records	<b>NB:</b> The first two entries per year are free-of-charge	£7.95
Radiation Passbooks	Next working day despatch	£27.85
	Standard	£17.45

\* **NB:** Orders are subject to a minimum order charge of £60.

All prices apply to European delivery addresses only and exclude VAT, which will be added to charges where applicable; all goods supplied based on these prices are subject to PHE's standard Terms & Conditions of supply.

## Stay Connected with Personal Dosimetry Services (PDS)

### Contact

### Prefix 01235 (unless\*)

Nicky Gibbens, PDS Manager	825334	<b>Laboratories: –</b>	
Christina Hoddinott, Co-ordination & Records Manager	825337	TLD & Extremity	825353
Kinga Zmijewska, Technical Operations Manager	825178	Neutron (Leeds)*	0113 267 9041
Sean Baker, Laboratory Manager	825349	<b>Customer Services (CS): –</b>	
Hugh Schoenemann, Customer Services Manager	825412	CS Team ( <b>NB: All calls are rotated</b> )	825240
Dosimeter Logistics Office	825339		
Dose Records Office ( <b>NB: All calls are rotated</b> )	825230		
<b>Dose Records e-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:doserecords@phe.gov.uk">doserecords@phe.gov.uk</a>		
<b>Customer Services e-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:customerservices@phe.gov.uk">customerservices@phe.gov.uk</a>		
<b>General PDS e-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:personaldosimetry@phe.gov.uk">personaldosimetry@phe.gov.uk</a>		

AS MENTIONED IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE OF *MONITOR*, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT PERSONAL DOSIMETRY SERVICES IS NO LONGER CONTACTABLE BY FAX MACHINE, OUR FAX NUMBER HAVING BEEN WITHDRAWN IN 2019.