

Monitor

Welcome to *Monitor* Issue 63



Nicky Gibbens
Manager, Personal Dosimetry
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Hello again, and welcome to Issue 63 of *Monitor*, the twice-yearly newsletter of the UK Health Security Agency's Personal Dosimetry Service (PDS).

With Spring well underway and the days continuing to lengthen, now is the time to let you all know what has happened in PDS over the last six months or so. You may notice also that this issue has been published a few weeks earlier than usual, this reflecting the fact that our conference & exhibition season starts at the end of April with our attendance at SRP 2023 in Aberdeen.

We in PDS and in wider UKHSA must still be vigilant on COVID-19, as a small number of our staff have been laid low with the virus, the good news however being that everyone affected is on the mend. Post-lockdown we have more staff in the PDS office day-to-day and we expect this to continue in future, which will mean that we will have all our staff back at our Chilton centre.

Again, we have risen to the challenge in providing something in this newsletter which we hope will be of interest to *all* our readers, including: -

- PDS's Dosimetry Manager, Richard Burkett, discusses the rigorous scientific work we and others have to undertake in order to ensure that our dosimeters meet with Health & Safety Executive (HSE) approval.
- Dr. Simon Bouffler, Deputy Director of the Radiation Protection Sciences Division at UKHSA, provides an update on the Radiation, Chemical & Environmental Hazards Directorate here in Chilton.
- The Conference & Exhibition season returns in earnest this year starting in April, so there is a short overview of events that PDS will be attending throughout 2023.
- Our PDS UK Price List for the 2023/2024 Financial Year makes its customary Spring appearance and, as stated in the piece, please contact us if volume discounts for our dosimeters and associated services are of interest.

One final thing I would like to say and that is, "please do not forget to send back your dosimeters to PDS at the end of their wear period". Recent events, including the pandemic and a series of postal strikes, have led to dosimeters not being returned to us or being delayed (sometimes even lost) in transit, so please help us to help you by using that green envelope!

I trust that you find the articles in this issue of interest and, as usual, please let us know if your organisation would be interested in submitting a small piece for publication in a future issue of *Monitor*.

Exhibitions in 2023

UKHSA PDS will be exhibiting at or attending the following events in 2023. This year's events start earlier than usual with the SRP Annual Conference in late April. As it has been a long time since we have met with many of our users in one place, please pop by our stand and grab us for a coffee and a chat.

	The Society for Radiological Protection (SRP) Annual Conference 2023 (NB: <i>UKHSA PDS is on Stand 34</i>) The Event Complex, Aberdeen, 25th – 27th April 2023
	South West Medical Physics & Clinical Engineering (SWMPCE) Meeting Exeter, 8th – 9th June 2023
	Eurados Annual Meeting, Porto, Portugal 12th – 15th June 2023
	The Institute of Physics & Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) Radiation Protection, RPA Update The Studio, Birmingham, 14th June 2023
	Association of University Radiation Protection Officers (AURPO) Annual Conference and AGM 2023 5th – 6th September 2023
	SRP South West Conference 2023: <i>Actions Speak Louder than Words</i> Dillington House, Somerset, 20th – 21st September 2023

UKHSA Update

**Dr. Simon Bouffler - Deputy Director,
Radiation Protection Sciences
Division, UKHSA**



The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will have existed for two years come 1st April 2023, so it seems timely to review and update our various stakeholders on progress following the formation of this new agency. As many readers will be aware, UKHSA incorporated many of

the functions of the previous organisation, Public Health England, including its radiation protection functions that are delivered by the Radiation, Chemical & Environmental Hazards Directorate (RCE) with its headquarters on the Harwell Campus at Chilton in Oxfordshire.

June of 2022 saw the appointment of Dr Edward Wynne-Evans as RCE Director. Ed has a wide background in public health, having spent time leading the North-East and North-Central London Health Protection Teams, as well as working in UKHSA's Data, Analytics & Surveillance Group on 'All Hazards' approaches; this latter aspect includes both radiation and chemicals of course.

In October 2022, two RCE deputy-directorships were confirmed on a permanent basis, with Robie Kamanyire having responsibility for Chemicals & Toxicology, and myself taking responsibility for the Radiation Protection Sciences Division.

My career in the organisation and its predecessors dates to the days of NRPB (the National Radiological Protection Board), which some readers will no doubt recall. For many years I led the Radiation Effects Department there that focuses on studying the underlying epidemiological- and mechanistic effects of radiation health risks; I am also the UK's representative to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and a member of the Main Commission of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

UKHSA's focus has been on ensuring the agency is prepared for any health protection incident, and therefore

RCE has started to strengthen its workforce both in radiation- and chemical-incident response. We are of course continuing to focus on the services we provide that facilitate the safe use of radiation in industry, the health sector and elsewhere; such services, of course, include our Personal Dosimetry Service.

As many readers will know, UKHSA provides a full range of radiation protection services, from 'front-line' RPAs to instrument testing & calibration to radon mitigation measures, as well as a range of professional training courses, details of which can be found here:

<https://www.ukhsa-protectionservices.org.uk/>



Left: Radiation monitoring equipment undergoing planned maintenance, calibration & testing at RCE Chilton

Below: A training course being run at the UKHSA training centre at RCE Chilton



STOP PRESS

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR QUERIES RELATING TO INVOICES

Please contact us on PDSinvoicing@ukhsa.gov.uk if you have invoice queries only.

This will enable us to answer your queries more quickly and effectively, as it avoids the usual Customer Services e-mail address for orders, and avoids your e-mail getting clogged with other queries

Many thanks.

How We Ensure PDS Dosimeters Perform Well



Richard Burkett
Dosimetry Manager, Personal
Dosimetry Service

How can wearers rest assured that PDS-supplied dosimeters will perform accurately for the exposure situations for which they were designed

and approved?

HSE Approval and Performance Tests

PDS has approval from the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) under the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2019 (RADS). Each service is reviewed and then approved for the measurement of radiation doses under the Statement of Service for the approval, and PDS is an Approved Dosimetry Service (ADS) for dose assessment using all our dosimeters.

A specialist radiation inspector at HSE reviews all the documents and will supply us with a certificate that details the use and range of the dosimeter, so that the customer can be assured that it meets their requirements. Once approved, our service must routinely pass HSE performance tests to maintain that approval. These tests involve us sending our dosimeters to a UK Accreditation Service (UKAS)-accredited laboratory, to be exposed to different unknown radiation doses. The dosimeters are then returned to us for processing, and we report back our results to check them against the correct dosed value. Again, we are supplied with a certificate showing a summary of the results and our pass mark, which must be passed every 18 months. Certificates are available from PDS on request.

Note that we also have approval in Ireland from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which follows a very similar process, with a certificate provided once approved.

Intercomparison Exercises

PDS regularly takes part in intercomparison exercises with other dosimetry services, both in the UK and abroad, for all our dosimeter types – whole-body, extremity, neutron and radon – which provides additional checks on how our dosimeters perform compared to different ADS's; an official report is provided showing how our performance compares to others.

Dummy Customers & Quality Assurance

We conduct our own internal blind checks, which are similar in format to the HSE performance tests, whereby UKHSA colleagues carry out tests and report back to us. Our dosimeters perform very well in these tests, adding further assurance of their reliability.

We also test our dosimeter readers every morning, reading both dosed and undosed dosimeters to check all readers provide accurate assessments; if a result is outside a set range, we stop using the errant reader and investigate; this happens rarely but adds further assurance of our quality.

UKAS Accreditation

PDS has also achieved ISO/IEC-17025:2017 accreditation under the General Requirements for the Competence of Testing & Calibration Laboratories. Our associated Quality Management System (QMS) ensures our continuous meeting of the standard, not least through internal auditing and quality-control procedures.

Employers Responsibility

As good as our dosimeters are, employers must ensure that appropriate dosimetry is used for the specific tasks that their radiation workers undertake. Whilst PDS is here to help – for example, we have technical information data sheets to help support these decisions – employers should always consult their Radiation Protection Advisor (RPA).

For example, some general guidance on our extremity dosimeter types is set out below, detailing what types of radiation they are suitable for:

Finger Stalls (right): Not all fingers are the same, so we offer two different sizes of finger stall. They are suitable for both photon- and beta radiations, covering a wide range of energies. For users of low energy beta emitters (<500 keV), we also offer a thinner filter covering the sensitive dosimeter element which is located at the fingertip.



Rings (left): Our rings are adjustable for different finger sizes and are used for a broad range of photon energies but are only suitable for beta radiations over 1 MeV as the lens cap shields lower-energy beta particles. The dosimeter element should face the direction of the source.



Prices from April 2023

Listed below are PDS prices for dosimeters and associated services effective from 1st April 2023, which do not show any volume discounts at this stage. However, the prices shown do attract such discounts, so please contact PDS for volume-discount details if required.

ITEM / SERVICE	WEAR PERIOD	PRICE (EA.)
TLD	2-weekly, 4-weekly & monthly *	£7.34
TLD	8-weekly & bi-monthly *	£8.18
TLD	12-weekly, 13-weekly & quarterly *	£9.30
Extremity Stall	All wear periods *	£9.80
Extremity Ring	All wear periods *	£11.26
PADC / Neutron	All wear periods *	£43.78
	Quantity	
PADC / Radon	1 to 5 wearers	£120.00 - £225.00 p.a.
All Wear Periods	6 to 250 wearers	£43.78
Unreturned TLDs	All wear periods	£25.00
TLD Holders	Replacement TLD holder	£2.90
Printed Reports	Per client site	£100.00
Dose Record Keeping with UKHSA Dosimeters	Initial registration fee covering a minimum of 12 months	£33.80
	Renewal fee for subsequent years NB: Price decreases with quantity	£19.95
Dose Record Keeping with UKHSA Dosimeters	Initial registration fee covering a minimum of 12 months	£125.30
	Renewal fee for subsequent years NB: Price decreases with quantity	£100.00
Special Entries / Manual Entries to Dose Records	NB: The first two entries per year are free-of-charge	£9.00
Radiation Passbooks	Next-working-day despatch	£29.25
	Standard despatch	£18.35

* **NB:** Orders are subject to a minimum order charge of £62.50

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 UKHSA's standard Terms & Conditions of supply, available on request. Courier and special delivery charges can be supplied on request.

Stay connected with the Personal Dosimetry Service (PDS)

Contact

Prefix 01235 (unless*)

Nicky Gibbens, PDS Manager	825334	Laboratories: –	
Christina Hoddinott, Co-ordination & Records Manager	825337	TLD & Extremity	825353
Kinga Zmijewska, Technical Operations Manager	825178	Neutron (Leeds)*	0113 267 9041
Richard Burkett, Dosimetry Manager	825349	Customer Services (CS): –	
Hugh Schoenemann, Customer Services Manager	825412	CS Team (NB: All calls are rotated)	825240
Dosimeter Logistics Office	825339	Please note, all email addresses have now been migrated to @ukhsa.gov.uk although our old PHE emails will continue to work for some time.	
Dose Records Office (NB: All calls are rotated)	825230		
Dose Records e-mail:	doserecords@ukhsa.gov.uk		
Customer Services e-mail:	customerservices@ukhsa.gov.uk		
General PDS e-mail:	personaldosimetry@ukhsa.gov.uk		

A REMINDER THAT, IN KEEPING WITH ITS CONTINUED "GREEN AGENDA", PDS NOW SENDS OUT PAPERLESS REPORTS ONLY AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE. THE AIM IS TO HELP PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT BOTH THROUGH REDUCTION IN PAPER USE AND THE ASSOCIATED REDUCTION IN TRANSPORTATION. FOR THOSE CLIENTS STILL WISHING TO RECEIVE REPORTS IN PAPER FORM, A FLAT FEE OF £100 PER ANNUM APPLIES.