

# Port Health SIG Report for 2009/10

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## Introduction

It has been a challenging year for the Port Health Special Interest Group. Membership of the SIG covers the whole UK and although the meetings have been organised in England Wales and Northern Ireland during 2009/10 the recession and staffing cutbacks in local authorities has made it difficult for many members to be allowed to attend meetings.

The Port Health SIG Management Board is committed to provide training opportunities for its members, to share knowledge, network, share best practice and allow members to keep up to date with current developments.

## CPD Hours for 2009/10

An indication of the Region's CPD hours from 1st October 2009 – 30th September 2010 can be found in the attached spreadsheet.

## Highlights of 2009/10

This year the Special Interest Group has

- Held meetings at the offices of FSA (NI) in Belfast, Fishmongers Hall, London and the offices of Cardiff Harbour which provided opportunities for as many members as possible to attend at least one meeting.
- Collaborated with the International SIG to provide reciprocal training opportunities.
- Appointed a student member n the Management Board.
- Actively recruited new members from with inland authorities who may have an interest in such matters as imported food control.
- Granted 5 x 1 day bursaries for officers to attend APHA Conference
- Granted student bursary for 1 member to attend CIEH "Best of the Best"

The Management Board regularly monitors the delivery of its objectives and work programme during the year and reports its findings back to the membership at its Annual Open Members Forum held in February in the form of the Secretary's Report.

Members of the Management Board have actively participated in board meetings and individual members have taken the lead on such projects as compiling case studies for the Student Training Pack and contributing to the Port Health SIG profile which is due to be published in EHP in October 2010.

## 2010/2011

In addition to intending to hold 4 open meetings in the forthcoming year the SIG is hoping to run a 1 day low cost seminar on the WHO Guidance to Ship Sanitation Inspections in collaboration with the Association of Port Health Authorities. This follows on from the highly successful seminar held on the International Health Regulations in 2009.

A 1 day open meeting has been organised at the Laboratories of the Food and Environment Agency at Sand Hutton York in November 2010. The Management Board has agreed to invite colleagues from the Yorkshire and Humberside Branch to the meeting to increase the training opportunities for all CIEH members. If this is successful the SIG will continue working on cross border events and invite members from the Regions/Branches in the area where it will hold future meetings

## Finances

The Port Health SIG has no paid support and relies solely on the voluntary contribution of members of the Management Board and the Regional Councillors to organise events throughout the UK. The SIG is committed to providing training free of charge to its members although this does require the support of CIEH Headquarters in the shape of the annual Region/SIG Funding

The SIG is also hoping to provide income by running a 1 day low cost seminar in conjunction with APHA

## Communicating with Members

Members of the SIG are kept informed of events and activities by:-

- Email contact with members wherever possible
- Attendance at open meetings
- Annual Open Members Forum

## Who's who / more information

Further information about the Port Health SIG including contact details for the Management Board and all our Regional Councillors are available on our website: <http://www.cieh.org/porthhealth> or from the Port Health SIG Secretary David Jones at [dsjones53@btinternet.com](mailto:dsjones53@btinternet.com)