

Risk Management Authority

Public body reporting on the
Scottish Biodiversity Duty: 2015-17

January 2018



RMA

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Working towards a Safer Scotland

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Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004), the Risk Management Authority (RMA) is required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out its responsibilities.

"It is the duty of every public body and office holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions"

The [Wildlife and Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) (commonly known as the WANE Act) came into force on 1 January 2012 and introduced a requirement for all public bodies to make a report publicly available on their compliance with biodiversity duty. Biodiversity duty reports are required every three years.

This biodiversity duty is about connecting people with the environment and managing biodiversity in the wider environment all around us, not just in specific protected sites.

- Public bodies already established in 2011 were due to produce and publish their first report by 1 January 2015 to cover activities carried out during 2012 to 2014 inclusive.
- The second report will be due by 1 January 2018 and is to cover activities carried out in 2015 to 2017 inclusive.

How is biodiversity relevant to the RMA?

All Scottish public bodies have a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. Understanding how an organisation's role and activities impact or link to biodiversity is the first step to identifying actions for implementation.

Scottish Natural Heritage developed a [checklist](#) to help identify how organisation's link to biodiversity. The checklist includes a set of questions for consideration - this is provided below with the RMA's response to each:

- Do you have an Environmental Management System? No
- Is your organisation involved in the management and/or use of land or natural resources? No
- Are you involved in healthcare or social services provision? No
- Are you involved in the provision or promotion of sport and recreation, or tourism? No
- Are you involved in the provision of education? No
- Are you involved in promoting business development and regeneration? No

- Are you involved in conserving and enhancing cultural and built heritage? No
- Are you involved with implementing action for the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS), its associated working groups, or with any local biodiversity partnerships, habitat or species action plans? No

Where organisations answer **yes** to any of these questions, there are likely to be several different types of activity that they can undertake to directly benefit biodiversity within Scotland. Where an organisation, such as the RMA, answers **no** to all of these questions, there are still general steps that can be taken to benefit biodiversity. The RMA does not have contributions to make to landscapes, habitats or wildlife, instead our focus is on areas such as sustainable natural resources, wider environmental impact, climate change, waste management and air quality. These are provided within this report.

"The issues we face today are precisely the result of millions of small actions. What we buy, what we eat, our use of fuel, the way we deal with waste, how we manage our gardens, how we engage with decision makers – all of these actions ultimately have an effect on biodiversity and the physical environment." ([Scotland's biodiversity: it's in your hands](#))

The RMA's report on the Scottish Biodiversity Duty: 2015-17 has 7 sections:

- Section 1: Introductory information**
- Section 2: Mainstreaming**
- Section 3: Actions taken to improve biodiversity conservation**
- Section 4: Partnership working and biodiversity communications**
- Section 5: Biodiversity highlights and challenges**
- Section 6: Monitoring**
- Section 7: Contribution to targets**

Section 1: Introductory information

The Risk Management Authority (RMA) is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) funded by the Scottish Government. The RMA was established in 2005 under the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003, for the purpose of ensuring the effective assessment and minimisation of risk. Our functions involve the communication of best practice, drawing evidence from national and international research and development programmes to improve the risk assessment and risk management of offenders in Scotland.

Our purpose is to: **make Scotland safer by setting the standard for risk practice to reduce reoffending and the harm that it causes**

The RMA is a small public body with 14 staff, located in one office in Paisley, Renfrewshire.

The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the RMA and, together with the RMA Chief Executive, ensures that Best Value is achieved through efficient and effective use of resources and personnel. The RMA has a small structure of fourteen permanent employees and places great emphasis on the continued development of those staff members to support the achievement of our corporate and business plan objectives.

As a public body, the RMA has a duty of Best Value. Best Value ultimately is about creating an effective organisational context from which Public Bodies can deliver their key outcomes. It provides the building blocks on which to deliver good outcomes by ensuring that they are delivered in a manner which is economic, efficient, sustainable and supportive of continuous improvement.

The RMA publishes an annual Best Value report on the actions we have taken to meet this duty. Those duties are:

- To make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in performance whilst maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost; and, in making those arrangements and securing that balance,
- To have regard to economy, efficiency, effectiveness, the equal opportunities requirements and to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Best Value has two cross-cutting themes, one of these being Sustainability. As a **Best Value** Organisation, the RMA fully embraces this theme across our activities, and through our reporting on Best Value we are able to evidence our strategic, operational and future plans that relate to **Biodiversity**.

Section 2: Mainstreaming

The Sustainability section of the RMA's Best Value report outlines examples of how biodiversity is considered within our governance policies and procedures.

Evidence recorded by the RMA against this objective for 2015-17 are:

- Annual publication of Best Value reports
- Scottish Government procurement framework utilised to source utilities such as the electricity provider for RMA premises
- Operation of suitable procurement policies and procedures
- RMA policy to support staff volunteering and voluntary activities
- Operation of environmental policies and procedures

Section 3: Actions taken to improve biodiversity conservation

The Sustainability section of the RMA's Best Value report details our achievements against the following core principle:

Living within environmental limits

Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations

Evidence recorded by the RMA against this objective for 2015-17 are:

- Operation of recycling facilities at RMA premises
- Provision of a cycle to work scheme
- Promotion of the national cycle to work day
- Policy supporting staff travel to meetings via public transport wherever possible
- Development of website strategy to support reduction of printed publications
- Policy to procure fair trade refreshments and products
- Policy to procure stationery sourced from recycled / sustainable / environmentally friendly products
- Operation of online meeting resources to reduce unnecessary travel to meetings
- Introduction of Boardbooks system for RMA Board meeting papers to reduce the level of printed materials

Section 4: Partnership working and biodiversity communications

Due to the remit of the RMA, its size and scale, we do not currently have any partnership working arrangements on biodiversity.

Section 5: Biodiversity highlights and challenges

The highlight for the period 2015-17 is the RMA's efforts to reduce the volume of printed materials, making extended use of electronic methods of communication where possible. This has seen significant reductions in the amount of paper used, the amount of documents posted, printer toners used etc. In addition to the environmental benefits, this approach has seen other wider benefits, such as efficient use of resources, value for money, and contributions to data security.

Section 6: Monitoring

The RMA does not currently have monitoring arrangements in place.

Section 7: Contribution to targets

The following targets were considered:

- Targets/key steps from Chapter 1 (Healthy ecosystems) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"
- Targets/key steps from Chapter 3 (Biodiversity, health and quality of life) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"
- Targets/key steps from Chapter 4 (Wildlife, habitats and protected places) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"
- Targets/key steps from Chapter 5 (Land and freshwater management) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"
- Targets/key steps from Chapter 6 (Marine and coastal) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"

The RMA does not currently contribute to these targets.

Risk Management Authority

7 Thread Street

Paisley

PA1 1JR

tel 0141 278 4478

email info@rmascotland.gsi.gov.uk

www.rmascotland.gov.uk