

GRE Divisional Meeting Minutes, May 2006

7.1 School's Health & Safety Inspection

An unannounced, ad hoc inspection took place on Friday 28 April 2006. Whilst the need for Health & Safety inspections is understood, many PIs were unhappy with the way this latest inspection was undertaken. In particular, many members of GRE staff reported that the inspection was carried out in a confrontational and intimidating fashion, especially because it happened unannounced with minimal explanation of what was occurring and involved photographs being taken in the labs. Staff had the impression they were being subjected to a criminal investigation and the general view of GRE PIs is that this is neither a helpful nor acceptable way to foster a compatible approach to good health and safety practice in the School of Life Sciences. It was felt that a more constructive dialog is required between the responsible Safety Officers and the scientists actually performing experiments at the bench to identify potential risks and problems and to establish a fair and reasonable way to resolve these issues.