



Leicestershire and Staffordshire Scientific Services

Leicestershire and Staffordshire Scientific Services is a partnership between the Public Analyst laboratories of Leicestershire and Staffordshire County Councils. We have two laboratories in South Wigston, Leicestershire and Stafford town centre and employ 30 scientists. Four of these hold the position of Public Analyst and are official Agricultural and Deputy Agricultural Analysts: Mr John Waller and Dr Geoff Haywood at the Leicester laboratory and Dr Frank Hollywood and Ms Michelle Evans at the Staffordshire laboratory. We have expertise in carrying out scientific analysis to protect the public and serve public organisations, large and small businesses and members of the public.

The laboratories

Both laboratories are accredited to UKAS Quality Standard ISO/IEC 17025, and each specialises in particular tests. Each laboratory is well equipped, with joint equipment including GC, HPLC, GCMS, ICP, Ion Chromatography, Atomic Fluorescence and PCR for DNA species together with facilities for wet chemical testing. There are dedicated microbiology laboratories at each site. Staff at both sites work together closely to maximise efficiency and offer an expanded range of expertise.

Range of Work

Work for the public sector is directed to the needs of Trading Standards departments, Environmental Health services, health and safety testing – public protection in general. Work for businesses and individuals is undertaken in the following sectors: Agricultural, Bacteriological, Consumer Goods, Environmental, Food, Instrumental and Water.

Agricultural

Services include the analysis of Fertilisers, Feeds (including Pet Food), Milk, checking of Statutory Statements and testing of water supplies to ensure safety for animal and human health (see Water section below).

Bacteriological

A wide range of tests are available: for listeria, salmonella, legionella, moulds spores, enterobacteriaceae, staphylococcus, campylobacter, and total / faecal coliforms. Please contact the Staffordshire laboratory for these services.

Consumer Goods

A wide range of testing of consumer goods is available, both chemical and physical. Specialist testing of sunglasses, cookware, children's cutlery, graphic instruments, cosmetics, decorative oil and paraffin lamps is carried out at Leicestershire, and ceramic ware at the Staffordshire laboratory.

Environmental

The laboratories are able to carry out analyses to identify wastes and to determine the extent of contamination so that appropriate procedures for disposal are implemented. Typical material submitted include filter cakes, foundry sands and industrial waste, we are also able to offer contamination and nutritional soil analysis for ground development. Further environmental services include air pollution monitoring and materials composition.

Food and Drink

An extensive range of analysis is available for compliance with the Food Safety Act of 1990. This includes the compositional regulations and codes of practice, and the additive and labelling regulations. A further specialist food service is offered in the form of food complaints, foreign body investigation, insect infestation and food spoilage.

Water

The laboratories offer a service to establish water quality and hygiene. Typically this includes drinking water supplies, swimming baths, ground water, industrial water supplies and leachates.

Instrumental

Individuals who are charged under the Road Traffic Act and would like a second opinion are able to have blood and urine samples analysed for alcohol. Instrumental analysis is also available for trace pesticides, phthalates – for example in toys - and general complaints (taints).

Visit our websites

Website - Leicestershire: <http://www.leics.gov.uk/scientificservices>

Website - Staffordshire: <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/community/consumeradviceandprotection/scientificservices/>

Who to contact

If you would like any information or help, please contact:

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