

NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR MANAGERS FORUM

18 January 2011

1. The government review of Arms Length Bodies agreed that MHRA should continue its function. However the “efficiencies” required by the review have now evolved into a 30% cut in funding over the next 2 years. MHRA are now looking at what changes are required in the handling of adverse incidents, provision of advice and regulatory work to accommodate such a reduction in funding.

2. Total adverse incident numbers across MHRA devices increased 10% in 2010.

However there was no increase in wheelchair reports	(2008	2009	2010)
	(703	700	701)
- Powered	250	(same)	
- Non-powered	320	(same)	
- Buggies	60	(22 increase)	
- Seating	60	(6 increase)	

Fatalities remained similar to 2009 at 30 across all AT (31 in 2009)

15 of these involved the use of wheelchairs (6) & scooters (9).

3. UK manufacturers continue to be poor at reporting AI's to MHRA. MHRA meeting BHTA manufacturers in March to try to improve their reporting.

- Please report to MHRA even if the manufacturer is sorting problems concerning your own equipment. It is our main way to find out what is required in the UK and to ensure ALL actions across UK are carried out (and EU is informed).

4. Some of the issues being looked at. Please report to MHRA if you come across any of these or any other adverse incidents:

- Incomplete or poor IFU's
- Failure of backrests (especially non powered wheelchair and special seat/backrest support)
- Actual or potential entrapment in lifting seating or tilt in space or riser recliner backrest or mechanisms
- IFU for cushions which do not include adequate cleaning (see MDA/2010/002)

5. A Lynch is retiring from MHRA in May 2011.