

# **Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC): an insight into the experience of health authorities in the Northern and Yorkshire area of the North East of England**

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# Presentation outline

- An introduction to the IPPC regime
- The public health input in the IPPC
- Our experience in preparing public health responses
- Challenges facing the public health input in the IPPC
- Value added from health input in the IPPC
- Recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the public health input in the IPPC

# A regulatory background of the IPPC regime

- European Directive 96/61 (implemented 24<sup>th</sup> September 1996) provides the legal framework for IPPC in the EU.
- Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (2000) implements the EU IPPC Directive in England and Wales.

# The IPPC Regime

- Aims to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, by in particular, preventing or, where that is not practicable, reducing emissions to air, water and land.
- Permit conditions are based on “Best Available Techniques” (BAT).
- IPPC extends beyond the task of permitting to cover the lifetime of an industrial activity.

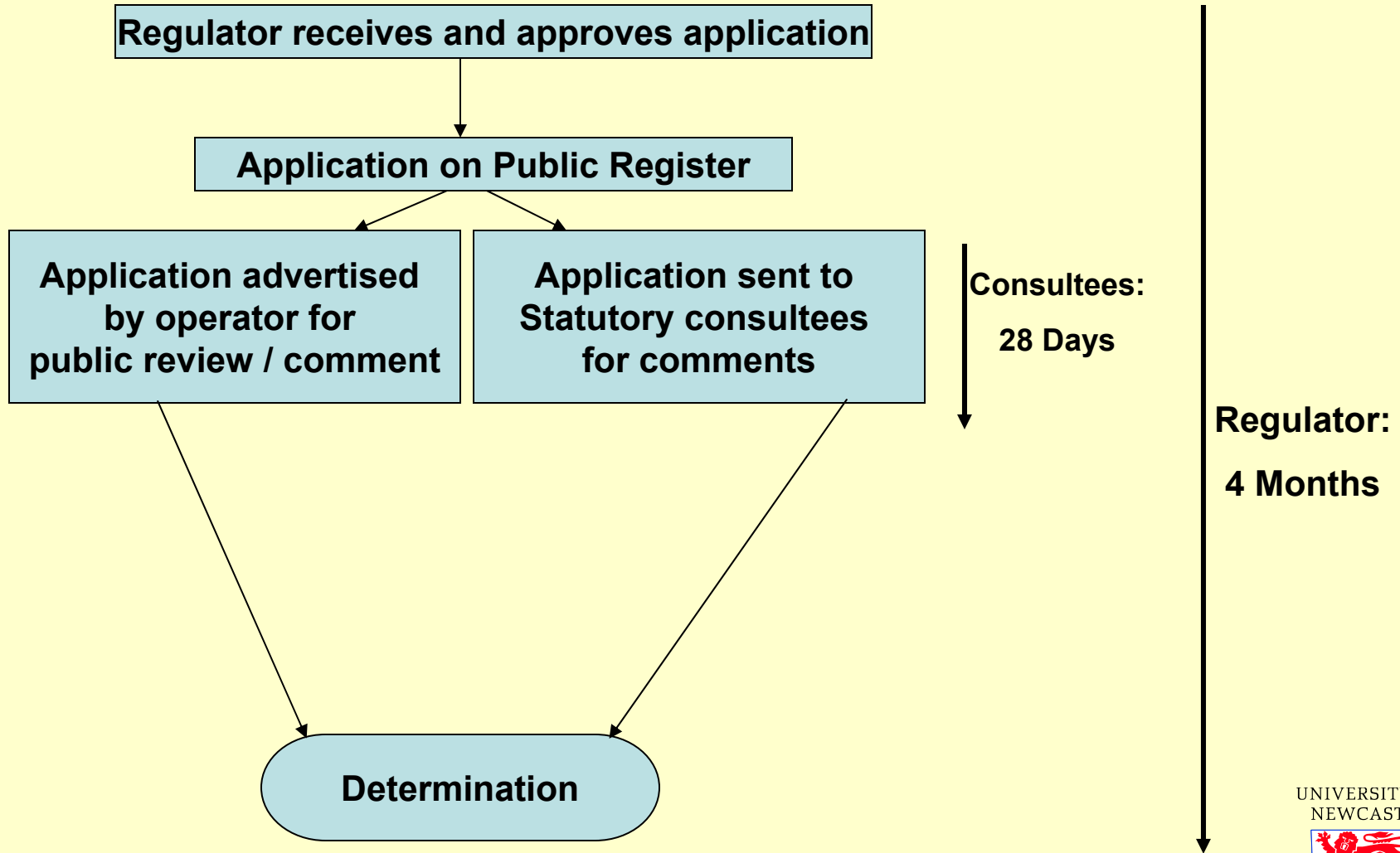
# Types of industries

- The PPC regime covers industries previously regulated under environmental regulations and some which are new (e.g. landfill, Food and Drink and intensive farming sectors).
- Industries are being phased into the regime over a seven-year period (2001-2007).

# The regulator in the IPPC

- Environmental Agency regulates part A(1) installations (larger and more polluting industries).
- Local Authorities regulates part (A2) and Part (B) installations (the latter previously regulated under Local Air Pollution Control (LAPC) and thus only address emissions to air).
- PPC regulations include lists of installations identified as A(1) and A(2).

# The IPPC Permitting Process



# Statutory Consultees in IPPC

## Main consultees:

- Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)
- Food Standards Agency
- Local Authorities/Environment Agency

## Depending on circumstances:

- Sewerage Undertaker
- English Nature
- Health & Safety Executive ( COMAH sites)
- Harbour Authority
- Local Fisheries Committee
- Planning Authority



# Health Input in the IPPC

- Protection of human health is emphasised in both the EU IPPC Directive (96/91/EC) and the UK PPC regulations. The latter stipulates that Health Authorities (HAs) become statutory consultees in the IPPC process.
- In April 2002 HA's were abolished and their power devolved to Primary Care Trusts (PCT's)

# Support in Yorkshire (YORIS)



- The Unit was established on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2003. It is based in the School of Population and Health Sciences at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.



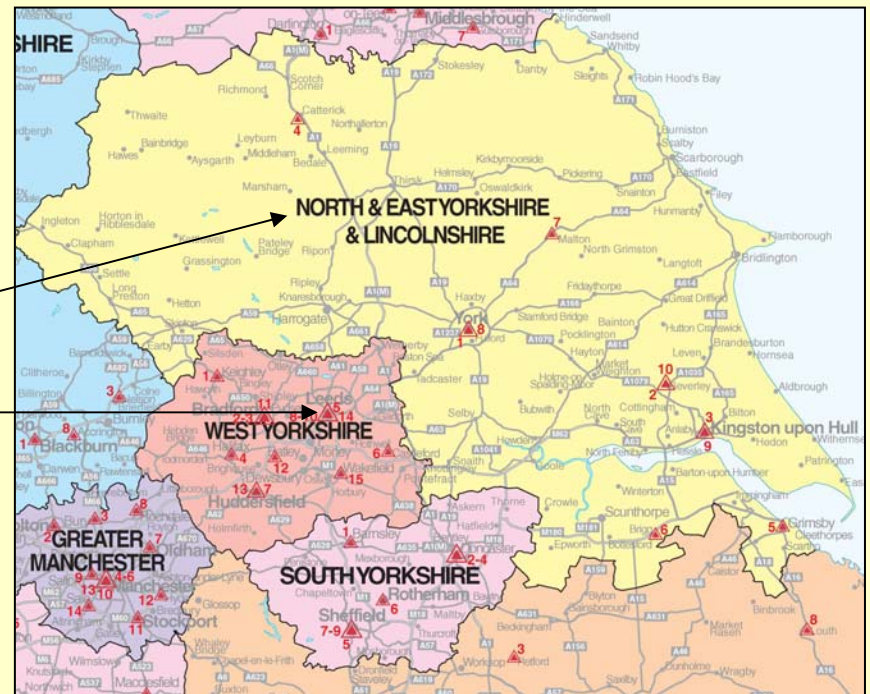
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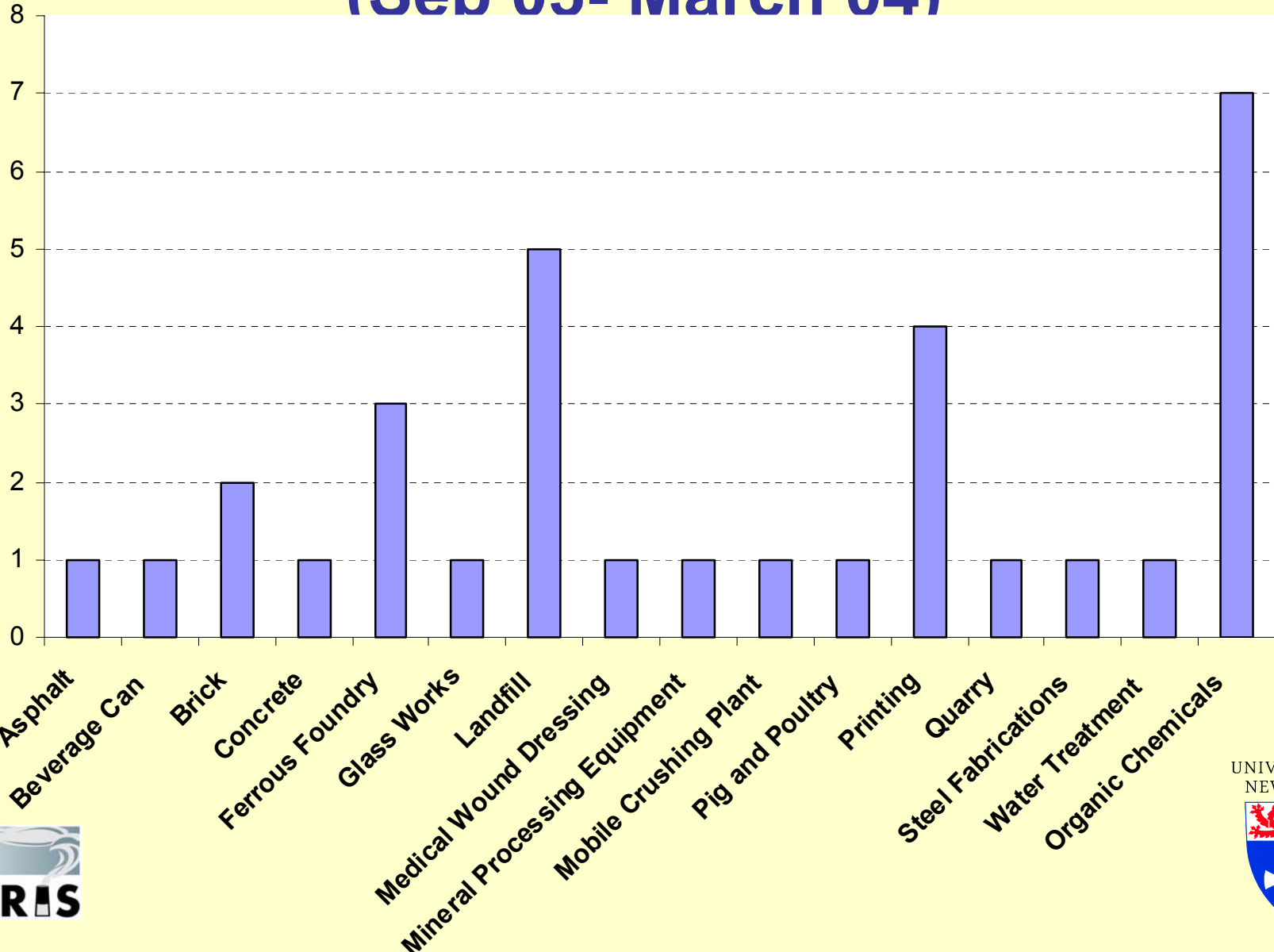
# YORIS (Continued)

- The unit provides technical assistance in the IPPC process to 23 PCTs in North, East and West Yorkshire
- We responded to 37 applications since the establishment of YORIS to date (40% A(1); 32 % part A(2)).

# Current Support for PCTs in Yorkshire



# IPPC applications by type of industry (Sep 03- March 04)



# Assessing an Application

## Source:

Emissions to air/water/land

## Pathway

Air, Groundwater & surface waters, land

## Receptors: human

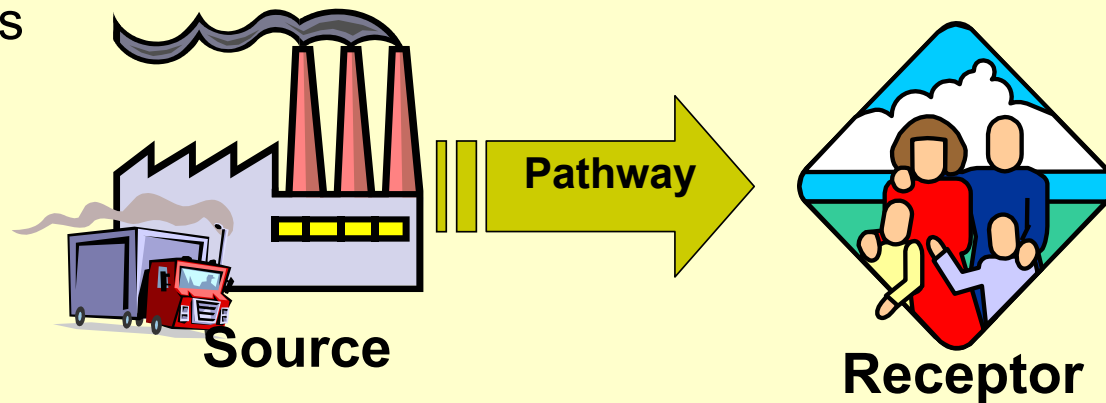
Proximity to

Housing

Schools

Recreational areas

Transport routes



# Public health responses in the IPPC

- Response should consist of four key elements:
  - **potential health impact of emissions**
  - **local health issues**
  - **future health issues**
  - **Reassurance to the local community especially when public perception of risk is high and the actual health risk is low.**

# Challenges Related to the Public Health Response

- Many of the applications are highly technical documents and quite bulky. No distinctive chapter on health exists.
- Information that we need is often lacking and any request for missing information may take a long time.
- 28 Day Deadline.



# Challenges Related to the Public Health Response (continued)

- Evidence base: reliance on small area level health data can be problematic
  - Diseases can cluster by chance
  - Public concern
  - Data protection.
- Resource limitations.
- Cumulative impacts are rarely addressed (operators usually split up their site and submit separate applications).

# Challenges Related to the Public Health Response: An example



# Public Health Responses in the IPPC: value added

- Include local knowledge of public concerns.
- Provide information on local health issues and vulnerable groups in the local population.
- Increased dialogue between health authorities and environmental regulators.

# Recommendations

- Audit the effectiveness of public health responses in the IPPC process.
- Develop networks among practitioners preparing public health responses.
- Training and guidance to all those involved in the process.