



The one hundred and seventh meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held at 0845 on 9 June 2016, at SNH Offices, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

This paper is provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

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## **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

### **End-of-year performance report 2015/16**

**Sponsor Director: Marcus Yeo**

#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Action required**

1.1. The Joint Committee is asked to:

- i. **discuss** JNCC's performance for the year ended 31 March 2016;
- ii. **note** the notable achievements for quarter 4 summarised in section 1.3 of the report;
- iii. **discuss** the significant risks in Annex 3;
- iv. **note** the HR data in Annex 4 and compliance reporting in Annex 5.

##### **2. Key issues**

- 2.1 This report provides information on corporate performance for the year ending 31 March 2016.
- 2.2 JNCC's operating environment in 2015/16 was extremely challenging and had an impact on corporate performance in several respects. The Executive Management Board actively managed performance over the course of the year to ensure that resources were directed to the highest priorities.
- 2.3 Five of the fourteen priority performance measures (PPMs) have been achieved (Green) and nine have made substantial progress in year (Amber).
- 2.4 Financial performance for 2015/16 was good. The final out-turn shows a modest underspend that will be added to the JNCC reserves.
- 2.5 Risks were actively managed during the year but in several cases residual risks remain high for reasons beyond JNCC's control.
- 2.6 A new and simplified corporate reporting format will be introduced in 2016/17.

## **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

### **End of Year Performance Report for 2015/16**

#### **Paper by Joanne Day and Sarah Harrison**

#### **1. Summary of programme performance**

- 1.1. JNCC's business plan for 2015/16 contains 14 priority performance measures (PPMs). A detailed summary of performance against priority performance measures (PPM) is shown in Annex 1.
- 1.2. At the end of 2015/16:
  - i. five PPMs have been fully achieved (Green);
  - ii. nine PPMs have made substantial progress with full achievement anticipated early in 2016/17 (Amber);
  - iii. no PPMs have made limited progress (Red).
- 1.3. Notable achievements during quarter 4 include:
  - i. producing annual updates of the status of wintering wetland birds (in partnership with BTO, RSPB and WWT) and butterflies (in partnership with Butterfly Conservation and CEH);
  - ii. publishing an updated version of the high-level UK Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy;
  - iii. launching a fully functional marine noise register for the UK populated with historical data;
  - iv. contributing to the 4th plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
  - v. providing access to detailed information for new offshore Marine Conservation Zones through online Site Information Centres;
  - vi. completing a joint review with SNH of Scottish marine renewable energy casework roles;
  - vii. making significant progress in establishing the support needed to diversify income streams.
- 1.4. Achievements for the year as a whole are summarised in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2015/16.
- 1.5. The degree of change and uncertainty affecting JNCC during 2015/16 created a very challenging operating environment. Factors affecting delivery of the priorities in the business plan included:
  - i. a government review of JNCC, formally launched in December 2015, which required substantial input from JNCC staff;

- ii. other Defra transformation initiatives, to which JNCC contributed in various ways;
  - iii. work associated with the 2015 Spending Review, which required the preparation of ambitious proposals for reducing expenditure to 2020;
  - iv. running a voluntary exit scheme, which reduced JNCC's staff complement by 5% and led to subsequent restructuring of teams and programmes;
  - v. high staff turnover in some JNCC teams;
  - vi. changes to government timescales and requirements (e.g. for some elements of identifying offshore marine protected areas) which required replanning and sometimes additional work;
  - vii. opportunities that emerged during the year to play a lead role in work where JNCC has core strengths (e.g. environmental data and Earth Observation). This has enabled JNCC to deliver significant benefits but has impacted on other work;
  - viii. on some occasions, inability of partner organisations to contribute in a timely fashion to projects led by JNCC
- 1.6. This combination of factors has required senior management to monitor performance closely during the year and to adjust work plans where necessary. We have succeeded in keeping the most important priorities on track. In other cases we have rescheduled work to minimise disruption.

## 2. Financial reporting

- 2.1 A table showing spend for the year against budget by programme is given at Annex 2a. A table showing JNCC's overall end of year position is provided at Annex 2b. The spend reported takes into account all accruals and deferred income reported at quarter 4 by project managers.
- 2.2 The £500k held by Defra for work under the Cefas Partnership Agreement and the £500k Defra Marine funding which was confirmed in September 2015 have been included in the tables for this report. Funds from Defra (£10k) and Welsh Government (£20k) for the LIFE National Contact Point role have also been included in this report under UK Coordination, bringing the total GIA allocation to £10,741k.
- 2.3 The end of year position shows a total underspend of £198k. There are underspends of £30k for Reserved GIA, £71k for UK Coordination GIA, £43k for Defra Marine GIA and £53k for Governance and Corporate Services GIA. The underspend will be reduced by the savings required by Defra (see below), bringing the actual underspend down to £123k.
- 2.4 As part of their programme to reduce expenditure in-year, Defra asked JNCC to achieve a 2% saving, some £75k, in 2015/16 against Reserved and Marine GIA. JNCC committed to not receiving this amount of GIA, and has underspent against these funding streams in order to achieve the savings required. This means that of the £198k underspend £123k will go to JNCC reserves and £75k will contribute to the savings requested by Defra.

- 2.5 The end of year position reported also takes into account JNCC's £100k contribution to the Voluntary Exit Scheme.

### **3. Risk reporting**

- 3.1 The Significant Risks Register for 2015/16 is contained in Annex 3.

### **4. HR reporting**

- 4.1 A table showing HR statistics for quarter 4 is contained in Annex 4.

### **5. Other reporting**

- 5.1 Reports on other matters are included in Annex 5.
- 5.2 The reporting return for evidence quality assurance (EQA) continues to increase with a 98% return for quarter 4. This reflects the work undertaken to bring EQA reporting into the corporate system. Reports from the database are helping to identify those project managers in need of additional help with the documentation and monitoring processes.

## Annex 1. Summary of PPM delivery

### Key to RAG assessments

RAG assessment	PPMs
R	Limited progress against PPM
A	Substantial progress made with full achievement of PPM anticipated early in 2016/17
G	PPM achieved or exceeded

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
<b>Theme 1 Biodiversity evidence</b>			
1.1 Provide updated information on status and trends of terrestrial biodiversity across the UK.	a) Publish UK and site-related trends for wintering wetland birds and make available through a flexible on-line system (Q4). b) Publish UK and country trends for breeding terrestrial bird species and determine how to improve the range of habitats and species covered (Q2). c) Publish UK and country trends for breeding seabird species (Q2). d) Publish UK and country trends for bat species by applying improved analytical techniques and provide interpretation of the trends reported (Q1). e) Publish UK and country trends for butterflies (Q4). f) Produce by November 2015 an indicator for priority species for the UK Biodiversity Indicators suite by applying innovative analytical approaches to general biological recording data developed with CEH through the Biological Records Centre (Q3). g) Partner CEH in the Biological Records Centre to pilot integration of biological recording with research outputs to develop crop or area specific pollinator indicators (Q3). h) Evaluate uptake and volunteer feedback from the first field season of the National Plant Monitoring Scheme, and review analytical uses and development of potential indicators (Q3). i) Identify critical terrestrial surveillance and monitoring evidence, the most cost-effective means for delivery, and how this relates to statutory drivers and current solutions (Q1).	a) Milestone completed in Q4. b) Milestone completed in Q2. c) Milestone completed in Q3. d) Milestone completed in Q1. e) Milestone completed in Q4. f) Milestone completed in Q3. g) Milestone partially achieved. Indicator produced in Q3. h) Milestone completed in Q3. i) Milestone completed in Q3.	GREEN ↔
1.2 Collate and provide access to biodiversity data and products derived from them.	a) Agree with each country how to deploy habitat mapping methods to meet country evidence priorities (Q2). b) Contribute to the Defra network Earth Observation Centre of Excellence, and develop its function as a shared service to support the processing of remote-sensed data for the assessment of habitats and their condition (Q4).	a) Milestone completed in Q2. b) Milestone completed in Q4.	GREEN ↔

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
	<p>c) Support the National Biodiversity Network as the preferred solution for managing species data and making them available for use within the country conservation bodies (ongoing).</p> <p>d) Operationalise earlier pilots towards a more efficient geographic data strategy within JNCC and explore how this can be integrated with existing country strategies (Q4).</p>	<p>c) Milestone completed.</p> <p>d) Substantial progress made.</p>	
<p><b>1.3</b> Collect data on marine biodiversity, and undertake research and development to improve the quality and efficiency of marine monitoring.</p>	<p>a) Conduct three integrated monitoring surveys of offshore marine protected areas focussing on seabed habitats and produce cruise reports (Q4).</p> <p>b) Continue coordinating collection of seabird colony monitoring data for 2015 and lead the Seabird Monitoring Programme partnership in starting the next seabird census of Britain and Ireland (Q4).</p> <p>c) With partners, develop funded proposals for 2016 surveys of small cetaceans in European Atlantic waters (SCANS III) (Q2).</p> <p>d) Develop the Marine Monitoring Tools Portal online resource, including publication of high priority monitoring protocol updates (e.g. National Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control epibiota guidelines) (Q4).</p> <p>e) Update plan for operational monitoring surveys of offshore marine protected areas, including estimation of costs, taking account of monitoring options produced through the JNCC-led R &amp; D programme (Q2).</p> <p>f) Complete reporting on 2014-15 marine protected area case study surveys (Fladen Ground by end of Q2 and Dogger Bank by end of Q4) to in order to enable the development of seabed habitat monitoring protocols.</p> <p>g) Enhance capability in deep water survey and make further efficiency gains in vessel use by forming a new partnership with Marine Scotland Science and building relationships with British Antarctic Survey, with a view to implementing offshore surveys in 2016/17 (Q4) .</p> <p>h) Hold workshops with governments and agencies to consider options for monitoring cetaceans and seabirds/marine birds (Q3).</p> <p>i) Complete review of monitoring options for deep seabed habitats and present to Governments and UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy partners (Q2).</p> <p>j) Establish conceptual ecological models for two broadscale marine habitats (shallow sublittoral mud and sublittoral rock) (Q3).</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>b) Milestone partially completed. Seabird colony monitoring completed on target, but funding and leadership of the seabird census work is still uncertain; monitoring will proceed in an ad hoc manner until issues are resolved.</p> <p>c) Milestone completed in Q2.</p> <p>d) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>e) Milestone partially completed. Update of the prioritised list of offshore Marine Protected Area seabed habitat monitoring surveys for 2016/17 was completed in Q2. Estimated costs were carried over from work undertaken in 2014/15.</p> <p>f) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>g) Milestone partially completed. Progress has been made towards a new partnership with Marine Scotland Science but this is not yet in place.</p> <p>h) Milestone partially completed in Q3. Workshops with Governments will be scheduled for 2016/17.</p> <p>i) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>j) Milestone completed in Q3.</p>	<p>AMBER ↔</p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
	<p>k) With the country conservation bodies, develop revised advice on monitoring and assessment of habitats within marine protected areas (Q2).</p> <p>l) Publish an updated version of the high level Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy (Q2).</p>	<p>k) Milestone not completed. Advice is likely to be signed off by the Chief Scientists Group in Q1 2016/17.</p> <p>l) Milestone completed in Q4.</p>	
<p><b>1.4</b> Publish marine evidence products, including standards, and undertake strategic work to support continued efficient delivery of these products.</p>	<p>a) Publish updated benthic habitat maps, including EUSeaMap (Q3), and contribute to the development of UK standards for marine habitat mapping (Q4).</p> <p>b) Publish abrasion and extraction pressure datasets and their associated standards (Q3), and develop efficient routines for creating new pressure layers (Q4)</p> <p>c) Launch a fully functional and tested noise register for the UK populated with historical data (Q4).</p> <p>d) Process offshore survey data and deliver to relevant Data Archive Centres, and develop proposals for establishing Data Archive Centres for other derived data products (e.g. habitat maps and pressure datasets) (Q4).</p> <p>e) Specify for implementation in 2016/17, a cross agency/JNCC project to identify improvements in the supply and use of marine data (Q3).</p> <p>f) Produce a report identifying evidence needs for strategic conservation advice on seabirds at different scales and across different steps of the environmental management cycle (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>b) Milestone not completed. Datasets and reports will be completed in Q1 2016/17.</p> <p>c) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>d) Milestone not completed. Processing and archiving offshore survey data is complete. A decision was taken not to pursue Data Archive Centres, largely due to funding shortfalls. Alternative solutions have become apparent and are being investigated further.</p> <p>e) Milestone not completed. Progress towards online data repository has been slow due to lack of resources.</p> <p>f) Milestone completed in Q4.</p>	<p>AMBER ↔</p>
<p><b>1.5</b> Work with partners to identify strategic UK evidence priorities.</p>	<p>a) Contribute to the development of Defra's Network Evidence Action Plans, maintaining good links with the devolved administrations to identify UK priorities and ensure these are adequately represented (Q2)</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed in Q2.</p>	<p>GREEN ↔</p>
<p><b>Theme 2 Shared UK approaches to nature conservation</b></p>			
<p><b>2.1</b> Work with the country conservation bodies to develop and apply UK-wide principles, standards and approaches for nature conservation.</p>	<p>a) Publish annual update of UK biodiversity indicators (Q3).</p> <p>b) Publish revised chapters of the guidelines for the selection of biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including chapters for birds, lowland heathland, freshwater habitats and freshwater fish) (Q4).</p> <p>c) Submit recommendations to government for revisions of Schedule 9 (non-native species) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Q3).</p> <p>d) Following external peer review, publish a decision framework for using national and site-based evidence to account for, and attribute, atmospheric nitrogen deposition as a threat to or cause of</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>b) Milestone not completed. Report awaiting sign-off following completion of peer review.</p> <p>c) Milestone not completed. Recommendations are awaiting sign-off from Joint Committee.</p> <p>d) Milestone completed in Q2.</p>	<p>AMBER ↔</p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
	<p>unfavourable habitat condition or protected sites (Q1).</p> <p>e) Submit proposals to Government on species protection measures (follow up to the 6th Quinquennial Review of Schedule 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) (Q4).</p> <p>f) Complete the review of terrestrial Special Protection Areas (Q4).</p> <p>g) Working with the country nature conservation bodies, provide advice on the interpretation and development of Common Standards Monitoring for protected areas in light of emerging new approaches and strategies for the natural environment in different parts of the UK (Q3).</p> <p>h) Develop and pilot approaches to the valuation and assessment of natural capital and ecosystem services, including standards, tools, advice and models for the use of species data and habitat mapping at a variety of scales (Q4).</p> <p>i) Working with partners, build a knowledge hub on ecosystem resilience and explore through case studies the applicability of key concepts in risk and ecosystem resilience to past pest and disease outbreaks (Q4).</p>	<p>e) Milestone not completed. Proposals are awaiting sign-off from Joint Committee.</p> <p>f) Milestone not completed. Due to be completed in early 2016/17.</p> <p>g) Milestone partially completed. An inter-agency group has been established and the scope of the review has been submitted to the Chief Scientists' Group for approval. Timetable for collation of information agreed.</p> <p>h) Milestone not completed. However, two projects are underway.</p> <p>i) Milestone not completed. Progress was significantly delayed by contractual problems. However, a framework for a knowledge hub was developed with partners and a full project scope for exploring past outbreaks was provided.</p>	
<p><b>2.2</b> Provide technical expertise on marine ecosystem assessments.</p>	<p>a) Agree with Defra and other government partners a plan for coordinating and delivering the biodiversity aspects of the UK's Article 8, 9 and 10 report under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (due in 2018) (Q3).</p> <p>b) Undertake research to develop benthic habitat indicators for OSPAR and UK waters (Q4).</p> <p>c) Submit specifications and assessment sheets for common biodiversity indicators being used for OSPAR's 2017 Intermediate Assessment to the 2016 Biological Diversity Committee (Q3).</p> <p>d) Agree a plan with the country nature conservation bodies for delivering marine assessments under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, OSPAR, Nature Directives and the Marine Acts between 2016 and 2019 (Q4)</p> <p>e) Publish outputs from phase 1 and 2 of the offshore marine protected area assessment pilot (Q4).</p> <p>f) Lead delivery of the marine components of the European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine waters Action Plan for 2015 and development of the 2016 Action Plan (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>b) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>c) Milestone completed in Q3.</p> <p>d) Milestone not completed. Workshop will take place in 2016/17 to further understand issues and develop resource plan.</p> <p>e) Milestone not completed. Outputs are due to be published in early 2016/17.</p> <p>f) Milestone completed in Q4.</p>	<p>AMBER ↓</p>
<p><b>Theme 3 EU and international advice</b></p>			
<p><b>3.1</b> Provide technical expertise to support UK implementation of</p>	<p>a) Develop a list of challenges and implications for governments and country nature conservation bodies in relation to areas of risk and</p>	<p>a) Milestone not completed. This work was postponed due to other priorities.</p>	<p>AMBER ↓</p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
<p>the EU Biodiversity Strategy and EU environmental legislation.</p>	<p>opportunity under the Nature Directives (Q1).</p> <p>b) Coordinate the update of the UK Prioritised Action Framework (Q4) and lead on finalising the offshore section (Q3)</p> <p>c) Develop JNCC's role in assisting Defra, devolved administrations and country conservation bodies in coordinating UK bids for EU LIFE funding (Q2).</p> <p>d) Coordinate delivery of the updated Natura Standard Data Forms (Q3).</p> <p>e) Advise Defra and devolved administrations on important EU biodiversity issues, including the REFIT process, Habitats and Birds Directive reporting, the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services initiative (ongoing)</p> <p>f) Define Favourable Conservation Status, and identify next steps in improving application of the concept, ensuring links are made with the definition of Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Q4).</p> <p>g) As the UK National Reference Centre for biodiversity, support the UK National Focal Point to engage effectively with European Environment Agency biodiversity initiatives (Q4).</p> <p>h) Provide scientific advice to Governments on biodiversity aspects of the proposed revision of the MSFD Commission Decision (Q4).</p> <p>i) Provide scientific advice to Governments to support submission of the MSFD Programme of Measures (Article 13) to the European Commission (Q3).</p>	<p>b) Milestone not completed. Substantial progress made but will now be completed in Q1 2016/17.</p> <p>c) Milestone completed in Q3.</p> <p>d) Milestone completed in Q3.</p> <p>e) Milestone completed.</p> <p>f) Milestone not completed. Work will continue into 2016/17.</p> <p>g) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>h) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>i) Milestone completed in Q3.</p>	
<p><b>3.2</b> Provide technical advice on international biodiversity and ecosystems (including Overseas Territories).</p>	<p>a) Contribute to UK delegations to the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (Q1), the 19th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's scientific advisory group (Q3), the 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement MoP6 (Q3) and the 4th plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Q4).</p> <p>b) Lead for the UK at 28th Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Q1) and related working groups.</p> <p>c) Provide advice, through the Darwin Expert Committee, to the 22nd round of the Darwin Initiative (and Darwin Plus) (Q4).</p> <p>d) Contribute to the delivery of the 2009 UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy by coordinating a regional technical event to share knowledge and build capacity to deal with biosecurity issues in the South Atlantic Overseas Territories (Q2).</p>	<p>a) Milestones completed.</p> <p>b) Milestone completed in Q2.</p> <p>c) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>d) Milestone completed in Q2.</p>	<p>GREEN ↔</p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
	<p>e) Contribute to the delivery of the 2009 UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy by delivering a regional Overseas Territories training programme to build capacity in the use of biodiversity data, data management systems and economic techniques to assess, conserve and manage natural capital in a small island context (Q4).</p> <p>f) Support implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels in the South Atlantic Overseas Territories (ongoing)</p> <p>g) Contribute to the delivery of the UK position at the OSPAR Commission meeting (Q1) and the Biodiversity Committee (Q4) and its intersessional working groups on marine protected areas and biodiversity assessment and monitoring.</p>	<p>e) Milestone not completed for reasons beyond JNCC's control. Delayed pending discussions with the host Territory for the training event, who have yet to decide if they can host the event.</p> <p>f) Milestone completed. Support is ongoing.</p> <p>g) Milestones completed.</p>	
<b>Theme 4 Identification and provision of information on marine protected areas</b>			
<p><b>4.1</b> Provide technical advice on Marine Protected Area identification, designation and conservation objectives.</p>	<p>a) Provide formal scientific advice to Defra on a second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) by July 2015, taking into account the results of the public consultation (Q2).</p> <p>b) Subject to the outcome of milestone a, publish site information centres to support the designation of new offshore MCZs and assist public authorities (Q3).</p> <p>c) Provide formal scientific advice to Defra on a third tranche of MCZs by [date to be agreed], to support preparations for a public consultation (Q3).</p> <p>d) Subject to Scottish Government approval, lead on the public consultation of potential offshore Special Protected Areas (SPAs) and provide final advice to Scottish Government on areas suitable to classify as SPAs in offshore waters around Scotland (Q3).</p> <p>e) Provide formal scientific advice packages (site brief and draft Conservation Objectives) to Defra to seek approval to consult on potential SPAs in UK offshore waters around Wales, England and Northern Ireland (Q1).</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed in Q2.</p> <p>b) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>c) Milestone not completed. Work will continue into 2016/17. The timetable for completion is being finalised with Defra. Substantial progress has been made on preparatory work to deliver advice in late 2016.</p> <p>d) Milestone not completed. It will be delivered in Q2 2016/17 due to public consultation being delayed until summer 2016. JNCC provided substantial support to a stakeholder workshop that Marine Scotland added to JNCC's workplan in Q4.</p> <p>e) Milestone partially completed. Working jointly with NRW, JNCC's formal advice on Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire dSPA was submitted to Defra on time. Public consultation was delayed by Governments and so JNCC will now provide post-consultation advice in 2016/17. An advice package was developed for the Irish Sea Front pSPA. In Q1, in discussion with the MPA Sub-Group, it was decided that this proposal needed further work. As a consequence the Irish Sea Front advice to Defra was delayed to Q3 and JNCC was required to run a public consultation in Q3/Q4. This work was additional to the workplan agreed at the start of the year. Due to high workloads and staff moving to other teams it was only possible to provide draft advice to Defra in Q4. Final advice has now been approved and will be submitted at the beginning of 2016/17.</p>	<p>AMBER ↔</p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
	<p>f) Subject to Government approval, lead on the consultation of potential offshore SPAs and provide final advice to Defra on areas suitable to classify as SPAs in UK offshore waters around Wales, England and Northern Ireland (Q3).</p> <p>g) Publish non-technical summaries of seabird and waterbird survey and analyses to support country marine SPA consultations (Q2).</p> <p>h) Complete technical support for country marine SPA consultation processes that reach their post-consultation report and final advice to government stages (Q4).</p> <p>i) Deliver to Defra and devolved administrations an assessment of the sufficiency of the UK marine SPA suite (Q3).</p> <p>j) Prepare draft site boundaries, site descriptions, conservation objectives and impact assessment to support Governments in the consultation for designation of, and submission to the European Commission of SACs for harbour porpoises (Q3).</p> <p>k) Provide a UK conservation strategy and implementation plan for harbour porpoise. (Q3)</p>	<p>f) Milestone not completed. Government consultations were delayed, pushing post-consultation work into 2016/17.</p> <p>g) Milestone completed in Q2.</p> <p>h) Milestone not completed. Government consultations were delayed, pushing this milestone into 2016/17.</p> <p>i) Milestone not completed. Due to circumstances beyond JNCC's control, this milestone will now not be delivered until 2016/17.</p> <p>j) Milestone completed in Q3.</p> <p>k) Milestone not completed. The UK Governments proposed that the new strategy be converted to a conservation literature review, and the strategy and its implementation plan were put on hold. In Q3, SNH volunteered to lead further development.</p>	
<p><b>4.2</b> Provide technical advice on the UK contribution to an ecologically coherent network of well-managed MPAs in the north-east Atlantic.</p>	<p>a) With Natural Resources Wales, jointly provide scientific advice to Welsh Government on progress towards a MPA network in Welsh waters by end of January 2016 (Q4)</p> <p>b) On behalf of UK administrations, report to OSPAR on UK's progress towards meeting OSPAR network obligation, including progress with managing marine protected areas (Q2).</p> <p>c) Compile and publish online a catalogue of UK MPAs and then provide a MPA stock-take report to the UK administrations (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone not completed due to late delivery of data for the UK MPA stocktake and quality assurance issues (external to JNCC).</p> <p>b) Milestone completed in Q2.</p> <p>c) Milestone not completed due to late delivery of data for the UK MPA stocktake. JNCC submitted a briefing to Defra and devolved administrations in late Q4 requesting a decision on their future requirements of the work. If the work is to continue, the milestone will now be completed in Q1 2016/17.</p>	<p>AMBER ↓</p>
<p><b>Theme 5 Supporting sustainable management of the marine environment</b></p>			
<p><b>5.1</b> Advise on oil and gas, aggregates and marine renewables casework, and provide UK coordination and science leadership.</p>	<p>a) Respond fully to 95% of requests for advice on oil and gas operations within the consultation period (ongoing).</p> <p>b) Meet all agreed deadlines for advice on aggregate licence applications and monitoring reports (ongoing).</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed. 99% of responses on time in Q1. 98% of responses on time in Q2. 100% of responses on time in Q3 and Q4.</p> <p>b) Milestone completed. 100% of responses on time in Q1. One response was late in Q2 due to a delay receiving key information. 100% of responses on time in Q3 and Q4.</p>	<p>GREEN ↑</p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
	<p>c) Advise Marine Scotland on the Hywind offshore wind farm (Q2).</p> <p>d) Advise on post consent monitoring work for consented Scottish windfarms within the consultation period (ongoing).</p> <p>e) Complete a JNCC/SNH review of Scottish marine renewable energy casework roles (including consultation with stakeholders) and present options/recommendations to Joint Committee (Q4).</p> <p>f) Complete a review of Natural England-JNCC post-delegation working arrangements for marine renewable energy casework (Q2).</p> <p>g) Respond to the consultation on the English South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans (Q2).</p> <p>h) Subject to the consultation schedule, respond to the consultation on the draft Welsh National Marine Plan (Q4).</p> <p>i) In consultation with the country nature conservation bodies, develop a suite of collaborative research projects that address high priority offshore industries issues (Q1).</p> <p>j) Deliver a stakeholder workshop on impacts of displacement from offshore wind farms on seabird populations (Q1).</p> <p>k) Review the JNCC seismic, explosive and pile-driving guidelines and identify changes required to update and improve them (Q3).</p>	<p>c) Milestone completed in Q2.</p> <p>d) Milestone completed throughout the year.</p> <p>e) Milestone completed in Q4 but submission to Joint Committee delayed due to consideration of related issues as part of the JNCC review.</p> <p>f) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>g) Milestone not completed. Responded to the draft Habitats Regulation Assessment screening consultation but curtailed further work on this milestone due to reprioritisation of staff resources.</p> <p>h) Milestone not completed due to Welsh Government postponing the consultation until 2016/17.</p> <p>i) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>j) Milestone completed in Q1.</p> <p>k) Milestone substantially completed in Q4 with a revision of the seismic guidelines and agreement of a scope for revision of the other guidelines.</p>	
<p><b>5.2</b> Provide technical advice to support the management of offshore MPAs.</p>	<p>a) Provide Fisheries Options Papers to Defra and Marine Scotland for SACs and designated national marine protected areas in offshore waters (Q2).</p> <p>b) Complete technical evaluation of draft fisheries management proposals and provide advice to Defra and Marine Scotland on the risks to achievement of the sites' Conservation Objectives (Q4).</p> <p>c) Provide site information to enable Defra and Marine Scotland to draft formal applications to the European Commission for fisheries management measures for offshore SACs (Q3).</p> <p>d) Provide site information to enable Defra and Marine Scotland to draft formal applications to the European Commission for fisheries management measures for designated national marine protected areas in offshore waters (Q4).</p> <p>e) Publish generic advice on the JNCC website to fulfil our legal obligation towards public authorities for offshore MPAs (Q1).</p>	<p>a) Milestone not completed. Fisheries options papers provided for all sites except English Channel due to a change in timetable by Defra.</p> <p>b) Milestone completed in Q4.</p> <p>c) Milestone completed in Q3.</p> <p>d) Milestone completed in Q4. However, some of the work has been deferred to 2016/17 because Governments delayed the timetable. JNCC delivered all material requested by the revised deadlines.</p> <p>e) Milestone completed in Q1.</p>	<p>AMBER ↓</p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status at end of 2015/16
	f) Publish site-specific conservation advice through site information centres for priority sites in offshore waters (Q4).	f) Milestone not completed. Work will be carried forward into 2016/17.	
<b>Theme 6 Organisational management and development</b>			
<p><b>6.1</b> Provide and continue to improve the cost-effectiveness of core services to UK and devolved governments and manage an evolutionary change in strategy.</p>	<p>a) Complete restructuring to align senior management and staff capacity with upcoming challenges and opportunities and increase integration of marine and terrestrial work (Q4).</p> <p>b) Develop strategies necessary to deliver functions and business objectives set out in JNCC's new corporate strategy, including stakeholder engagement, business development and funding, and HR development (Q4).</p> <p>c) Deliver a revised version of the JNCC website to reflect and promote the refreshed strategy of the organisation (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed but with narrowed scope. A more fundamental restructuring will be needed once changes arising from the government review of JNCC are known.</p> <p>b) Milestone completed but with narrowed scope. Deferred elements will be progressed once changes arising from the government review of JNCC are known.</p> <p>c) Milestone partially completed. Technical aspects of the work and review of content have progressed. Other aspects have been placed on hold due to the government review of JNCC. This work will now be completed in 2016/17.</p>	<p>AMBER ↔</p>

**Annex 2a. Financial summary by programme at the end of 2015/16**

Programme			Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance between actual GIA spend and original budget	Income
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Theme 1. Biodiversity evidence</b>									
Surveillance and Monitoring	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	1,127	0	0	1,127		105
		Salaries	0	307	0	0	307		69
	Actual spend	Programme	0	1,127	0	0	1,127		105
		Salaries	0	308	0	0	308		41
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	0	1	0	0	1	0.0%	0
		Salaries	0	1	0	0	1	0.3%	-28
Total		0	2	0	0	2	0.1%	-28	
Access to Information	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	47	9	240	296		20
		Salaries	19	355	0	235	609		30
	Actual spend	Programme	0	45	10	234	290		20
		Salaries	20	394	0	232	647		0
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	0	-1	1	-6	-6	2.0%	0
		Salaries	1	39	0	-2	38	6.3%	-30
Total		1	38	1	-8	32	4.0%	-30	
Marine Monitoring	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	221	231	0	452		0
		Salaries	0	435	28	0	463		0
	Actual spend	Programme	0	210	240	0	450		0
		Salaries	0	459	34	0	494		0
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	0	-11	9	0	-2	0.4%	0
		Salaries	0	24	7	0	31	7.0%	0
Total		0	13	15	0	29	3.0%	0	
Marine Evidence	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	97	283	0	379		30
		Salaries	0	366	364	0	730		35
	Actual spend	Programme	0	91	275	0	366		30
		Salaries	0	374	344	0	718		35
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	0	-5	-8	0	-13	3.4%	0
		Salaries	0	8	-20	0	-12	1.6%	0
Total		0	3	-27	0	-25	2.2%	0	

Programme			Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance between actual GIA spend and original budget	Income
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Theme 2. Shared UK approaches to nature conservation</b>									
Biodiversity Information and Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	6	105	15	0	126		0
		Salaries	54	465	0	0	519		59
	Actual spend	Programme	7	110	18	0	135		0
		Salaries	52	416	0	0	468		72
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	1	6	3	0	9	7.1%	0
		Salaries	-3	-49	0	0	-51	9.9%	13
Total		-2	-43	3	0	-42	6.6%	13	
Marine Ecosystem Assessment and Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	36	66	0	0	102		30
		Salaries	286	138	0	0	424		87
	Actual spend	Programme	38	64	0	0	102		30
		Salaries	292	144	0	0	436		64
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	2	-2	0	0	0	0.0%	0
		Salaries	6	6	0	0	12	2.7%	-23
Total		8	4	0	0	12	2.2%	-23	
<b>Theme 3. EU and international advice</b>									
European Intelligence and Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	1	24	5	0	30		56
		Salaries	19	227	25	0	272		30
	Actual spend	Programme	0	39	6	0	45		56
		Salaries	19	176	0	0	194		31
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	0	15	1	0	15	50.1%	0
		Salaries	-1	-51	-25	0	-78	28.6%	1
Total		-1	-37	-25	0	-63	20.7%	1	
Global Advice and Overseas Territories	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	95	0	0	0	95		9
		Salaries	203	3	16	0	222		190
	Actual spend	Programme	101	0	0	0	101		9
		Salaries	194	3	20	0	217		131
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	6	0	0	0	6	6.4%	0
		Salaries	-9	0	3	0	-5	2.3%	-59
Total		-3	0	3	0	1	0.3%	-59	

Programme			Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance between actual GIA spend and original budget	Income
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Theme 4. Identification and provision of information on marine protected areas</b>									
Marine Protected Areas	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	12	59	0	71		0
		Salaries	7	102	676	0	785		0
	Actual spend	Programme	0	7	53	0	60		0
		Salaries	7	98	700	0	805		0
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	0	-5	-6	0	-11	15.6%	0
		Salaries	0	-4	24	0	20	2.6%	0
Total		0	-9	18	0	9	1.1%	0	
Marine Species Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	4	0	107	0	111		25
		Salaries	51	130	126	0	306		0
	Actual spend	Programme	3	0	70	0	72		25
		Salaries	54	107	120	0	281		0
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	-1	0	-37	0	-39	35.0%	0
		Salaries	3	-23	-5	0	-25	8.2%	0
Total		2	-23	-43	0	-64	15.3%	0	
<b>Theme 5. Supporting sustainable management of the marine environment</b>									
Offshore Industries Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	47	13	0	60		2
		Salaries	36	166	260	13	475		68
	Actual spend	Programme	0	36	10	0	47		2
		Salaries	31	158	275	15	478		66
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	0	-11	-2	0	-13	21.7%	0
		Salaries	-5	-8	15	2	4	0.8%	-2
Total		-5	-19	13	2	-9	1.7%	-2	
<b>Theme 6. Organisational management and development</b>									
Governance and Corporate Services	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	0	0	780	780		5
		Salaries	66	73	127	1,241	1,507		0
	Actual spend	Programme	0	0	0	738	738		5
		Salaries	37	72	126	1,237	1,471		19
	Variance between Actual Spend and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	0	-42	-42	5.4%	0
		Salaries	-29	-1	-1	-4	-36	2.4%	19
Total		-29	-1	-1	-47	-78	3.4%	19	
Non-cash budget adjustments			0						
Unallocated budget (programme costs)			9	-43	22				8
Unallocated budget (salaries)			0	0	0				0

**Annex 2b. Summary financial position at the end of 2015/16**

		Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance GIA forecast compared to budget	Income	RAG based on variance of actual GIA spend compared to GIA budget (%)
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	
Original Full Year Budget	Programme	151	1,701	743	1,028	3,623		282	
	Salaries	742	2,767	1,621	1,488	6,618		568	
	Total	893	4,468	2,364	2,516	10,241			
Actual spend	Programme	158	1,687	703	979	3,528		282	
	Salaries	705	2,710	1,618	1,484	6,516		458	
	Total	863	4,397	2,321	2,463	10,043			
Variance between actual spend and Full Year Budget	Programme	8	-14	-40	-48	-95	-2.6%	0	<b>G</b>
	Salaries	-37	-57	-3	-5	-102	-1.5%	-110	<b>G</b>
	Total	-30	-71	-43	-53	-198	-1.9%	-110	<b>G</b>
Grant in Aid Receivable		893	4,468	2,864	2,516	10,741			
Total variance as a percentage of Grant in Aid Receivable (%)		-3.3%	-1.6%	-1.5%	-2.1%				

**Annex 3. Significant risks register**

Risk no	Risk owner	Significant risks	Risk score			Action planned by management	Progress against planned management action	Effect of management action and other factors on this risk	Q4 Other comments (including any change to planned management action or other factors affecting this risk)
			Residual likelihood	Residual impact	Residual score				
2	Marcus Yeo	Insufficient funding to maintain and extend the utility of JNCC as a cost-effective mechanism for collaborative delivery	5	5	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness within government of the cost-effectiveness of JNCC in delivering their priorities</li> <li>Undertake dialogue with government sponsors, country conservation bodies and other public bodies to identify priorities and associated funding, e.g. as part of the Spending Review discussions.</li> <li>Pursue selected non-GIA funding opportunities, building on the strategy review</li> <li>More strongly integrate marine and non-marine elements of JNCC in order to share best practice and improve value for money</li> <li>Clarify the nature of funds 'bundled' under Governance and Corporate Services to more accurately reflect the cost of corporate and other functions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There has been ongoing dialogue with sponsors and country conservation bodies about the value for money of JNCC's work and its operating model. This will continue as part of the government review of JNCC.</li> <li>Following the Spending Review announcement, JNCC has been discussing future financial allocations with sponsors.</li> <li>A Business Development Manager started work in JNCC in December and is exploring opportunities for non-GIA income.</li> <li>Work has been undertaken to clarify the nature of Governance and Corporate Services funds, and to distinguish delivery overheads from true corporate services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The effectiveness of management action has been severely limited by the broader financial context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JNCC's financial allocation for 2016/17 has been agreed by sponsor administrations.</li> </ul>
1	Marcus Yeo	Fundamental change to JNCC's role resulting from changing government priorities and institutional arrangements (UK and devolved administrations)	5	5	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactively engage with the government review of JNCC (scheduled for completion by June 2016)</li> <li>Implement changes arising from Defra's Transformation Programme, as appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing engagement with the review team, including full participation in relevant groups.</li> <li>JNCC staff member seconded to review team 3 days/week.</li> <li>Ongoing programme of stakeholder engagement, prioritising government administrations and country conservation bodies.</li> <li>JNCC are keeping tabs on the Defra Transformation Programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too early to assess effect of management action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The review of JNCC is expected to conclude in June/July 2016</li> </ul>
4	Marcus Yeo	Multiple changes to JNCC's stakeholders (budget pressures, changes in role)	5	4	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with a wider range of stakeholders to manage relationships, and identify opportunities and risks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing programme of stakeholder engagement, prioritising government administrations and country conservation bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk is being managed effectively at present.</li> </ul>	

Risk no	Risk owner	Significant risks	Risk score			Action planned by management	Progress against planned management action	Effect of management action and other factors on this risk	Q4 Other comments (including any change to planned management action or other factors affecting this risk)
			Residual likelihood	Residual impact	Residual score				
5	Sue McQueen	Insufficient capacity and/or expertise at middle and senior management levels to deal with the challenges of an increasingly complex operating environment	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide training and development to equip managers for future challenges (including strategy implementation), and develop junior managers</li> <li>Implement a second phase of structural reorganisation to align structures with JNCC's developing strategy</li> <li>Put in place streamlined management and administrative processes to increase efficiency</li> <li>Implement business partnering to provide managers with better information and advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of management training for relevant staff.</li> <li>Structural change completed but the scope of this work has been affected by the Spending Review and JNCC review.</li> <li>Most proposed streamlining changes have been made. The focus is now on embedding these new ways of working.</li> <li>Business partnering has been rolled out by all corporate services teams.</li> <li>A Business Development Manager has been appointed to increase JNCC's skills and capacity in this field.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management action is mitigating the most serious risks, but senior staff remain very stretched.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pressure on senior management remains high as a result of the JNCC review, internal strategic changes, and the need to respond to external changes.</li> </ul>
6	Sue McQueen	A high rate of staff turnover	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve recruitment procedures to prevent excessive internal staff movements</li> <li>Undertake a staff satisfaction survey to identify possible actions to improve staff morale</li> <li>Analyse the causes in teams with high staff turnover.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New recruitment procedures were developed but a precautionary approach to external recruitment has remained in place because of uncertainty associated with the JNCC review so internal turnover remains high.</li> <li>The staff survey will now not take place until 2016/17. This will enable JNCC to use a shared Government contract and reduce the resource needed. However, staff engagement sessions have been held to identify issues of concern.</li> <li>Analysis of the causes of high staff turnover was undertaken. This did not indicate any systemic problem but remains under review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turnover appears high because of voluntary exits. However, turnover associated with resignations was 9.2% for the year compared with the public sector average of 11.5%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No posts are being recruited on a permanent basis because of future funding uncertainties.</li> </ul>
3	Marcus Yeo	Ineffective strategic positioning	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the strategy review and start to implement</li> <li>Engage with JNCC's main funders and stakeholders to secure active support for the new</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft strategy discussion document finalised and sent to government administrations and country conservation bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too early to assess effect of management action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future strategic priorities for JNCC will be considered as part of the</li> </ul>

Risk no	Risk owner	Significant risks	Risk score			Action planned by management	Progress against planned management action	Effect of management action and other factors on this risk	Q4 Other comments (including any change to planned management action or other factors affecting this risk)
			Residual likelihood	Residual impact	Residual score				
						strategic direction			government review of JNCC.
7	Paul Rose	Inadequate use of evidence to underpin JNCC's advice to government	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement an action plan to address the recommendations from the internal audit of scientific evidence, and make other improvements to JNCC's evidence quality assurance policy.</li> <li>Continue to engage with key partners (government, statutory agencies, NGOs) involved in evidence collection and management, and adapt JNCC's evidence activities according to evolving customer needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action plan is being implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk is being managed effectively at present.</li> </ul>	

**Annex 4. HR data for quarter 4 2015/16**

	<b>As at 31 March 2015</b>	<b>As at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>As at 30 September 2015</b>	<b>As at 31 December 2015</b>	<b>As at 31 March 2016</b>
<b>Complement (full-time equivalents)</b>	182.7	178.3	182.0	178.3	171.0
<b>Vacancies (% of complement)</b>	7.1	8.3	9.1	3.1	4.7
<b>Turnover over rolling 12 month period (%)</b>	12.7	12.8	12.5	11.6	16.1 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The turnover figure includes 7.6 FTE leaving under a Voluntary Exit Scheme in March 2016

## **Annex 5. Other reporting**

### **1. Health and safety**

- 1.1. A stress survey has been undertaken. The results will be considered by EMB in May.
- 1.2. Two minor accidents were recorded in quarter 4. No proportionate measure could have been taken to prevent these.
- 1.3. The eye test policy has been reviewed and updated on the intranet. The stress policy will be updated shortly.
- 1.4. A fire drill took place at Monkstone House in February without event. Aberdeen will be having a fire drill imminently.
- 1.5. Risk assessments (including DSE, home working DSE, pregnancy and contractual) are up to date and all third party risk assessments were approved before any work commenced. Cross checks are made on overseas travel on a monthly basis to ensure travellers are submitting the appropriate risk assessments. A staff notice was produced to highlight the importance of risk assessments and ensure line managers are more proactive in taking responsibility for their staff when they are travelling.
- 1.6. A meeting was held in February with Defra's head of health and safety who wanted a more collaborative approach with all organisations in the Defra group. This has proved valuable, particularly with the sharing of information in the light of the Brussels bombing attacks.
- 1.7. No issues have been raised by the trade unions.
- 1.8. There have been no recorded breaches in compliance.

### **2. Evidence quality assurance (EQA)**

- 2.1. The compliance rate for reporting on EQA actions in quarter 4 was 98% of projects, which compares with 90% in quarter 1, 95% in quarter 2 and 97% in quarter 3. One project out of an expected 57 from the EQA actions inventory created by project managers had no report in Q4. This project funded two commissioned studies in quarter 4; EQA practice was followed, but not reported.
- 2.2. Risk assessments were reported for 89% of projects where EQA actions were required, but were reported as 'not yet assessed' for five projects. All five of these projects were within the marine advice area, including offshore industries and MPA fisheries advice. As previously reported, the Offshore Industries Advice programme has yet to completely develop its approach to EQA, although progress has been made and some new practices have been introduced. Three projects with risk assessments were reported as having no EQA records; these projects included one high and ten medium risk targets.
- 2.3. The level of corporate risk to JNCC from evidence quality is assessed as low at the end of quarter 4.

### **3. Environmental performance**

- 3.1. There have been no recorded breaches of environmental regulations in quarter 4.

### **4. Equality and diversity**

- 4.1. There have been no recorded breaches of the equality and diversity policy in quarter 4.

### **5. Fraud, presumptive fraud, significant losses, fruitless payments and special payments**

- 5.1. No instances of fraud or presumptive fraud have been detected during the quarter.
- 5.2. A fruitless payment relating to quarter 3 only came to light in February. A rail ticket (value £100) was not used and a replacement was purchased at a cost of £69.
- 5.3. No fruitless payments were reported in relation to January and February. However, there are potential fruitless payments for March. The final details are yet to be determined but the total value is estimated to be in the region of £1,500.

### **6. Data security**

- 6.1. There have been no reported breaches of the data security policy in quarter 4.