The Outbreak at Barrow

Pam Kaur
Principal Specialist Inspector
Largest Outbreak in the UK

7 people died
180 contracted the disease
Epidemiology
Epidemic Curve by Date of Onset and Date of Admission (3 day rolling average)
Fig 3, Confirmed cases of Legionnaire’s Disease by Age group

Number

Age Group

0 - 4
5 - 14
15 - 24
25 - 34
35 - 44
45 - 54
55 - 64
65 - 74
75 +
TOWER 1
AFTER 6h C
left cover from
Multi Regulator Investigation

Police - Work related death protocol – Police led

HSE - SG, HID & BAU

EHO’s - Checked their premises as possible sources

HPA - Health Protection Agency

Outbreak Committee formed with above parties and other health professionals
Largest outbreak in UK

Accountability of a number of companies and individuals considered

Prosecution file ran to 3627 pages

Over 200 witness statements taken

Over 200 exhibits in 10 crates
Summary Findings

1) Previous contract terminated in spring 01
2) Failures in the procurement of the replacement contract
3) Water management scheme excluded from contract
4) Little/no contract documentation in existence
5) Concerns brought to the attention of Design Services Group Manager
6) No legionella assessment in place
7) No/poor control of contractors
8) Lack of/poor health & Safety management by the council
http://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/barrow.htm

Report of the public meetings into the legionella outbreak in Barrow-in-Furness, August 2002