



Leeds Festival Summary – September 2014

Environmental Protection.

This year we received seven complaints which compared well with previous years where we received 30 in 2013 and 38 in 2012.

Complaints by Area

Scholes & Barwick	5
Garforth	1
Scarcroft	1

Although the number of complaints has reduced compared to previous years we feel the co-operation and working relationship with the noise consultants acting for Festival Republic could be improved. To meet this end we intend to review the working relationship between our Officers and Festival Republic (FR) at a much earlier point in 2015. We will also want to identify and address the positions of stages, etc on site at the same time. There is an expectation that any issues we find will be dealt with in a prompt and efficient manner.

Health and Safety Service

1. Build Up

Site visits were made to observe and inspect structure builds between the 4th and 15th August 2014. As usual, workplace transport and working at height practices were observed and found to be following good practise.

2. Show week

Monday 18th August to Thursday 21st August 2014

Water samples for the whole supply were taken and the results were received a few days later - all satisfactory. The sampling was undertaken by staff from the Food team. General site check undertaken

Site visit was made to check on the completion of the campsite areas prior to opening. A few minor issues were identified at that time :-

- a. Brown campsite – toilets required cleaning and debris removing before being brought in to use.
- b. Green Campsite – water use point needed levelling to allow free draining.
- c. Red Campsite – water point was inadequate in that the taps were directed beyond the sink unit – addressed.
- d. White Village – Male urinals needed levelling off to allow drainage the correct way.
- e. White Camping – no water pressure (established cause was due to ongoing network work).
- f. Yellow Bubble Campsite – one water point had low water pressure and discoloured water was discharging – later identified was due to remedial works being undertaken on that part of the network. Not in use at the time.

These issues were raised with Festival Republic and remedied prior to opening the campsites to the public.

Structural checks with Building Control Inspector were undertaken, on the basis that they will be completed by the 22nd August. Items raised:-

- a. Cross members to main stage viewing platforms present a risk of head injury. Later relocated.
- b. Query re access platforms to stage left and right. Ramp and platform separate structures, and needed to establish whether that was in line with the design. Later confirmed as 2 separate structures so okay.
- c. Front of house tower was incorrectly ballasted – single strap on each side. Later changed to double strap on each side.
- d. Lock Up tent had damaged uprights supporting the edge of the tent structure – later replaced.
- e. Some finishing required to numerous access platforms. Alternative stage access ramp was far too steep and later re-engineered.

In line with previous events, our checks were married up with the festivals own H&S checks and a small number of snagging issues were identified and rectified.

Friday 22nd August to Sunday 24th August 2014 – general overview.

Site visit was made during the day on the Friday to review structural, general health and safety at work, and public safety issues – including main arena (arena 1), arena 2, and campsites. Site layout changes had been made compared to previous years including :-

- a. Main secondary arena toilet block had been moved to between main arena and secondary arena which provided a clearer line for traders.
- b. Temporary road laid leading from each side of the entrance to main arena, converging to the main entrance to secondary arena, and a new temporary road installed on the public side of trader alley. Provided a firmer walkway in the event of any adverse weather.
- c. The back stage production offices, crew catering, and dressing room structures had moved from previous years, which significantly reduced risks from traffic movements from previous years.
- d. Changes made to the fairground layout to improve crowd movement

- e. Improved drainage around the site, which would have lessened the impact of heavy rain had there been any.

Over the weekend, other than minor issues, or transitory issues (e.g. ongoing cleaning) the following significant issues were identified:-

- a. Crowd movement issue in Radio 1 main tent. Due to the secondary barrier being extended beyond the walls of the tent, the area in front of that barrier was completely separated. The exits left and right were insufficient, and had to be widened. This was identified following a large crowd that attended an act on the Saturday afternoon.
- b. On the Friday night, a number of traders were identified as storing waste materials too close to lpg cylinders. The risk being that if the waste materials catch fire , then there is a risk of the lpg cylinders igniting. All of the traders were spoken to at the time, and a follow up conversation took place the following day. The recommendation is for the festival organisers' on site fire brigade to undertake more proactive checks next year in a fire prevention mode.
- c. During water testing on the Saturday, low chlorine levels were detected in one of the camp sites. The levels were not below the minimum required, but were likely to continue to go down rather than improve due to the location/timing of the testing. The water safety manager was informed. An additional chlorinator was installed and the problem was resolved. Will be looked at for next year's event, as the underlying cause was due to the low water usage on site compared to previous years.

Throughout the weekend there were daily multi agency meetings, discussions with Festival Republic Production and Licensing Offices, and liaison with Event safety officers.

3. RIDDORS

No Riddors (Notifiable incident reports) were received/required.

4. Conclusions

As in previous years, this Service had a good working relationship with Festival Republics Licensing compliance team, their event health and safety team, and their contracted health and safety team (TESS). Throughout the build-up to the event a number of safety related issues were identified, raised with the relevant persons, and actioned appropriately. Given the size and nature of the event it is difficult to specify whether some or all of these issues would not have been identified and/or addressed without the presence of H&S inspectors or our Building Control colleagues. Our independent water sampling served to confirm the findings of Festival Republics own water sampling. Numerous checks of the general site were undertaken, and ad-hoc issues identified and rectified. There were 4 laser displays at this year's event which were all assessed prior to taking place ; on site checks made on the morning of each laser show, in conjunction with TESS.

Staff Time

There were no major incidents during the weekend this year. However, it is difficult to predict when incidents may occur. On reflection, the same working pattern is suggested for

next year, with a possibility of reducing the overall time if there are no laser installations to be checked.

In addition to the overtime working, a number of hours are spent attending multi-agency planning meetings, on-site inspections prior to and post event, and attendance at debrief meeting. The number of hours depends on the issues or activities planned. These are all in office hours and no change is envisaged.