

SSERC RPA Service

At the turn of the century, the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 stipulated that an employer who had employees who worked with certain types of radioactive materials had to consult with a Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA). The materials held by schools to teach the properties of ionising radiation fell into this category. RPAs had to hold a qualification recognised by the Health and Safety Executive. To gain such a qualification, the would-be RPA had to demonstrate good theoretical knowledge and a track record of giving advice on radiation protection over a period of time. With great foresight, the SSERC physics specialist at that time, having had extensive experience in offering advice, applied for and gained RPA accreditation. This meant that local authorities and member independent schools had automatic access to an RPA as part of their SSERC membership, a significant benefit in terms of cost and convenience.

People retire and move on, but the SSERC RPA service continues. Working with other members of the physics team, the RPA answers queries, develops guidance, runs courses and, where necessary, makes visits to ensure that

work with ionising radiation is carried out safely and in compliance with the law, in a way that is not unnecessarily onerous. The current RPA is Gregor Steele.

We would like you to meet the latest member of the Radiation Protection team – Evelyn Lee. Evelyn has a degree in physics and has been a technician at SSERC for a number of years. She has supported radioactivity courses and has had a role in in-house radiation protection. She is now training to be a Radiation Protection Adviser. You will see her at courses and she will be answering many of your queries going forward. She also wrote the risk assessments mentioned elsewhere in this bulletin, and the bulletin article itself.



Evelyn Lee

You can contact SSERC for radiation protection advice using rpa@sserc.scot

