

## H&S Tales from LA Inspector

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### Key Points

- Local Authority Inspectors, who have similar powers to HSE Inspectors, mostly carry out interventions rather than inspections.
- Efforts are concentrated on smaller businesses rather than larger retailers or distribution centres, with particular attention paid to working-at-height and occupational health issues.
- Information is gathered and enforcement action taken where necessary.
- Where there is blatant disregard for health and safety, action will be taken e.g. Prohibition Notices will be served.
- A case was described where a landlord was approached by a group wanting to conduct a photo shoot on his rooftop. He gave permission but with the stipulation that the group keep away from the roof edges and the tarpaulin-covered skylights. A member of the group subsequently fell through a skylight. The landlord was prosecuted for allowing access for a purpose other than maintenance work, where a Safe System of Work or Permit to Work would be expected to have been in place.
- In another example a fall from height by a worker involved a deception by the employer who claimed scaffolding protection had been in place and tried to prevent their employee from having direct contact with the LA Inspector. It later transpired that the worker had in fact accessed the roof via a pallet attached to a Fork Lift Truck.
- Inspectors are trained to root out the cause of any accident and those responsible will ultimately face the consequences of actions which put their workers at risk.