



GUIDANCE ON THE
CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY
EXPENDITURE

JANUARY 2015

LASAAC is funded by:



The Scottish Government

LASAAC [The Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee] is constituted of volunteer members representing the four funding bodies: CIPFA, ICAS, Audit Scotland and the Scottish Government. LASAAC is primarily concerned with the development and promotion of proper accounting practice for Scottish local government. A key task in achieving this is LASAAC's representation on CIPFA-LASAAC which produces the UK-wide 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom'.

Further information about LASAAC can be obtained at <http://www.cipfascotland.org.uk/technical/lasaac.cfm>

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) provide secretariat support for LASAAC. If you would like to contact LASAAC please communicate with

Contact: Gareth Davies
Policy & Technical Officer
CIPFA in Scotland
Beaverbank Business Park
22 Logie Mill
Edinburgh
EH7 4HG
lasaac@cipfa.org.uk

LASAAC is funded by:



The Scottish Government

LASAAC Guidance on the Classification of Community Safety Expenditure: Background

1. This paper provides guidance for Scottish local government on the accounting classification, and definition of, Community Safety expenditure and income.
2. This guidance was developed in response to comments made at a meeting of the Local Financial Returns (LFRs) Review group which noted potential inconsistency in the classification of community safety expenditure between Scottish councils.
3. LASAAC undertook a consultation exercise which confirmed inconsistency of classification practices. It was considered that this could affect LFR and SOLACE benchmarking data comparability.

Potential Impact of Reclassification on Grant Distribution

4. The Scottish Government noted that the implementation of a new classification with consequent reclassification of spend could lead to changes in the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) analysis used as the basis for distribution of government grant to local authorities. In particular expenditure on the following items is used as secondary indicators for GAE purposes:
 - Trading Standards
 - Environmental Health
5. Therefore any reallocation of spend into or out of these classifications could affect grant distribution.

LASAAC Determination: Short Term Consistency & Longer Term Reclassification

6. Based on the above LASAAC determined that:
 - Guidance should be issued for 2014/15 to support the consistent classification of Community Safety expenditure within the existing Service Expenditure Analysis, based on the proposed definition guidance detailed in the consultation document.
 - In the longer term a new classification for Community Safety expenditure should be developed, with appropriate stakeholder consultation and co-ordination including the Settlement and Distribution Group and the Scottish Government's LFR team.

LASAAC Guidance on Community Safety Expenditure

7. **Subject to the exception in paragraph 8 below LASAAC requires that for 2014/15, and until such time as further guidance is provided, material expenditure on Community Safety expenditure, as defined in Appendix A, is to be classified within the existing Service Expenditure Analysis as**
 - **Service: General Fund Housing**
 - **Sub-Division: Private Sector Housing Renewal**
 - **Sub-sub Division (if required): Renewal Activity**

LASAAC is funded by:

8. Where adherence to paragraph 7 above would affect the amount of expenditure or income recorded for Trading Standards or Environmental Health no change in the pre-existing Service Expenditure Analysis classification should be implemented. Instead of implementing paragraph 7 the impact should be quantified and details of the impact submitted to lasaac@cipfa.org and, if material, disclosed in the authority's financial statements.
9. Restatement of 2013/14 (prior year) comparatives will be required where there is a material change in the classification of Community Safety expenditure and income.

LASAAC is funded by:



The Scottish Government

APPENDIX A: Definition Guidance for Community Safety Expenditure

Interim Definition Guidance for Community Safety Expenditure

The guidance below, primarily based on that for England, applies for 2014/15 and until replaced.

Community Safety expenditure and income should include material identified expenditure or income specifically related to Community Safety that does not fall within the definition of any other specific SEA classification.

Community Safety expenditure or income that an authority identifies as specifically benefitting HRA tenants and which is, per "Guidance on the Operation of Local Authority Housing Revenue Accounts (HRAs) in Scotland" (Scottish Government), to be funded by HRA tenants should be excluded from the Community Safety division of service.

i.e. **Exclude** any items that can be coded to a specific service or the HRA.

A wide range of community safety services may be provided. The following services are specifically expected to be included:

- Crime Reduction e.g.
 - Fees paid to police forces to secure extra police officers for a particular area
 - Providing crime prevention advice.
- Non-service specific CCTV
 - For example, CCTV cameras in car parks should be coded to Parking Services. Cameras providing security to schools should be accounted for in Education. Cameras operated to promote economic development should not be included. Only specifically community based CCTV cameras should be included in Community Safety.
- Safety Services
 - Community lighting in non-highway areas (except HRA items)
 - Provision of safety railings
 - Providing home safety advice

LASAAC is funded by: