



# Application of the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 by local authorities

## Report of a short survey

June 2011

Report from Kim Willis, Research Project Officer

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## Introduction

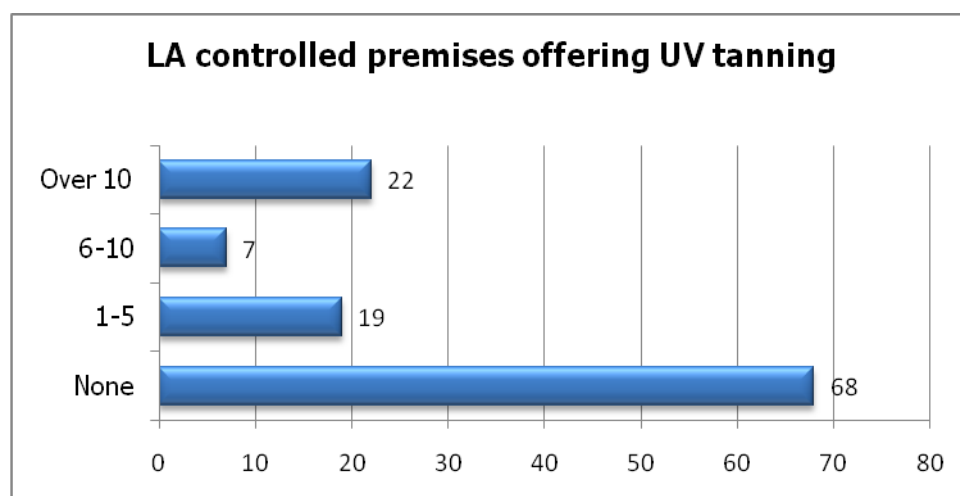
The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act came into force on 8 April 2011. To help understand the ways in which local authorities will apply its provisions the CIEH conducted a short, web based survey during April and May 2011.

This report provides a summary of the results from this survey.

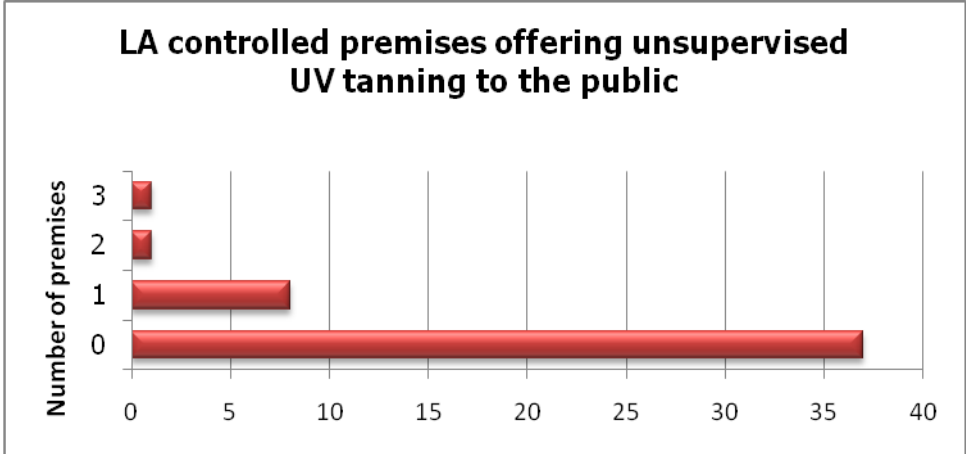
## Results

A total of 143 local authorities responded to the survey, this is a 38% response rate.

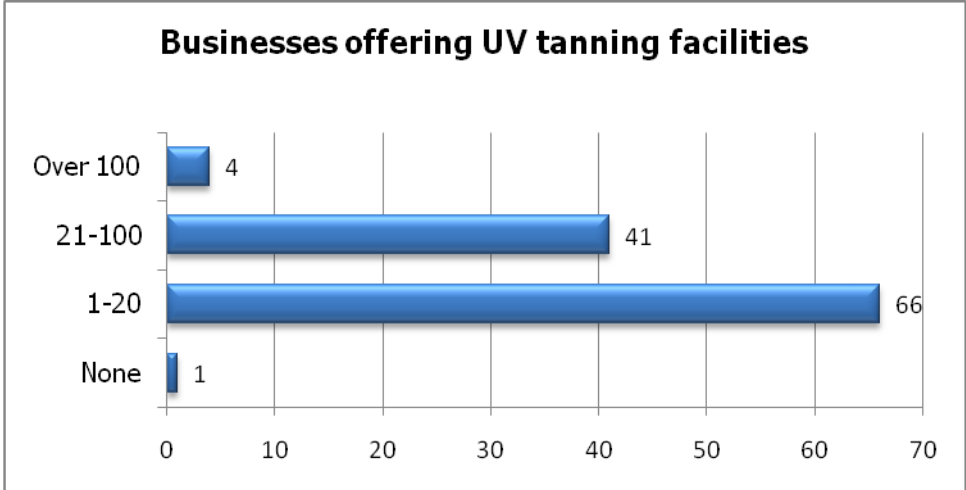
Local authorities were asked about the availability of sun tanning facilities within local authority controlled premises. The majority (52%) reported that no premises offered UV tanning. However, 48 authorities (36% of respondents) do still provide UV tanning to the public. The CIEH have been campaigning for many years to get sunbeds removed from local authority controlled premises in order to fulfil their duty of care to residents and in recognition of the public health risks associated with the use of sunbeds.



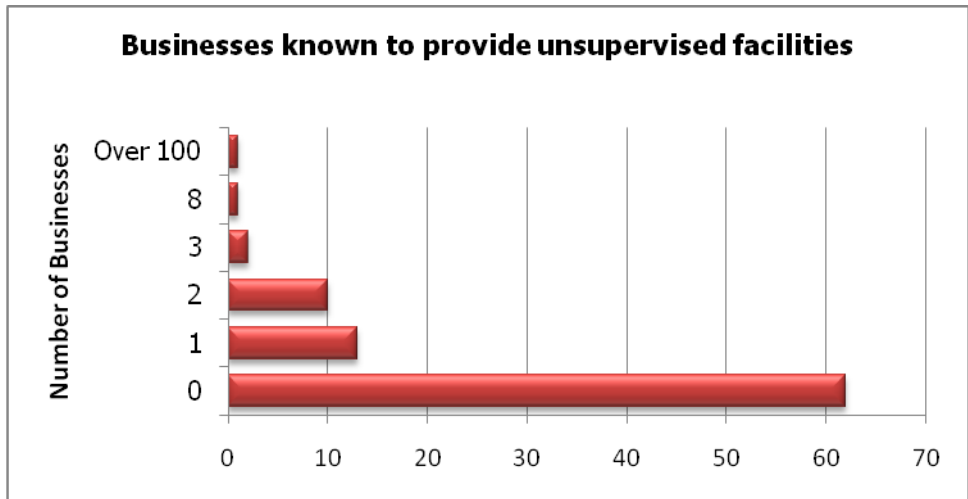
The survey then asked how many of these facilities were known to be unsupervised. 10 local authorities reported that unsupervised UV tanning facilities were offered to the public in local authority controlled premises; numbers were low ranging from 1 to 3.



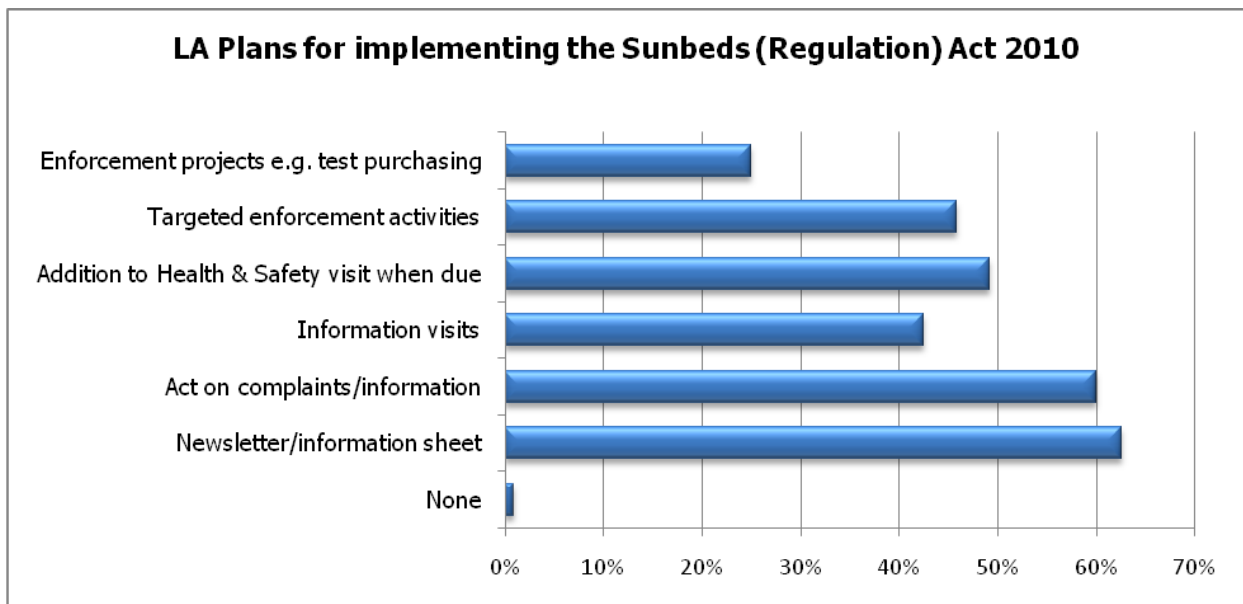
Local authorities were also asked the about numbers of privately owned premises offering sun tanning facilities to the public in the local authority area. The majority, 59% reported 1 to 20 premises, 37% reported 21 to 100 premises and 4 local authorities reported over 100 premises.



The number of businesses known to provide unsupervised UV tanning facilities is shown in the chart below. The majority (70%) reported no known unsupervised premises, however 1 authority reported over 100 premises.



The survey then asked about activities planned for implementing the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010. 63% of local authorities plan to distribute newsletters/information sheets to businesses, 60% will act after receiving complaints or information concerning UV tanning facilities, 43% will undertake information visits, 49% will include activities as part of the planned Health and Safety inspection programme, 46% will undertake targeted enforcement activities and 25% will develop enforcement projects such as test purchasing. Respondents were asked to select all that apply from the list of activities shown in the chart below and therefore responses do not sum to 100%.



The types of information that local authorities are distributing to business include advisory letters, Department of Health guidance, Health and Safety Executive leaflets and posters. A number of local authorities have also organised information days and seminars.

Local authorities have also been developing materials to help raise awareness of the Act amongst the public. Information is distributed via council websites, magazines, press releases, and local radio stations.

A number of local authorities are able to license UV tanning premises through provision in local Acts such as the Nottinghamshire County Council Act and the London Local Authorities Act. In these areas response to the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 includes introduction of signed age verification policies and increased inspection rates from once to twice a year.

