

# National Bee Unit

FAQ 22



The Food and Environment  
Research Agency

## Disease Liaison Co-ordinators

---

Disease Liaison Co-ordinators (DLC's) are well known experienced beekeeper volunteers who can assist local beekeepers in the recognition and control of disease, and provide advice and help in good husbandry methods. They provide liaison between beekeepers and the National Bee Unit (NBU), and sometimes act as the first point of contact for local beekeepers to approach if advice is needed on the health of colonies.

---

### **Will DLC's replace Authorised Bee Inspectors (ABI's)?**

DLC's DO NOT take the place of ABI's and do not provide a formal inspection service. They are simply there to help the beekeepers that need it, whilst indirectly helping the NBU target inspections more efficiently. If a local DLC can put a beekeepers mind at rest, say with a chalk brood problem, it saves an inspector from having to break from higher priority inspections to arrive at the same conclusion.

### **Will DLC's visit my apiaries?**

DLC's only visit beekeepers apiaries if invited by the beekeeper, and then only if they feel able to do so. The visit is informal.

### **Will DLC's have any power to look at someone else's bees?**

DLC's have NO power of entry or examination and NO formal role as an authorised bee inspector.

### **What happens if foul brood disease is suspected?**

If there is any suspicion that a colony has foul brood disease then the DLC will always contact an authorised bee inspector to alert him or her to the suspected problem.

### **Will DLC's take samples?**

The DLC may hold supplies of sample bags, larval sample tubes and boxes, together with pre-paid address labels to enable the beekeeper to despatch a voluntary sample to the NBU. The DLC will provide advice to the beekeeper on how to pack and send the sample and what essential information the laboratory needs.

### **What training is provided?**

Courses are provided in the recognition and control of foul brood and in the field with authorised bee inspectors.

### **Where and when are the courses run?**

Courses are run at the Food and Environment Research Agency, York. The Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) may also run them locally. They are held during the summer period.

### **How much will it cost?**

Courses are free. Participants have to pay for travelling, accommodation, meals etc.

### **Will I be kept up to date?**

DLC's will receive regular disease and research updates from the RBI and by means of the NBU Website BeeBase.

**For further details**, please contact

Your Regional Bee Inspector

or the National Bee Unit, Fera, Sand Hutton, York. YO41 1LZ.

Telephone 01 904 462 510 e mail [nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk) **NBUWebSite:**[www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)

January 2010

© Crown copyright. This sheet, excluding the logo, may be reproduced free of charge provide that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading way. The material must be acknowledged.