

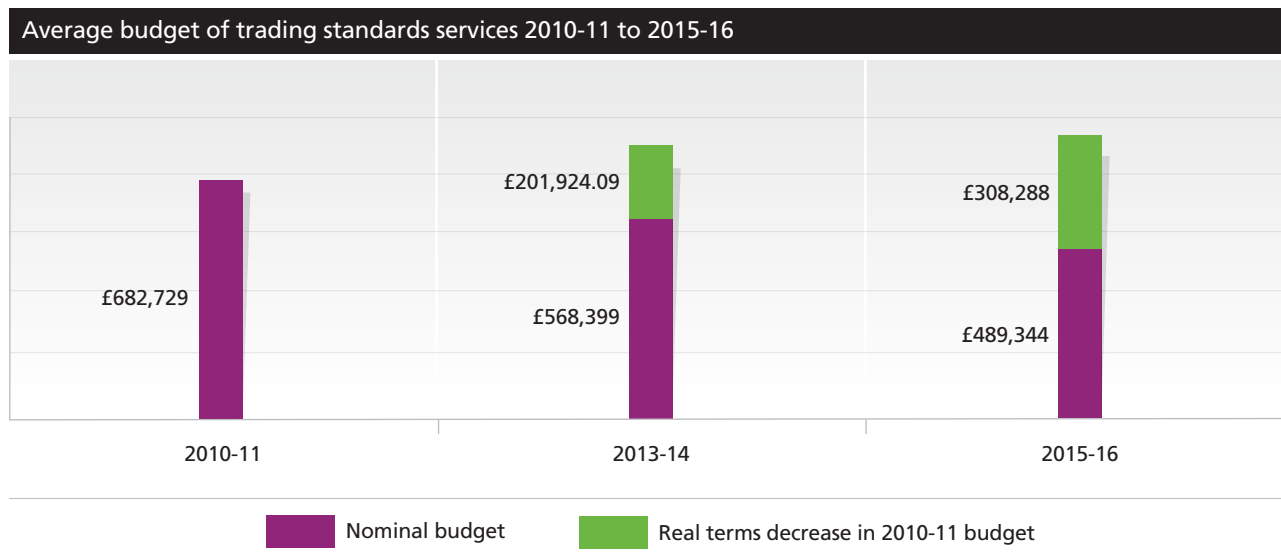
Trading Standards Workforce Survey - Scotland

May 2014

Trading Standards Workforce Survey 2014 – Scotland

Details about trading standards budget in Scotland was gathered by Trading Standards Scotland on behalf of the Trading Standards Institute in early 2014. Responses were received from twenty three authorities out of a total of thirty one trading standards services.

1. Budgets over the current parliament



The average budget for trading standards services across Scotland has fallen in real terms by 26% between 2010-11 and 2013-14 and is projected to have fallen by 39% over the lifetime of the current Westminster parliament. Half of the respondents were unable to estimate their budgets for 2015-16, including some of those with the most severe cuts up to 2013-14 and therefore this figure is expected to rise.

As expected the average conceals significant variation between authorities. Some authorities expect little change in nominal budgets, while others will see cuts of up to 46% in real terms.

2. Staff numbers

The most recent available figures for total staff numbers are in the Audit Scotland 2013 report, which recorded 325 staff working in the 31 trading standards services across Scotland in 2012. This indicates a fall of approximately 52% since 2009. The average number of staff in each service was 10.5, compared to an average of 22 in 2009. Trading standards officers in Scotland expect the total number of staff to have fallen still further due to cutbacks in the last two years.

