



Registered SiLCs Questionnaire

Prepared for:

SiLC PTP

Prepared by:

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Registered SiLCs Questionnaire

In July/August a questionnaire was issued by IEMA on behalf of the SiLC Champion to registered SiLCs in order to obtain a wider understanding of the scheme and that the data may assist in future marketing and other development opportunities. As part of the on going assessment and promotion of the scheme, it was the view of the SiLC Champion that it is important to seek the views of all registered SiLCs.

There was a 43% (i.e. 57 SiLCs) response from the 133 emails sent (although some e-mail address may be incorrect, so the percentage response may have been higher); from the online surveys that were conducted it is considered that this level of response is around the average number.

Survey Conclusions

Practitioners are applying to become SiLC because they see this overwhelmingly as Professional Development progression and important to their work. Based on this view it is highly likely that registered SiLCs will be supportive of the introduction of the Skills Development Framework.

There are no great surprises that the new LRC is unlikely to be significantly requested by clients or widely used in the future. Therefore it is considered that marketing efforts and initiatives should continue to focus on the 'qualification' and 'brand'. However, monitoring that development of the Soil Framework Directive appears best opportunity for the application of a document similar to the LCR in the future.

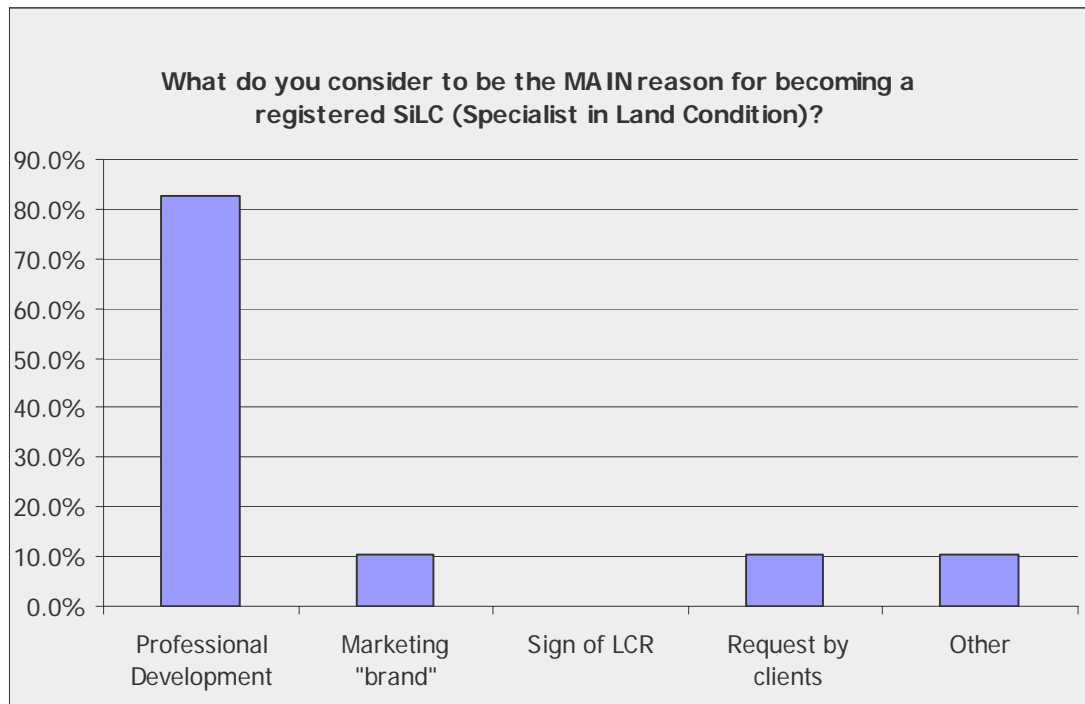
There were many comments on the possible use of the SiLC web-site, many suggesting it could be a place for providing information and discussion. However, valid points were made regarding cutting across other organisations, the time and effort to keep a website updated and the availability of existing forums for discussion of relevant topical matters. It is clear that the web-site could be more topical, but without out dedicated input, being a key repository of information could be too ambitious. A general update on 'what's happening in SiLC' may provide at least some interest to encourage SiLCs and others to visit the web-site on a more regular basis.

For those SiLCs working in organisations that operate a professional development programme, more than half of the responses suggest that these programmes are working towards SiLC. This is obviously welcome news in light of the objectives of the Skills Development Framework.

It was regarded by respondents that SiLC is most well known amongst those directly involved and at the fore of land condition services, such as consultants and regulators, and less well known across most other disciplines in the sector. However this is with the exception of the legal profession, who it is suggested have a modest knowledge of the scheme. This is reflected across the various disciplines in the sector that have required SiLC for pre-qualification or specific work. However, a higher than expected level of commercial property developers was suggested to require SiLC, given that the previous response suggests that the scheme is little known to them.

There was a wide range of general comments, although a common theme was the need to raise the SiLC profile, focus more on the brand rather than the LCR and look for broader possibilities of use (such as 'sign off'). However, it is apparent that SiLCs are not aware of what is happening in the organisation including possible developments for the scheme, and that there needs to be feedback and more communication. This would also benefit in the wider promotion of the 'vision' in the industry though the registered SiLCs.

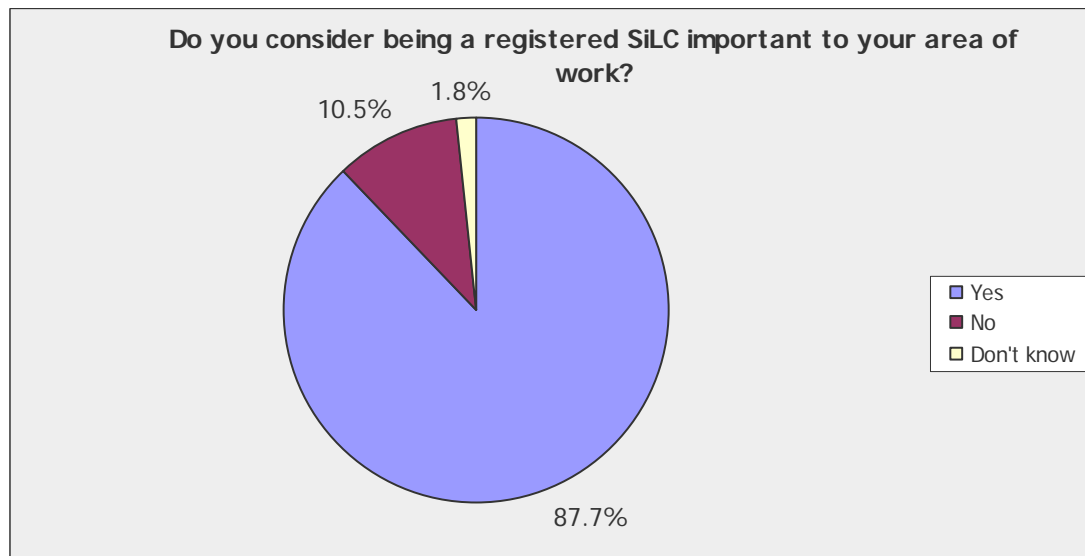
Question 1 - What do you consider to be the MAIN reason for becoming a registered SiLC (Specialist in Land Condition)?



Selected 'Other' Comments

"It is the only bespoke qualification for a land quality specialist - it signifies a personal affiliation to a broad based group looking towards technical excellence"
 "The qualification SiLC indicates a certain level of expertise and experience"
 All appear 'professional development' led comments, only one different comment – required for local authority

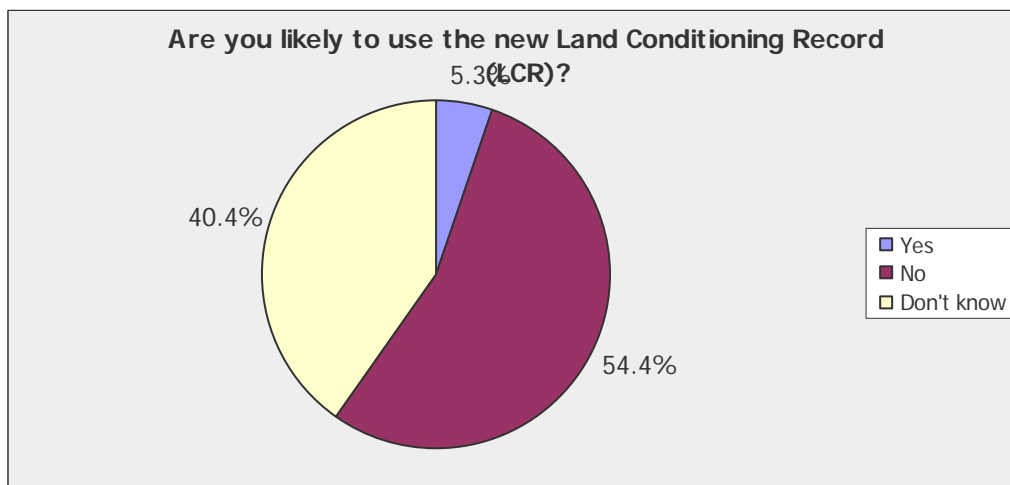
Question 2 - Do you consider being a registered SiLC important to your area of work?



Selected Comments

Regrettably the profile of SiLC in the profession has not developed as expected
Important for business development and report sign-off
I consider it important in terms of Professional Development but it has not been requested by Clients.
All LOAs for MOD need to be signed off by a SiLC and it is a well recognised & respected qualification
I think the CL industry desperately needs some form of professional recognition, similar to C.Eng. There is a huge amount of cynicism within the industry, as to its value, but you could suggest that is because there isn't enough professional and commercial pressure to require professional qualifications YET!

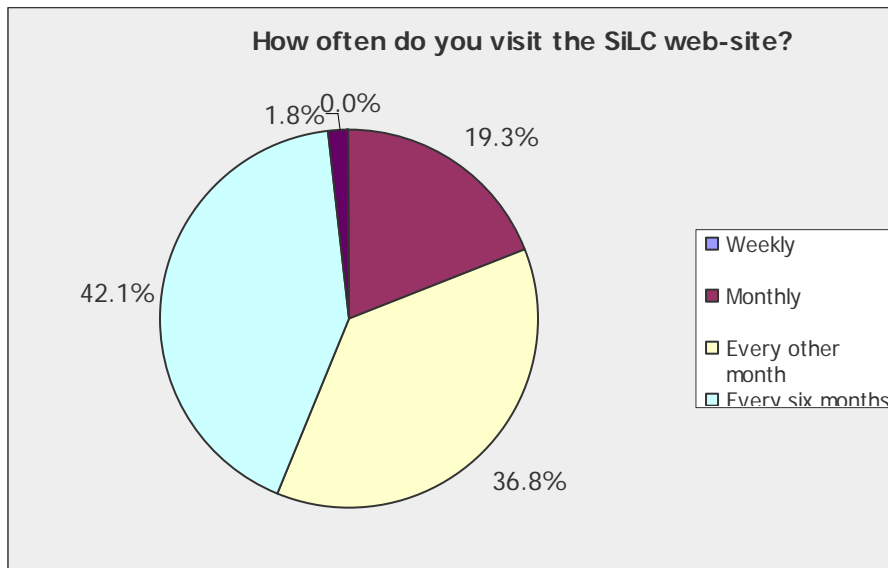
Question 3 - Are you likely to use the new Land Conditioning Record (LCR)?



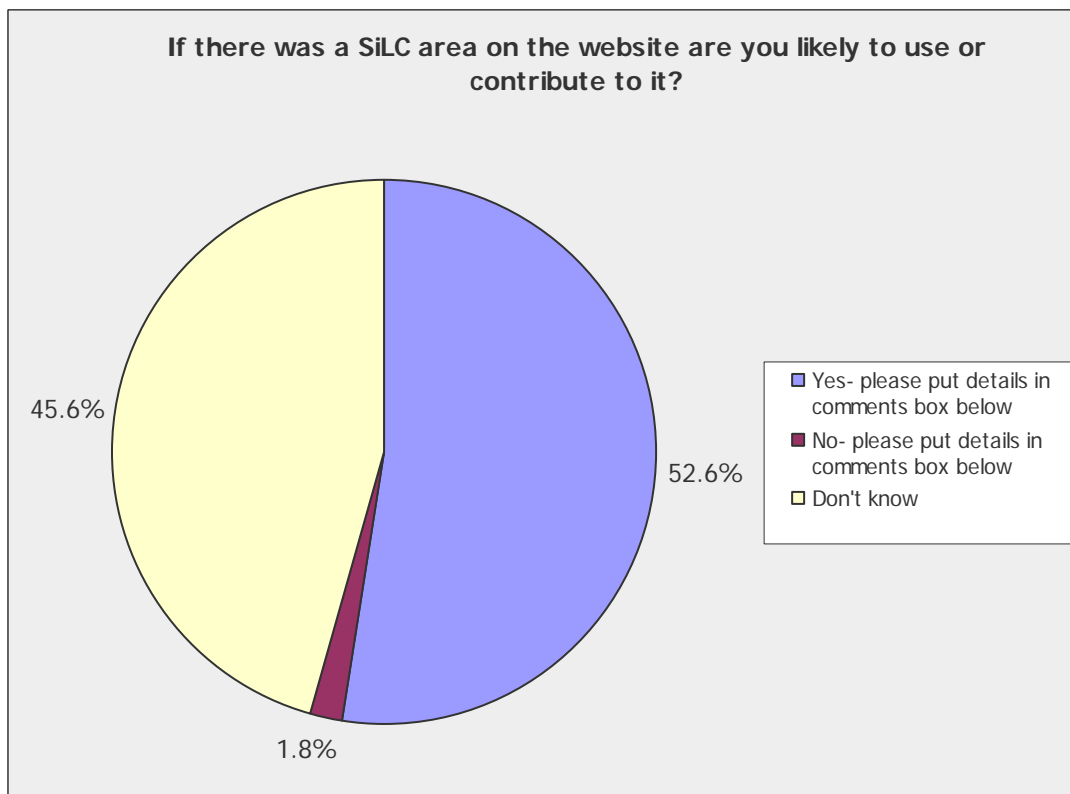
Selected Comments

This will depend upon client requirements
no demand from industry for LCRs
The LCR is a noble concept but needs to have a greater take up by industry.
Never used the original in anger – whilst the new one is improved I am not sure that there are significant drivers for widespread uptake
Wasn't aware that there was a new LCR

Question 4 - How often do you visit the SiLC web-site?



Question 5 - If there was a SiLC area on the website are you likely to use or contribute to it?



Selected Comments

A total of 31 comments were received, many suggesting new legislation and guidance and views on these and 'key issues', case studies, new technologies, news area inc current events (e.g. Corby), a forum for discussion (Q&A – knowledge and experience), events, seminars/presentation materials.

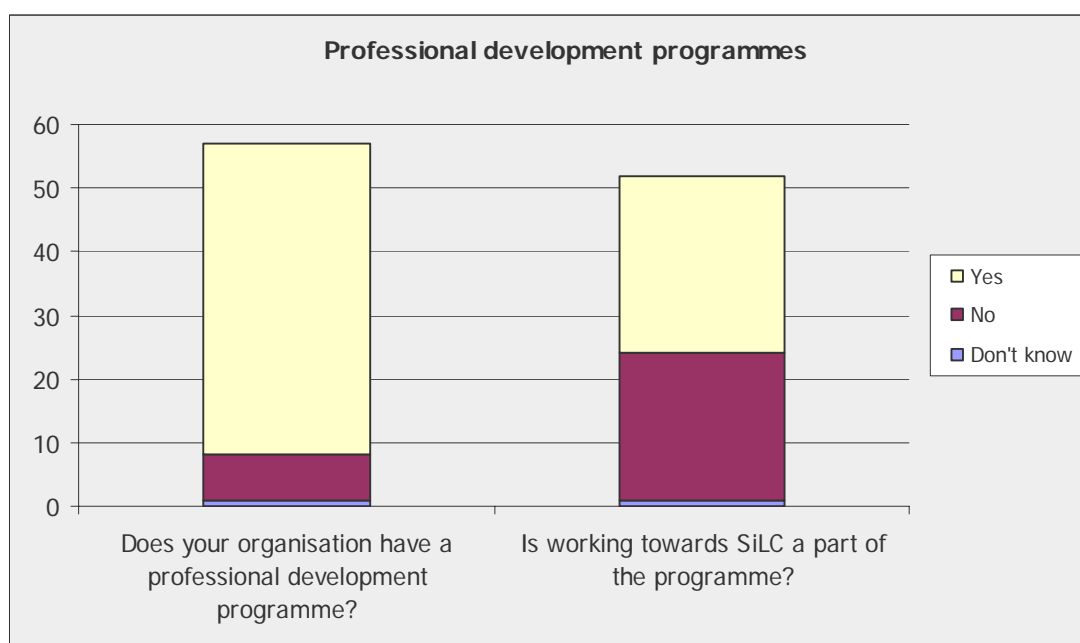
There were comments regard general SiLC matters, including provide update/progress of the scheme etc.

The time/effort need to keep updated and relevant as a portal for information was identified, and suggested if not this would be a key problem.

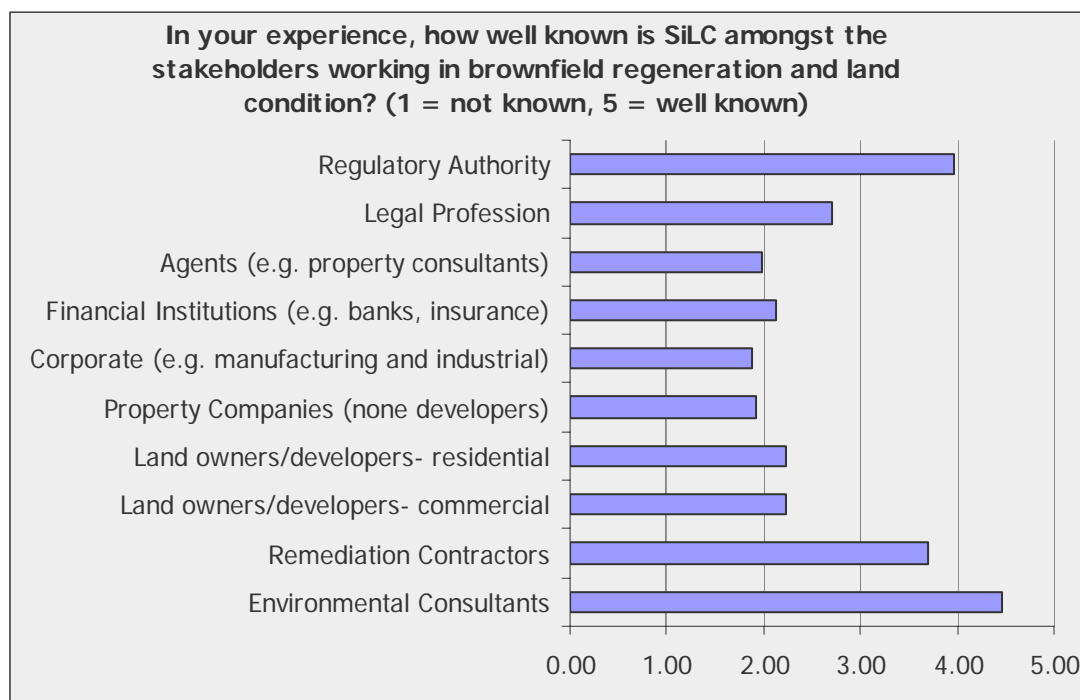
Suggestion providing this information may cut across other organisation providing similar information need that the JISCMail forum currently provides an outlet forum for discussions.

A point was made that the current web-site really changes (i.e. little news), but mainly for obtaining information relating to application.

Question 6 – Professional Development Programmes



Question 7 – SiLC registration Scheme



Question 8 - Have any of the following required SiLC for any pre-qualification or specific project work?

Answer Options	Yes	No	Don't know	N/A
Environmental Consultants	17	23	4	9
Remediation Contractors	3	30	9	7
Land owners/developers- commercial	13	27	6	4
Land owners/developers- residential	3	33	9	4
Property Companies (none developers)	6	30	8	5
Corporate (e.g. manufacturing and industrial)	5	30	9	4
Financial Institutions (e.g. banks, insurance)	5	29	11	4
Agents (e.g. property consultants)	1	33	11	4
Legal Profession	8	27	10	4
Regulatory Authority	29	15	4	3

Question 9 – General Comments

Apart from highlighted of some technical problems in completing the survey, the following provides a summary of some key comments.

Using SiLC in existing frameworks was a common theme and for possible 'sign off' type approach for example for remediation and planning related matters

Some selected comments are presented below.

I would not want to see the entry qualifications watered down, but it also must not be seen as elitist and irrelevant. There is a balance to be struck.

It would be helpful if the regulators were stipulating SiLC as a prerequisite for Contaminated Land Assessment. To raise the profile of SiLC, the PTP and/or SiLC members should be encouraged to speak/present to LGA/LA/EA/SEPA and any other environmental regulator on a periodic basis. Perhaps SiLC might consider embarking on a programme of profile raising and seek assistance from it's members in doing this.

I am not sure enough is done to promote the SiLC brand. It is well known among consultants and is well respected as a mark of achievement but I seldom feel that the qualification gets me work that non-SiLCs could do.

The scheme is mostly associated with the LCR and I would like to see the emphasis on LCRs reduced (given their negligible take up) and a concerted move for SiLC to be recognised as the leading qualification for contaminated land professionals.

introduction of progressive qualification grades would help widen interest and take up; better training materials and publicity would help widen recognition by the industry

It would be useful to have a SiLC newsletter to let us know what is going on. I'm so busy with work and my EIC commitments that I don't manage to attend all the SiLC meetings I would like to. A regular update of membership issues, lobbying and issues affecting members would be very useful.

Is SiLC becoming esoteric? Is SiLC part of the journey to somewhere else? I believe it is.

Up until now, there has been very little communication within the SiLC community regarding what it sees it function as and how it aims to promote itself.

SiLC needs to decide what its purpose is - i.e. organisation promoting best practise; or a semi regulatory authority; lobbying group to clarify the professions position on land development - and start promoting itself appropriately.