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Frequently Asked Questions – Asking for a provider’s risk assessments.

Should Visit Leaders obtain copies of risk assessments from providers and facilities?

Risk assessments can be technical documents and should be produced by competent people. Unless a visit leader is qualified to understand, assess and, if necessary, challenge a provider’s risk assessment documents, there is little purpose in asking for copies.

Visit Leaders have a duty of care to ensure that any provider they use meets acceptable standards. For further advice on how to do this see the document *‘Using external providers and facilities’* in section 4 of this guidance. Any provider or facility should be selected in line with this document and your employer’s policy.

What is very useful for a visit leader is information that adds to their knowledge and understanding of the venue, facilities or activities and helps the visit leadership team to plan appropriate supervision for their particular group. For example:

- Are there any particular hazards or threats that need to be considered in the establishment’s risk-benefit assessment and emergency procedures?
- What options are available if the conditions on the day don’t allow for the planned activities?

Such information is better gained through a pre-visit or through dialogue with the provider, rather than through attempting to glean it from their risk assessment documents.

