

# Quarterly activity report

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July to September 2023

# Introduction

The quarterly activity report shows progress in delivering NALC's strategic plan, including information on critical internal issues, parliamentary and government affairs work, events, media coverage, publications and legal advice.

NALC's mission and strategic objectives:

- Strong national and county voices promoting the sector and our prospectus for ultra-localism
- Creating more local councils in England
- Supporting councils and councillors
- Effective national and county associations working together to deliver our vision

# Chief executive

- The [National Assembly](#) and [Management Board](#) agreed to recommend a 3% increase in NALC affiliation fees to the [AGM](#) and approved the Annual Report, setting out progress with future strategic development. The AGM takes place on 24 October 2023.
- NALC has attended county association AGMs and conferences. The number of attendees, speaker programmes and sector experts exhibiting at these events are awe-inspiring. Many speakers thanked the sector for its work and contribution to communities. NALC have attended Northumberland, Norfolk, Devon, Essex and Nottinghamshire recently. Over the next few weeks, NALC will attend Surrey, Kent, Leicestershire, Rutland, and Dorset.
- One of NALC's objectives is to raise the sector's profile with other national organisations, including through [blogs](#), which allow other bodies to showcase their work and relationships with local councils. In recent weeks, that includes bodies as diverse as the Forestry Commission, Marine Conservation Society, Royal British Legion, Hope for the Future and the Office for National Statistics.
- NALC heard from the new chair of [Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments](#), setting out how the board has appointed a new chief executive and its plans to increase transparency, develop the audit market and support the sector, including through the possible development of digital returns.

# Policy and communications updates

- Campaigns — NALC launched a new dedicated [planning webpage](#), obtained election results data, issued a [joint survey](#) with DeMontfort University on this year's local council elections, and engaged with Barclays and Action for Communities in Rural England on its banking campaign.
- Engaging with government and parliament — NALC responded to two government consultations on [hedgerows](#) and [permitted development rights](#) and the Home Affairs Committee inquiry on Martyn's Law.
- Party conferences — NALC attended the Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat party conferences to promote the sector and spoke at two fringe events. NALC published a [Did You Know](#) pamphlet that was discussed with MPs, peers, councillors, think tanks, journalists and other opinion formers.
- Star Council Awards 2023 — The judging sessions were completed. The [award finalists were announced](#). The Council of the Year [public vote was opened](#). The finalists received a [communications pack](#) to share information on their achievements.
- White Ribbon — NALC became a [White Ribbon Accredited organisation](#) three months ahead of schedule. NALC will progress items from the action plan. NALC attended the White Ribbon conference.

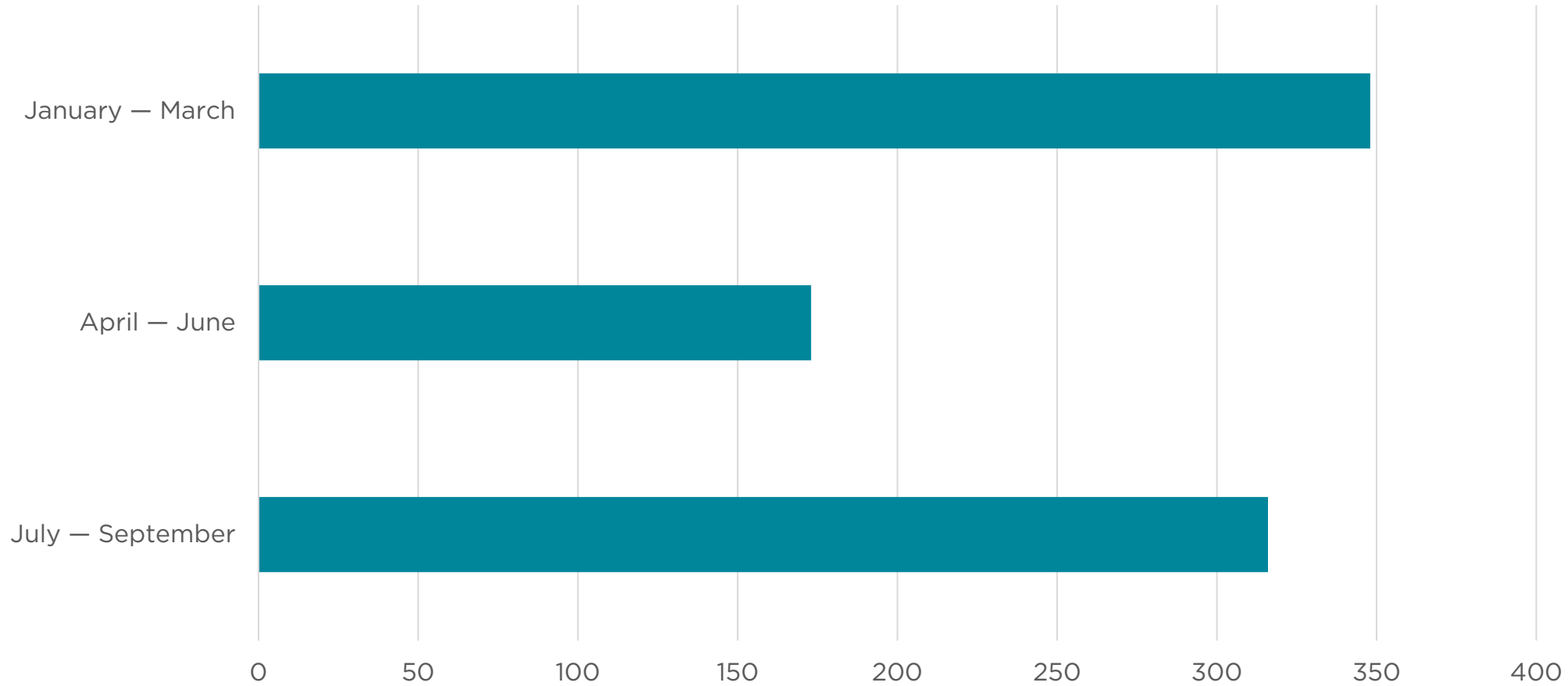
# Member services updates

- Legal service — Responded to 175 requests for legal advice. Legal Topic Note 78 on the Equality Act 2010 was updated, and as part of the review of NALC guidance for the new website, several LTNs will be updated.
- HR service — 122 queries received over the last quarter from 18 county associations. Most common questions relate to discipline, grievance and contracts.
- Local Council Award Scheme — 14 councils were accredited this quarter (three Quality Gold, four Quality and seven Foundation). New panel members and triage coordinators have been recruited to expand the team.
- New website — Work is ongoing to develop NALC's new website. NALC has finalised the design, gathered member council data from county associations and reviewed the content for migration.
- Model Financial Regulations — Consultation on a review of the MFRs is ongoing, with 150+ attendees signed up for the events and over 40 responses to the online survey.
- Improvement and Development — James Alexander was appointed the new independent chair of the Improvement and Development Board.
- Civility and Respect Project — An intervention workshop was held. The outcomes included a survey of monitoring officers, suggestions to strengthen internal audit submitted to JPAG and engagement with the Jo Cox Civility Commission.

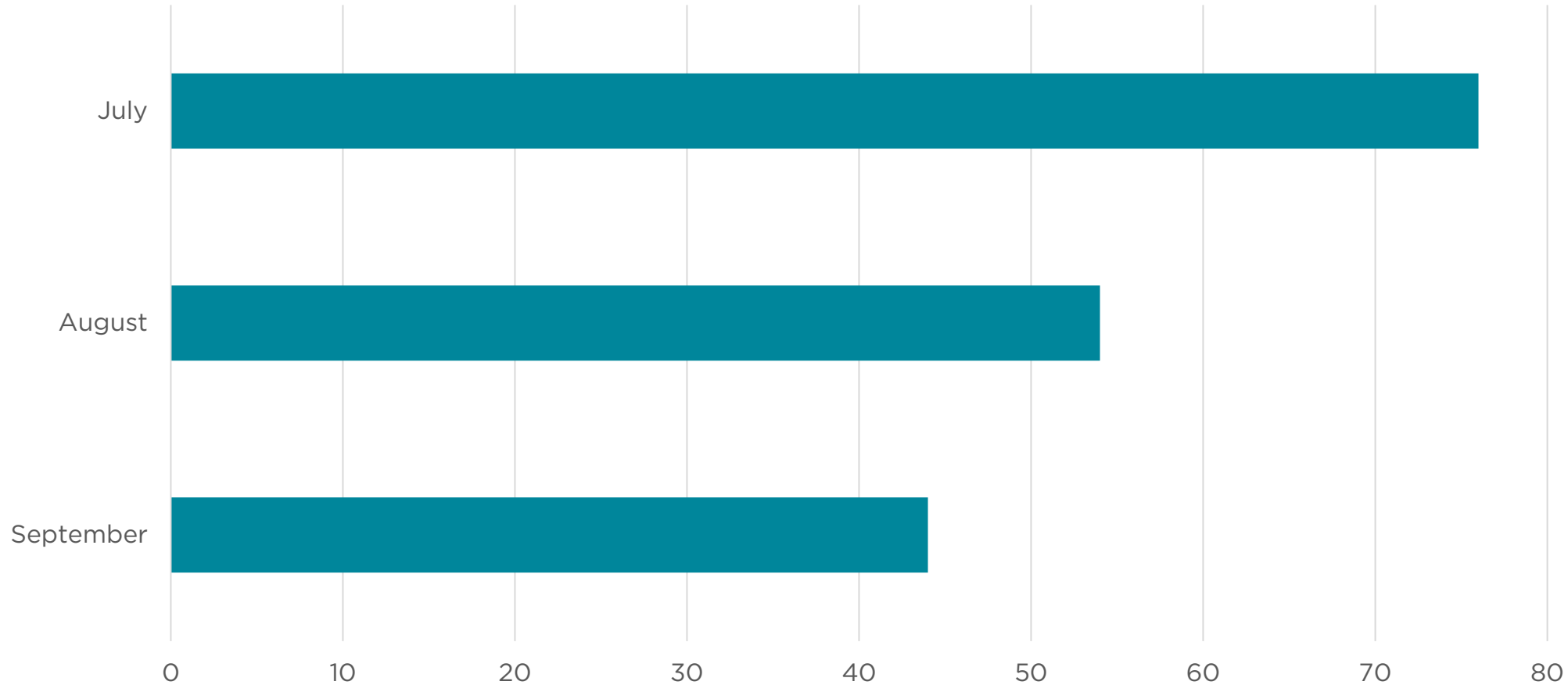
# Finance and administration updates

- A Data Protection Audit was recently completed. The results have been reported to the NALC management team. An action plan will be created to implement the recommendations.
- The year-end accounts have been signed off, and NALC has received a clean bill of health from Milton Avis.
- AGM agenda papers have been circulated, which included motions, the Annual Report and the accounts.
- 95% of county associations have paid their affiliation fee invoices.
- Launched a dedicated [committee election webpage](#). Worked with UK Engage to create a [committee election portal](#) for nominations and voting.
- NALC is working on creating the 2024 calendar of meetings.
- NALC welcomed Silvia Nicole back from maternity leave, and Greg Henry has been made permanent.

# KPI — Event attendees

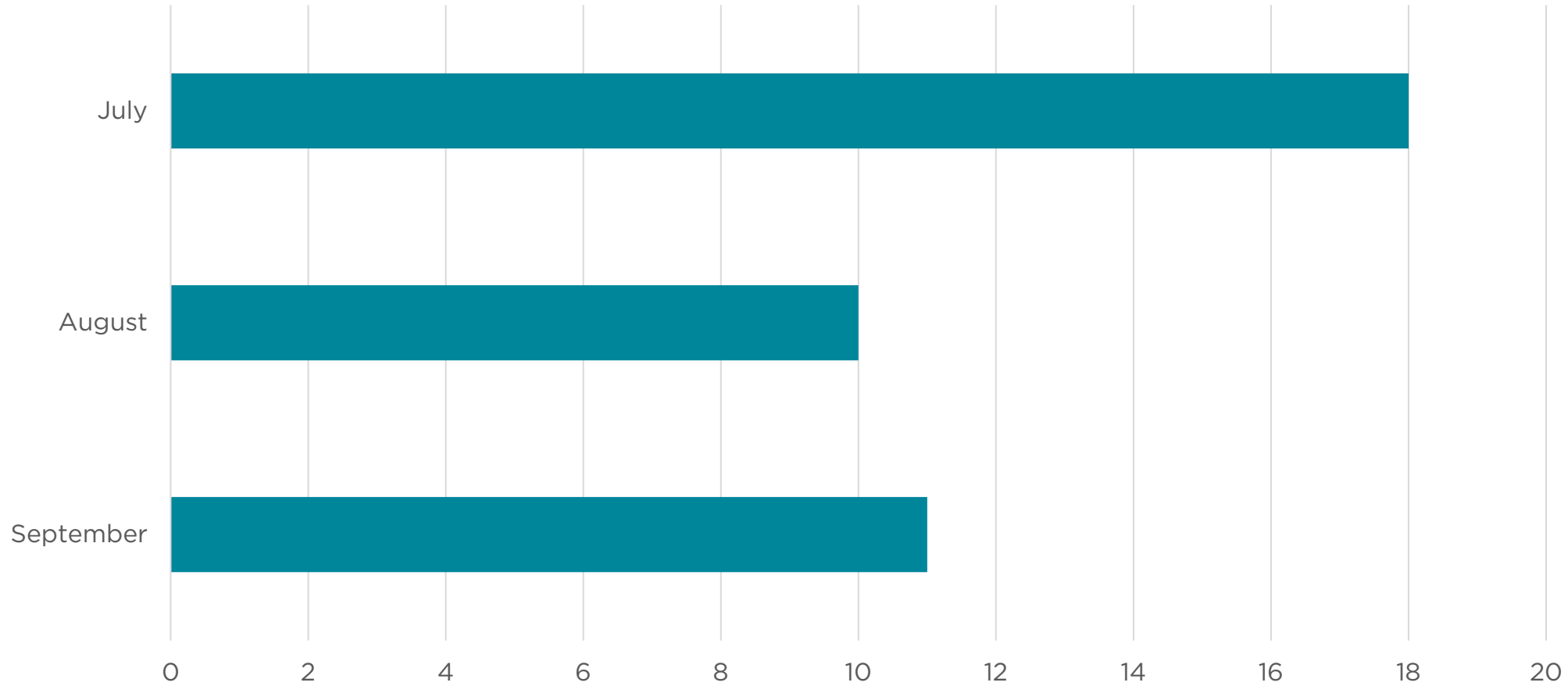


# KPI — Legal advice





# KPI — Job adverts



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