

The **BIG** Partnership

CLIENT: Highland Colour Coaters

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PRESS CUTTING

Plant visit highlights survey

SCO TT I SH contractors have gone 'on-site' as part of a fact-finding meeting to a coating company that maintains thousands of pounds of taxpayers money is being corroded away.

Highland Colour Coaters opened its Cumbernauld plant to members of the Fencing Contractors' Association for one of the two meetings held each year by Scottish members.

'It was an opportunity to see first-hand, the different processes that are involved in today's coating operations,' said Wendy Baker, chief executive of the FCA.

Highland Colour Coaters was set up in 2002 and its plant has the capacity to handle between 200-250 tonnes of fabricated steelwork each week.

A survey by the company has concluded that at least £5million of local Government cash is wasted on the repair and maintenance of corroding steelwork.

Using the Freedom of Information Act, Highland got the facts and figures from 28 local authorities in the region relating to the annual spend on the upkeep of various kinds of steelwork, including fencing.

'We found that in 2008, the authorities spent almost £5 millions on repair and maintenance of corroding steelwork,' said Paul McCafferty, a director of Highland, 'and if it had been treated correctly prior to initial installation then it would not have required further treatment for up to 25 years.'

'Based on our survey results, this would represent a saving of almost £117 millions over that 25 year period.'

East Lothian Council has responded to the findings by commissioning Highland to refurbish over 600-metres of pedestrian barrier (*pictured above before and after*) on the outskirts of East Linton.

'When it comes to exterior steelwork you really can't take any shortcuts,' said David Nothcott, senior structures officer at East Lothian Council's transport division. 'There can be nothing worse than having unsightly, rusting rails and if we had opted to simply re-paint the pedestrian barriers they would have started corroding again within a year' ■

