



Consultations

- *Löfstedt review: an evidence review of health and safety legislation – a call for evidence (DWP)* – our submission, based on desk-top research and a member survey, explained that the law is not at fault, just how it is sometimes interpreted and applied; suggesting possible regulation mergers and simplified guidance. We advocated that the benefits of good health and safety should be showcased, as in the IOSH Li£e Savings campaign; that embedding health and safety in the education system could help improve public perception, creating a ‘risk intelligent society’; and that confusion and cumulative burden (regulatory and non-regulatory) need to be addressed.
- *Löfstedt review: results of IOSH member survey* – though a modest and non-representative sample (228 respondents), some interesting information was gathered. The top regulations cited for praise were the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations and for simplification, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health. There were also a number of suggested mergers and proposed changes e.g. introducing explicit directors’ duties for health and safety and improved risk education.
- *Scottish Affairs Committee Inquiry into health and safety in Scotland* – we provided evidence through engagement with our Scottish Branches. We emphasised the need for strong leadership, worker involvement and health and safety competence; and the need to provide adequate proactive regulator inspection levels and resources, including for emerging technologies. We advocated continued support for Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland, the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives and the IOSH course on return to work issues; as well as trialling Safe-T-Cert in Scotland.
- *Risk appetite and risk tolerance* – we provided feedback on this Institute of Risk Management’s proposed guide about ‘risk appetite’, which we felt outlined some useful questions for boards to ask themselves and their organisations by way of challenge on risk issues. However, we also expressed concerns and felt further thought and work was required, if the guide is to add value; suggesting the setting up of a multi-disciplinary / multi-stakeholder working party. Specifically, we felt that occupational safety and health risk should not be included in risk appetite, only in risk tolerance.

- *Royal College of General Practitioners: commission on Generalism* – in our response we suggested additions to the ‘generalism’ definition to include work-related issues. We emphasised the key role of GPs in supporting the occupational health of their patients; the need for them to have adequate training and resources; and the benefits of a multi-disciplinary approach.

The IOSH responses are available at www.iosh.co.uk/condocs

IOSH guides and on-line tools

- *Occupational health toolkit* – we are extending this to also include management of non-occupational conditions at work; the first two topics are ‘diabetes’ and ‘pregnancy’.
- *Risk assessment routefinder* – now includes a new section on ‘volunteering’.
- *Reporting performance* – an updated version is now available on the IOSH website.

The IOSH guides and tools are available at www.iosh.co.uk/guidance

IOSH research fund update

- The IOSH Research Committee has endorsed 3 proposals for our Research Programme ‘Health and safety in a changing world’, led by Professor Robert Dingwall. The themes include examining the knowledge base for OSH interventions; the balance between governmental and private regulation; and investigating how health and safety issues are managed in networked systems of production or service delivery.
- ‘*Work-related road safety: A systematic review of the literature on the effectiveness of interventions*’ – findings will be launched at the ‘Workplace Transport – moving it safely’ event, organised by the IOSH Food and Drink Group on 6 September 2011.
- *What is a good job? The relationship between work/working and improved health and wellbeing* (Cardiff University) this report presents the research findings examining the importance of different factors in the relationship between work, wellbeing and work.
- Six second-stage applicants have been invited to make presentations to the IOSH Research Committee on 23 September 2011, further outlining their proposals.

Full and summary research reports are available at www.iosh.co.uk/researchreports.

IOSH development fund update

- *Scoping study on the usefulness of a resource to help teachers of students with health conditions and disabilities* – this involved a focus group of teachers and in addition, two workshops at the Association of Colleges conference. It was felt that a simple website with case studies or scenarios for teachers / student teachers would be useful.
- *Young Enterprise Merseyside* – IOSH Merseyside Branch members have supported the Young Enterprise Company Programme, providing advice, mentoring and guidance to the youth projects and presenting a regional health and safety awareness award.
- *Centre for Safety and Health Sustainability (CSHS)* – IOSH has worked closely with the American Society of Safety Engineers and the American Industrial Hygiene Association, helping fund and co-found the CSHS to provide a global voice for the health and safety community on sustainability reporting (see www.centershhs.org). The CSHS has suggested ‘topics’ for the Global Reporting Initiative’s (GRI) review of its sustainability reporting guidance ‘G4’ and is developing a new set of OSH metrics for submission. An ‘Advisory Council’ of OSH professional bodies from around the world is to be set up, creating an influential global network on OSH sustainability issues. IOSH is now registered as an ‘Organisational Stakeholder’ with the GRI.

For more information about the development fund see www.iosh.co.uk/devfund.

Lobbying activities

- *Employment Minister Chris Grayling meeting* – IOSH had a second meeting with the Minister, this time to discuss ‘*Good health and safety: good for everyone*’, including our concerns about health and safety reform and the effects of HSE budget cuts. We also discussed our input to Professor Löfstedt’s review of health and safety regulation.
- *Employment Minister Chris Grayling announcement on health and safety myths* – IOSH welcomed this as a watershed, calling for better education and government promotion of real health and safety. Our views attracted extensive media coverage.
- *Professor Löfstedt meetings* – IOSH was pleased to sponsor and speak at the ‘Reforming health and safety’ event, Chaired by Professor Löfstedt as part of his ‘evidence-gathering’ work. We then met formally with him to discuss progress on his review, seek reassurance that it will be truly evidence-based and offer comments on some of the key areas his team should concentrate on. On both occasions we took the

opportunity to highlight the IOSH Li£e Savings campaign and the need to promote the economic benefits of good health safety management that complement the strong moral and legal imperatives.

- *House of Lords briefing* – IOSH provided a briefing to Lord McKenzie of Luton, several other Lords, and Baroness Browning (Home Office spokesperson in the Lords) opposing Lord Blencathra’s proposed clause to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, exempting police from HSWA. During the televised Lords’ debate, Lord McKenzie quoted from the IOSH briefing. The clause was subsequently defeated and IOSH was thanked by Lord McKenzie and the Police Federation.
- *Honorary Vice Presidents lunch in the House of Lords* – Lord Brougham and Vaux welcomed around 80 guests to this successful annual event at which we launched our latest campaign, ‘Li£e Savings’, with HSE Chief Executive Geoffrey Podger and the IOSH President Steve Granger both speaking.
- *IOSH Li£e Savings campaign* – our new campaign makes the business case for good health and safety, outlining our calls on government and employers (see www.iosh.co.uk/lifesavings for more information, case studies and on-line tools). We have gained support from Dame Anne Begg MP, Chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee, who has tabled EDM 1884; and also discussed it with Andy Slaughter MP, Shadow Justice Minister. The campaign is gaining momentum and we were pleased to present it to the All Party Parliamentary Group on health and safety and to receive offers of support from the IoD and ABI.
- *Transport Minister Norman Baker MP* – the Minister has confirmed he will deliver the keynote address at IOSH’s Railway conference in November at Glazier’s Hall, London.

Other activities

- *‘Achieving the Holy Grail – no more working at height accidents. Ever!’* – IOSH is working on a new joint initiative with Access Industry Forum, together with BSC, HSE, IIRSM and RoSPA, to improve awareness and control of work at height hazards.
- *HSE’s ‘do your bit’* – to help develop greater worker involvement, HSE ran a horizon-scanning workshop in Birmingham that IOSH was pleased to contribute to, together with RoSPA, several unions, employer bodies, trainers and HSL. ‘Scenario setting’ was used to examine future challenges and opportunities.

- *Young Enterprise* – IOSH has provided Young Enterprise’s ‘Company Programme’ with a ‘health and safety awareness’ award for some years and were pleased to attend their national awards ceremony and to sign their ‘Charter’, calling for enterprise skills (including health and safety) to be mandatory on the curricula; this will be presented to parliament in the Autumn.
- *EuroSafe: 3rd European Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion* – IOSH moderated a session on safety for young employees at work at this event in Budapest, examining key issues such as education, training and supervision.
- *RPE workshop (HSE)* – as part of HSE’s RPE Stakeholder Group, IOSH hosted a ‘face-fit’ workshop at The Grange for ~ 40 delegates from a cross-section of industry.
- *Safety at level-crossings* – the IOSH North Wales Branch organised a high-profile awareness raising event in Porthmadog with the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways, for businesses whose employees may encounter such crossings. The aim is to prevent work-related accidents at level-crossings throughout North Wales.
- *Safety in nuclear submarines* – the IOSH Hazardous Industries Group has developed a modified and shortened version of the Nuclear Industries ‘peer review’ process, which has been trialled in control room situations in gas distribution, offshore gas storage and nuclear plant. An IOSH member has now also successfully used the peer review process onboard a Royal Navy nuclear submarine.
- *Gate safe campaign* – this industry-led campaign was launched following fatal accidents to two children in 2010. The IOSH Construction Group is supporting ‘Gate safe’ via a series of initiatives highlighting automated gate safety issues to those involved in automated gate design and installation and to health and safety professionals. <http://gate-safe.co.uk/#>

Richard Jones
IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs
richard.jones@iosh.co.uk
August 2011