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Angela Eagle MP

24

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Thank you for your letter dated 27 October on behalf of Mr Christopher Ingram of 8 Loretto Road regarding the resources of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and those of local authorities' to deliver health and safety functions.

As a publicly funded body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, HSE could not be exempt from the greater fiscal constraint and discipline necessary across the public sector. The outcome for HSE is that it will be expected to make savings of at least 35 per cent in the funding it receives from the taxpayer over the four years 2011/12 to 2014/15. It has also been asked to pursue options whereby more of its costs should be shared with businesses that create risks while reducing burdens on low-risk businesses.

HSE will shortly receive formal notification of its SR10 settlement from the Department which it will then translate into formal resourcing and delivery plans for the HSE Board and Ministers' consideration. It is, therefore, too early to comment in detail on issues. Mr Ingram will be pleased to know that the Prime Minister and the Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations put forward by Lord Young, who will be working with departments to put his recommendations into effect.

I hope this reply is helpful to Mr Ingram.

With best wishes,

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Minister for Employment