



Tuesday 6th December 2011: The National Higher Education Conference

Health and Safety Reform



Thursday 17th November, One Wimpole Street - London, 08:45 - 16:20

Reforming Health and Safety at Work: The Way Forward

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Overview

Effective health and safety practice must remain a priority if Britain is to maintain its world standing in health and safety service.

Injury and illness cost UK businesses on average £8 billion each year. When welfare costs and health bills are added to the equation, the overall cost to the British economy of health and safety failures leads to £22 billion (2% of GDP). Furthermore, the emotional toll of injury and ill health to families, friends and communities is enormous. Although Britain is one of the leading figures in health and safety practice, the rate of decline in injuries has been noticeably slow.

According to the Health Safety Executive (HSE), figures indicate that the combined incidence of injury and ill health in the UK is much the same now as it was five years ago. Recognising a need for change, the government has outlined a series of new health and safety measures and procedures, with the aim to reduce the unnecessary red tape and regulation that prevent the effective use and maintenance of quality health and safety standards.

Taking forward all of Lord Young's recommendations, the government has released 'Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone' (published March 2011) which puts forth major reform, heralding a new start for health and safety regulation. Reforms include: launching an Occupational Safety and Health Consultants register and a reviewed role of communities and local authorities on health and safety enforcement.

In addition, the 'Common Sense: Common Safety Progress' report (published in July 2011) outlines the shift of health and safety enforcement activity away from business and concentrates on high risk areas, such as construction and emergency services. In order to ease the burden on businesses, the government has established an Independent Review led by Professor Ragner Lofstedt. The panel are asking for all interested parties to help inform the scope of health and safety reform, and to make recommendations for simplifying the current rules by autumn 2011.

Agenda

With the recommendation of the Lofstedt health and safety review due to be outlined this autumn, this forum will be a timely opportunity for key stakeholders to examine the latest developments on health and safety policies, share ideas on how they can be further developed and understand the next stages in the implementation process for health and safety reform.

08:45	Registration and Coffee
09:30	Chair's Welcome Address Professor Frank B. Wright, Outer Temple Chambers, London (CONFIRMED)
09:35	Opening Keynote: Reforming Britain's Health and Safety System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The governments progress on health and safety reform: <i>Common sense, common safety</i> Proposals and implementation Working towards EU health and safety: is this a burden or an opportunity for the UK? Making health and safety information accessible and prioritising high risk and emergency Reducing red tape for business and promoting growth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can you be involved? Accommodating for high risk services EU regulation: making sure that health and safety rules are not overly prescriptive <p>Dr. Bill Gunnyeon, Chief Medical Adviser & Director, Health, Work and Wellbeing, Department for Work and Pensions (CONFIRMED)</p>
09:55	Question and Answer Session
10:05	The Importance of Health and Safety in the Construction Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of the government's policies on the construction industry How to reduce rates of accidents in the construction industry? Understanding the scope of the problem Calculating design, cost and safety Understanding the environment and how it impacts your projects What we can learn from the Olympics project? Working with local authorities in areas of planning and building: opportunities in the new planning regime <p>John Banks, President, Association for Project Safety (CONFIRMED)</p>
10:25	Implementing the New Health and Safety Legislation in Higher Education – What Changes Will Be Made? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self regulating - How will it work in HE Student placements - getting the balance right Guidance for field trips and educational visits – a common sense approach Professional development for university staff <p>Clive Parkinson, Chair, Universities Safety and Health Association and Director of Health and Safety, University of Surrey (CONFIRMED)</p>
10:45	Question and Answer Session
11:05	Coffee and Networking
11:25	Working Together to Establish a Leading Health and Safety System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of working across sectors and bringing together private and public organisations Examples of successful projects Knowledge Generation and Transfer past, present and future Getting it all right, people, plant, processes <p>Eddie Morland, Member, Senior Management Team, Health and Safety Executive and Chief Executive, Health and Safety Laboratory (CONFIRMED)</p>
11:45	Perspective on the Reformed Health and Safety Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewing the H&S framework since Lord Young's review 'Common Sense, Common Safety' Championing the benefits of sensible H&S Tackling the myths of health and safety law Raising awareness and standards <p>Richard Jones, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Institution of Occupational Health and Safety (CONFIRMED)</p>
12:05	Question and Answer Session
12:30	Lunch and Networking
13:30	Case Study - The Role of Local Authorities in Implementing Health and Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a much stronger commercial and business awareness Developing the customer relationship and better define customer needs Making better use of leadership skills within their organisations Ensuring that their advice gives due regard to business imperatives Ensuring H&S links through and supports organisational targets Working more closely with managers to focus on risk priorities Simplifying H&S, making it easier to implement, particularly in low risk workplaces/activities Removing the myths and red-tape that have grown in some sectors (ie Education) and become barriers to delivery of cost effective services <p>Peter Roddis, Health and Safety Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council (CONFIRMED)</p>
13:50	Removing Barriers for Fire-Fighters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the challenges moving forward and how can they be overcome? The importance of working with the community and local government to achieve the objectives Introducing structured approaches to communication Putting confidence back into the emergency services Ensuring that the law does not prevent fire-fighters from saving lives Working to improve health and safety during financial constraints in fire services <p>Graham Stagg, Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CONFIRMED)</p>
14:10	Case Study – Excellence in Health and Safety – West Midlands Fire Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving the highest standards in health and safety practice – best-practice within the West Midlands Fire Service Integrating health and safety issues and policies into Service business activity Information, instruction and training for frontline staff Monitoring health and safety performance measures at local level <p>Vijith Randeniya, Chief Fire Officer, West Midlands Fire Service (CONFIRMED)</p>
14:30	Question and Answer Session
14:50	Coffee and Networking
15:10	Young, Jackson and the LASPO Bill: Tackling the Compensation Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Insurance Industry's role in encouraging safer and healthier workplaces Tackling the myths around health and safety The importance of working with the community and voluntary organisations to remove fear of the compensation culture Implementing the Young recommendations: the insurance industry's role The importance of personal injury compensation reform, and how it will impact organisations <p>Nick Starling, Director of General Insurance and Health, Association of British Insurers (CONFIRMED)</p>
15:30	Young, Jackson and the LASPO Bill: The Claimant's Perspective of "Reform" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of CFAs to access to justice Is the RTA tail wagging the civil litigation dog? Why are insurance premiums rising - another view The consequences for NHS finances of the reforms Referral fees : an alternative view How to deal with whiplash What really concerns the public and what can be done about it <p>Andrew Dismore, Campaign Co-ordinator, Access to Justice Action Group (CONFIRMED)</p>
15:50	Questions and Answers Session
16:20	Chair's Summary and Close

*programme subject to change without notice

Audience

Delegates attending this forum will include NHS, health authorities, emergency services central and local government, education, social care and business sectors specifically; health and safety managers, occupational health managers, policy officers, firefighters and construction managers, heads of PCT's, directors of public health, and heads of health charities.

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