

About the conference

In 2011 the coalition government commissioned Professor Ragnar Löfstedt of King's College London, aided by an independent panel, to review the so-called 'burden' on business of health and safety legislation. There was a call for evidence in July 2011, and 'Reclaiming health and safety for all: an independent review of health and safety legislation' was published in October 2011.

The report made a number of recommendations including simplifying the Approved Codes of Practice, and reviewing and consolidating a number of sector-specific regulations. A timetable of further tasks has now been put into place including plans to revoke regulations deemed to be 'unnecessary'.

Although the world of work has certainly changed since the introduction of the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974 there is no reason to believe that the level of risk has diminished. The types of risks faced by workers and the gross numbers of injuries, illnesses and fatalities reported remain unacceptable in a civilized society.

In its response to the Löfstedt Review, three IER experts commented "*While the government had implied a thoroughgoing undermining of health and safety law as a bureaucratic brake on business activity, the Review suggests no such thing. In fact, it largely endorses the current regulatory framework for health and safety and consequently does not appear to represent an explicit attempt to weaken its foundations*".

The questions are, will the recent review of health and safety and the report it generated, help to reduce accidents and injuries at work? What recommendations does the Löfstedt report make and will those recommendations help develop or dismantle the UK's health and safety regime?

This conference will provide opportunities to look at the findings and recommendations of the Löfstedt review and hear expert opinion and analysis from trade unionists and lawyers.

Programme

- 9.30 Registration
- 9.50 Welcome from Chair, Carolyn Jones, Director of IER
- 10.00 The Lofstedt Review: a critical evaluation
David Whyte, Liverpool University
- 10:30 Losftedt: what it means for the people who enforce the law
James Taylor, Vice Chair, Prospect HSE Branch
- 11:00 Questions and discussion
- 11: 15 BREAK
- 11:30 Construction Industry: health and safety from the front line
George Guy, UCATT
- 12:00 Effects of the cuts for health and safety
Philip Liptrot, Thompsons Solicitors
- 12:30 Q&A
- 12:45 LUNCH
- 1:45 What the Lofstedt Review didn't say and could and should have said – locating a missing occupational health perspective
Professor Andrew Watterson, University of Stirling
- 2:15 What's missing from Lofstedt: a gender perspective?
Susan Murray, UNITE Health and Safety officer
- 2:45 Life after Lofstedt: where do we go from here and what can we do?
Daniel Shears, GMB National Health & Safety Officer
- 3:15 Q&A
- 3.45 CLOSE