

IOSH update for POOSH meeting 7 September 2009

Consultation

- *Reforming the medical statement* – we have submitted a response to the Health, Work and Wellbeing Directorate of DWP on changing the ‘sick note’ to the ‘fit note’, advocating inclusion of an ‘occupational health assessment’ and also another option of ‘altered working arrangements’. In addition, we stressed the need for more GP training and improved provision of treatment and support. The IOSH response is available in the archive section of www.iosh.co.uk/condocs

Guidance

- *Setting standards in H&S* – raising performance through training and competence: provides guidance on what training is needed at all levels and employment sectors (from boardroom to shop floor).
- *Working well* – guidance on promoting health and wellbeing at work: a holistic, proactive approach, encouraging multidisciplinary working to improve health and wellbeing (at printers).

IOSH guides are free to download from www.iosh.co.uk/techguide

HSE collaboration

- *Workplace temperature*: inviting IOSH members’ views on whether there is a need for a maximum workplace temperature (upper limit) and the associated advantages and disadvantages of this.
- *Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)*: exploring ways of improving the application and use of RPE (e.g. ‘face fit’ testing).
- *Accreditation of H&S consultants*: IOSH and CIEH have been asked by HSE to conduct a feasibility study into this and HSE will also be researching how, where and when competent assistance is sought.

IOSH research fund update

- *2009 call for bids* – we’ve continued with our 2008 one of securing safe and healthy work for a diverse working population. We invited 7 applicants to produce full applications for consideration at the 14 September Research Committee meeting.

- *Latest reports* – full and summary reports of an IOSH-sponsored study by Cardiff University examining associations between safety culture, practitioner advice and performance, will be free downloads shortly, see the IOSH website at www.iosh.co.uk/index.cfm?go=funds.researchreports
- *Research Programme* – the IOSH Board of Trustees has recently approved a new ‘research programme’ approach, directed by a part-time academic. The programme will focus mainly on interventions and will run several discrete, but complementary, projects co-ordinated by the Programme Director over a 3 to 5 year period.

IOSH development fund update

- *Olympic Park project* – IOSH, in partnership with the ODA, held a one day workshop in July for leading academics / researchers with interests in construction health and safety management. The purpose was to explore whether there is an appetite for developing a series of evaluation studies on safety interventions in the Olympic Park development. Research teams were invited to submit proposals, 6 of which will be considered by IOSH Research Committee on the 14 September.
- *IOSH-DWP pilot* – ‘Proactive intervention – occupational health support’ course for OSH practitioners; this is well underway, with 7 courses now successfully completed and 60 delegates trained. Feedback from delegates is being gathered at 3-monthly intervals for a year.
- *Stakeholder workshop* – last Tuesday (1 September) we held a follow-up stakeholder workshop with representatives from AOHNP, ES, SOHN (RCN) and SOM, as well as Dr Bill Gunnyeon and Dame Carol Black. The course provider gave an update on course development and progress and there was a Q&A session and facilitated discussion on how and where the course may be further developed.

Lobbying activities

One-to-one meetings with MPs and Peers continue. An informal dinner was held on 24 June, with Dame Carol Black and MPs / Peers from across the parties, to discuss the government’s response to Dame Carol’s report. The main focus now is preparing for the party conferences.

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7 September 2009