

Welcome to the first issue of *IOSHinfo*, our new quarterly review. *IOSHinfo* is designed as a five-minute round-up for busy people, giving you a quick overview of IOSH's headline news and information from the last three months. If you want to know more, just click the links or drop us a line at info@iosh.co.uk

Löfstedt Review gives law clean bill of health...

We broadly welcomed the UK government-commissioned review into health and safety legislation, led by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt. The review found that the health and safety system is broadly "fit for purpose" and made it clear that there is "no case for radically altering current health and safety legislation" – the problem "lies less with the regulations themselves and more with the way they are applied". We cautioned that the government could be trying to do "too much, too soon", especially with the Health and Safety Executive facing a 35 per cent budget cut



IOSH Chief Executive Rob Strange OBE (left) with Employment Minister Chris Grayling (centre) and Professor Löfstedt in Brussels

...but government has other ideas

Prime Minister David Cameron was quick to tighten the timetable for legal reforms, as well as increasing the proposed 35 per cent cut in the total number of health and safety laws to 50 per cent. In January, we raised concerns over this response, arguing that in the rush to complete the significant programme of work the government has set out, the results could be dangerously flawed – with serious consequences for both the businesses it is trying to benefit and the millions of people who work for them

Read more at

www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/news/our_response_to_government.aspx

Talking risk at the heart of European politics

Following the launch of the Löfstedt Review, with its focus on the influence of Europe on domestic law, we announced that we'll be holding a workshop at the European Parliament. The event will bring together policy-makers, politicians, academics and enforcers to talk about risk regulation and evidence-based policy-making. Professor Löfstedt is backing the event, which will be staged later in 2012

More on the background is at

www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/news/latest_member_news/iosh_in_eu_role.aspx

Safety alliances in South Africa

IOSH is planning to boost its presence in South Africa with two new alliances. We are now working with the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to give SAIOSH members professional recognition, and have agreed with NOSA, a local training organisation, to offer IOSH membership as part of its training course

On track for new collaboration

IOSH had its first bilateral meeting with the Office of Rail Regulation in January. The two organisations discussed how they could work together more closely on areas including professional development and new good practice guides

Show me the money

IOSH introduced an online quiz as part of its Life Savings campaign in February. The Save a Million quiz is designed to help members turn senior managers' perceptions of health and safety around, and joins other free resources and downloads at www.iosh.co.uk/lifesavings. The Parliamentary EDM we drafted (number 1884), calling for a range of steps to tackle the huge bill caused by health and safety failures, has so far been backed by 44 MPs

More details at
www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/news/latest_member_news/challenge_the_perceptions.aspx



Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (left), tries the quiz at the Tory conference, hosted by IOSH Head of Communications Ian Smart

Qualified 'fit note' for new review

We supported much of 'Health at work – an independent review of sickness absence' by Dame Carol Black and David Frost CBE, for the Department for Work and Pensions. In our response, we backed the review's call for a new independent assessment service for GPs and employers, and better guidance on 'fitness to work' assessments for doctors. But we also took the opportunity to push for more tax breaks for health support offered by employers to help their staff. And we called for more support to improve parts of the public sector that are failing to manage attendance and return-to-work issues effectively, as well as better occupational health training for GPs, keeping advice lines and stronger multidisciplinary working

IOSH's full response to the review is at
www.iosh.co.uk/condocs along with responses to a range of other recent consultations

In Parliament

- In a Work and Pensions Questions session in January, IOSH suggested questions to a number of MPs, with Labour MP Katy Clark arguing that reducing health and safety regulation could mean that UK economy losses exceed the £22 billion estimate. Another Labour MP, Sheila Gilmore, asked the Minister, Chris Grayling, to stop “peddling myths” about health and safety
- During a Lords Questions debate in January, Lord McKenzie of Luton picked up on the Prime Minister’s references to a “health and safety monster”, requesting that he “stop making ill informed comments that undermine the system”
- In a Business Questions session in February, Labour MP David Hanson intervened on the Red Tape Challenge, questioning whether it was right to water down health and safety regulation when 171 people were killed at work last year. Forty-three MPs have so far signed EDM 2567 expressing alarm at the number of deaths

London 2012 – already breaking records

Employment Minister Chris Grayling was one of the speakers at our ‘Going for gold’ reception at Westminster in February. Lawrence Waterman, former IOSH President and now Head of Health and Safety at the Olympic Delivery Authority, talked about the record-breaking safety levels achieved during the four-year construction phase of the Olympic park and village. The Olympic build is seen as one of the biggest health and safety success stories of recent years, and came in on time and on budget. Labour Shadow Minister Stephen Timms also spoke at the event, which featured our Life Savings campaign. The campaign highlights the financial savings to be made by good health and safety

Read more at
www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/news/latest_member_news/going_for_gold_at_westminster.aspx



Chris Grayling at IOSH's Westminster reception

Own goal for safety?

Launched in February at Wembley, the home of English football, IOSH's new Sports Grounds and Events Group called for football terraces at big stadiums to remain a relic of the past. It's recently been announced that the Scottish Premier League will pilot 'safe-standing' areas. MP Steve Rotheram, whose Liverpool constituency included many of the fans involved in the Hillsborough Stadium disaster in which 96 people lost their lives 23 years ago, spoke at the launch. Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, backed our call to keep the ban: “Why would people want to take 10 steps back?”

Read more at
www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/news/latest_news_releases/03_warning_against_football.aspx



MP Steve Rotheram (left) with Chief Executive of IOSH Rob Strange OBE (centre) and IOSH President Subash Ludhra

In the news

- In January, UK Prime Minister David Cameron described health and safety as a “monster”. IOSH hit back quickly, calling the attack “appalling and unhelpful”. Our comments appeared in almost 100 news outlets including *The Daily Mail*, *The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph*, as well as during an interview on BBC Radio 5 Live
- February saw the launch of IOSH’s Sports Grounds and Events Group, alongside a call warning against the return of terracing in football stadiums. The story was picked up by BBC Radio 4 You and Yours, BBC Radio 5 Live and LBC Radio
- Features on the Highways Agency and New Look – both speakers at IOSH 2012 – were published in *Highways* magazine and *Retail Systems* magazine. Conference news was covered by trade magazines including *Government Business* and *Plant and Works Engineering*

Read the latest coverage at www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/media_centre/iosh_in_the_news.aspx

Going for good practice in Gibraltar

We launched a new pilot associate branch for members in Gibraltar in March, as part of our International Network framework. The country’s minister with responsibility for health and safety spoke at the launch event on his hopes that the new branch would act as a driver for local health and safety good practice

SDP ASAP

More than 450 people are now using IOSH’s new online skills development portfolio. The portfolio is designed to assess and approve members’ skills and is part of the Initial Professional Development process which members complete to achieve Chartered status. The new style online tool, launched late last year, means that each individual stage is assessed when it’s finished, rather than at the end of the whole process, giving members assurance that they’re on the right track. It also allows members to cut as much as a year off the portfolio development process, taking on average six months – one member managed it in six weeks

More information from membership@iosh.co.uk

New thinking in Manchester: IOSH 2012

IOSH 2012, in March, broke records for delegate numbers. Despite the current economic climate, we welcomed more than 900 delegates, over 550 CoreSkills+ bookings and well over 1,000 visitors to our annual conference and exhibition at Manchester Central. Keynote speaker Professor Ragnar Löfstedt announced a new cross-party parliamentary committee of MEPs to promote evidence-based policy-making in the EU, and IOSH President Subash Ludhra told delegates: “To those who tell us we can’t afford health and safety – as professionals we need to let them know they simply can’t afford to be without it”



More than 900 delegates came to IOSH 2012 in Manchester

In numbers

- 130 people logged on to the Retail and Distribution Group's webinar on the HSE's new cost recovery programme in February – our biggest online event audience to date
- More than 5,000 people currently follow IOSH at IOSH_tweets
- Over 2,600 people network and debate via our official IOSH LinkedIn group

One size doesn't fit all

Recognising that organisations – and the challenges they face – come in all shapes and sizes, IOSH's Commercial team has repackaged its customised support service. The service is already being used by firms including BT and toolhire chain HSS to develop projects ranging from online assessment packages to managing distance learning programmes

Contact businessdevelopment@iosh.co.uk for more information

Health and safety makes the (global) grade

IOSH has campaigned successfully to make health and safety a key part of how organisations measure their sustainability. The Institution worked with colleagues in the Center for Health and Safety Sustainability to mobilise support for health and safety reporting in the Global Reporting Initiative's framework. As a result of the action, health and safety has gone from being on the brink of being dropped from the framework to being in the top four topics for improvement. The GRI helps employers compare how they rate on ethical business practices

More at
www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/news/latest_member_news/osh_benchmarking_success.aspx

Lost in translation?

IOSH has commissioned research looking at the UK's health and safety legal landscape, currently dominating industry debate, and how it affects both small businesses and health and safety professionals across all sectors. We're concerned that the government's 'light touch' reform agenda could leave businesses struggling to interpret what they need to do in practice. The two-year study is being carried out by experts at the University of Nottingham, and is part of a wider IOSH research programme called 'Health and safety in a changing world'

More information on current IOSH research is at www.iosh.co.uk/researchfund

One minute, four languages

'IOSH in 60 seconds', our mini corporate brochure, has now been published in Arabic, Spanish and Turkish, as well as English

Download 'IOSH in 60 seconds' at <http://bit.ly/iosh60sec>

...and finally

After 12 years as Chief Executive of IOSH, Rob Strange OBE announced he was stepping down. Rob will leave the Institution in May 2013

**Need to know more?
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