

Welcome to the third 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

Gold medal for health and safety

IOSH has paid tribute to the role pragmatic health and safety played in planning and delivering a successful Olympic Games. Policy Executive Director Dr Luise Vassie said: "The planning and hosting of the London Olympic Games has given us a twofold health and safety legacy. First, we hope it leaves a lasting impression on our construction sector, where employers use the same techniques. Second, the Games should act as a blueprint for how to organise safe, large scale events." Before the start of the Games, IOSH praised the build project where accidents were reduced by as much as two thirds on the industry average, with zero fatalities and a potential saving of £7 million through its occupational hygiene programme alone



London's main Olympic stadium housed 80,000-strong crowds

...safety techniques highlighted

IOSH and the Health and Safety Executive have published research on how safety techniques were communicated during the Olympic build. Researchers from Loughborough University were commissioned to find out how the Olympic Delivery Authority was able to foster positive worker attitudes and behaviour in health and safety

Free full and summary reports of 'Talk the talk – walk the walk' are at www.iosh.co.uk/researchreports

...safety head honoured

Former IOSH President Lawrence Waterman was named in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Head of Health and Safety at the Olympic Delivery Authority, Lawrence was made OBE, in recognition of his significant contribution to occupational safety and health during the Olympic Park build. IOSH Council member Ann Jones and IOSH member James Leitch were also honoured, both receiving MBES

In Parliament

- In a Westminster Hall debate in June, Labour MP Meg Munn cited IOSH in a debate on sleep apnoea, asking why work-related road deaths aren't included as workplace fatalities
- In July the Employment Minister, Chris Grayling, announced that after consultation, the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council would remain as an arms-length body, as recommended in IOSH's consultation response

Red tape tangle?

IOSH spoke out on what it described as a "misleading announcement" on plans to cut red tape. Shops, offices, pubs and clubs will no longer face "burdensome" health and safety inspections, and over 3,000 regulations will be scrapped or overhauled in a "radical plan" to curb red tape and boost British business growth, according to a release in September from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Richard Jones, IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs, said: "This sort of announcement has been made before and it's very disappointing that everyone immediately starts pointing the finger at health and safety – always seen as an easy target. The talk of reducing around 3,000 regulations and at the same time focusing on health and safety is misleading"

Speaking out on static statistics

Statistics published in July show that the number of work-related deaths in Britain's workplaces has hardly changed. IOSH voiced concern that the statistics don't count the thousands of people who die each year from occupational illness or while driving for work, pointing out that the true cost of work-related injury and ill health is much greater. According to the HSE, 73 workers were killed from April 2011 to March 2012 – a reduction of just two from the previous year

Researching health and safety in the modern world...

In July, IOSH issued a new call for research on current health and safety challenges. It's the second round of studies to be commissioned to help health and safety professionals protect workers in tight economic conditions. IOSH's five-year research programme, 'Health and safety in a changing world', explores how practitioners can reconcile contributions to economic success with worker protection

...and in big business

IOSH has commissioned Loughborough University to conduct a three-year study on health and safety knowledge flows among staff in large multi-networked organisations. The research team will focus on healthcare, construction and logistics. IOSH Head of Research and Information Services Jane White said: "The results promise to be fascinating and could provide vital clues to practitioners as to what turns knowledge into 'knowing' – putting the messages into practice"

Find out more about IOSH's current research programme at www.iosh.co.uk/researchprog.aspx

Spotlight on safety: Euro awards

IOSH has been urging members to enter the European Good Practice Awards which recognise innovative ways of encouraging managers and employees to work together to improve health and safety. The Awards are part of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work's current campaign, 'Working together for risk prevention'. The closing date for entries is 03 October 2012. IOSH is also suggesting that members use the European Week for Safety and Health at Work, starting on 22 October, to highlight an issue or start a new initiative in their business

Free resources, ideas and information are at www.iosh.co.uk/eurocampaign

Crystal clear

IOSH's website has been awarded the Plain English Crystal Mark, following an overhaul of its entire content. The Crystal Mark recognises use of clear, jargon-free language

OH in BBC QEII 60

An occupational health pioneer was chosen by the BBC in June as a 'New Elizabethan' after nomination by IOSH. As part of the Jubilee celebrations, Radio 4 invited nominations for the 60 most influential men and women during the reign of Elizabeth II. On behalf of health and safety organisations, the Institution proposed Sir Richard Doll (1912–2005). A British physiologist who became the leading epidemiologist of the 20th century, he turned the subject into a rigorous science. IOSH Chief Executive Rob Strange OBE said: "Evidence-based occupational health has made an immense contribution to modern life over the last 60 years and Sir Richard was undoubtedly one of its pioneers"

Look at the full list at www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2012/new-elizabethans-list.html



Sir Richard Doll, named a New Elizabethan

New media makeover

IOSH's blog has been given a makeover that allows members to share views more easily. New features mean that members can share blog posts on sites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest, by the click of a button. The Tumblr blog also features a new team of contributors, including Chief Executive Rob Strange OBE and Dr Luise Vassie, Executive Director for Policy

Read the IOSH blog at ioshblog.tumblr.com

Branching out in Qatar

A new IOSH branch is now open in Qatar, with an inaugural event planned for 01 October in Doha. It builds on the success of the Middle East Branch, which launched in 2006 and now has over 900 members. Qatar already has close to 200 members, and will host the IOSH Middle East Conference in April next year. Oman has also applied to become a branch of IOSH

In the news

- The IOSH/HSE research on the communication approach used during the Olympics and Paralympics build project achieved coverage in trade press including *Health and Safety at Work*, *New Civil Engineer*, *Materials Handling World*, *OHS online*, *Construction Manager* and *Design Build Source online*
- IOSH's response to the government's announcement to cut red tape across 3,000 regulations resulted in Head of Policy and Public Affairs Richard Jones being interviewed by BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 4 *You and Yours* and BBC Radio Derby
- Head of Research and Information Services Jane White was interviewed by the BBC on the health risks associated with sitting for too long. She was also interviewed by BBC Three Counties radio on research linking heart attacks and strokes with shift work
- IOSH's Fire Risk Management Group event on fire risk in the licensing trade was covered in the *Birmingham Press*, *Fire Risk Management Journal*, *Licensed and Catering News* and *Licensing World*

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

Feedback too fast

IOSH has voiced concerns that the UK government is limiting time for comment on plans to cut health and safety regulation. New guidance for government departments and other public bodies recommends as little as two weeks' consultation on changes to policy or legislation, and sometimes no final consultation at all. Currently, the HSE gives people at least three months to have their say. Reducing the time for stakeholders to gather and submit data will mean that legislative proposals may not be robust and evidence-based. IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs Richard Jones said: "We have diverse experience and expertise and are keen to contribute. Consultation isn't about rushing, it's about listening"

Heads up

IOSH has spoken out against dropping two statutory instruments, arguing it could erode standards and essential protections. We opposed the proposal to axe the Construction (Head Protection) Regulations, as it could send the message that head protection need not be worn, leading to serious head injuries and even deaths. IOSH also opposed revoking the Notification of Conventional Tower Cranes Regulations, which could mean that the potential benefits of this relatively new register are never realised and public confidence is damaged

A fair ACoP?

IOSH is involved in a huge round of HSE consultations on 30 approved codes of practice. ACoPs have a unique place in the legal system, given their quasi-legal status and the degree of certainty that they give duty holders. IOSH agrees with updating, streamlining and simplifying, but is against eroding standards, losing guidance or weakening legal status. We have spoken out against the proposed withdrawal of codes for the Management Regulations (L21), agriculture (L116) and pipelines (L81). We're also against an arbitrary length limit of 32 pages, believing it could mean important details are left out

Find out more about current consultations at www.iosh.co.uk/consultations

Getting the policy basics right: new EU forum

IOSH was at the launch of an EU working group on risk-based policy-making at the European Parliament in Brussels in September. The event, organised by UK MEP Julie Girling, drew an audience of MEPs, academics and stakeholders. IOSH President Subash Ludhra said: "In the formation of policy, it's right that we examine the risks involved and, importantly, that we understand how the public, government, employers and other interested parties perceive them"

'Passionate, pompous and pragmatic'

That's how almost 500 health and safety professionals described their peers in a recent survey conducted by IOSH in the lead-up to its Training Roadshow 2012. IOSH Commercial Development Manager Tracey Wright said: "The results from the survey are fascinating – and judging by the responses, we definitely need to work on rebranding health and safety. The best thing we can do is acknowledge who we are, what we do and what our image is, and use this information to our advantage"

Details of the roadshow are at www.iosh.co.uk/trainingroadshow

Warm relationship with ICE

We have been exploring the possibility of setting up a regular forum with the Institution of Civil Engineers. Areas of common interest include the proposed IOSH Construction Specialist Register, findings from the recent review of CDM2007, the new 'Healthy by design' guide developed by Crossrail, and training for health and safety professionals in design awareness

Who you gonna call?

IOSH has reiterated its backing for the new Myth Busters Panel, which has contested decisions made by insurance companies, councils and employers since it was set up in April by the Department for Work and Pensions. 'Over-zealous' decisions made on health and safety grounds include hospitals refusing to have microwaves on wards, a school relocating a treehouse, and sleeping in a camper van banned on a campsite. IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs Richard Jones said: "Real health and safety is about saving lives and preventing serious harm, not these crazy decisions which just bring health and safety into disrepute"



The new Myth Busters Panel is designed to challenge 'conkers bonkers' decisions

The bigger picture

In a recent Department of Health consultation on a public health workforce strategy, IOSH highlighted the key role that health and safety professionals play in helping to protect public health, from preventing transport accidents to controlling legionella. Responding to the consultation under the 'Healthy lives, healthy people' strategy, we called for competence criteria for public health specialists and for 'making every contact count' to include asking about an individual's past and present jobs, where it could inform a specific health issue

No small matter

IOSH has taken part in a survey by the EC on nanotechnology, to gather information on its international use and views on risks. The survey explores legislation, guidance and training. IOSH has already funded new guidance through the UK Nanotechnology Partnership

And finally...

Congratulations to the successful candidates joining IOSH's Council: Lawrence Bamber, Teresa Budworth, Mubin Chowdhury, Philip Clarke, Douglas Connell, Nick Cornwell-Smith, Stephen Granger, Dr Vincent Ho, John Lacey, Stephen Mills, Michelle Peate-Morgan and Roger Smith

**Need to know more?
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