

Welcome to the fourth issue of *IOSHinfo*, our 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](mailto:info@iosh.co.uk)

## New CE at IOSH

The successor to Rob Strange OBE as IOSH Chief Executive has been announced. Jan Chmiel, CEO of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, will take over in April 2013. Having held senior roles in international organisations including Shell, the BG Group and the Energy Saving Trust, he has been responsible for developing and implementing strategies for sustainable energy. Jan has worked with CEOs in the automotive, retail and waste sectors, specialising in change management and operational improvements. His international experience includes working in developing markets in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Europe. In his 12 years at IOSH, Rob has seen IOSH awarded a Royal Charter and develop its membership to in excess of 40,000 professionals worldwide



Next in line: Jan Chmiel

## Stopping the distortions

IOSH challenged politicians to get a fresh perspective on health and safety, tackling myths and misconceptions at the three main political party conferences this autumn. And with deaths and illness and injury figures at work still too high, we urged the government to stop branding health and safety regulations a 'burden'. We themed our stand around a 'hall of mirrors' to make the point that people too often get a distorted view of health and safety



Business Secretary Vince Cable with IOSH's Richard Jones at the Liberal Democrat conference

## In Parliament

- In a Parliamentary debate in October, MP Iain Wright highlighted IOSH's LiFe Savings campaign
- Baroness Hayter and Stephen Timms MP asked Parliamentary questions in support of IOSH positions
- IOSH met the new Employment Minister, Mark Hoban MP, to discuss the speed of change post-Löfstedt, RIDDOR and new proposals on consultation periods

## Handing over the baton

New President Gerard Hand took office at the IOSH Networks Conference in November, succeeding Subash Ludhra. Speaking at the Annual Dinner, he said: "My aim for the coming year is for each and every one of us to be proud of not only who we are but also what we do, as we do make a huge difference to the lives of everyone we work with, by keeping them safe and healthy"



Gerard Hand at the Networks Conference

## New to the network

A new IOSH Branch in Oman has now opened. The branch will be inaugurated formally at an event on 22 April 2013 in Muscat

## Mindful about mental health

On 7 November, National Stress Awareness Day, at the Networks Conference, Chief Executive Rob Strange OBE signed the 'Time to Change' pledge, declaring IOSH's opposition to stigma and discrimination against people with mental health problems. Work-related mental ill health costs the UK economy up to £26 billion a year in staff turnover and lost production

Read more at

[www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_news\\_releases/59\\_time\\_to\\_change.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/59_time_to_change.aspx)

## Rewarding excellence in communications

The first IOSH Excellence in Communications Award was presented at the Networks Conference. The Retail and Distribution Group took first prize for a series of webinars which enabled it to reach a wider audience. Topics included the Health and Safety Executive's new Fees for Intervention scheme and diesel fumes

## State of the profession

The average salary of a health and safety professional is nine per cent higher now than in 2009, according to nearly 4,000 members in IOSH's 2012 survey of salaries and attitudes. Despite cuts in budgets and staffing, members told us that they feel valued by their organisations. But the survey also suggested possible future problems for the profession – compared to previous surveys, there are now proportionally fewer people in the early stages of their health and safety career

[Read all the findings at  
www.iosh.co.uk/salarysurvey](http://www.iosh.co.uk/salarysurvey)

## Synergy in Singapore

Singapore's head of health and safety has agreed to work more closely with IOSH in the Asia-Pacific region. President Gerard Hand and IOSH Singapore Branch members met Engineer Ho Siong Hin, director of the Ministry of Manpower's occupational safety and health division, to discuss plans including an event to showcase the health and safety success of the London 2012 Olympic park build

[More information from  
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_member\\_news/  
singapore-iosh\\_agreement.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_member_news/singapore-iosh_agreement.aspx)

## On track for occupational health

Crossrail has been named the winner of the first IOSH Railway Group Award for Occupational Health. The company won the award for its health and wellbeing strategy, which has already delivered health assessments to 6,000 workers alongside a series of campaigns focusing on key health issues. IOSH Railway Group vice chair Iain Ferguson said: "Ill health is the silent, slow killer of people working across UK industry. The rail sector hasn't paid enough attention to it in the recent past, but we're now seeing that change." The award was announced at IOSH's rail industry conference in November

[Find out more at  
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_news\\_releases/66\\_  
rail\\_award\\_winners\\_named.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/66_rail_award_winners_named.aspx)



IOSH's Railway Group wants health to be as important an issue as safety in the sector

## Charged with stopping electrical injuries

IOSH's Hong Kong Branch has urged construction managers to give employees working with electricity the right training and equipment. The call comes in the wake of a rise in the number of workers killed or injured from shocks or burns. Figures released in October showed that to date in 2012, deaths from electrical accidents were four times the total for the whole of 2011, with eight people dead and three seriously injured. Branch Chair Dr Sammy Wan said: "The increase in fatalities from working with electrics is alarming and something needs to be done. Some workers think that low voltage contact is much less dangerous, but all the accidents this year are down to low voltage contact"

[More details from  
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_news\\_releases/55\\_  
hong\\_kong\\_safety\\_warning.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/55_hong_kong_safety_warning.aspx)

## A lifetime in safety...

At the SHPIOSH Awards in October, Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor CBE was presented an IOSH Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on the occupational and environmental causes of lung disease. His pioneering research has influenced current preventative work and has made him a key adviser to governments worldwide. IOSH was pleased to host three MPs and two peers at the Awards and Dinner

[For details of all industry award winners, see www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_member\\_news/shp\\_iosh\\_awards\\_2012.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_member_news/shp_iosh_awards_2012.aspx)



Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor has led research in occupational lung disease

## ...30 years in Ireland

In November IOSH's Ireland Branch marked 30 years by hosting the International Safety and Health Symposium in Dublin. Within a month it moved into new offices, sharing premises with the National Irish Safety Organisation

## ...a week in Europe

During European Week for Safety and Health at Work in October IOSH showcased examples of members' good practice around leadership and worker engagement. We profiled work at London City Airport, Nestlé UK and CHEP Europe in a series of three short films. Nestlé's risk assessment process went on to win the top health and safety award at IOSH's national food and drink manufacturing conference

[See the films at www.youtube.com/ioshchannel](http://www.youtube.com/ioshchannel)



## Stormont gathering

In November IOSH held a meeting at Stormont to launch a new edition of *Think about health and safety* for Northern Ireland which aims to inform and support Members of the Legislative Assembly in their health and safety responsibilities. During the event we briefed MLAs about our work and concerns

## Getting the ball rolling on safety

New IOSH President Gerard Hand has met with the Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee to discuss health and safety issues in staging the FIFA World Cup football tournament. The Committee is responsible for the construction of arenas, a metro network and the new Doha International Airport. IOSH's Qatar Branch was launched earlier this year

## Revising RIDDOR remains risky

IOSH has put forward a 10-point plan of action against proposed changes to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations. The HSE has suggested relaxing RIDDOR requirements for self-employed workers to report occupational injuries and diseases. Richard Jones, IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs, said: "These changes would give the dangerous message that these accidents and illnesses aren't important and won't attract enforcement action, no matter how serious they are. This could lead to more accidents, illness, injury and death"

**For more information see**  
[www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_news\\_releases/54\\_plans\\_send\\_wrong\\_message.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/54_plans_send_wrong_message.aspx)

## Starting up safely

IOSH launched its Safe Start Up guides in October, giving clear and simple health and safety advice to small firms or to those planning to set up a new small business. The free guides are aimed at specific occupations, and designed to be 'jargon-busters' with practical tips and suggestions. Five guides are out now, with more in the pipeline

**The Safe Start Up pages are at**  
[www.iosh.co.uk/safestartup](http://www.iosh.co.uk/safestartup)

## Researching responsibly

IOSH has worked with the Universities Safety and Health Association to publish a guide on responsible research. The document was designed to inform higher education institutions and research councils in any discipline about occupational safety and health issues

**Responsible research – managing health and safety in research: guidance for the not-for-profit sector is available at**  
[www.iosh.co.uk/ushaguide](http://www.iosh.co.uk/ushaguide)



## Quantum of safety?

IOSH has also worked with USHA to support a new guide on risks in using nanotechnology in research and development. The document, by the UK NanoSafety Partnership Group, is the first of its kind to cover health and safety risks in this relatively new field

## Supply chains: a critical link in health and safety

Research published by IOSH shows how supply chains can influence a company's health and safety practice. Looking at case studies from construction and merchant shipping, the research teams found that buyers can make health and safety central to procurement processes, for example requiring suppliers to be certificated and to take part in training initiatives. In the container trade industry, buyers are less interested in intervening in their suppliers' health and safety management practices – but the research suggests that regulation can play a more compelling role

**The limits of influence – the role of supply chains in influencing health and safety management in two sectors is available at**  
[www.iosh.co.uk/books\\_and\\_resources/published\\_research.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/books_and_resources/published_research.aspx)

## In the news

- IOSH's renewed call for road-related accidents to be counted in RIDDOR was reported in *HR Review*, [fleetdirectory.co.uk](http://fleetdirectory.co.uk) and *Continuity Insurance and Risk* online magazine
- The launch of IOSH's new Qatar Branch was widely covered, with a front-page lead in *Gulf Times*. It also featured in *Al Arab*, *Al Raya*, *Ameinfo.com*, *The Peninsula* and [Nuqudy.com](http://Nuqudy.com)

Read the latest coverage at [www.iosh.co.uk/news\\_and\\_events/media\\_centre/iosh\\_in\\_the\\_news.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/media_centre/iosh_in_the_news.aspx)

## At the sharp end

IOSH has warned against excluding non-medical workers from the so-called 'sharps' regulations. It's estimated that there could be as many as 100,000 sharps injuries in the UK every year, bringing risk of exposure to blood-borne viruses and serious diseases. In our response to the review of the regulations covering needles, scalpel blades and other sharp instruments we've urged that all workers at risk – from waste disposal contractors to prison employees – should be covered, not only hospital and healthcare workers



Sharps: not just about healthcare workers

## Prognosis on lost working days

Work-related deaths, injuries and cases of ill health went down in Britain, according to annual statistics published by the HSE in October – but working days lost to illness and injury increased. IOSH is concerned that the outlook may only get worse with further cutbacks and deregulatory moves in health and safety

## Rewriting the rule book

IOSH's latest research publication, *Building solid foundations*, helps organisations make their health and safety rules and procedures more relevant to their work and staff. The researchers from the Netherlands and Australia give practical guidance, with nine steps to good rule management, including employees' views and recommendations. IOSH Executive Director of Policy Dr Luise Vassie said: "This research shows that with on-the-job experience of their company's operations, employees' needs can be matched with good health and safety practice"

More on IOSH's research programme from [www.iosh.co.uk/researchprog.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/researchprog.aspx)

Need to know more?  
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