

CIEH update for POOSH meeting 14th May 2013

CIEH Health and safety Conference March 2013

The event was entitled "Planning for the future and learning from the past"

It covered changes planned e.g. LA National Code, current issues e.g. dangers of industrial gas abuse (Liquid nitrogen case and other examples), risk based regulation and learning from the past e.g. Olympics and the implications for the future. The event was well attended and will be followed up with other work e.g. revision of the CIEH Outdoor Events Guidance, development of additional Guidance on Safety Advisory Groups.

BOHS Annual Conference

The CIEH Chief Executive gave a presentation that looked at changes in health and safety enforcement in Local Authorities. Inspection numbers have reduced significantly and LA budget cuts are continuing. Interventions focus on risk but there are increasing concerns about delivery capacity as inspection requirements reduce and the potential for cost saving is perceived. The transfer of public health responsibilities to Local Authorities from 1st April 2013 may bolster resources in certain areas e.g. in promoting healthy and safe workplaces. CIEH is supporting environmental health engagement in local public health initiatives.

National Local Authority Enforcement Code

The CIEH submitted a response to this consultation. Key points were the support for risk based approaches to interventions; support for the national framework for professional competence with a need for consistent implementation; concerns about the restrictions within the Annex that directs inspection focus; support for intelligence led local inspection; reinforcement of the value of regulator visits, noting the evidence that SMEs are often reliant on these to assist compliance and the need for good guidance on specific areas of the Code.

OHSCR

The CIEH continues to support the register and believes that it needs continuing promotion to extend its reach.

Regulators compliance code – Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO)

The CIEH has responded to the consultation on revision of the Code. The Code applies to health and safety regulation and the activities of central and local regulators. The revision seeks to simplify the Code which is welcomed. The CIEH reinforced the need to properly balance prosperity and protection; supported moves towards earned recognition but emphasised the need for appropriate checks and balances to deliver good compliance and supported a consistent national approach to competence.

Professionally assured competence of regulators- BRDO

The BRDO is carrying out a project on regulators competence. CIEH is in discussion with BRDO on this work (David Kidney – previously Head of Policy at CIEH has been seconded to lead this project). The Common Approach to Competency for Regulators sets out the framework for Competence and is supported by the members of the RDNA Board. BRDO is considering how this might be expanded to deliver assured competence. CIEH will continue to be involved in this work.