

Welcome to the fifth 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 on the links or drop us a line at info.iosh.co.uk

Fit for the future

Hundreds of health and safety professionals gathered at London's ExCel during IOSH's annual conference in February. IOSH 2013, with over 60 expert speakers, was themed 'Fit for the future'. There were more visitors than ever before at the event, with a record number of group conference bookings and a 12 per cent increase in Core Skills+ workshops. In his keynote on the first day, Shadow Minister for Employment, Stephen Timms MP called for the government to heed the advice from IOSH in the current review of health and safety legislation

More details from
www.iosh.co.uk/news/iosh_2013.aspx



Staff at IOSH's stand handled enquiries on membership and professional development

Sustainability under scrutiny

A recently published report shows that some global organisations ranked highly for sustainability have poor health and safety records. *Current practices in occupational health and safety sustainability reporting* found crucial gaps and a lack of transparency, with differing methods of calculating injury rates. One organisation had 49 workplace fatalities in just one year. The report was published by the Center for Safety and Health Sustainability, which was formed in 2011 by IOSH, the American Society of Safety Engineers and the American Industrial Hygiene Association

More details from
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/07_ranking_system_questioned.aspx

Shocking heart news

In an IOSH survey of UK businesses on the use of defibrillators, used to restart the heart after a cardiac arrest, 513 out of 1,000 companies questioned did not have the life-saving equipment. Almost two thirds of those responding 'no' were from medium-sized to very large companies. Defibrillators can increase cardiac arrest survival rates by up to 75 per cent, yet cost less than £1,000

See IOSH's occupational health toolkit at
www.iosh.co.uk/ohtoolkit

In the news

- IOSH 2013 was previewed in *Government Business* magazine, with features on speakers appearing in *Motor Transport* and *Occupational Health*. Conference news was covered by *TUC blog* and *HR Magazine*. *Canadian Occupational Safety* covered IOSH's 'Bright sparks' student poster competition
- In January, the Health and Safety Authority announced its fatality and injury statistics for 2012. IOSH's comments on the figures featured in the *Irish Times*, *Irish Sun*, *Irish Independent*, *Irish Examiner* and regional titles. In March, the IOSH Ireland Branch Rural Industries Section event on safety in agriculture featured on Tipp FM and Beat 102–103
- *Yorkshire Post*, *Hull Daily Mail*, *Northern Echo* and Real and Smooth Radio featured IOSH's news encouraging businesses to install a defibrillator. The issue was also featured in a number of trade publications including *Education Executive*

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

Joining forces

From next year, IOSH's annual conference will be held with Safety & Health Expo. Rob Strange OBE, IOSH Chief Executive, said: "Combining two leading annual events brings the industry together to discuss topical issues and showcase the latest products and services"

More information at
www.safety-health-expo.co.uk

Leaving IOSH...

Hazel Harvey has retired as IOSH's Membership Executive Director. When she arrived in 1993, IOSH had fewer than 9,000 members – now there are 42,000. Said Hazel: "We were very much an organisation with aspirations to grow in recognition, and we achieved that with our Royal Charter – and we gained the Charter by putting in proper professional development systems"



...and joining

Simon Bowen joined IOSH in March as the new Membership Executive Director. One of Simon's priorities is to raise the profile and status of members. Previously at the British Psychological Society, he says he will relish the challenge of developing a worldwide framework for professional assessments



Decoding core standards

A review by IOSH's professional ethics committee has resulted in a remodelled Code of Conduct, which came into force in March. The Code covers four core standards: integrity, competence, respect and service

Full details at
www.iosh.co.uk/codeofconduct

Railing at road risk

London Mayor Boris Johnson has called for action on occupational road risk, after Transport for London published the findings of a review into construction logistics and cyclist safety in February. The report followed a worrying number of collisions involving construction vehicles. "The report contains some hugely important findings and our task now is to press the construction industry, safety regulators, highway authorities and politicians to make it a priority to take forward the recommendations," said Johnson. IOSH backed the call, echoing a long-held position on road accident reporting

More details at
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/06_mayor_right_on_road_risk.aspx



Johnson wants action on road accidents, including IOSH's push to extend RIDDOR

Call to sign up to ACoP reprieve

President Gerard Hand has opened IOSH's first online petition, to save the Management of Health and Safety at Work Approved Code of Practice. IOSH is encouraging anyone who wants to improve and retain the current code to sign the e-petition on the government's website. If the petition reaches 100,000 signatures, it could trigger a debate in Parliament, giving sympathetic MPs a chance to make a case for retention

More information at
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_member_news/e-petition_to_save_acop.aspx

IOSH in UAE

Organisations from across the United Arab Emirates met in Dubai in late December at the IOSH UAE annual conference to share ideas on reducing work injuries, illness and deaths in the region. Middle East Branch UAE co-ordinator Dr Rob Cooling said: "We want to play a part in protecting employees in the Emirates, working with government and organisations to help implement good practice to cut the ill health and injury incidents that we see far too much of"

It's a (safe) wrap

Film producer Chiara Ventura picked up a trophy for best health and safety plan during the National Film and Television School's 2013 awards ceremony. She won £1,000 from IOSH's Thames Valley Branch. Judges from the branch said 24-year-old Chiara's student team had "done the health and safety industry proud" when making the film, *Anamnesis*. During four days of shooting on a beach, the cast and crew had no phone signal and had to use walkie-talkies. The nearest city was four hours away, so everything had to be thought through and planned well in advance



The Thames Valley Branch sponsors the NFTS award to highlight health and safety issues in the film sector

Reform review: a “missed opportunity”

February saw the release of Professor Ragnar Löfstedt's *Reclaiming health and safety for all: a review of progress one year on*. The review outlines how the government is implementing his recommendations. Ministers want to scrap or improve 84 per cent of health and safety regulations by the end of 2014. IOSH was disappointed that its concerns about the speed and scale of the implementation were not voiced in the publication. IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs Richard Jones described it as a “missed opportunity”

More details at

www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/05_missed_chance_for_rethink.aspx

In sickness and in health?

IOSH has welcomed government proposals to help businesses manage sickness absence. The Institution has long campaigned for workplaces to be used more to improve health and support people with health conditions to stay in work

More information at

www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/02_sick_absence_plans_welcomed.aspx

Farm fatalities up...

Figures released in January by Ireland's Health and Safety Authority show that the number of people killed in agriculture, forestry and fishing during 2012 rose to 28 – more than half of all occupational fatalities in the country. Twenty-one of these were on farms alone. IOSH Ireland Branch Chair Michelle Peate-Morgan called for urgent improvements in standards. She said: “These annual statistics for deaths in agriculture give a terrible sense of *déjà vu*. We've had almost 120 work-related fatalities in farming and fishing in the last five years. Farms and fisheries in Ireland have a critical need to improve health and safety standards”



Not intractable: improving health and safety standards can reduce deaths in agriculture

...new strategy welcomed

IOSH has praised a new strategy for reducing work-related injuries and illness in Ireland. The Health and Safety Authority's strategy 2013–2015, launched in January, aims to cut the number of work-related fatalities, particularly the high levels in agriculture and fishing. Minister Richard Bruton's comment that health and safety is central to successful enterprise was welcomed by IOSH Ireland Branch Chair Michelle Peate-Morgan: “This highlights the sound business case for good health and safety, complementing the compelling legal and moral argument”

More information at

www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/03_hsa_strategy_welcomed.aspx

That's entertainment – new course

A new management-level course designed to protect workers and crowds at music events has been launched by IOSH. The four-day course is aimed at venue and technical managers and covers the risks associated with large scale crowds and music and other entertainment events. The Managing Safely in the Music and Entertainment Industry course was adapted by Live Nation Entertainment and FLX Consulting Ltd and launched in Liverpool in January

In Parliament

- In December IOSH gave evidence to the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee on the government's new policy on consultations. The Committee used the evidence to argue for a rethink
- In January, the government responded to Dame Carol Black's sickness absence review, accepting a number of recommendations IOSH has been calling for, including the retention of tax relief on employee assistance programmes
- Also in January, in a debate on blacklisting, the Opposition said that construction workers have been blacklisted for raising health and safety concerns

More haste, less speed

Politicians have called for adequate time for consultations on government policy – including health and safety reforms. Ministers want to slash the time allowed for organisations to comment on some proposed law changes, from 12 weeks to as little as two. The aim is to make the consultation process more efficient. IOSH said the plan was “counter-productive” as it could stop stakeholders submitting evidence on important proposals on legislation. The House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee echoed IOSH's concerns, saying laws risk being less robust if they are rushed through without the views of experts sought externally

More information at
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/01_peers_back_iosh_call.aspx



Watching the clock may endanger lives

‘Changing world’ research commissioned

IOSH has commissioned three new projects under its ‘Health and safety in a changing world’ research programme. The latest projects are from Loughborough University, on health and safety in small businesses, Cranfield University, on safety leadership in low hazard environments, and Reading University, on the ‘changing legitimacy’ of health and safety at work

Bright idea

A BBC employee has won IOSH's ‘Bright sparks’ research award. Sarah Davidson, health and safety adviser for the BBC, was commended for her research into laser use in the entertainment industry. Sarah advises on health and safety for programmes including Top Gear, The One Show and Bang Goes the Theory, and carried out the research as part of her MSc

Chance to join Council

IOSH has now opened nominations for the 2013 Council elections. Twelve members will be elected after the AGM in November, to join for a three-year term. The closing date is 31 May
Nomination forms are available from
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