

Welcome to the latest 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](mailto:info@iosh.co.uk)

## Facing the future: new vision

New Chief Executive Jan Chmiel gave his first public address at IOSH's annual Honorary Vice-Presidents' event at the House of Lords in May. On the Institution's future, Jan said: "The best way to face the future is to see what's happening out there, understand what's coming down the track, and to adapt and change, to ensure you remain current, relevant – and, most importantly, that you are still making an impact." He talked through the changes shaping the future of the health and safety profession, including globalisation and internationalising supply chains, relationships with governments and regulators, and investors' growing interest in risk, sustainability, reporting and assurance



Jan Chmiel took over as IOSH Chief Executive in April

## Taking exception to exemption

IOSH has criticised government plans to exempt certain groups of self-employed people from health and safety law. Richard Jones, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at IOSH, argued: "Exemption sends the wrong messages to the self-employed. It implies that sensibly managing health and safety is unnecessary or dispensable for certain groups – whereas it actually helps support productivity and businesses to survive. It could also cause confusion with self-employed people working in all sectors wrongly thinking they're exempt, potentially costing lives"

**More details at**  
[www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_member\\_news/concerns\\_about\\_deregulation.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_member_news/concerns_about_deregulation.aspx)

## Oman on a mission

In April IOSH formally launched its Oman Branch at an event under the patronage of His Excellency Mohammed Kofan, advisor to the Minister of Manpower. President Gerard Hand praised the Ministry's commitment to occupational safety and health as well as the branch committee's efforts in building links with organisations such as the Oman Society of Contractors

## In the news

- IOSH action for Workers' Memorial Day led to the *Bristol Post*, *Oxford Mail*, *Straits Times* (Singapore), *South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong) and others publishing letters from branches on worker safety
- The *International Business Journal*, *Yahoo Finance Hong Kong*, the *Hong Kong Herald* and *Ming Pao* covered the Hong Kong Branch annual conference, which urged a "radical rethink" of construction safety
- *Gulf Times*, *Qatar Tribune*, *Oman Daily Observer*, *Oman Daily Arabic* and the BBC reported on IOSH's new Oman Branch and Middle East Conference
- Radio Russia questioned IOSH on the British media's attitude to health and safety at work despite real concerns for workers' welfare
- IOSH debunked common health and safety myths on Talk Radio Europe, broadcast to nearly a million English speakers in Spain
- IOSH was part of a panel interviewed on the BBC World Service about managing the potential ill health effects of shiftwork

## 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)

## Breakthrough on tax breaks

IOSH welcomed the UK Budget announcement giving tax breaks on health initiatives at work. A targeted tax relief will be introduced, so amounts up to £500 paid by employers on recommended schemes are not treated as a taxable benefit in kind. Richard Jones, IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs, said: "Removing tax disincentives and encouraging employers who want to do the right thing for their employees is a win-win situation for everyone – for employers and businesses, for workers and their families, for the economy and society as a whole"

For more information, see

[www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_news\\_releases/19\\_tax\\_breaks\\_a\\_win-win.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/19_tax_breaks_a_win-win.aspx)



Employer-provided therapies like physio have been given a tax break

## Technically transformed

IOSH has renamed its Technician membership category – the new 'Technical' title describes members at this level more clearly and precisely. Executive Director of Membership, Simon Bowen, explained IOSH's thinking: "We've responded to a large number of member requests on this name change. We're keeping the designation (TechIOSH) and entry requirements – a recognised qualification such as the NEBOSH General Certificate and reasonable health and safety experience. Current certificates are still valid"

## Getting fit for purpose

The Department for Work and Pensions has added IOSH's suggested 'reminder' paragraph on RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) to the revised employer guidance on the 'Fit note'. Richard Jones, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at IOSH, commented: "This is a significant advocacy success for IOSH and our POOSH colleagues, aimed at helping to tackle the serious national under-reporting problem. We will continue to campaign for better prevention and more joined-up thinking between GPs and employers to rehabilitate people who have been off work because of work-related injury or ill health"

## Time to deconstruct construction safety

The Hong Kong Branch annual conference called for a radical rethink of construction health and safety. Sammy Wan, Branch Chair, estimated that public infrastructure expenditure in Hong Kong will grow to HK\$70 billion a year. With many projects at a critical stage, the need to reduce the risk of fatality, serious injury and illness is paramount. In 2011, 23 people were killed in the construction industry in Hong Kong, compared to nine in 2011

### More information at

[www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_news\\_releases/26\\_radical\\_rethink\\_needed.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/26_radical_rethink_needed.aspx)

## Toolkit showcased

In March IOSH presented its Occupational Health Toolkit at an event on occupational disease run by the Health and Safety Executive. Delegates at the event, at the British Library in London, reviewed current thinking on key issues, and looked at the latest statistics on dermatology, occupational cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

## Fatigue: end of the line? Business leaders' safety support needs surveyed

This year's IOSH Railway Group Award will highlight successful projects to tackle fatigue management, reducing the risk of error and improving safety. IOSH wants to see the rail industry follow airline companies' example, where pilots' hours have been reduced to ensure they are fit for work. IOSH Railway Group Chair Martin Leeks said: "We need another culture change, where long working hours are seen as a hazard to our employees, companies and passengers on the network." The closing date for nominations is 15 September

### For details and to enter, visit

[www.iosh.co.uk/groups/railway\\_group/group\\_news/iosh\\_railway\\_group\\_award.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/groups/railway_group/group_news/iosh_railway_group_award.aspx)

IOSH is carrying out a survey of business leaders' and managers' support needs in health and safety. Absenteeism, low productivity and legal bills from work-related accidents and ill health cost businesses nearly £8 billion a year, while the overall cost to the British economy, including welfare and health bills, is estimated to be up to £22 billion

### The survey is live until 31 July at

[www.safesurveys.info/snap/jj/b/\\_growyourbusiness.htm](http://www.safesurveys.info/snap/jj/b/_growyourbusiness.htm)

## All points east

In the last few months, IOSH has spoken at events in Russia, Ukraine and Turkey, as part of the New Accession Countries Working Party initiative. We also participated in the Macedonian Occupational Safety and Health Association's annual conference. IOSH addressed an event in Kazakhstan on Workers' Memorial Day in April



Staying on the rails: this year's Railway Group health award focuses on fatigue

## In Parliament

- Shadow Employment Minister Stephen Timms MP asked questions on the 'management' Approved Code of Practice, which the government is proposing to abolish. IOSH's e-petition to save the code, with nearly 10,000 signatures, can still be signed at [epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/46262](http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/46262)
- In the House of Lords, Baroness Smith of Basildon quoted IOSH in a debate on the government's proposals to change consultation periods
- IOSH urged politicians from different parties to act over the proposal to axe the Construction (Head Protection) Regulations and the Notification of Conventional Tower Cranes Regulations

## Olympic record rubs off on Singapore...

IOSH Past President Lawrence Waterman OBE spoke about his role as Head of Health and Safety for the London 2012 Olympic Delivery Authority at a seminar in May held by the Singapore Branch and Workplace Safety and Health Council. Lawrence explained the extraordinary worker health and safety record during the construction of the Olympic village and stadia, saying that there were "some very simple foundations that, with sensible adaptation, can be applied on building projects of any size and in any workplace"

## ...and students snap up school safety awards

Young people have been praised for their entries in the Singapore Branch's annual Safety@School Awards. Full-time students of all ages were awarded for their creativity in designing ideas for good safety practice. The winning entries were an app on sport safety, a digital animation on using the stairs correctly, and a poster outlining playground hazards

**Details of the winners are at**  
[www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest\\_news\\_releases/30\\_singapore\\_students\\_praised.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/30_singapore_students_praised.aspx)

## Making men's health matter

During Men's Health Week in June IOSH called on employers to be active on workplace mental health issues. Research by the charity Mind shows that job security, work and money are men's top worries, so work is an important place for tackling men's mental health. Jane White, IOSH Research and Information Services Manager, said: "According to the Men's Health Forum, 75 per cent of all suicides are by men and 73 per cent of people who go missing are men. Despite this, they are less likely to visit their GP or HR department on mental health and other issues"

**For IOSH's work in Men's Health Week, go to**  
[pinterest.com/ioshpinterest/mens-health-week-2013](http://pinterest.com/ioshpinterest/mens-health-week-2013)



IOSH supported Men's Health Week with a call for more action on mental health issues

Need to know more?  
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