

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

Piper Alpha 25 years on Tax breaks too tight

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond and UK Energy Minister Michael Fallon spoke at IOSH receptions in the Scottish and UK parliaments, commemorating 25 years since the Piper Alpha disaster. Other speakers included industry leaders and Brian Appleton, who served on the government inquiry into the horrific events of 06 July 1988 when explosions at the North Sea oil rig killed 167 men. IOSH reviewed current safety challenges in extracting North Sea oil and gas, including an ageing infrastructure, regulating new and emerging energy technologies, and the exploration of deeper, less accessible fields



Dr Luise Vassie, IOSH Executive Director of Policy, on BBC Breakfast TV talking about safety improvements since Piper Alpha

The government has taken positive steps on encouraging health and fitness at work, says IOSH, but tax breaks for employers are "still too narrow". Responding to an HM Treasury consultation, IOSH called on ministers to remove the limitation on expenditure of £500 a year per employee. IOSH also thinks it unhelpful that health therapy is eligible for tax relief only if recommended via the new Health and Work Service. IOSH wants the government to give tax exemption for associated costs to the employer's health support, such as specialist equipment, workplace adjustments and travel expenses

More details:

www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/46_tax_breaks_too_narrow.aspx



Pressing hard for tax exemption

In the news

- IOSH received widespread coverage around the 25th anniversary of Piper Alpha. As well as Dr Luise Vassie's interview on BBC One's Breakfast Show, other coverage included the *Scotsman*, *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, *Aberdeen Express*, *Holyrood* magazine, *Platform* and several industry websites
- IOSH's Rural Industries Group raised the profile of farm safety, including safety at harvest time and child farm safety. Stories ran in Lincs FM, HFM (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire), Star (Cambridgeshire), KLFM (Norfolk), *Farmers Weekly* and the National Farmers' Union online
- Research and Information Services Manager Jane White was interviewed for a feature on event safety in *NME* magazine
- Middle East Branch Chair Rob Cooling was featured in a page-turning interview with *Construction Week* magazine and website, promoting the Branch's objectives in the region

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

Engineering for a healthier future

A new policy paper, *The business case for engineering in health and safety*, has been published by the Inter-Institutional Group on Health and Safety, which has representatives from the main engineering professional bodies. IOSH has been a member since 2003. The paper underlines the role of engineering in supporting health and safety risk management and economic sustainability, and lists key considerations for engineers, managers and government. IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs Richard Jones said: "How we design and build profoundly affects us all. We need to harness the full potential of good engineering and stronger multidisciplinary working to help ensure a safe, healthy, sustainable future"

Read more:
www.theiet.org/policy/collaboration/iig



Measuring up to engineer safely

Fact-finding on fit notes

IOSH has commissioned research from the University of Nottingham to investigate the use of doctors' fit notes. It is the first study on how fit notes consider the views of patients, employers and GPs together. Introduced three years ago to replace the old sickness certificate, the fit note allows GPs to assess whether a patient is fit for work, and to suggest adjustments to enable patients to stay at work or return to work as soon as possible

More details:
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_news_releases/49_fit_note_research.aspx



A prescription to improve workplace health

Licence to save lives

IOSH was shaken, and a little stirred, to learn that its members may have what it takes to work for MI5. The secret service posted the vacancy for its new head of health and safety role on its website, suitably shrouded in cryptic language. "We can't show you the buildings. We can't talk about the people you'll work with. We can't tell you much about the job ... and you must be CMIOSH." So there you have it: our name is our bond



On a mission to find a top secret assignment

Championing the HSE

IOSH has urged the Department for Work and Pensions to provide more resources to support the Health and Safety Executive, in response to a ministerial review of the UK's "world class" health and safety regulator. IOSH also called on the government to rethink plans to exempt many workers from health and safety laws. IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs Richard Jones said: "Our submission strongly supports the continued need for HSE and its current delivery model, as 'arm's length' from government ministers, and emphasises the need for better resourcing"

One part of the picture

For the year ending March 2013, data from the HSE show a year-on-year fall in the number of people killed in work-related accidents in Britain, from 172 to 148. The overall rate of fatal injury has dropped to 0.5 per 100,000 workers, below the five-year average of 0.6. Jane White, Research and Information Services Manager at IOSH, said: "Although this trend is encouraging, we can't be complacent. The bigger picture is that 12,000 people died in the same period from occupational diseases. Last year alone some 8,000 people died from cancers caused by work"

More information at:
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_member_news/figures_are_encouraging.aspx

A first for IOSH

Johannesburg was the venue in June for the first IOSH-hosted conference in Africa. Over 160 safety professionals addressed the theme of building a professional future for health and safety



Picking through a packed programme

Sharing safety practice in Singapore

The second International Workplace Safety and Health Conference took place in Singapore in August. Organised by IOSH's Singapore Branch, the Building and Construction Authority Academy and the Workplace Safety and Health Council, the event enabled stakeholders from the industry to share and promote improvement in workplace health and safety standards

In Parliament

- The UK reception organised by IOSH to mark the 25th anniversary of Piper Alpha was welcomed through a Commons Early Day Motion and there was a debate in Parliament, with MP Peter Aldous quoting IOSH's call for the industry to ask: "What more should we be doing?"
- The government published the Draft Deregulation Bill, seeking to exempt some self-employed workers from health and safety law. In its evidence submitted to the Joint Committee, IOSH had expressed its reservations
- A number of MPs and peers put pressure on the government to do more to boost health and safety in the developing world, following a number of high profile building collapses, which is in line with IOSH's work with the Center for Safety and Health Sustainability
- IOSH attended a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Learning Outside the Classroom, chaired by Simon Hart MP, looking to move non-formal learning up the government's agenda

A role in local authority risk regulation

Following its submission to the HSE, IOSH has been positively referenced in the newly-published *National Local Authority Enforcement Code* on health and safety at work for England, Scotland and Wales. Local authority health and safety regulators have a key role in ensuring effective and proportionate management of risk, supporting business, protecting their communities and contributing to a wider public health agenda. IOSH is cited as being able to help support the delivery of the risk-based approach to regulation outlined by the code

Unifying EU policy

Consulted on the EU OSH Policy Framework, IOSH has pressed for the inclusion of occupational health management and reporting, the protection of vulnerable groups and the embedding of health and safety in the education system. IOSH also suggests harmonised competence standards for OSH professionals across the EU, better regulation and enforcement, and making OSH essential in corporate social responsibility. IOSH Head of Policy and Public Affairs Richard Jones said: "We're delighted the European Commission has heeded our calls for a new strategy towards a safer, healthier and more sustainable future for Europe"

Collaboration brings a Strange reward

IOSH has launched the Rob Strange Award to commend collaborative working within its networks. Sarah Hamilton, Networks and International Director, said: "We want to capture innovative ways in which our networks are working with each other or with other organisations in their community or sector, resulting in a positive impact on health and safety." The panel of judges, which includes IOSH's former Chief Executive Rob Strange OBE, will look for entries that are long term and fulfil IOSH's corporate strategy. The awards will be presented at the Networks Conference Annual Dinner in November. Applications close 04 October

Details and applications from:
www.iosh.co.uk/news/latest_member_news/new_award_for_networks.aspx

...and finally...

With a voting turn-out of nearly 4,000 members, 12 new IOSH Council members have been elected. Congratulations to Kevin Bridges, Dr Peter Claffey, Robert Cooling, Mandy Elaine Ellis, Roy Featherstone, Ray Hurst, Stuart Jones, Nicola Jane Kemmery, Dr Karen McDonnell, Paul William Parry, Bruce Phillips and Dr Ioannis Toutoungi

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