



Professional Organisations in Occupational Safety and Health (POOSH)

Minutes of a meeting held on

Monday 14 June 2010

CIEH, 15 Hatfields, London SE1

PRESENT

Chair: Neil Budworth	Institution of Occupational Safety and Health
Siobhan Clarke	Association of Occupational Health Nurse Practitioners
Anthea Page	British Occupational Hygiene Society
Andrew Griffiths	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Harry Hopkin	Safety and Reliability Society
Caroline Minshell	RCN Public Health Forum
Reg Sell	The Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (formerly the Ergonomics Society)
Paul Madgwick	Royal Society of Public Health
Brian Nimmick	International Institute of Risk and Safety Management
Linda Varney	Health and Safety Executive
Anna McNeil	Secretariat

Item

Action

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Trevor Cummings (SOM), David Newsum (CIEH), Carolyn Williams (IRM), Peter Griffin (FOM) and Paul Madgwick (RSPH).

Thanks were given to Andrew Griffiths for supplying the venue and lunch.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2010**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2010 were agreed without change and would be uploaded to the website after the meeting.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda**

There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.

4. **POOSH Secretariat and update on member organisations' perception of POOSH and the way forward**

It was reported that the IIRSM have offered to fund the secretariat costs. It was also noted that both BOHS and IEHF have offered to host a forthcoming meeting.

Perceptions of POOSH:

Neil Budworth informed the group that he had held a meeting with SOM / FOM and he reported that SOM / FOM were willing to participate in the POOSH group until the end of 2010 when they would reconsider their position.

IOSH confirmed they were happy to continue to support POOSH.

RNC indicated they were concerned at the possible overlap with POOSH and the Council for Work and Health. However, Caroline Minshell felt that membership of POOSH was valuable. It was agreed that Neil Budworth would contact the Chair of the

RCN Public Health Forum (Cynthia Atwell).

BOHS Stated they felt POOSH was a good forum for debate.

CIEH indicated they were happy to continue supporting POOSH.

IIRSM had indicated their willingness to support POOSH by taking over the secretariat.

AOHNP agreed to revert to the group with a final decision in due course.

5. **Reports from member organisations: sharing plans and activities**

Reports had been received, and tabled from the following organisations:

IOSH, SARS, IIRSM, BOHS and IRM. These would be uploaded to web after the meeting.

BOHS

The BOHS have developed a new website which will be launched in the next few weeks. On 1st May 2010 they launched a free occupational hygiene on-line learning resource (www.ohlearning.com) and this resource may be of interest to POOSH organisations.

BOHS are conducting a strategic review and are hoping to move towards chartered status for both the individuals and the organisation.

CIEH

One of their main areas of work is in relation to competency and consultants and this is covered later in the minutes. Another major issue occupying their policy time is that of earned autonomy. The work on this commenced after the Penrose Report and is primarily being requested by large multi-site organisations rather than SMEs. The new government appears to be keen on this aspect of the project and there is a real likelihood that this will be adopted. A draft policy will be submitted to the CIEH Council shortly then circulated to their membership for comment.

CIEH have also been working with HABIA (hair and beauty association) on COSHH guidance and also on guidance on the use of laser hair treatment.

CIEH had been told at a recent meeting that HSE were likely to make cuts to the tune of 25-30%.

IIRMS

IIRSM have also completed a strategic review and are in the process of appointing a director of research and policy. It was reported that Geoffrey Podger (Chair of HSE) would be attending the IIRSM Board meeting on 15 June and the IIRSM will be attending the Accreditation of Consultants' meeting in late June.

IIRSM have also launched a new website.

International activities have increased significantly and branches established in Egypt, Singapore and Australia. The IIRSM are developing CSR courses for government officials in Egypt and for the Saudi Chamber of Commerce.

Books being published by the IIRSM include 'behavioural aspects of driver safety' and, later this year, 'leadership'.

IEHF

The Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors are still working through the implications of their recent name change and are starting to focus on achieving chartered status. Their website is up and running and it was reported that their 60th

anniversary exhibition has closed in London but it was hoped it would relocate to Carlisle.

Forthcoming conferences being considered were a conference for the oil and gas sector. There is also a conference taking place in Bruges (10 October 2010).

RSPH

The RSPH were now emerging from the merger which took place some 18 months ago. Lord Hunt of Kings Heath will become the President of the Society with immediate effect and Baroness Cumberledge and Baroness Massey will become vice-presidents.

Together with the Department of Health, RSPH have set up a website (www.phorcast.org.uk) which will help organisation to run health and wellbeing events.

SARS

SARS are working with the Institute of Mechanical Engineers to set up postgraduate qualifications. They are also running meetings on London on competence and risk communications. There will be a SARS 30th anniversary meeting in London on 14 October 2010.

AOHNP

The website is currently being updated. The AGM and best practice forum will take place in November 2010. The association has been in discussion with the union Unite to explore possibilities of working together as an alternative to RCN membership. It was reported that AOHNP are members of the Council for Work and Health and that one of the Council projects was focussing on nurses' qualifications.

RCN Public Health Forum

It was noted that the RCN Public Health Forum are developing standards for professional practice. There will be a joint RCN / SOM Conference on 18 and 19 October 2010 which will focus on multidisciplinary working. It was reported that two occupational health nurses (Helen Kirk and David Maslen Jones) had been appointed as Wellbeing Champions as part of the response to the Boorman Review.

6. Competencies

It was reported that CIEH and IOSH were preparing a report and would be creating a model register. On 27 June 2010 a meeting with a wide range of professional bodies involved in the occupational safety and health arena would take place. The report from IOSH on the survey showing the views of the participants is now available.

AG reported that getting on the register could not be by qualification alone; competence was vital and to be up to date with current regulation would be crucial. The RDNA toolkit may prove helpful for individuals to check their competence.

It was noted that the model will be circulated to all organisations prior to the meeting at the end of June 2010; the HSE will then decide how to take this project forward.

A pilot via both organisations to a small number of people in both organisations will be set up.

It was noted that when asked, most people said they would not be willing to pay to be on the register. However it was stressed that the register must be a gold standard. Who would run the register was also discussed and it was noted that it may go out to tender at a later stage and that it may be a professional organisation.

The next stages were that there would be a networking meeting at the end of June and following that, the HSE may put the project forward to ministers and then out to tender.

There was real concern among small professional bodies as to why one would join both a professional organisation and an additional register.

BOHS indicated concern that they were not included in the stakeholder meeting of the network.

It was noted that the invitations to the stakeholder meeting were sent out by the HSE and it would be necessary to clarify participation with Geoffrey Podger.

It was noted that Neil Budworth would raise this topic and the various concerns with Richard Jones at IOSH.

7. Coordination of joint initiatives or responses

Brian Nimmick suggested to the group that consideration should be given to the forthcoming government spending review. If occupational health and occupational safety were targeted he felt that a collective view would be beneficial.

It was agreed that all members would let the Secretariat know if they had concerns on specific topics; the Secretariat would then circulate an email to the group seeking comments and support.

8. Health and Safety Summit

Notes of the teleconference which took place on 18 March 2010 had been circulated.

It was noted that the reasons for holding a summit were as follows:

- A need to raise awareness with decision makers
- Put forward POOSH plans and what POOSH feels is important

After discussion it was agreed that

- New ministers would be invited to address POOSH in October / November 2010
- Lord Young to be invited to address the group
- Dates to be suggested by ministers

It was noted that a letter had been sent by the Chair to Chris Grayling and a reply would be chased in the next 2 weeks.

It was agreed that dates around the middle to end of October 2010 would be good *(post meeting note: As the annual Health and Wellbeing Conference was scheduled to take place on 14 October 2010 at the QEII Conference Centre in London, this date should be avoided)*

It was agreed that each POOSH member would submit the names of two invitees from their organisation to be invited to the summit.

Venue was considered and it was noted that the the CIEH may be available subject to dates and availability.

Themes to be considered at the summit were:

- Separating fact from fiction
- Separating law advice from insurance aspects
- Advice on the HSE website

- Which health and safety laws are inappropriate (nb Lord Young's report is due in one month)

Consideration was given to the format of the meeting and it was agreed that adopting Chatham House Rules may achieve a more productive and robust meeting.

Council for Work and Health

8. It was noted that while most POOSH member organisations were also members of the Council for Work and Health, the minutes of the Council meetings did not appear to be shared within their respective organisations. It was agreed that the Secretariat would ask if the minutes of the Council could be circulated to the POOSH group.

9. **POOSH's role in challenging media perceptions**

It was noted that the action from the last meeting was for each organisation to discuss this topic with their communications department. No organisations had reverted to the Secretariat and it was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate a template for each organisation to populate with their nominated press contact.

HSE update

Linda Varney reported on the current HSE projects as follows:

Government spending cuts

HSE had been told it needed to make initial cuts of about 3% on the 2010-11 budgets. It was hoped to maintain staffing levels with cuts being made in other areas eg travel, research, communications. A three year spending review was due in any case but the Government announcements would give a better idea of the level of future expenditure. Lord Young had been asked to look at health and safety across the piece: HSE hopes to support this fully. His report is to be completed by early autumn and could influence future work. There was also an aim to reduce the senior civil service by 25%.

New Minister

Chris Grayling, Minister of State for Employment, has taken over the health and safety portfolio. Anne Beggs was taking over the chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee.

Planned campaigns -- subject to review

Duty to manage - asbestos

Make the promise - come home safely (agriculture)

Safe and Sound @ work (sme / worker involvement)

Safe loads - Q2 publicity and inspection follow up

Ladder exchange due September to December

Shattered Lives 4 - February / March 2011

This week has been designated "Men's Health Week"

EU Directives: latest information was that the EC was commissioning a new economic

impact assessment on the proposal to simplify the manual handling and DSE directives. A new text was not likely to be available before autumn 2011. HSE was trying to find what options would be covered by the assessment and had done some work to develop an EIA for the UK. Work is continuing on EU measures related to amending the EMF directive and the basic safety standard for radiation protection.

HSE Staffing

Steve Coldrick, Head of Long Latency Health Risks, would be retiring in August. He would be replaced by Karen Clayton current Head of Corporate Specialist Division.

Queen's Birthday Honours list

It was noted that Professor Brian Toft had received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday honours and the Group sent their congratulations to him.

Dates of next meeting

The next meeting will take place as followed:

Date:

Tuesday 28 September 2010

Time:

10.30 am

Venue:

The Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors
Elms Court
Elms Grove
Loughborough
Leicestershire
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