



**Minutes of the
POOSH Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 22 September 2011
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
15 Hatfields London SE1 8DJ**

Present:	Ms Susanna Everton	AOHNP
	Ms Anthea Page	BOHS
	Mr Andrew Griffiths	CIEH (Chair)
	Mr Reg Sell	IEHF
	Mr Barry Holt	IIRSM
	Mr Richard Jones	IOSH
	Ms Carolyn Williams	IRM
	Ms Clare McNicholas	HSE

Mrs Anna McNeil Secretariat

1. Welcome and apologies

Andrew Griffiths welcomed everybody to the meeting. It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from:

Ms Caroline Minshell	RCN PHF
Mr Harry Hopkins	SARS
Mr Paul Madgwick	RSPH
Mr Roger Bibbings	RoSPA

2. Minutes of the POOSH Summit held on 1 March 2011

The minutes of the Summit held on 1 March 2011 were agreed as an accurate account.

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

Consideration was given to the following matters:

- Possible POOSH Conference
- Response to the White Paper
- Baseline data collection
- Delivery to workplaces
- Liaising with other organisations

a) Conference

AG informed the group that CIEH were proposing to hold a conference focussing on the White Paper on Regulation. The conference would probably take place in

December 2011. The audience would be local authority regulators and occupational health and safety providers.

After discussion it was agreed that a POOSH conference should take place, separate from the CIEH event, after the launch of the Löfstedt Report, which was due before the end of 2011. IOSH may be able to supply a speaker on fire authority and building issues. It was recommended that there should be a plenary session (a Government minister or senior civil servant – and James Wolff was suggested). Parallel sessions covering technical issues, occupational health and regulation were suggested. It was agreed that the conference should take place in the second week in January 2012.

The group discussed how the various organisations might be able to participate in the conference – sponsorship, publicity or providing a speaker.

It was agreed that AG would prepare a proposal for circulation to the group.

Action: AG / All

b) Response to White Paper

AG reported that it had not been possible to submit a joint response to the White Paper due to the varied organisations' needs. When possible POOSH would try to submit a joint response.

c) Baseline data collection

It was noted that individual organisations are collecting various useful data, which could be shared if required. It was suggested that the information Dame Carol Black might require is probably already available.

d) Delivery of occupational health services

It was reported that the Department of Health Responsibility Deal was looking at ways large organisations could help smaller organisations, one way being to share occupational health services.

e) Liaising with other organisations

Consideration was given to reaching out to the list of organisations suggested at the Summit by Roger Bibbings. If we could identify their needs it would help us shape our discussions and actions.

It was agreed that Mary Boughton, Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses' Health and Safety Committee, should be invited to the next POOSH meeting. Mary Boughton would be asked to give a presentation to POOSH identifying the FSB's key issues and POOSH could suggest ways to help.

Action: AM

Speakers at future POOSH meetings were considered and the following recommended:

Dick Taylor HSE Board Member
Frances Outram HSE Board Member

SE agreed to recommend the order in which the following organisations should be invited to join POOSH:

The institute of Welfare Advisers (www.instituteofwelfare.co.uk)

BACP (www.bacp.co.uk)
UKCR (www.psychotherapy.org.uk)

Action: SE

4. Reports from member organisations

a. CIEH

AG reported that the CIEH were currently working on the Transforming Regulatory Enforcement consultation document and HSG65. He added that LACORS are now a regulatory support unit called the Health and Safety Forum. There was no funding and any work carried out by the regulatory support unit had to be self-funding.

It was noted that World Environmental Health Day would be marked by a conference on 26 September 2011.

CIEH is working with the Health Protection Agency to produce guidance on on skin piercing (primarily tattooing) and fish pedicure treatments.

AG informed the group that Oliver Letwin had published a paper on Type A and Type B regulations and this was influencing government thinking. AG agreed to supply the link for circulation to the group.

Action: AG / AM

b. Health and Safety Executive

CMcN informed the group about the Red Tape Challenge, where health and safety regulations had been in the spotlight on the Red Tape Challenge website between 30 June and 21 July 2011. Approximately 1200 comments had been made regarding health and safety regulations and raising many of the issues addressed by the reports, 'Common Sense, Common Safety' and 'Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone'.

It was noted that the Löfstedt review, set up to review health and Safety legislation, will report to the Minister at the end of October, with findings due to be published in November. The deadline for written evidence to the review was the 29th July 2011 and Professor Löfstedt has held meetings with a range of stakeholders.

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, Minister for Employment, with responsibility for health and safety, announced a range of health and safety initiatives in his written ministerial statement earlier this year. A key part of this reform is to change the focus of our health and safety regime to a lighter touch approach, concentrating efforts on higher risk industries and on tackling serious breaches of the rules. Cost recovery for interventions where there is a material breach of the law is also part of this statement and HSE is currently consulting on how this will be implemented.

Following a recent consultation on changes to the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995, it was hoped that amendments to these regulations that extend the period before an injury or accident needs to be reported to seven days would be implemented in 2012. HSE is content that it will still be meeting EU Eurostat requirements with the amendments to the regulations. The impact of the moratorium on micro businesses is still being investigated.

c. IRM

CW circulated an Executive Summary “ Risk Appetite & Tolerance” which was a managerial approach to risk appetite.

It was noted that the IRM was holding a Risk Leaders’ Conference on 18 November 2011 and the Risk Forum in the Midlands Hotel, Manchester, on 24-25 April 2012.

CW reported that enrolment was now open for certificate and diploma qualifications.

d. IEHF

RS reported that the IEHF was holding a conference on Workplace ergonomics and Productivity with a free exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London from 26-27 October 2011.

RS asked if any POOSH member had carried out a sales and marketing exercise as the IEHF were considering one to improve conference attendance.

It was noted that the IEHF had responded to the Löfstedt consultation but not in the same depth as CIEH and IOSH. RS stated that the IEHF were still pursuing their charter.

e. IOSH

RJ informed the group that IOSH had responded to the Löfstedt review advocating that the benefits of good health and safety should be showcased, as in the IOSH Li£e Savings campaign; that embedding health and safety in the education system could help improve public perception, creating a ‘risk intelligent society’

IOSH provided evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee Inquiry into health and safety in Scotland, through engagement with their Scottish Branches. They emphasised the need for strong leadership, worker involvement and health and safety competence; and the need to provide adequate proactive regulator inspection levels and resources. We advocated continued support for Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland, the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives and the IOSH course on return to work issues; as well as trialling Safe-T-Cert in Scotland.

RJ stated that IOSH had provided feedback to the IRM proposed guide about Risk appetite and risk tolerance.

Royal College of General Practitioners: commission on Generalism: the IOSH response suggested additions to the ‘generalism’ definition to include work-related issues. The key role of GPs in supporting the occupational health of their patients was emphasized, the need for them to have adequate training and resources and the benefits of a multi-disciplinary approach.

The IOSH responses are available at www.iosh.co.uk/condocs

IOSH guides and on-line tools (available at www.iosh.co.uk/guidance)

- The occupational health toolkit has been extended to include management of non- occupational conditions at work; the first two topics are ‘diabetes’ and ‘pregnancy’.
- Risk assessment routefinder – now includes a new section on ‘volunteering’.

- Reporting performance – an updated version is now available on the IOSH website.

IOSH research fund update

The IOSH Research Committee has endorsed 3 proposals for our Research Programme 'Health and safety in a changing world', led by Professor Robert Dingwall. The themes include examining the knowledge base for OSH interventions; the balance between governmental and private regulation; and investigating how health and safety issues are managed in networked systems of production or service delivery.

Work-related road safety: A systematic review of the literature on the effectiveness of interventions' – findings were launched at the 'Workplace Transport – moving it safely' event, organised by the IOSH Food and Drink Group on 6 September 2011.

What is a good job? The relationship between work/working and improved health and wellbeing (Cardiff University) this report presents the research findings examining the importance of different factors in the relationship between work, wellbeing and health.

Six second-stage applicants have been invited to make presentations to the IOSH Research Committee on 23 September 2011, further outlining their proposals.

Full and summary research reports are available at www.iosh.co.uk/researchreports.

Lobbying activities

IOSH continued with its lobbying activities and the full report can be found on the POOSH website.

f. IIRSM

BH informed the group that the IIRSM had also responded to numerous consultation documents. The IIRSM were developing branches overseas in countries including Libya, India and Nigeria. BH stated that he was the new Policy and Research lead at the IIRSM and was organising a succession of one-day workshops on safety cultures and workplace wellness. The next workshop will take place in November in association with Manchester Business School. In June 2012 a workshop is being planned in association with John Moores University in Liverpool.

It was noted one of the IIRSM Board (Dr Su Wang) is Chair of the ICOH Scientific Committee.

Two research projects were currently in progress:

- i. Cognitive mapping and risk perception in teams (in association with Manchester Business School and BP)
- ii. Developing an on-line tool to take fear out of statistics

g. BOHS

AP reported that BOHS had undertaken an internal strategic review. One aim of the review was to gain Chartered status and currently they were working towards preparing an application.

BOHS will be holding conferences in Cardiff (24-26 April 2012) and X2012 will take place in June 2012 in Edinburgh.

AP informed the group that BOHS had also responded to Löfstedt.

Last year BOHS launched an entry level examination aimed at associated professionals, which has proved successful.

BOHS is currently working with the HSE on asbestos surveyor guidance.

h. AOHNP

SE informed the group that the AOHNP wanted to be the leading forum for occupational health nurse advisers and membership numbers were increasing.

Two future events are scheduled as follows:

- i. AGM and Good Practice Forum (22 November 2011)
- ii. Ruth Alston Memorial Lecture (6 March 2012)

SE reported that the AOHNP were trying to set up a scheme with a union to offer indemnity for sole traders. AOHNP was also looking at the training of occupational health nurses.

5. Plans for 2012

The following points were agreed:

- Invite a speaker to each meeting
- Each meeting should be themed
- Each member organisation should submit their report before the meeting for circulation with the agenda
- Where possible, involve other organisations in our deliberations
- Issue a joint response to consultation documents where possible
- Hold a POOSH conference in January 2012

6. Consultants' Register

AG reported that a meeting of the Board would take place on 3 October to discuss competence. It was noted that the British Psychological Society had applied to join and the Board would consider their application.

In his absence Harry Hopkins raised the question: "Is there a means for getting on the register without first having to join one of the identified organisations?" AG agreed to respond to this question.

Action: AG

7. Council for Health and Work

A paper was circulated outlining the current projects being undertaken by the Council for Work and Health. Web link – <http://www.councilforworkandhealth.org.uk/our-work>

8. Any other business

- a) Website

It was noted that the POOSH website was out of date. AM confirmed that she would update the site. It was agreed that the Imperial Workshops could be listed on the website.

Action: AM

b) Reminder for reporting to be on the bottom of fit notes

It was agreed that RJ would draft a letter for all POOSH members to sign, requesting that a reminder to report be placed on the bottom of fit notes. The letter would then be sent to James Wolf at the DWP.

Action: RJ / All

c) All Party Parliamentary Group Meeting

AG informed the group that Hugh Robertson had invited him to attend the All Party Parliamentary Group Meeting to talk about what POOSH is doing. AG asked all member organisations to send him bullet points of any particular information they wished him to convey.

Action: All

d) POOSH Chair for 2012

AG reminded the group that the chair for 2012 would be appointed at the next meeting. Nominations for the position of chair were requested and should be sent to AM. If more than one nomination was received, a ballot would be organised.

Action: All

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6 December 2011 (venue to be confirmed), sandwich lunch at 1300, meeting starts at 1330.

10. Meeting dates in 2012

It was recommended that the following timetables for meeting in 2012 be adopted:

January	Conference
February	POOSH Meeting
June	POOSH Meeting
October	POOSH Meeting

Potential dates will be circulated shortly.

Action: AM