



**Minutes of the
POOSH Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 23 November 2015
Venue: The Institute of Risk Management
Sackville House, 143-149 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 6BN**

Present:

Margaret Mercer	AOHNP	MM
Steve Miller	CIEH	SM
Reg Sell	CIEHF	RS
Richard Jones	IOSH (acting Chair)	RJ
Carolyn Williams	IRM	CW
Harry Hopkins	SaRS	HH
Rob Vondy	HSE	RV

Secretariat:

Anna McNeil	Secretariat	AM
-------------	-------------	----

Guest Speaker:

Wendy Jones	Loughborough University	WJ
-------------	-------------------------	----

RJ welcomed Wendy Jones to the meeting and thanked her for coming to give a presentation to the POOSH group on '**Nanomaterials in construction**'.

WJ informed the group that she was involved with research projects at Loughborough University. She was currently seeking funding for a knee pain project and in the past had worked on manual handling issues in connection with paving slabs and kerbstones.

WJ was currently working on an IOSH-funded research project. The aims of the study were to identify where nanomaterials are used in the built environment, to assess the risks of nanoparticle release during refurbishment, demolition and recycling, and to generate guidance on how to manage these issues.

It was noted that nanoparticles are used in a huge variety of items apart from in the construction industry – including socks and sun cream. There are many factors that effect whether a nanoparticle becomes toxic.

Carbon nanotubes are a sheet of atoms rolled into a tube. There is also no way of knowing if a product has nanotubes in it.

WJ indicated where nanotubes may be found in a house, and these included concrete (which contains silica fume) and has been used for the last 20-30 years. Silica fume concrete is particularly good as it does not require heavy vibration to level floors. Silica fume is also used in the construction of bridges as it does not require steels inserts,

hence the bridge lasts longer as it is usually the steel inserts that erode and require replacement.

Concrete nanosilica has even smaller sized particles and can be made of either crystalline silica or amorphous silica, with crystalline silica being more dangerous than amorphous silica.

Titanium dioxide has self-cleaning properties that make it particularly useful in glass and windows. Titanium coating is also used in insulation and thermal insulation in glass. It is also used in anti-fogging and switchable (dark to light) windows.

Nanosilica is used in surface coatings (paint), both inside and outside. It is used in water repellent coating and helps keep surfaces clean, with the added benefit of stopping graffiti.

Other uses of nanomaterials include in central heating systems to improve heat exchange.

WJ added that in 2025 it is anticipated that 50% of building materials will include nanomaterials. However, she stated that currently the manufacturer is under no obligation to state whether nanomaterials are included in their products.

Current research is to map where the nanomaterials are and the next phase of the research will be to see what happens during demolition and how particles may be released.

WJ thanked the group for inviting her to present on this current research. It was agreed that her slides could be circulated to the group for their information, but not to go on the POOSH website as there were some pictures that should not be uploaded.

Action: AM

1. Welcome, apologies and membership update

In Sharon Brunt's unavoidable absence Richard Jones welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked Carolyn Williams and the IRM for hosting the meeting.

Apologies had been received from:

Neal Stone	BSC	NS
John Cairn	SGUK	JC
Sharon Brunt	BOHS (Chair)	SB
Ian Livsey	IRM	IL
Barry Holt	IIRSM	BH
Steven Lipworth	RSC	SL
Paul Madgwick	RSPH	PM

2. Minutes of the POOSH committee meeting held on 13 May 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2015 were agreed as an accurate account, subject to the update of the organisation listed for Nicola Stacey, (HSL, not HSE). The revised minutes would be placed on the POOSH website.

Action: AM

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

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports from member organisations

It was noted that the following reports had been either circulated, or tabled at the meeting:

BOHS, HSE, IOSH, Safety Groups UK, SaRS. These reports will be circulated to the group with the minutes and placed on the POOSH website.

Action: AM

The following updates were received and discussed at the meeting:

04.01 AOHNP

MM reported that the AOHNP were working on nurse revalidation. A pilot had been started earlier this year and road shows were being run throughout the country.

The AOHNP was currently seeking charitable status. Increase in membership numbers was a key project for the organisation and the aim was to increase the current membership (approximately 420) to 1000 by 2017.

04.02 CIEHF

RS reported that the CIEHF had a meeting on Control Rooms (9 December 2015 in London) and their annual conference would take place in Daventry on 19-21 April 2016.

04.03 IOSH

RJ stated that the new IOSH President is Karen McDonnell; President-Elect is Graham Parker and the Immediate Past President is Tim Briggs. The interim CEO is Cyril Barratt, following the departure of Jan Chmiel. Cyril Barratt is former Chair of the IOSH Board.

It was reported that IOSH had changed their magazine publisher and would be launching an exciting new IOSH magazine in February 2016, with a new publisher. Louis Wustermann had been appointed as Editor.

IOSH had sponsored and attended the Ethical Corporation's summits on sustainability and CR held in London on 10-11 November 2015 to promote health and safety.

IOSH was responding to the following consultations:

- Implementation of Directive 2013/35/EU on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents – electromagnetic fields – HSE (closes on 3 December 2015)
- Tackling exploitation in the labour market – BIS / Home Office (closes on 7 December 2015)
- ISO 45001 – public consultation on DIS, due to start in January 2016.

04.04 IRM

CW informed the group that an Executive Group had been set up for 2016. The IRM Annual Lecture was taking place on 4 December 2015 and Judith Hackitt, HSE, was the keynote speaker. CW added that all POOSH representatives were welcome to attend and that an invitation would be circulated (by AM) following this meeting.

Action: AM

It was noted that the IRM would celebrate its 30th birthday in 2016 and they were contemplating holding a members' conference.

04.05 CIEH

SM informed the group that the CIEH Chief Executive would be leaving at the end of 2015. Ann Gregory will take over as Chief Executive.

Health and safety was one of the many areas covered by CIEH, however lots of local authorities were being hit by the cuts in funding this area. He added that some boroughs had joined together to pool health and safety resources.

04.06 SaRS

HH updated the group on events taking place in 2016, including:

- 4 May – North of Scotland Annual Dinner
- 16 June – Technical Safety Event, London
- 22 September – London Dinner
- 26-29 September – European Safety and Reliability Conference, Glasgow. This event is being run jointly with Strathclyde University
- 6 October – SaRS 2016, HSL, Buxton

04.07 HSE

RV advised the group that he was now part of the Public Services Sector and was primarily working on stress.

The HSE new strategy is due to start in the first quarter of 2016.

A Workplace Health Experts Committee has been set up and is being chaired by Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor.

RV circulated a new infographic covering the health and safety at work statistics for 2015 as follows:

- **Ill health:** 1.2 million people who worked during the last year were suffering from a work-related illness
- 0.8 million former workers, who last worked over 12 months ago, were suffering from a work-related illness
- 2,538 mesothelioma deaths due to past asbestos exposure
- **Injuries:** 142 fatalities at work, 611,000 injuries at work, 76,000 employee injuries (reported under RIDDOR)
- **Working days lost:** 27.3 million days lost, 23.3 million days lost to work-related ill health, 4.1 million days lost to workplace injury

- **Economic cost:** £14.3 billion estimated costs to Britain due to workplace injuries and new cases of work-related ill health

RV added that the results of the spending review were due shortly, and it was highly likely that there would be further cuts in HSE funding.

5. Update on membership

05.01 RSPH

AM reported that Paul Madgwick had stated he would be sending an update regarding RSPH membership shortly. AM to chase update and circulate to the group.

Action: AM

05.02 IIRSM

It was recommended that AM should approach the new Chief Executive of IIRSM and ask if he would be willing to attend POOSH meetings and represent IIRSM.

Action: AM

05.03 Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)

RJ had contacted Ian Wrightson and it had been confirmed that Steven Lipworth would attend to represent the RSC. Unfortunately there had been no RSC representative at this meeting.

05.04 CIEHF

It was noted that this might be Reg Sell's last meeting as the CIEHF's representative on POOSH. The new representative would be Terry Woolmer and RS would give the secretariat his contact details.

RJ took this opportunity to thank Reg for his many years of support and effort with the POOSH group, which had been much appreciated.

Action: RS / AM

6. Future speakers

Nicola Stacey – HSL Foresight Group – HH to invite Nicola Stacey, or one of her colleagues, to a future meeting.

Action: HH / AM

Sayed Khan – EEF (RJ agreed to contact SK and invite him to a future meeting)

Post meeting note: Sayeed Khan has agreed to attend the POOSH meeting on 11 May 2015 at a venue in London. AM to confirm venue and inform SK.

Action: AM

Other speakers / topics for future consideration:
Public Health England – Ebola response

7. Funding the POOSH secretariat

RJ had previously asked all POOSH members to ascertain whether their organisation would be able to fund the secretariat, either for a year or on a meeting-by-meeting basis. All members present stated that their organisations were not in a position to fund the secretariat.

Other options considered included introducing a subscription, which it was agreed would prove difficult to administer, or member organisations could take it in turn to act as the secretariat on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

It was noted that IOSH had agreed to fund three meetings (November 2015, January 2016 and May 2016). The cost per annum was £3000 (three thousand pounds).

RJ asked all members to check again with their organisations to see if any of the above additional options were acceptable. This would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Action: ALL / AM

8. Any other business

08.01 Council for Work and Health

AM reminded the members that Council for Work and Health briefing notes were available via the Council's website: www.councilforworkandhealth.org.uk

9. Dates for meeting in 2016

Meetings will be held as follows:

Tuesday 26 January 2016 – IOSH confirmed The Grange, Highfield Drive, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 1NN

Wednesday 11 May 2016 (venue tbc – London required for guest speaker)

Thursday 22 September 2016 – The IRM confirmed Sackville House, 143-149 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 6BN

All meetings will commence at 11.00 and finish at approximately 1530.

10. POOSH Chair 2016

It was noted that a Chair for 2016 should be identified at this meeting. Sharon Brunt had informed the secretariat that she was unable to continue in this role for a further year due to her workload.

No member volunteered to take on the role of Chair for 2016 and RJ agreed to discuss the possibility of IOSH taking on this responsibility with the IOSH representative, Tim Briggs. RJ added that he attended POOSH meetings to deputise for the IOSH representative when they were not able to attend.

Post meeting note: unfortunately, Tim Briggs is unable to attend further, due to work commitments and has requested that RJ takes on the Chair role in his place.

Action: RJ / AM

RJ thanked CW and the IRM for hosting the meeting and providing lunch to the POOSH group.