



**Minutes of the  
POOSH Committee Meeting**

**Held on 6 February 2012**

**Institute of Risk Management, 6 Lloyd's Avenue, London EC3N 3AX**

**Present:**

<b>Mr Roger Bibbings</b>	<b>RoSPA</b>	<b>RB</b>
<b>Ms Susanna Everton</b>	<b>AOHNP</b>	<b>SE</b>
<b>Mr Harry Hopkins</b>	<b>SaRS (Chair)</b>	<b>HH</b>
<b>Mr Andrew Griffiths</b>	<b>CIEH</b>	<b>AG</b>
<b>Mr Reg Sell</b>	<b>IEHF</b>	<b>RS</b>
<b>Mr John Holden</b>	<b>IOSH</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>Ms Clare McNicholas</b>	<b>HSE</b>	<b>CMcN</b>
<b>Ms Caroline Minshell</b>	<b>RCN (Public Health Forum)</b>	<b>CM</b>
<b>Mr Brian Nimmick</b>	<b>IIRSM</b>	<b>BN</b>
<b>Mr Anthea Page</b>	<b>BOHS</b>	<b>AP</b>
<b>Ms Carolyn Williams</b>	<b>IRM</b>	<b>CW</b>

**Invited Guest:**

<b>Professor Richard Taylor</b>	<b>HSE</b>	<b>RT</b>
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**Secretariat:**

<b>Mrs Anna McNeil</b>	<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>AM</b>
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**1. Welcome and apologies**

Harry Hopkins welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked Carolyn Williams for hosting the meeting and providing lunch. No apologies had been received.

**2. Minutes of the POOSH committee meeting held on December 2011:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2011 were agreed as an accurate account.

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

There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**4. Future Invitee update**

**a. Mary Boughton – Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)**

It was noted that Mary Boughton may be able to attend the October 2012 meeting but had requested a brief. It was stated that contact had been made with Sarah Higham (Policy Officer) regarding Mary Boughton's visit (via Richard Jones at IOSH).

The Group agreed that the following points should be made:

- POOSH would like to make better contacts with small businesses – and enable small businesses to contact relevant POOSH organisations for information as necessary
- POOSH wishes to find out what small businesses do and don't know and what input this group can have
- How can POOSH and its member organisations collaborate with small businesses
- What are the 'sore thumb' points or issues affecting small businesses
- Following the disappearance of the HSE information lines, the existing information lines provided by members of POOSH should be brought to the FSB's attention
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It was agreed that HH should pass the above information to Richard Jones, who would liaise with Mary Boughton.

**Action: HH / AM**

**b. James Wolfe – DWP**

It was agreed that James Wolfe should be invited to the June meeting to discuss the Fit Note.

AM agreed to check diary availability with James Wolfe's department and inform the Group.

**Action: HH / AM**

***Post meeting note: 11 June 2012 appears to be clear in James Wolfe's diary***

**c. Diana Kloss – Council for Health and Work**

It was agreed that Diana Kloss should be invited to a future meeting to update the group on the work of the Council for Health and Work.

**Action: AM**

**5. Possible POOSH Conference**

AG reported that Nikki Pearson, the events co-ordinator at CIEH, was looking after the conference and AG would be the link between POOSH and CIEH. It was noted that all POOSH members had been contacted by Nikki Pearson. IEHF, IOSH, IIRSM and BOHS had all responded and others were encouraged to respond to Nikki Pearson.

**Action: ALL**

The programme (which can be accessed via this link: <http://www.cieh.org/events/protecting-the-workforce-2012-programme.html>) was discussed.

The role that POOSH would play during the day was discussed and AG agreed to check and revert.

**Action: AG**

It was agreed that POOSH organisations' leaflets would be displayed at the event.

**6. Reports from member organisations**

**a. CIEH (to follow)**

**b. Health and Safety Executive (previously circulated)**

**c. IRM**

CW reminded the group that the IRM Professional Development Forum 2012 was taking place 23-25 April in Manchester and offered free exhibition space to POOSH organisations that were able to market the forthcoming IRM conference. For further information please contact Carolyn Williams.

**d. IEHF**

RS informed the group that the IEHF was still working towards a Charter. The IEHF Annual Conference will take place 16-19 April 2012 in Blackpool.

**e. IOSH (attached)**

**f. IIRSM (Report to follow)**

BN informed the group that the IIRSM had supported the POOSH secretariat for the last two years and he asked for another organisation to now take over that responsibility.

**Action: ALL**

**g. BOHS (previously circulated)**

**h. AOHP**

**i. RoSPA (attached)**

**j. SaRS (tabled)**

**7. Consultants' Register**

AG informed the group that he had attended a recent OSHCR Board meeting at the British Safety Council and the aim had been to address issues of competence and membership. It was noted that Geoffrey Podger was planning to hold a one-off meeting to consider membership issues. IOSH and CIEH had suggested portfolios could be reviewed, and consideration should be given to who would check these.

**8. Response to the reply from James Wolfe, DWP, 15 December 2011**

The reply from James Wolfe (15 December 2011) had been circulated to the group. It was agreed all organisations should submit a draft paragraph (as requested by James Wolfe) as soon as possible. It was agreed that James Wolfe should be invited to the next POOSH meeting, taking place in June 2012, to discuss the Fit Note.

**Action: All**

It was agreed that AM would contact James Wolfe's office to check his availability for the next meeting. Following confirmation of his availability a letter would be sent inviting him to the meeting.

**Action: AM / HH**

***Post meeting note: James Wolfe's diary appears to be clear for 11 June 2012.***

## **9. HSE Legislation / Lofstedt Report**

There was discussion on whether POOSH should respond to David Cameron's recent statements regarding the health and safety culture.

It was noted that the Lofstedt report was independent and Lofstedt had stated that legislation was not the problem, but interpretation was the problem. It was noted that Lofstedt recognised the concept of low risk industry was not an issue.

RB stated that POOSH should be concerned about David Cameron's statements in which he referred to the health and safety movement or monster giving rise to risk aversion. Assertions are that small businesses are drowning in regulation. It is crucial to make more positive cases about the benefits of good health and work.

## **10. Invited Speaker – Professor Richard (Dick) Taylor, HSE**

RT thanked the group for the opportunity to talk to POOSH. He asked for views from the group on the items they wished to be considered by the HSE Board, and added that he was also happy to meet organisations on a one-to-one basis.

Having spent 25 years in health and safety, he felt that it was important to push occupational health up the agenda and to make sure that HSE, and others, give it sufficient prominence. He noted that there were nearly 2 million work related episodes per year and nearly 12,000 work related cancers per year.

In the nuclear industry, prior to 2005, he noted that occupational health tended to fall between stools (HR – OH – safety – managers).

He added that with HSE facing 35% cutbacks it was important to safeguard what was precious.

RT informed the group that he had set up a working arrangement with HSE and the Inter Industry Group on Health and Safety (IIGHS) to mutually support each other and where it was appropriate, to work together and reinforce the message. A workshop meeting was held in November 2011, from which three areas were identified for further collaboration; these were risk education, the business case for health and safety (including OH), and competence. RT asked the group what they wanted him to have on his radar.

CM stated that the main issue for her organisation was risk management and health was still being underplayed. Safety always seemed to dominate.

RT replied that the business plan he had worked on with the engineering institutions showing the business case for occupational health was a good document and it addressed how to get the message across that health was a risk worth investing in. He suggested that POOSH may wish to hold an evening meeting covering occupational health risks. If so, he would be happy to bring it to the attention of the Hazards Forum.

AG stated that stress was a major issues and HSE did not seem to want to grasp this topic. RT replied that stress was a vitally important topic with 11 million working days lost a year but noted that this was being addressed by Dame Carol Black. He added that he had raised work related injuries at a recent HSE Board meeting.

RB raised the matter of budget cuts and the fact that therefore HSE was not circulating information. He recommended that HSE should work with other organisations to identify information available that could be shared. He added that it would be preferable not to talk about 'health and safety' together unless they were actually meaning both. Risk literacy was another important issue to be considered.

RT agreed that sharing information was vital and joint training initiatives would be welcome. There was a need to give a big emphasis to promote 'The Hidden Killer' campaign or something similar. On the topic of risk literacy he added that the Hazards Forum were holding meetings this year to deal with risk perception and risk communications. The Engineering Council had recently produced guidance on risk which included this topic.

RT asked if POOSH could think of any way to collaborate with the Engineering Council and the Hazards Forum.

Discussion followed on teaching material being developed for undergraduates, schools and further education institutes, to highlight the sort of risks students would encounter in the future. BN stated that the British Safety Council had developed a qualification covering this topic which had been well received. RB added that RoSPA had also done a lot of work to get health and safety, occupational health and risk into the curriculum. RT would ensure that Nicola Stacey, HSL, who was progressing the project, took note of these other initiatives.

Consideration was given to where POOSH could help to develop the occupational health component of the draft business case and BN suggested that Su Wang's work at Royal Mail Group would be valuable.

RB stressed that in the Olympic year we should highlight the outstanding achievement at the Olympic Park of the very low accident rate and that no deaths were attributable to occupational safety or health. RT agreed that this legacy must be re-enforced. It was noted that this message should be conveyed to waste and recycling, agriculture and construction industries.

HH thanked RT for speaking to the POOSH Group.

## **11. Council for Health and Work**

The notes of the Council for Health and Work meeting held on 28 September 2011 had been circulated. It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would take place on 8 February 2012.

It was agreed that Diana Kloss should be invited to a future POOSH meeting.

**Action: AM**

## **12. Any other business**

### **a. British Occupational Health Research Foundation (BOHRF)**

It was noted that a letter had been received from the Chair of BOHRF informing the Group that BOHRF would be winding down its activities. No further sponsorship would be sought, but the current projects would be honoured.

Concern was shown by the group as to where occupational health research would be funded in the future. It was agreed that a map of who is doing what research in the UK to give an overview. JH agreed to supply a list of the research IOSH are currently funding.

**Action: JH**

## **13. Meeting dates in 2012**

Monday 11 June 2012: 1100 to 1500

**Please note time change**

### **Venue:**

Board Room  
Institute of Occupational Safety and Health  
The Grange  
Highfield Drive  
Wigston  
Leicestershire LE18 1NN

Monday 8 October 2012: 1300 for 1330, venue tbc