



Professional Organisations in Occupational Safety and Health (POOSH)

Minutes of a meeting held on

Tuesday 8 December 2009

The Institute of Risk Management

6 Lloyd's Avenue, London EC3N 3AX (5th Floor AIRMIC Conference Room)

At 1000, with a sandwich lunch at 1230

PRESENT

Neil Budworth	Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
Trevor Cummings	Society of Occupational Medicine
Andrew Griffiths	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Harry Hopkin	Safety and Reliability Society
David Newsum	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Anthea Page	British Occupational Hygiene Society
Reg Sell	The Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (formerly the Ergonomics Society)
Linda Varney	Health and Safety Executive
Carolyn Williams	Institute of Risk Management
Anna McNeil	Secretariat

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Siobhan Clark (AOHNP) and Peter Griffin (FOM and IIRSM). The Chair welcomed Caroline Minshell (RCN) to her first meeting, and Andrew Griffiths from CIEH, and thanked Carolyn Williams for hosting the meeting.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2009 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2009 were approved without change.	
3.	Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.	
4.	Reports from member organisations: sharing plans and activities Reports from the following organisations had been received and were tabled: IIRSM, FOM, AOHNP, ES, and SOM. These would be uploaded to the website after the meeting. The secretariat requested that reports from other organisations be submitted after the meeting and they would also be put on the website.	SEC ALL
5.	Co-ordination of joint initiatives There were no joint initiatives at the present time.	

6. **Child employment (13 to 16 year olds)**

Andrew Griffiths reported that CIEH, had made a statement on child employment on their website – employment is good for children, but children have particular needs which employers need to be made aware of. This has been discussed with RoSPA and the NSPCC. Neil Budworth offered IOSH’s help if required. DN asked if this statement, after circulation to each organisation, may it be possible to have a POOSH statement on this topic. The wording to be circulated to the Secretariat by Andrew Griffiths.

AG
(CIEH)

7. **POOSH Annual Safety Summit**

At the last meeting, consideration was given to holding an annual safety summit. This could be a free event which may be of interest to RoSPA and BSC, in which case they could be invited to sponsor the event. David Newsum suggested that each organisation could be invited to send 2 people to the meeting. The aim being to raise the profile of POOSH. Caroline Williams recommended a press release be prepared in good time to ensure the summit gained profile. Andrew Griffiths added that CIEH would be willing to host the event subject to availability of accommodation. He added that CIEH were holding a conference on Earned autonomy in business in January 2010 which may help identify where those not directly involved in regulation can be given guidance. Neil Budworth added that MSD should be considered as a topic, together with mental health. To summarise, the group was supportive of the meeting, and the timing of the event would be influenced by the discussion on the future of POOSH later on the agenda. In principle, it was felt to be a good idea, to be given good thought. While it was unlikely to take place during 2010, consideration should be given to holding the event at a later stage.

It was agreed that a working group should be set up to consider the event. The title of the event should be “Health and Safety Summit”. Further consideration to the proposed summit will take place at the February 2010 meeting.

NB / SEC

8. **Competencies and Consultants’ Register**

It was noted that this would now be a standing item on the POOSH agenda, and Andrew Griffiths was invited to update the group.

Andrew Griffiths informed the group that he represented CIEH on the Standing Group. The group had been set up following the DWP Select Committee recommendation that professional organisations in health and safety should get together and consider the feasibility of setting up a register of those involved in health and safety.

It was noted that some consultants are less competent than they might be and may be offering a disproportionate amount of advice or the wrong advice and that there is currently no system that measures the level of competency of consultants. Smaller businesses have to rely on the advice of the Environmental Health Officer or Regulator to ensure they comply with the rules and regulations.

The register will demonstrate on-going competence. The criteria for getting on the register were discussed and it was noted that CIEH and IOSH had prepared a proposal for consideration of the network

(which included RoSPA, BSC and many others). Andrew Griffiths agreed to check with IOSH and HSE to ensure they are happy with the proposal being circulated to the POOSH group. AG

CIEH were currently looking at existing models, which are good registers etc to see what would be the best way to proceed and were looking at the Gas Safe model (which replaced the CORGI register).

It was noted that IOSH had set up a survey on its website to see if practitioners would be willing to sign up for the register. IOSH will also ascertain if businesses would be willing to contact the register to find a practitioner and whether practitioners would be willing to jump through the various hoops to get onto the register.

Disciplinary and appeals procedures needed to be considered. The key issue would be to demonstrate competence – rather than qualification.

If any organisation had contact lists of those responsible for a register, they were asked to let Andrew Griffiths know. It was reiterated that the register would be independently run and not specifically 'owned' by any individual organisation. Any comments or queries to AG at A.griffiths@cieh.org or via the Secretariat. SEC

Anthea Page asked what the scope of the consultants being included and Andrew Griffiths replied that the list was currently rather generalist, but consideration should be given to specialist consultants. AG

Neil Budworth added that he would obtain confirmation from IOSH they they were happy for POOSH to be directed to the web-based survey. AG / NB

It was agreed that CIEH would provide an update for each meeting and thanks were extended to Andrew Griffiths for this update.

9. **HSE Update – promotional campaigns**

Linda Varney informed the group of the following HSE activities:

Annual Health and Safety Statistics 2008-09:

Latest statistics were published on 28 October 2009 showing 1.2 million people suffered from work-related ill health with 24.6 million working days lost due to ill health. These figures were slightly down on 2007-08.

Asbestos – the hidden killer:

The campaign to bring the risks home to trades people had now ended and there had been high levels of interest. The next push is likely to be directed at duty-holders.

Slips and trips:

The annual ladder exchange is due to finish at the end of December. 16 partners had worked with the HSE this year, offering up to 50% off the cost of a new ladder when an old ladder was traded in.

Unsecured loads:

The campaign to improve the risk assessment related to properly securing loads scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2009 would now start in February 2010.

Physical agents directive:

Consultation on regulations to implement the Physical Agents

Artificial Optical Radiation Directive is under way with a closing date of 5 February 2010. The Regulations need to be made in April 210.

Stress awareness day:

This took place on 4 November with HSE involved with ISMA and others on the planning. The stress management competency tool, developed with joint sponsorship from CIPD, IIP UK and HSE is raising interest and is available as a download from the HSE website. Improvements are planned to other tools related to the stress management standards.

Musculoskeletal disorders:

BITC has launched its new toolkit in the 'Business Action on Health' series covering MSDs. Prepared by a steering group including private industry and public bodies, 'Working Joints and Muscles' aims to provide explanation, advice and case studies of what can be done to promote musculoskeletal health using the Towers Perrin model for interventions. The toolkit is a downloadable pdf on the BITC website.

Standards for occupational health services:

The launch of the work led by FOM is scheduled for 13 January 2010.

10. **Guest Speaker: Mrs Diana Kloss**

David Newsum welcomed Mrs Diana Kloss, the Chair of the newly formed Council for Work and Health.

Mrs Kloss informed the group that the Council had been set up following the Carol Black report, under the auspices of the NHS Plus who have funded it for 2 years. Membership of the Council included the following:

Association of Occupational Health Nurse Practitioners, British Occupational Hygiene Society, British Psychological Society, British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine, COHPA, Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Institute of Occupational Health Technicians, Royal College of Nursing, Society of Occupational Medicine, Vocational Rehabilitation Association.

The Royal College of General Practitioners have been invited to send a representative to the next meeting. Dame Carol is also a member of the Council.

Diana Kloss informed the group that the Council was currently working on standards for accreditation of occupational health providers which would be launched in January 2010. Paul Nicholson had worked out the fundamental standards, which it was hoped that practitioners would sign up (and pay) for.

The Council aims to provide information on the competencies and what occupational health qualifications mean – what they can do, what advice they can give to employers and organisations.

Another project the Council is working on is that the Occupational Health Nurses are concerned that they are classified under the public health banner and the training doesn't actually cover the needs for occupational health nurses. A small working group has been set up with the following members: Cynthia Atwell, Helen Kirk, and Greta Thornbury. The working group would feed back to the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Concern about potential overlap between the work of the Council and

other organisations (including the UK Rehabilitation Council and POOSH) had been voiced. Diana Kloss felt that all groups had discreet areas of expertise and as long as the groups communicated and worked together there would be no problems.

Diana Kloss added that she would be preparing a programme of activities the Council wished to undertake; she would then seek government funding.

It was agreed that the Council would submit a report to POOSH for each meeting.

RS

It was noted that John Osman (HSE) and Andrew Griffiths (CIEH) wished to be invited to join the Council.

SEC

It was agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with Wendy Coleman for a Council update for future POOSH meetings.

David Newsum thanked Diana Kloss for coming to speak to the POOSH Group.

10. **The future of POOSH**

The group was asked to consider the role and future of POOSH. After discussion the following points were identified as useful:

- Sharing ideas
- Acting together
- Identify one issue per year that all members could agree and promote
- Work closely with the Council

It was agreed that the Terms of Reference would be brought to the next meeting for ratification.

Group membership was also discussed and perhaps one way to achieve wider membership would be to have an open meeting once a year to include others. All members were asked to submit suggestions for the theme and guest list.

It was agreed that RoSPA should be invited to the next meeting as the guest speaker.

DN
SEC

11. **Future invited speakers**

The following were considered:
Roger Bibbings, ROSPA
Lord McKenzie
Paul Nicholson
Jim Kennedy
Hugh Robertson
Sayeed Khan

12. **Any other business**

There was no other business.

13. **Election of Chair for 2010**

One self-nomination had been received and Neil Budworth was duly elected as chair for 2010. Congratulations were extended to Neil and Neil Budworth then

thanked David Newsum for his able Chairmanship of POOSH during 2009.

14. **Dates of next meeting**

Wednesday 3 February 2010, London venue tbc
Please contact the Secretariat if you can offer to host the meeting in London.

Apologies were received from Trevor Cummings and Reg Sell.

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