

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

Invitation to join a Health and Safety Evidence and Evaluation group for Scotland

Issue:

1. To establish an evidence and evaluation group.

Background

2. Please see previous paper PHASS/02/02 (rev) on the terms of reference and proposals for membership.

Recommendation and action

3. That the committee notes that a joint letter of invitation from Stewart and Steve (attached) has been issued to the following people and organisations:

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An update on responses will be given at the meeting.

A tentative date for a first meeting has been agreed as 12 May 2006.

April 2006



Dear colleague

DELIVERING HIGHER STANDARDS OF WORPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SCOTLAND

We are very pleased to be writing to invite you – or someone you wish to nominate from your organisation - to become a member of a new **Health and Safety Evidence and Evaluation group for Scotland**.

This is an initiative aimed at supporting the work of the [Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives](#) and the [Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland](#). Both programmes are supported by Ministers and we aim to work together to bring about a more integrated approach to occupational health and safety and public health.

The role of the Evidence and Evaluation group will be to:

- identify the range of injury and health indicators (including qualitative information) relevant to
 - the aims of the Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland and the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives (a "minimum data set") and
 - monitoring and evaluation of desirable outcomes
- propose any additional analysis of the indicators as a whole and by region to provide a coherent overview(s) and to identify the important determinants of such indicators and any important deficiencies in the data
- identify evaluations and reviews of the effectiveness of past and current interventions

with a view to

- making sensible use of existing evidence to
 - advise on the development and targeting of action by the Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland and Healthy Working Lives
 - establish a baseline against which progress can be monitored and evaluated
 - identify on-going sources of data collection to monitor and evaluate progress
- proposing further research to fill gaps in the evidence concerning all of the above.

In effect, the group will be an expert advisor to the Partnership and Healthy Working Lives.

We would like members to be drawn from a range of organisations for their knowledge of the availability and quality of evidence and/or policy evaluation in occupational health and safety, public health and related fields in Scotland. Growing understanding of the inter-relationship between risks from work activity, lifestyle, environmental factors and socio-economic background, and their impact on the health of workers and potential workers means that this is now quite a wide spectrum of interests.

In the first instance, we are seeking representation from:

HSE Statistics Unit;
NHS Health Scotland;
The Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives;
Scottish Executive Health Department – Chief Medical Officer, Health Improvement Directorate, and Health Protection Scotland;
Academic and professional interests in public health, occupational health and safety, and social policy;
Scotland's Trade Unions;
Scotland's employers' organizations;
Department of Work and Pensions;
Scottish Executive Department of Enterprise, Transport and Life-long learning.

This is an unremunerated position. The group would meet perhaps three times a year or by mutual agreement, and will develop an action programme to develop the role and objectives summarised above. Administrative support will be provided by HSE and the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives.

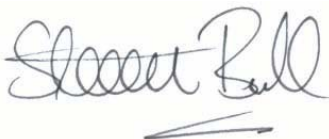
We would very much welcome you or your organisation's participation to support the development of a clearer picture of Scotland's occupational health and safety and work-related public health performance and how we should measure improvement.

If you or your nominee would like to discuss this opportunity further please do not hesitate to give either of us a ring.

We will be informing Ministers of this development as well as copying this letter to Dr Andrew Cubie CBE, Chair of the Healthy Working Lives National Advisory Group and Margaret Burns CBE, HSC member and Chair of the Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland.

We have pencilled in a date of 12 May for the first meeting – probably in Edinburgh. We look forward to hearing from you, if at all possible, by 18 April.

Yours sincerely



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