

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

Matters arising from the minutes of the 18th September 2006 meeting

Issue

1. To take stock of the position with on-going work and who is taking the lead (since our attention earlier this year was somewhat diverted into developments with the Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety).

Matters arising

2. Para 3.2 – Sub-group on the Scottish evidence base. The group has not met since an initial scoping meeting in early 2006. The context and focus for their work needs to be agreed with the National Advisory Group on Healthy Working Lives. A suitable Chair also needs to be appointed. (Stewart)

3. Para 3.3 – Directory of activities of OHS bodies. The document is now ready for publication – electronically, as it contains many hyperlinks. We need to decide a publication date and publicity, relevant websites on which it can be posted, and how to engage other stakeholders in work on the back of this - as envisaged in the Scottish Action Plan. (Karen/Sarah)

4. Para 3.6 – Good neighbour scheme. The report had been finalised. Some analysis of the lessons was now needed for example to develop a template for others to use. This was envisaged by the RoSPA Higher Performers' Forum and the 'business to business' actions in the Scottish Action Plan. (Russel/Stewart/Karen)

5. Para 3.8 – Better regulation agenda in Scotland. The Local Government Improvement Service has developed principles for improving co-ordination and co-operation between regulators in Scotland. There is consensus on some sort of Regulators' Forum to discuss common issues and joint working. Work on the detail of any new arrangements is continuing under the auspices of COSLA and will need to be in the context of the new administration's policy for local government (Douglas/Stewart)

6. Para 4 – Changes to HSC/E governance. Please see the link to the HSE website for the outcome of the consultation and next steps.

7. Para 5 - Protecting workers who serve the public. The evidence of problems in betting shops – presented to the Partnership by Community the Union – was referred to and discussed at relevant HSE/local authority liaison bodies. (Stewart)

8. Para 6 – Corporate killing. The Westminster Bill was currently “ping ponging” between the Commons and the Lords – mainly on the issue of the scope of the Bill and whether it should cover deaths in custody. In Scotland, Karen Gillon MSP was again considering her own Bill which had run out of time in the previous Parliamentary session. (Ian?)

9. Para 8 – Partnership report to HSC and Ministers. An update on developments in Scotland - covering the Partnership’s work - had been discussed by HSC in March (HSC/07/30). The UK health and safety Minister has changed fairly recently to Lord McKenzie, and of course we have a new administration in Scotland. It would now be useful to produce a submission to inform relevant Ministers of the Partnership’s role and influence, and which looks forward as well as reports back on our work. (Sarah)

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