

# Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

## **Purpose of the Paper: HSE Director Scotland update**

### New HSE Director Scotland

Dr Paul Stollard has been appointed as HSE's new Director, Scotland.

Paul is an architect and fire engineer who has been working in the safety industry for the last twenty-five years. For the last four years, he has been the Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency based in Livingston. He oversaw the reform of the building standards system in Scotland introducing the new Act in 2003 and the revised Technical Handbooks in 2005. Before becoming a civil servant, Paul ran a private company, specialising in the fire safety design issues related to buildings, in particular hospitals and shopping centres. He has also been visiting professor of Architecture at the Queen's University of Belfast and lived for a number of years in Northern Ireland.

Paul will take up his post on 1 May.

### ICL Public Inquiry update

The terms of reference for the public inquiry are:

- To inquire into the circumstances leading up to the incident on 11 May 2004 at the premises occupied by the ICL group of companies, Grovepark Mills, Maryhill, Glasgow.
- To consider the safety and related issues arising from such an inquiry, including the regulation of the activities at Grovepark Mills.
- To make recommendations in the light of the lessons identified from the causation and circumstances leading up to the incident.
- To report as soon as practicable.

Lord Gill, the Inquiry Chairman held the first Preliminary hearing on 25 February 2008. The nine interested parties were informed of some of the rules for the inquiry. He announced that he would receive written applications for Core Participation up to 10 March 2008. It would be his decision on who would be granted core participation status and HSE has applied. A further preliminary was set for 8 April 2008 when more detail of the process will be given.

Further information is available on the website [www.theiclinquiry.org](http://www.theiclinquiry.org)

### HSE Campaigns

HSE launched a new campaign entitled "Shattered Lives" aimed at increasing the awareness of the consequence of slips, trips and falls accidents. There were 4081 injuries in Scotland (1/3 of the total Scotland injuries) costing the Scottish Economy £67m. Further information is available on the HSE website [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

HSE's Construction Division carried out over 1000 spot checks of refurbishment sites across Great Britain during February as part of its rolling inspection programme targeting

poor performing sectors in the construction industry. Throughout Great Britain, HSE Inspectors served 395 notices, and stopped work on approximately 30 per cent of sites visited. In Scotland, work was immediately stopped on 27 sites.

### HSE Prosecutions

An incident occurred where a principal contractor owned a telehandler and gave the keys to the driver, knowing that he had not been trained to use the machine. While operating the machine on a slope the vehicle tipped over and struck the driver's son. The IP was seriously injured and spent a considerable time in hospital. The company were charged under HSW section 2 and 3 and fined £500.

The prosecution arising out of the Solway Firth cockle picking incident of around two years ago came to court recently. The gangmaster involved was fined £2000.

We have also heard informally that COPFS has decided not to take action in relation to at least two of our prosecution reports. We are in active discussion with COPFS to clarify the position.

### Accident Statistics

From 1 December 2007 to 29 February 2008 there were 14 fatal incidents reported to HSE, one of which was to a member of public and two may have been due to natural causes. Five in the Construction sector, five in the Agriculture sector. Four were caused by crushing injuries, two drowned and two were falls. So far this year our informal count shows 26 fatal accidents to workers and nine to members of the public.