

# Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

## DRAFT Minutes of Meeting of steering committee

12 December 2008

### In attendance:

Judith Hackitt	HSE Chair
Danny Carrigan	PHASS Chair (HSE Board member)
Harry Frew	STUC and UCATT
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
Sarah Jones	HSE, Director's Office, Scotland (Secretary)
Karen McDonnell	POOSH Scotland
Rory Mackail	Federation of Small Businesses
Jim Gardner	Federation of Small Businesses
Roddy Duncan	Scottish Government - Public Health and Well-being Division
Ian Tasker	STUC
Anne Chesney	HSE Glasgow, Partnership Officer
Norrie Buchanan	HSE, HM Inspector, Quarries
Iain Brodie	HSE, HM Inspector
Valerie Holland	HSE, Health and Safety Awareness officer
Paul Burgess	COI
Steve Bell	SCHWL, Director
Russell Griggs	CBI Scotland
Alan Crawford	Scottish Government, Occupational Health and Safety Advisor

### Apologies:

David Evans	SoCOEH
Paul Stollard	HSE Director, Scotland
James Hynd	Scottish Government, Corporate Facilities Management
Carole Boyd	South Ayrshire Council, Corporate Safety Manager
Jamie Hume	Scottish Government – Enterprise & Industry Division
Fiona Smith	UNISON

### Welcome and Introductions

1. Danny Carrigan welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Judith Hackitt and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Alan Crawford was welcomed and introduced as representing James Hynd. Danny announced Ian Lavery's departure from the committee and that he would be replaced by Carol Boyd. Danny wished Ian well in his new venture and it was agreed that he would write and thank Ian for his contribution to the committee.

### Minutes of the meeting on 24 June 2008

2. These had been agreed and published on the Partnership section of HSE's Scottish web pages.

### Matters Arising

#### Scottish Government response to Dame Carol Black's report (para 12)

3. Roddy Duncan advised members that this response was completed at the end of October. Feedback was positive and the recommendations were broadly accepted. He pointed out initiatives and areas of further work were required along with the review of the Healthy Working Lives (HWL) Action Plan and some analysis of the HSE statistics published in the autumn. Roddy informed members of a HWL event which will be held in early June and that there were some outstanding questions with DWP re initiatives. Roddy confirmed that the responses from the UK Government and Wales have been published.

**Re-setting the direction for the Health and Safety Systems of Great Britain – launch of a new strategy consultation.**

4. Judith Hackitt said she was very pleased to be back in Glasgow and would return on 29th January for the Strategy Consultation Workshop. PHASS members were given a copy of the consultation document which presents the Board's proposed new strategy for the health and safety system as a whole. Judith explained:
5. The process began in April following the merger of HSE with HSC and the need for a new strategy beyond 2010. Since the previous strategy written in 2004, many changes have occurred in organisations, political landscape and the nature of work. The strategy in the past 5 years has already been delivered.
6. Despite the previous successes, performance in health and safety in Great Britain has hit a plateau and improvements have been at a much slower pace. There is a major impetus to improve. Judith emphasised the biggest single change in approach: this is not just an HSE strategy; it is fundamentally a health and safety framework for all players across Great Britain.
7. Everyone has a role in delivering on the strategy and bringing about improvements. This includes employers, workers, trade unions, the self employed, manufacturers, suppliers and trade associations.
8. The partnership between HSE and the Local Authorities, who both ensure duty holders manage their workplaces by providing advice and guidance as well as conducting inspections and investigations and take enforcement action where appropriate.
9. Judith welcomed members' views on the strategy but asked for specific input on how they could contribute to its delivery. She confirmed that delivery mechanisms in Scotland should reflect the different context here including for example the impact of devolved powers in health and justice and the different mix of partners and stakeholders.
10. The point was raised about the need for competent advice and the fear of civil litigation. Judith confirmed that there will be continued rebuttal of health and safety myths and the things that cause them.
11. The current economic situation was also raised and how this impacts on the strategy. It was outlined that we are living in extraordinary times which can impact on health and safety issues. However, the strategy is about core principles and is designed to be event-proof.
12. There were also discussions on HSE and Local Authorities as enforcers of health and safety and how they work in partnership; the important role of the Trade Unions and inspectors contact with employee representatives during visits; the role

of the voluntary sector; and the need to tailor support for SMEs while not lowering health and safety standards.

13. Judith asked members to consider these points for the workshop on 29 January 2009. It was confirmed that the consultation will last 3 months and the final strategy should be published April or May 2009.
14. Danny thanked Judith and emphasised that it was important for members to attend the workshop. Anne Chesney will circulate details of the event.

**Action – Anne to circulate details of strategy workshop**

### **HSE Scotland Director's report**

15. Directors report PHASS/12/02 was presented by Sarah Jones.
16. The specific items highlighted were, the number of fatal injuries since the last meeting, successful prosecutions, the asbestos campaign, information on construction and offshore industries, HSE liaison with SEPA and the latest position of the work of the Calman Commission.
17. Danny highlighted that given the differences between the justice systems in England and Wales and Scotland direct comparisons in prosecution statistics could not be drawn.
18. Prof Griggs raised the issue of closer working between public bodies in Scotland through the SEARS partnership initiative and whether it would be appropriate for HSE to participate
19. **Post meeting note.** The organisations involved in SEARS all have some relevance to land management and the environment and whilst there are links to health and safety initial views are that HSEs interests are not sufficiently central to their responsibilities to support a full partnership to make it worthwhile. There may however be some scope for closer working at margins.

**Action – Secretary to consult HSE colleagues**

### **Improving safety in quarries**

20. Norrie Buchanan, HM Inspector of Health and Safety (Quarries), gave a presentation on the industry's health and safety performance. There was an overview of the industry where there have been 21 fatalities since 2000. The main health and safety issues for the industry were then outlined. These include; workplace transport; falls from height; slips and trips; guarding; the use of explosives; geotechnical matters; dust (silica); noise and vibration; and welfare.
21. Norrie also discussed the current situation and issues with the opencast coal industry and the achievements to date. These include:
  - Improvements in traffic management and control systems on sites - industry standard raised by enforcement and advice on CCTV and communications systems,
  - Engagement with plant manufacturers and suppliers; and Increased worker participation

- There were some discussions following this presentation, especially on health and safety management systems and culture along with enforcement options and subsequent action.

### **Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives**

22. Steve Bell presented paper update PHASS/12/03. It was outlined that their target group was small to medium sized organisations. Occupational health and safety work is carried out in three main areas. Face to face; advice over the phone; and web-based. There is also an award programme which is being run.
23. The success of the website was highlighted. There have now been about 64,000 visits (which are lengthier than the traditional 'hit' measurement). Also, the system can identify Scottish traffic to ensure the right audience. In addition to this there is also some e-mail activity.
24. In light of Judith's presentation, Steve felt that the HSE/SCHWL partnership fits well with the new Strategy being consulted upon. There will be a paper and fuller discussion at the next PHASS meeting in March on closer working between HSE and SCHWL, reducing duplication of effort and improving outcomes. It was outlined that it is planned for the next PHASS and SCHWL meetings to be on the same day and coordinated into a joint session.
25. Steve also highlighted a project to promote a sickness absence management tool to SMEs – developed by HSE and IOM. SCHWL were keen to get HSE agreement to develop and use the software.

**Action – Steve Bell and Paul Stollard to prepare a paper for next meeting.**

### **HSE Board Update**

26. Danny provided an HSE board update. The earlier discussion on the new strategy covered most of the current issues. In addition, Danny updated members on the change from CORGI to Capita Group on gas safety issues. The switch is due on 1 April 2009. Branding is currently being considered and indications are that the brand will be 'Gas Safe'. There will be a public awareness campaign in March about the change.

### **AOB**

27. Kathy Jenkins raised a concern about a recent press article. The concern was that HSE may be slightly changing its position on enforcement in the area of occupational stress.

**Action – Kathy to provide a specific reference to article.**

28. Ian Tasker raised the issue of stress management in the journalism industry. HSE and the relevant Local Authority had intervened.

29. Karen McDonnell raised a point about HSE policy on inspectors' membership of IOSH.

**Action – Secretary to consult on HSE's position**

**Next meeting: 20 March HSE Glasgow Office at 1300hrs. Lunch from 1230hrs**