

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

Update on HSC/E activity in Scotland

Issue

1. To update the committee on selected matters of interest since the last meeting. This update concentrates mainly on recently published statistics.

Recommendation and action

2. For interest and discussion.

Background

3. At the Chair's request a regular update is prepared for each meeting.

Fatal injury statistics 2006/07

4. The figures for 2006/07 were published in July. The press release for Scotland was circulated to members and is attached again at Annex 1. Details of cases will be available at the meeting.

Analysis of the 2005/06 self-reported work-related illness and injury results from the Labour Force Survey

5. HSE commissioned a module of questions in the winter quarter (December 2005 to February 2006) of the Labour Force Survey (LFS), to gain a view of work-related illness and workplace injury in the last 12 months, based on individuals' perceptions. The LFS is a household survey consisting currently of about 50,000 responding households in Great Britain, and is intended to be representative of the population.

6. This has just been published. Relevant tables for Scotland are at Annex 2. The full report can be found on HSE's website.

Nuclear safety - operational matters

7. Annex 3 contains a report of matters of interest in Scotland.

Other developments

Q fever

8. The outbreak of Q Fever at an abattoir in Stirlingshire in June 2006, led HSE to work closely with the NHS, Health Protection Scotland, the Food Standards Agency, the LA and the Meat Hygiene Service.

9. Since the last update, a full report on HSE's investigation has been submitted for inclusion in NHS Forth Valley's paper looking at the outbreak. HSE has also met DEFRA and HPA. There has been no decision yet on the question of vaccination and no commitment to carry out any serological testing. Some serological testing has however been carried out in Ireland with interesting results.

10. In May HSE gave a presentation to the Meat Hygiene Service, outlining the findings of the investigation, the implications for the industry as a whole and the legal picture. HSE also attended the regional zoonosis conference in Liverpool in June and plan to attend the International Zoonosis Conference, being held in Glasgow in November. HPS have asked HSE to join the Scottish Zoonosis Group.

Construction activity

11. So far in 2007/08 there have been four fatal injuries in Scottish construction. The most recent incidents involved foreign workers. HSE has agreed to liaise with the Inverness Polish Association on health and safety of Polish workers. (An update on fatalities in other sectors since 1 March this year will be provided at the meeting.)

12. HSE Construction Division has trialled a 'designer awareness day' in Scotland, as good design is identified as being key to getting the site operations on a safer and healthier footing. Site Safe Scotland had some concern about whether previous similar events throughout GB had actually led to changes in behaviour and commissioned work on a modified product.

13. Morrison Construction Ltd identified a keen manager in Aberdeen who combined a number of poor or indifferent design practices on to one site laid out as a number of site drawings covering the roof (falls from height, maintainability), general site plan (traffic management, access for vehicles both during construction and thereafter) and internal elements (usability and maintainability issues as well as manual handling of internal items during construction).

14. On completion of the material, it was trialled at the Royal Incorporation of Architects (RIAS) in Edinburgh with 8 'guinea pig' architects chosen by RIAS. A further trial was carried out with designers chosen by Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd. Feedback has been positive. The material has now been handed to RIAS and Association for Project Safety (APS) so that they can organise workshops/training events etc for their members, initially throughout Scotland.

15. In June, a joint HSE/Scottish Executive/Scottish Construction Forum event was held in Leith to raise awareness of the new Construction Design and Management Regulations 2007 and the obligations on Government as Client. The Chief Inspector of Construction, Stephen Williams gave the opening address.

August 2007

Annex 1



Thursday 26 July 2007 12:11

Health and Safety Executive (Scotland)

HSC publishes statistics of fatal injuries for 2006/07 - slight reduction in the number of work-related deaths in Scotland

The Health & Safety Commission (HSC) today publishes the latest statistics on workplace fatal injuries in 2006/07 - Statistics of Fatal Injuries 2006/07. The document can be found on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm>

In 2006/07, the number of fatally injured workers (that is, employees and the self-employed) in Scotland fell slightly by one to 31, compared with 32 in 2005/06. By industry, 10 were in construction, seven in the agriculture sector, seven in the services sector, four in the extraction and utility supply sector and three in manufacturing. During the year, five members of the public were fatally injured, less than half the number the previous year - five in services- and two in agriculture-related incidents.

The number of fatal injuries for employees - fell from 23 to 22, a rate of 0.92 deaths per 100,000 people employed, compared to 0.99 in 2005/06. The rate of fatal injury to employees in agriculture in Scotland was particularly high at 15.8 per 100,000 employees.

Alistair McNab, HSE Head of Operations, Glasgow said:

"Any reduction in fatalities in Scotland is welcome, but the number of people dying because of work is still unacceptably high. Scottish agriculture has one of the worst rates. The industry really must step up a gear to manage risk better. That was our message at the recent Royal Highland Show - the industry needs to improve its skills if it wants to ensure safe and healthy working lives.

"HSE investigates all incidents of fatal injury and where appropriate, submits a report to the Procurator Fiscal proposing criminal charges under health and safety law. The Crown Office also conducts fatal accident inquiries to learn lessons. But we want industry to work with us to prevent people being killed as a result of work. Each death is a tragedy and, in many cases, should have been entirely avoidable."

The report points out that, although the overall fatal injury rate for Scotland (and Wales) fluctuates a lot from year to year, it is generally higher than for Great Britain as a whole. Research* indicates that this difference can largely be explained by occupational and other characteristics of the workplace. In construction, for example, Scotland's workforce is made up of a greater proportion of manual workers compared to managers and clerical staff than in England.

Overall however Great Britain has one of the best records in Europe. In March this year, a Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety was published. It aims to co-ordinate action to reduce work-related injury and ill health between UK and Scottish governments as well as business, workers' representatives and professionals. HSC and HSE are supporting its implementation through a stakeholder body - the Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland - set up by HSC in 2005.

"As well as working with stakeholders, HSE continues to work closely with the administration in Scotland, where devolved policies such as public health, enterprise and justice all have an impact on health and safety," said Mr McNab.

Great Britain figures

The provisional figure for the number of workers fatally injured in 2006/07 is 241, and corresponds to a rate of fatal injury of 0.80 per 100,000 workers. In 2005/06 the estimated figures were 217 and 0.72

respectively; these were the lowest figures on record.

There were 90 members of the public fatally injured in 2006/07 (excluding railway-related incidents).

Of the main industrial sectors, agriculture and construction have the highest rates of fatal industry. Together these two sectors account for 46 per cent of fatal injuries to workers.

Falling from a height continues to be the most common type of accident, accounting for 21 per cent of fatal injuries to workers in 2006/07. Over the last decade there has been a steady and significant reduction in fatal injuries due to this type of accident. Being struck by a moving or falling object, and being struck by a moving vehicle are the next most common kinds of fatal accident.

Worker fatalities by main industry - GB

In agriculture there were 34 fatalities and the rate of fatal injury was 8.1 deaths per 100,000 workers.

In construction there were 77 fatalities and the rate of fatal injury was 3.7 deaths per 100,000 workers.

In manufacturing there were 35 fatalities and the rate of fatal injury was 1.1 per 100,000 workers.

In the services sector there were 85 fatalities, with a rate of fatal injury of 0.35 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Notes to Editors

1. The reporting of health and safety incidents at work is a statutory requirement, set out under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). A reportable incident includes: a death or major injury; any accident which does not result in major injury, but the injured person still has to take four or more days off their normal work to recover; a work related disease; a member of the public being injured as a result of work related activity and taken to hospital for treatment; or a dangerous occurrence (which does not result in a serious injury, but could have done).

2. European comparisons are compiled independently by Eurostat and relate to figures published in 2004.

3. *An analysis of the significant causes of fatal and major injuries in construction in Scotland, HSE research report rr443 - BOMEL, Glasgow Caledonian University and the Institute for Employment Research 2006.

4. More information about HSE can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk>

5. HSE publishes a full range of workplace health and safety statistics, these can be viewed at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm>

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES: Call HSE's InfoLine, tel: 08701 545500, or write to: HSE Information Services, Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly CF83 3GG.

HSE information and press releases can be accessed on the Internet:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk>

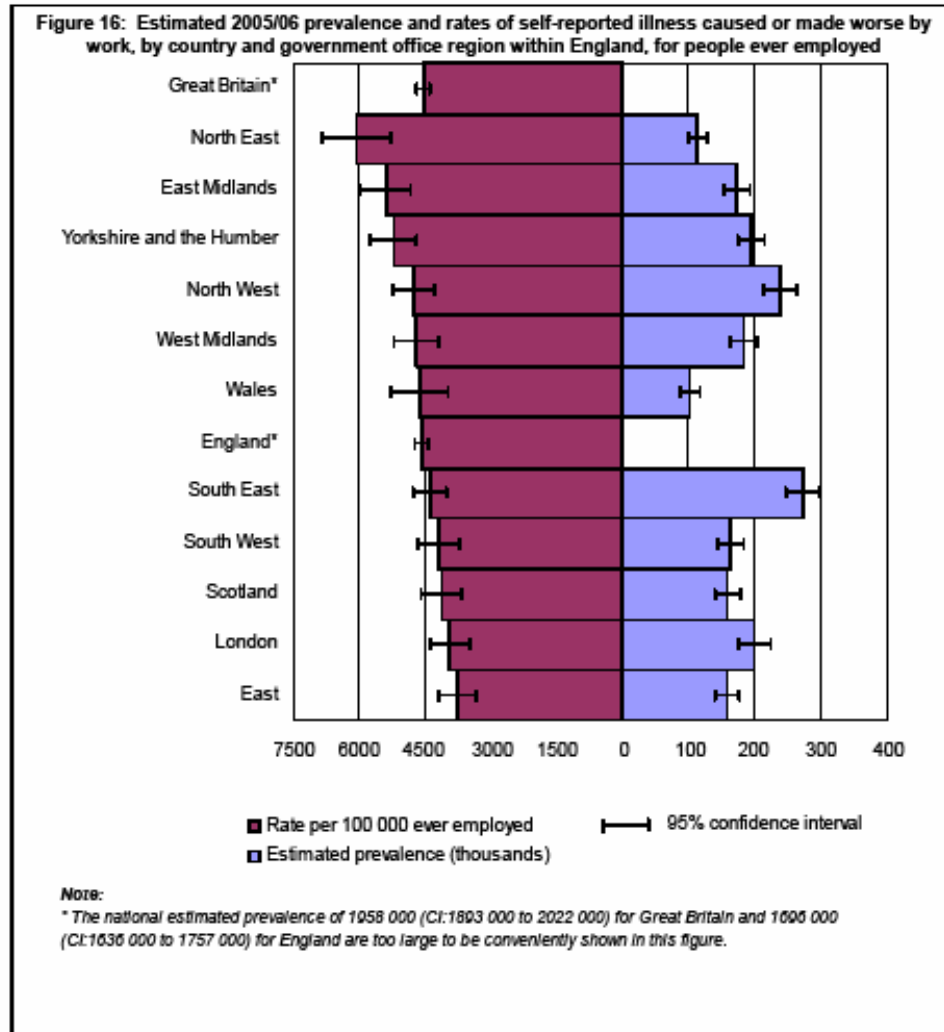
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Annex 2

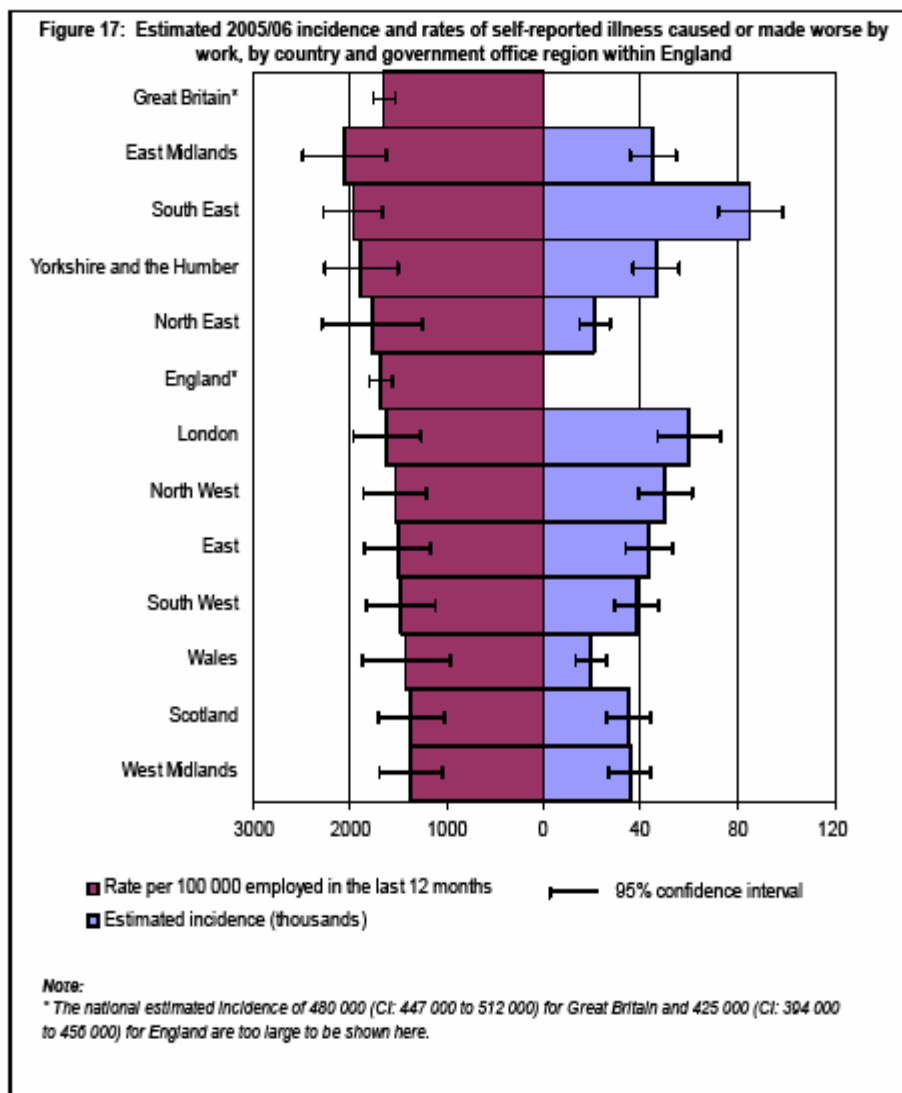
Demographic characteristics – ill health by country and region



- In 2005/06, the prevalence rates for England (4600 per 100 000 people ever employed - 4.6%), Scotland (4100 per 100 000 people - 4.1%) and Wales (4600 per 100 000 people - 4.6%) were of a similar order (not statistically significantly different).
- Within England, the government office regions with the highest prevalence rates were the North East (6100 per 100 000 people ever employed - 6.1%), East Midlands (5400 per 100 000 people - 5.4%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (5200 per 100 000 people - 5.2%). All three government office regions had statistically significantly higher prevalence rates than England and Great Britain.
- The East and London, with respective rates of 3800 and 3900 per 100 000 people (3.8% and 3.9%) ever employed, carried the lowest prevalence rates. Both were statistically significantly lower than the rates for England and Great Britain.

See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfa/0506/wrigor1e.htm>.

Demographic characteristics – ill health by country and region (continued)

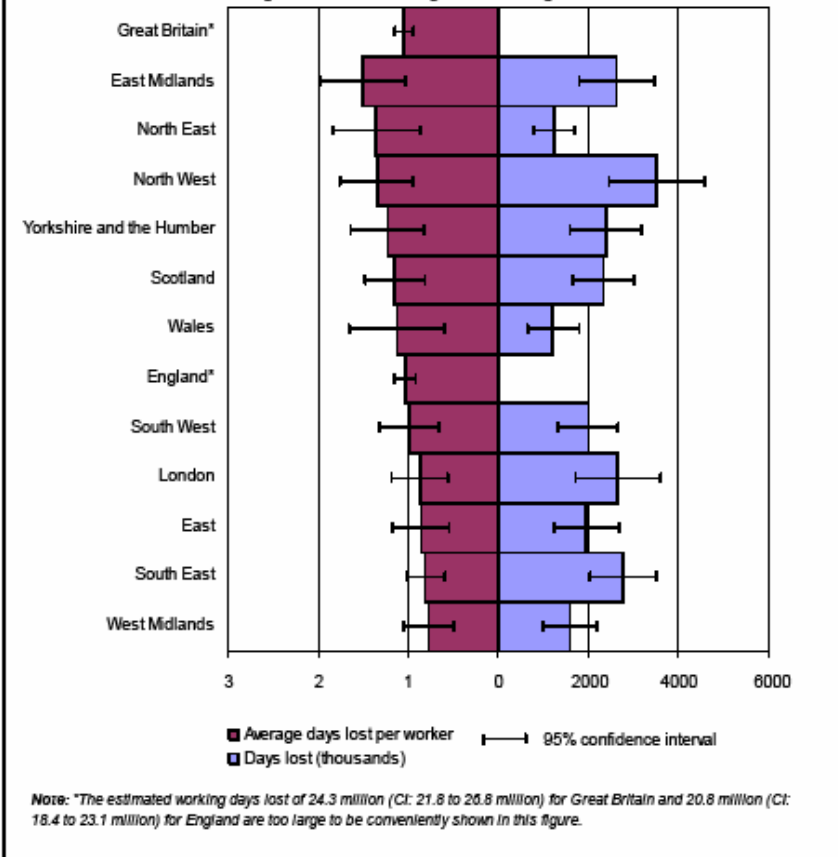


- In 2005/06, the incidence rates for England (1700 per 100 000 people employed in the last 12 months - 1.7%), Wales (1400 per 100 000 people - 1.4%) and Scotland (1400 per 100 000 people - 1.4%) were of a similar order (not statistically significantly different).
- Within England, the South East carried the highest rate, with an estimated 2000 per 100 000 people (2.0%) employed in the last 12 months. This rate was statistically significantly higher than the rate for England and for Great Britain.

See <http://www.hsa.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/0506/wriqor2v12.htm>.

Demographic characteristics – ill health by country and region (continued)

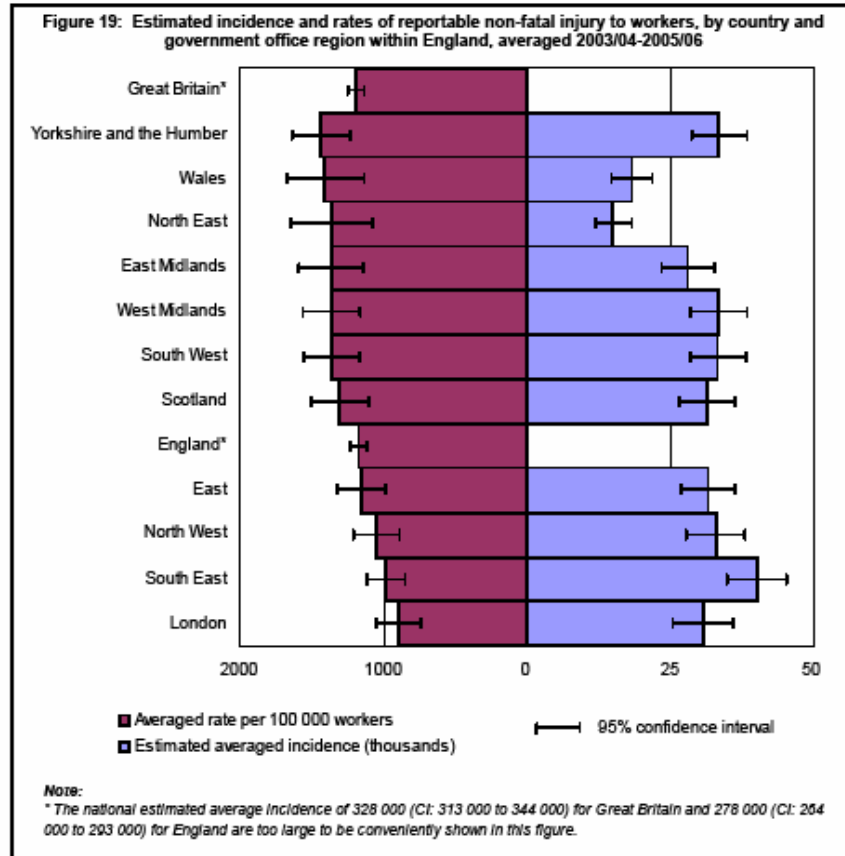
Figure 18: Estimated days off work (full-day equivalent) and average days lost per (full-time equivalent) worker in 2005/06 due to self-reported illness caused or made worse by work, by country and government office region within England



- In 2005/06, the average number of days lost per worker was of a similar order (not statistically significantly different) for England (1.0 days per worker), Wales (1.1 days) and Scotland (1.1 days).
- Within England, most regions carried rates which were similar (not statistically significantly different) to that for England, with the exception of the East Midlands (1.5 days per worker), where the rate was higher, and the South East (0.81 days per worker), where the rate was lower. Both differences were statistically significant.

See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/0506/wrigror3.htm>.

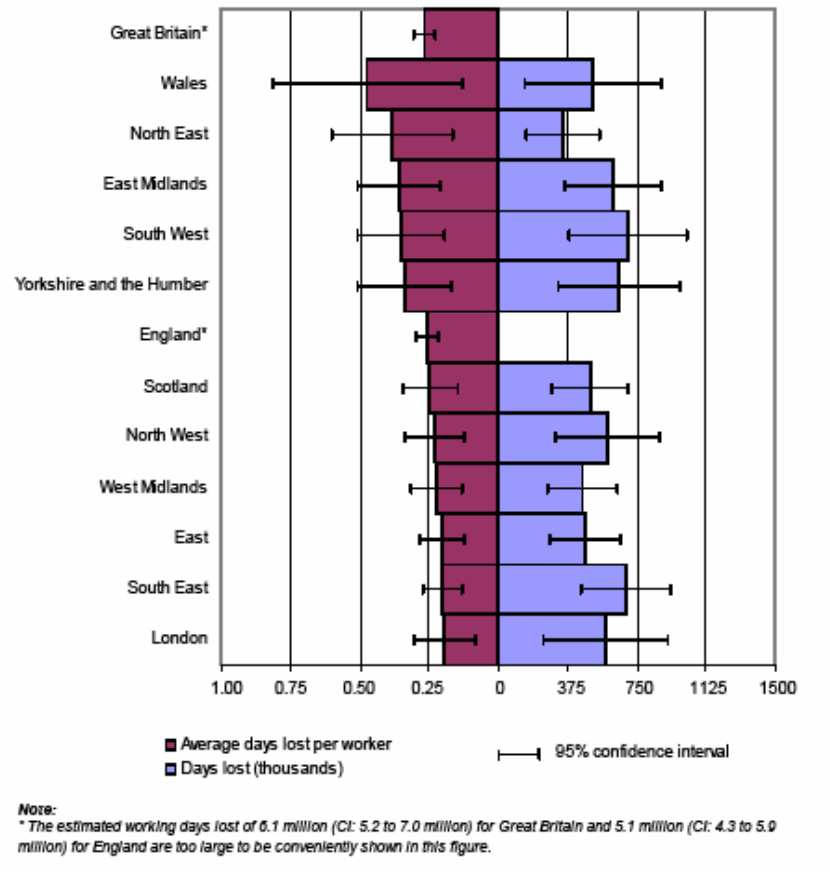
Demographic characteristics – injuries by country and region



- Figure 19 shows incidence estimates and rates of non-fatal reportable injuries to workers presented as three-year averages using three successive years of data (2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06), by country and government office region. Reportable non-fatal injuries include all those workplace injuries sustained as a result of a non-traffic accident, resulting in over 3 days of absence from work.
 - The averaged incidence rates for England (1200 per 100 000 workers - 1.2%), Wales (1400 per 100 000 workers - 1.4%) and Scotland (1300 per 100 000 workers - 1.3%) were of a similar order (not statistically significantly different).
 - Within England, Yorkshire and the Humber (1400 per 100 000 workers - 1.4%) carried an averaged incidence rate which was higher than the corresponding rate for England, whereas London (900 per 100 000 workers - 0.90%) and the South East (900 per 100 000 workers - 0.99%) carried rates lower than that for England. All differences were statistically significantly different. However, research by the Institute for Employment Research (IER) showed that differing rates of non-fatal injury between regions is largely explained by industry or occupational profiles of the working population in those regions (see IER report at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rhfm/r388.htm>).
- See http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fs/0508/mjpor1_3yr.htm.

Demographic characteristics – injuries by country and region (continued)

Figure 20: Estimated days off work (full-day equivalent) and average days lost per worker in 2005/06 due to self-reported workplace injury, by country and government office region within England



- Figure 20 shows the annual estimated days lost and days lost per worker due to workplace injury, by country and government office region. Workplace injuries include all those sustained as a result of a non-road traffic accident, not just reportable injuries resulting in over 3 days of absence from work.
- In 2005/06, the average days lost per worker was of a similar order (not statistically significantly different) for England (0.28 days per worker), Wales (0.47 days) and Scotland (0.24 days). Furthermore, the rates for regions within England were also similar to the overall rate for England (not statistically significantly different).

See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfa/0506/injigor2.htm>.

Annex 3

Operational matters of interest to Scotland - taken from the HSE submission to NuSAC July 2007 (covering the period March to May 2007).

Working with other Regulators

Working in collaboration with EA and SEPA, guidance has been prepared on the management of higher level radioactive waste on nuclear licensed sites. There has been engagement with industry on the development of this document.

British Energy (BE) sites

Hunterston B

Both reactors remained shutdown at the beginning of the period, whilst the safety case for boiler tube integrity was being developed and assessed. Having obtained many improvements to the case and its presentation, HSE nuclear inspectors have now concluded that the case is adequate for restarting the reactors for the reduced operating temperatures and periods defined in their respective cases. Accordingly, HSE permission to start up Reactor 4 was given on 14 May 2007 and permission for Reactor 3 to start on 21 May 2007.

HSE has now completed its assessment of the periodic safety review (PSR). Although a number of significant shortfalls were identified, the review has been accepted on the basis of a substantial amount of work committed by the licensee to be completed against a declared programme. HSE has advised the licensee that the on-going work will be monitored in detail to secure appropriate progress.

The station successfully demonstrated its emergency arrangements in Exercise Stockholm on 29 March. Overall the exercise was accepted by HSE as an adequate demonstration of the arrangements required under licence condition 11.

Torness

During the recent period of operation, no faults have occurred that have exceeded the design basis for the station and its safety case, and no events have been reported above a rating of 1 on the INES scale, which corresponds to a plant anomaly.

Further details of the following events notified to HSE are provided below.

Isotopic content of spent fuel - Station reported that British Nuclear Group (BNG) had queried estimates of the isotopic content of spent fuel consigned

from Torness to Sellafield between 1996 and 1999. Station is investigating and the preliminary findings suggest that the nuclear safety cases have remained secure for handling spent fuel at Torness, BNG and during transport. Details of this event have been passed to UK Safeguards Office (UKSO) and Department for Transport (DfT).

Fuelling Machine Pressure Vessel Seals - Torness is investigating an apparent degradation in the pressure retaining performance of elastomer 'O' ring seals in the flanges of the fuelling machine pressure vessel sections. Station has confirmed that the elastomer seals provide a secondary seal supporting the primary seals which are metal ring seals. They have confirmed that at Torness there is no evidence that any primary seal leakage has occurred in excess of the specification for the seals. HSE is monitoring the Licensee's progress with the investigation and developments with the remedial work.

Magnox Electric sites

Chapelcross

Preparations for defuelling are continuing at Chapelcross. As a result of reprocessing issues at Sellafield, the date for the start of defuelling has been put back and the period for time to defuel is likely to be extended.

The cooling towers were demolished on 20 May 2007 using controlled explosions, which has had a significant impact on the skyline in Dumfries and Galloway. The demolition was broadcast over the internet and a large number of members of the public watched the event from surrounding vantage points.

Chapelcross Level 1 Emergency Exercise 'Gerda' was held on 23 May 2007. The simulated event was a fire in the discharge well during defuelling. HSE found that the site's response was not adequate, mainly due to the time to recover casualties. A further demonstration exercise will be held.

The heat exchangers at Chapelcross are external to the reactor building and there were problems during the winter with asbestos falling during bad weather. The site is pursuing contracts to strip the asbestos quickly and also to build containments around the heat exchangers to protect them from the weather and contain any future falls. Some stripping work was in progress. However, HSE Field Operations Directorate (FOD) Construction Division recently visited the site for an asbestos inspection and issued two Prohibition Notices against the asbestos contractor.

Hunterston A

An inspection of the Ponds buildings was undertaken in March 2007 by the Field Operations Directorate (FOD) of HSE and a number of issues were identified.

A lifting incident took place in Reactor 1 Fuel Tunnel during de-planting. Initial consideration indicates both a failure to promptly report the incident by the contractor, and a poor lifting assessment. An investigation is being organised with HSE FOD Construction Division in Glasgow leading.

Decommissioning work at site continues. Site staff are assessing the possible effects of proposed NDA resourcing constraints on planned decommissioning projects.

Nuclear research sites

UKAEA - Dounreay

Emergency Exercise: We considered that the Level 1 emergency exercise held on 2 May 2007 was an adequate demonstration of the Dounreay emergency arrangements.

Enforcement Action: We are satisfied that UKAEA have complied with the requirements of the two Improvement Notices served on them following our investigation into a plutonium intake at a facility on the Dounreay site. The Procurator Fiscal has decided that there is a case to be heard against UKAEA under Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. A preliminary hearing was held at Wick Sheriff's Court on 18 May 2007. The case was deferred until 14 June 2007.

Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR) and the Prototype Fast Reactor (PFR): We are keen to see UKAEA progress with the treatment of liquid sodium and sodium/potassium (NaK) from the reactors in order to remove some of the highest hazards on the Dounreay site.

The NaK disposal plant at DFR has successfully completed the inactive commissioning phase. UKAEA is about to request our agreement to proceed to the active commissioning phase using contaminated NaK from the reactor vessel.

Dounreay Cementation Plant Recovery: Recovery work following the Materials Testing Reactor raffinate spill in 2005 is progressing safely and in line with the dose budget although the work is taking much longer than expected.

Dounreay Shaft: The groundwater inflow to the shaft has reduced following completion of the grout blocker ring around the shaft and the roof over the shaft. At the same time, the dissolved radioactivity concentration has halved, possibly due to an increase in pH in the shaft liquor.

Safety Cases: We have raised issues with UKAEA on their arrangements for the production of safety cases and compliance with Licence Conditions 14 and 15. We have asked the Dounreay Nuclear Safety Committee to review the arrangements for safety case production and, in particular, the use of

extensions, which we believe, should only be used in exceptional circumstances.

Defence Facility Regulation

Nuclear submarine related sites - General

In general, the safety performance at the defence facilities inspected by ND, namely HM Naval Base Clyde, Rosyth (Rosyth Royal Dockyard Ltd - RRDL) and the Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment at Dounreay, continues to be satisfactory.

Rosyth

The work to decommission the majority of the facilities used for nuclear activities (RD83 Project) is progressing safely and to programme. Preferred routes for removing waste from the site have been established and with our guidance and encouragement, there is evidence that an integrated approach to waste management is being developed across the defence nuclear sites and facilities. The overall project objective is to establish conditions such that the site can be delicensed.