

# Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

Scotland's "National Conversation";

the reserved status of health and safety law

## Issue

1. The First Minister's announcement of a "National Conversation" on the future of devolution including the option of Scottish independence.

## Recommendation

2. For noting and offering any observations at this stage.

## Background

3. For the first time since devolution, the issue of the reserved status of health and safety law is being questioned. Among the less radical options being explored is the possibility of the Scottish Parliament taking on responsibility for a range of legislation which is currently reserved. The full paper can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/08/13103747/1>. The main references to health and safety are at:

- para 2.14 - where there is a call for greater Scottish involvement in EU negotiations.
- paras 2.22 and 2.23 - which suggests devolution of h&s regulation and implies a Scottish HSC - mentioning the Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland.

The creation of a Scottish Civil Service is also raised along the lines of the Northern Ireland model.

4. None of this represents a firm proposal and it is not yet clear how consultation on changing the reserved status of legislation will be conducted with UK government bodies.

5. Scottish people and organisations have been invited to participate in the conversation.

6. HSE in Scotland has sought policy advice on when and how to respond. PHASS members will be informed of HSC/E involvement.

## Action

7. For information.

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