

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

Minutes of the steering committee held on 26 August 2010 at the HSE Edinburgh Office

In attendance:

Danny Carrigan	PHASS Chair (HSE Board member)
Paul Stollard	HSE Director, Scotland
Robert Atkinson	SCHWL Development Manager
Alan Crawford	Scottish Government, Senior Occupational H&S Advisor
Roddy Duncan	Scottish Government - Public Health and Well-being Division
David Evans	SoCOEH
Gena Falconer	Highland Council
Harry Frew	STUC and UCATT
Jim Gardner	Federation of Small Businesses
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
Sarah Jones	HSE
Rory Mackail	Federation of Small Businesses
Karen McDonnell	POOSH Scotland
Stephen Merchant	Health and Safety in Voluntary Sector Scotland
Ian Tasker	STUC Assistant Secretary
Mark Ashby	HSE
Ali Ford	HSE

Apologies:

Steve Bell	Strategic Director, SCHWL
Russel Griggs	CBI Scotland
Dawn Tudge	COI Scotland

Welcome and introductions

1. Danny welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Ali Ford who would be producing a note of future meetings and Mark Ashby who would also be involved in partnership work in the future. Danny announced that this would be his last PHASS meeting. His final Board meeting would be in Edinburgh at the end of September.

Minutes of the meeting on 29 March 2010

2. These had been circulated in draft and were now finalised and published on the HSE Scotland website. The main matter arising was the review of PHASS to be taken later on the agenda.

HSE Scotland Director's report

3. Paul's paper (PHASS17/02) had been circulated. He drew attention to a couple of issues:

- A review had shown the success of the centralisation of the FOD Scotland Complaints Team one year on.
- HSE had received approval to recruit 24 new trainee inspectors; 4 would be in Scotland. Existing inspectors would be moving into Hazardous Installations Directorate meaning that their work would be chargeable allowing HSE to recruit at no additional cost.

- The independent follow-up study into cancers at NSUK Greenock had reported. Ian and Kathy raised some concerns about the way the findings had been presented. The STUC would be writing to Judith Hackitt.
- David asked about the extent of HSE construction inspectors' work with Building Control. Paul explained that this was to exchange information to support earlier knowledge about where new construction activity was being planned.

4. Kathy raised the need to oppose cuts in HSE's resources. Ian said that the STUC were looking at the potential impact of cuts across public services for their campaign "There is an alternative". Paul said that HSE in Scotland were committed to fulfilling this year's workplan as normal. Apart from a freeze on some communications activity, it was business as usual for the moment. HSE would hear about its financial settlement after the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review of departments in the Autumn.

SCHWL Director's report

5. Robert presented paper PHASS/17/03 which had been circulated. Robert drew attention to plans to review the clearer working agreement between SCHWL and HSE which, come December, would be one year old. He had already started to gather feedback from HWL Advisers. Sarah reported that information would also be obtained from HSE staff.

6. Sarah asked about work on the "Health Works" action point to produce an SME health and safety toolkit and whether there was to be any consultation. Robert said that this was being developed within SCHWL by Chris Thomas of Health Scotland. He had arranged to meet Katherine Fuller of HSE's Business Involvement team. Roddy said that this action point arose from a request by the FSB for a health and safety toolkit to follow the lines of the existing Environmental Toolkit which Rory had project-managed for the Scottish Government and the FSB.

7. Roddy added that the Scottish Government was currently reviewing SCHWL's marketing strategy with the aim of improving its reach with SMEs.

LPG inspection programme – report on progress by Alistair McNab

8. Alistair presented an update on HSE's inspection of LPG installations. Inspectors and LAs were currently inspecting hundreds of sites in Scotland identified by suppliers. Several improvement notices had already been served for a range of issues. Alistair's presentation on the findings so far is available at: [website]

Update on offshore safety

9. Paul gave an update on UK activity with particular reference to the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico.

10. The Government considers that the UK regulatory regime is robust. However, in the light of the Gulf of Mexico incident, HSE has initiated or contributed to a wide range of activity addressing all aspects of drilling activity:

- At the domestic regulatory level HSE, DECC (Department for Energy and Climate Change) and MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) have undertaken rapid reviews of regulatory regimes to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

- At the international level, the UK is a key contributor to European Commission led efforts to review the suitability of European legislation and to share best practice approaches, and will do the same with respect to G20 initiatives.
- At the technical and operational level, the joint industry, trades union and regulator forum, OSPRAG, is making good progress in developing new designs for well capping and containment technology as well as looking more broadly at first response and longer term remediation capability and well control and well examination guidelines. The outcomes of this OSPRAG work will be a key influence on future regulatory and response work.
- At the operational level: HSE, DECC and MCA remain in close contact with BP and the US Authorities; DECC's environmental inspection capacity for mobile drilling has been increased and where appropriate (and where offshore facilities allow) DECC environmental and HSE safety inspections will be carried out at the same time; and proposals for drilling in deepwater West of Shetland are being thoroughly scrutinised.

11. With these workstreams in progress, once the causes of the Gulf of Mexico incident are known, DECC, HSE and MCA will take stock of the totality of legislative and technical barriers to similar incidents happening on the UK Continental Shelf. Dependent on the timings of information emanating from the US incident investigation, we anticipate that this stock take and emerging findings should be completed by early next year.

Proposals for the review of PHASS

12. Danny introduced the paper and asked for an amendment to recommendation 18(V). He said that, as it had been agreed that HSE Board member Hugh Robertson would take over responsibility for Scottish issues once he stepped down, Hugh had also agreed to take over as chair PHASS. This would confirm the HSE Board's continuing commitment to PHASS.

13. Ian Tasker asked for an amendment to recommendation 18 (VII) to add "local trade union activists and officials" as further examples of people who could be invited to new-style PHASS events.

14. The paper was agreed subject to the above amendments.

15. Paul then asked for ideas on location and subject matter for the first new-style meeting. He suggested PHASS should aim to meet in November. This was agreed. In discussion the following suggestions were made:

- To hold the first meeting in SW Scotland possibly in Dumfries at a venue which it was hoped could be offered free. Venues that might be considered include Dumfries and Galloway college, Dumfries and Galloway Council offices and Scottish Government Buildings.
- Future locations outside the central belt should include consideration of Dundee, Inverness, the Ayrshire coast and Aberdeen. Areas where HSE had not visited with a SHAD recently should receive priority.
- Topics for consideration in rough order of perceived need/merit were:
 - worker involvement;
 - leadership (and the relaunch of HSG65);
 - support available to SMEs;
 - managing occupational health (including the asbestos - duty to manage);
 - maintenance (the EU campaign);

- h&s in forestry;
- occupational road safety;
- h&s in leisure and tourism (largely LA-enforced to encourage LA input)

16. Some topics could be combined for a single event. PHASS members offered input under various topics. HSE would work up the design and a plan for the event and circulate it for comment.

Action: HSE to consult on the date, design and contributions for the next event.

Any other business

17. Karen reported on the outcome of RoSPA's worker involvement project for HSE. This would be presented to RoSPA Scotland Congress as part of one of this year's themes. The lessons, tips and case studies were suitable for use to support and follow-up trainees on HSE's current 'Safe and Sound – Do You Bit' worker involvement training. The Health Risks at Work model of face-to-face support could be adapted for support to SMEs on worker involvement – perhaps combined. Karen suggested that the next step could be to seek funding from organisations in a position to make a contribution to fund a small number of paid champions to deliver both tools for a short period of intensive activity. This would also help boost SME participants for the Health Risks at Work evaluation.

18. Karen announced IOSH was canvassing for research ideas. It would be good to put forward a suggestion for Scottish research in PHASS's name.

Action: Members were asked to feedback ideas via Sarah.

Date of next meeting

19. A date in November 2010 would be agreed.

**HSE
August 2010**