

Judith Hackitt CBE  
Rose Court  
2 Southwark Bridge  
London  
SE1 9HS

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

Date 14 December 2007

To: Those with responsibility for negotiating LAA priorities

## **IMPORTANCE OF WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS (LAAS)**

As you come to formulate your Local Area Agreements (LAAs), I am writing to encourage you to ensure that the contribution that workplace health and safety plays in promoting healthier, safer and more economically sustainable communities is integrated into those agreements.

Thirty six million working days are lost every year due to occupational ill health and injury, and a significant number of people who came onto Incapacity Benefit during the year will have had to cease work as a result of injury or work-related illness. HSE estimated that in 2001/02, the costs to Britain of workplace accidents and work-related ill health were between £13.1 - £22.2 billion to the economy and between £20 and £31.8 billion to society. Most of these costs are borne locally within the community and highlight that health and safety failures affect us all and challenge the economic sustainability and vitality of local communities.

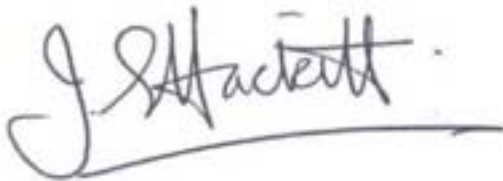
The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as a statutory 'Named Partner' in the new arrangements, is keen to help you secure the delivery of your LAA targets. HSC/E welcomes this opportunity to build on the successful partnership we have built with local authorities in recent years. Workplace health and safety can contribute to the National Indicators that you will be using in your LAA. There is no specific health and safety indicator, but we have set out the indicators where it can contribute in the attached Annex.

HSC sees LAAs as an excellent opportunity for HSE and local authorities to work together and with a range of partners to improve health and safety. The HSC believes that health and safety services have a crucial role in achieving both the economic and health and wellbeing aspirations of your local area. Over the coming weeks, to demonstrate our commitment to continued partnership, we will be writing to Chairs

of Local Strategic Partnerships and preparing guidance on including workplace health and safety in LAAs. This will expand on the issues in Annex A.

If you require further information, please contact Gareth Broughton on 0207 717 6828 - [gareth.broughton@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.broughton@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



Judith Hackitt

Chair, Health and Safety Commission

## Annex A

## Links between workplace health and safety and National Indicators

Outcome and Theme	National Indicator	Health and safety contribution
Safer and Stronger Communities	NI 13 Migrants English language skills and knowledge	Promotion of English language skills amongst migrant workers will improve their understanding of health and safety and help secure improved standards.
	NI 15 Serious violent crime NI17 & N21 Anti-social behaviour	Reducing work-related violence and improving community safety, e.g. violence to staff in retail sector.
	NI20 Assault with injury crime rate	Reducing work-related violence and supporting vulnerable workers, e.g. reducing incidence of work-related stress and harassment through introduction of the stress management standards.
	NI 41 & 42 alcohol and drug related behavioural problems	Reducing work-related alcohol/drug misuse (e.g. due to work-related stress).
	NI47 Road traffic accidents	Reducing work-related road traffic casualties, including improved management of workplace transport.
Children & Young People	NI70 Hospital admissions and injuries to young people	Reducing injuries to children and young people (e.g. in education and at work) through risk education, health promotion and targeted interventions.
	NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty	Maintaining the employment, health and well-being of parents to help in ensuring children do not fall into poverty.
Adult health and well-being	NI 119 Self-reported measure of people's overall health and well-being	Measurable improvement in people's perception of their HWWB. Promotion and education campaigns to improve awareness.
	NI120 All-age all cause mortality rate	Reduction in work-related fatalities (e.g. injury prevention, ill-health and disease reduction, passive smoking, etc.

	NI121 Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75	Reduction in incidence and prevalence of work-related circulatory diseases – links to physical and social working conditions, including welfare and support.
	NI122 cancer mortality rate at 75	Reduction in exposure to work-related carcinogens, e.g. asbestos, UV in sun beds
	NL123 Reduced smoking rate	Reduction in smoking in licensed premises and therefore secondary smoking.
	NI 124 Support for people with a long term ill-health condition	Contribution through work-related rehabilitation/occupational therapy and targeted activity to prevent ill-health and injury, and reduce working days lost.
	NI 134 Number of emergency bed days	Reduced incidence of work-related accidents and long-term ill health (e.g. respiratory disease and days lost from work)
	NI 137 Life expectancy at 65+	Improved workplace health, return to work and rehabilitation, improved working conditions.
Tackling exclusion and promoting equality	NI140 Fair treatment by local services	Tackling exclusion and improving the working conditions for vulnerable workers (e.g. workplaces with predominantly migrant workers, physically impaired workers, part-timers)
	NI150 adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment	reducing mental health problems as a result of work, e.g. implementation of stress management standards, reduction in hospital referrals, etc.
Local economy	NI151, NI152 and 153 overall employment rate	<p>Reducing people falling out of work and made sick through work – health, work and well-being.</p> <p>Focus on vulnerable groups, e.g. migrant workers, physically/mentally impaired workers</p>

	<p>NI173 People falling out of work onto Incapacity benefits</p>	<p>Preventative health and safety activity to reduce incidence of accidents and ill-health</p> <p>Rehabilitation get people back into work. Links to occupational therapy Measurement of days lost from work as a result of work-related injury or ill-health.</p>
	<p>NI182 Satisfaction with Regulatory services</p>	<p>Evidence that health and safety enforcement has been targeted, proportionate consistent and transparent. Includes participation in LAPS/LOPP scheme, Retail Enforcement Pilot, HSE's Fit3 Programme and demonstration of focusing on Rogers priorities.</p>
	<p>NI183 Fair trading environment</p>	<p>Evidence that one business is not cutting corners through negligent H&amp;S practices.</p>
	<p>NI184 Compliant food establishments</p>	<p>Links with hygiene and the effects of ill-health caused by unsafe working practices, e.g. dermatitis in food premises.</p>