

Emmie Galilee
Stakeholder Liaison
Better Backs Campaign
Health and Safety Executive
Rose Court
2 Southwark Bridge
London SE1 9HS

15 October 2006

Dear Emmie

The Telford Occupational Health Service (TOHS) and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) Occupational Health Service are delighted to support this year's Better Backs campaign to tackle back pain in the work place.

We are serious about managing the risks of back pain at work and will be demonstrating our support by taking the following actions:

- *Distributing my one page handout on 'the basics of back care'*
- *Advising employers and employees to access the references on the handout, including your campaign*
- *Contacting other medical colleagues in the NHS and other Local Authorities*

By doing these things we plan to achieve the following:

- *To continue educating the many back pain sufferers we see and to gauge their response*
- *To get people talking about the subject and also supporting my colleagues at the International Spinal Orthopaedic Hospital at Oswestry who run an excellent 'functional restoration programme'(FRP)*
- *To talk at the next ALAMA conference, if possible, about a young employee who attended the FRP, and say how he eventually returned to work and also playing football, after suffering from mechanical back pain for several years and losing his job.*

TOHS and SMBC are committed to working with HSE and other the Local Authorities on this issue - together we can make a real difference.

Yours sincerely

Dr N C G Richards MBBS DIH DRCOG MRCGP MFOM
Accredited Specialist in Occupational Medicine
Medical Director of TOHS and SMBC