

HSE Statistics User Conference

21 January 2014

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Summary

The HSE Statistics User Conference was an all-day event that took place on the 21st January 2014 at Redgrave Court in Bootle.

Aim of the day

The aim of the conference was to allow users of HSE's published statistics to meet with data source leads to find out more about the information currently available, and plans for the future. It also provided HSE with the opportunity to hear directly from its data users, and to engage in open, two-way dialogues with those affected by changes to data sources.

Delegates were asked to complete a questionnaire in advance of the event, to give HSE an idea of their prior experience of the data, as well as key issues or queries that they had, in order to allow HSE statisticians to tailor the day to the needs and capabilities of those attending.

Who attended?

The event was aimed primarily at external users – that is, those outside of HSE itself, and places were allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis with limits on the number of places per organisation.

53 external delegates from a range of backgrounds attended on the day; attendees included individuals from several local authorities, union representatives, insurance companies, health and safety trainers, academics, representatives from other government departments, and industry stakeholders.

In order to provide a significant level of support from HSE, all of the department's senior statisticians were made available for the day, providing delegates with the opportunity to ask highly specific questions during refreshment breaks, with more general discussions reserved for Q&As within the set programme.

What was discussed?

The full agenda for the day can be viewed in Appendix 1. The event covered an overview of the data sources, given by HSE's Chief Statistician, in which the strengths and weaknesses of the various sources were outlined.

Summaries of ongoing HSE research were presented, alongside two presentations by external speakers, introductions to benchmarking procedure, a session on making the case for health and safety and two open discussions with panel members.

During refreshment breaks, poster presentations of additional research pieces as well as a demonstration of the HandS-On data system were made available to delegates.

Questions raised during the conference

- 1) Why doesn't HSE use figures consistent with Defra's £2.5bn for occupational cancer in their costs model?

RESPONSE: *We are working to develop a cancer cost model, which we hope to be available by the end of the year. The methodology used in the model will be informed by discussions that are ongoing in a cross-government working group who are looking at how to value life.*

- 2) What will happen in the event of Scottish independence – will HSE continue to produce data for Scotland?

RESPONSE: *HSE is not making any plans in relation to Scotland until the outcome of the referendum is known, as we believe there will be enough time to respond appropriately before any separation occurs (assuming a YES vote).*

- 3) Why do the Over-3-Day/Over-7-Day trends appear to be going down, but figures for major injuries are staying the same? Is this really an accurate picture?

RESPONSE: *There is no reason to assume that the trends should be the same. Indeed one of the conference delegates made the point that the same phenomenon is seen in road traffic accidents where serious injuries are showing a different trend to minor injuries.*

- 4) The Standard Industry Classification (SIC) structure doesn't work well for new industries. Are there plans to change it in the near future?

RESPONSE: *SIC is an international classification system which is periodically reviewed to try to reflect current industry composition. The last review was in 2007 and there are generally gaps of at least 10 years between revisions and so it is very unlikely that the classification will change within the next five years.*

- 5) There is evidence from the Department for Transport that more members of the public than drivers are killed as a result of working drivers. Does HSE plan to measure this as well?

RESPONSE: *We recognise that this is an issue. However, the Eurostat regulation relates only to the provision of data about injuries to workers. Hence, in the short term at least, our priority will be to measure worker fatalities and injuries on the road.*

Topics for further action

- 1) Is it possible to produce some data looking at the socio economic gradient of work related ill health and injury?

RESPONSE: *We are taking this forward, and will be publishing some analysis on our Ad Hoc Analysis page later this year: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/adhoc-analysis/index.htm. Users will be advised through the e-bulletin once it is available.*

- 2) Could HSE produce some more data using frequency rates of ill health and injury that are more compatible with those being used in the private sector?

RESPONSE: *We are taking this forward, and will be publishing some analysis on our Ad Hoc Analysis page later this year: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/adhoc-analysis/index.htm. Users will be advised through the e-bulletin once it is available.*

- 3) Does HSE have any data on contract workers, and their risk profile compared to other worker types?

RESPONSE: *We are doing some work looking at different employment types through the Labour Force Survey (LFS) e.g. temporary workers, and this analysis will be published on the ad hoc analysis page later this year: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/adhoc-analysis/index.htm.*

- 4) Is there any evidence in data to support the hypothesis that small firms take less time off?

RESPONSE: *We publish data from the Labour Force Survey about working days lost due to work-related illness and injury by size of workplace which can be found here www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/injsize4.xls This doesn't suggest that employees in small firms take less time off than those working in larger workplaces.*

- 5) What are HSE's plans to fill the current gap on exposure data?

RESPONSE: *This is a complex issue, which potentially has significant resource implications. The statistics team are working with occupational hygienists in HSE and HSL to consider practical options for collecting representative exposure data for the major occupational disease hazards. If we get some success with that initiative, the results will be published on the HSE statistics webpages.*

- 6) Does HSE have plans to track new and emerging risks?

RESPONSE: *We have proposed a new project which aims to identify new and emerging occupational health risk by asking occupational physicians in the UK to report sentinel and novel work-related ill health. This project is in the planning stage.*

Feedback from attendees

39 feedback forms were completed and submitted by attendees, and findings were positive:

- 92% said they felt the day was pitched at the right level
- 95% confirmed that they would definitely attend future events
- 97% said that they would recommend the event to a colleague

Additionally, all presentations were scored on a scale of 1-4 with 1 being not at all useful, and 4 being very useful – all presentations obtained an average score of 3.15 or higher.

Appendix 1

Agenda

9:30 – 10am	Registration
10am - 10:15	Introduction
10:15 – 10:45	Data source overview
10:45 – 11:15	Open discussion on data sources (including data source lead panel)
11:15 – 11:30	Tea and coffee break
11:30 – 11:45	Work-related MSDs and Stress – 10 year findings
11:45 – 12pm	Long latency disease – summary of current research
12pm – 1pm	Lunch and poster presentations of recent research and analysis
1pm – 1:15	Presentation on benchmarking
1:15 – 1:30 benchmarking	Stephen Freeland presentation on Environmental Services Association (ESA)
1:30 – 1:45	Roger Bibbings presentation on ROSPA benchmarking
1:45 – 2pm	Presentation on recommendations for regional benchmarking
2pm – 2:15	Q&A for presenters
2:15 – 2:30	Tea and coffee break
2:30 – 3pm	Making the case for health and safety (presentation and discussion on costs of health and safety failings, and impact of sickness absence on organisations)
3pm – 3:45	Q&A including panel discussion of data limitations
3:45	FINISH

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