

Health and Safety Commission Paper		HSC/03/61	
Meeting Date:	8 April 2003	Open Gov. Status:	Open
Type of Paper:	Below the line	Paper File Ref:	
Exemptions:			

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Future of the Railway Safety Annual Report

A Paper by Ian Crawford

Advisor(s): Gill Dixie

Cleared by Alan Osborne on

Issue

1. The future of the HMRI Annual Report.

Timing

2. For information only.

Recommendation

3. None.

Background

4. The paper HSC/02/145 dated 12 December 2002 accompanying HSE's Railway Safety Annual Report provided background details and informed the Commission of HSE's intent to review the future format and structure of the Report; the only remaining sector specific annual report produced by HSE.

5. Recently, sales have fallen from 629 in 1996/97 to 236 in 2000/01. The Report has also almost doubled in size from around 80 pages in early 1990s to around 150 pages and producing it has become increasingly resource intensive. An estimation of HSE's total staff resource (including printing) for producing this year's Report is 185 staff days at a cost of £64000. The income from the previous year's Report was approximately £4K.

6. Elsewhere in HSE, work has been undertaken to streamline the reporting processes and make reports sharper, more focused and more accessible.

Consideration

7. HSE's Key Industry Railway Group (KRIG) considered a range of options against the criteria of: cost; resource; message carrying ability to widest audience; and stakeholder acceptability. They concluded that the most effective option would be to move to a single, web based, report.

8. The new report will be more focussed and structured around the statistical data from the current statistics bulletin (ie fatalities, injuries, train incidents, train defects and enforcement) supported by: a summary of the year in brief including enforcements/incidents; good trends/bad trends; key facts; main messages that HSE wants to get across; and brief details of HMRI's major programmes.

9. It will be published on the new rail web-site and will be announced by a press briefing as before. This approach will deliver regularly updated topic/area/subject information on the rail web-site, supported, at one point in time, by the annual statistics and a summary of the previous year.

Consultation

10. DfT, Network Rail and Railway Safety were all consulted on the issues and all agree that, on balance, a single, web based, report would meet their needs.

Presentation

11. The submissions, accompanying the 2001/02 Report, to both the HSC and the Minister, flagged up HSE's intention of considering the future of the Report. The foreward of the Report also highlighted HSE's intent HSE to review how it presented and published information and statistics. Therefore, the change should not come as a surprise. The information is also widely available since the 2001/02 Report is already on HSE's web site.

Costs and Benefits

12. The benefits of moving to a more targeted web based report are that it will be: less resource intensive to produce; will avoid current duplication between the statistics bulletin and Annual Report; will reduce costs; and is consistent with HSC/E's migration to electronic publication.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

13. The change will reduce staff time involved in producing contributions and the move a paper to web based publication will lead to saving in print costs and editorial work.

Environmental Implications

14. This will contribute to the "greening" HSE campaign, as the move to a web based report will lead to a reduction in usage of paper.

Other Implications

15. None

Action

16. None