

Health and Safety Storyline (03.06.03)

Overall Vision

- The UK Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are **regulating health and safety risks in Britain's workplaces.**
- The vision is **to gain recognition of health and safety as a cornerstone of a civilised society, and with that achieve a record of workplace health and safety that leads the world.**
- HSC/E's mission is to **protect people's health and safety by ensuring risks in the workplace are properly controlled.**
- HSC/E main activity is focussed on **achieving national targets for health and safety**
 - Reduce the number of working days lost per 100 000 workers from work related injury and ill health by 30% by 2010
 - Reduce the incidence rate of fatal and major injury incidents by 10% by 2010
 - Reduce the incidence rate of cases of work related ill health by 20% by 2010: and
 - Achieve half the improvement under each target by 2004
- and **on working with business to prevent catastrophic failures in major hazard industries**

The case for action

- Benefits of reducing costs and output losses to the economy -estimated in the £14.5 - £18.1 billion range.
- Saved direct costs to employers from fewer injuries and ill health - "if you think safety is expensive, try an accident"
- Output and productivity gains to business and public sector from workforces that are "happy, healthy and here"
- Contribution to Government's poverty and inequality agenda from promoting rehabilitation
- Public confidence that major hazards are under control
- Businesses have the information to take risks safely

How we go about our work

- Achieving national targets requires the involvement of HSC, HSE, local authorities (who jointly enforce health and safety regulations) and others in Government, employers and the employed, and the health and safety community as a whole.
- HSC/E current aims for its work will continue:
 - We protect people by providing information and advice; by promoting and assuring a goal setting system of regulation; by undertaking and encouraging research; by enforcing the law.
 - We influence organisations at all levels to embrace high standards of health and safety and to recognise the social and economic benefits
 - We work with business to prevent catastrophic failures in major hazard industries
 - We seek to optimise the use of resources to deliver our mission and vision

Achievements

- The GB safety record is the best in the world, and nearly best in health.
- Fatal injuries from work have declined over the last ten years to one of the lowest levels on record in 2001-2.
- The first half of the 1990s saw improvements in rates of major injury. But these have since levelled off.
- New impetus injected into the health and safety agenda: with clear progress in industries which make a serious commitment to improve – significant progress in quarries (26% fall in accidents over 2 years); food (24% fall in accident rate over 10 years); paper and board; offshore oil industry; ambulance, police and fire services.
- No significant movement yet against injury target. New data to assess progress available in Autumn 2003 – but encouraging signs of reducing fatal accidents in agriculture and construction.
- Baselines now set for work related ill health and days lost – higher than expected but data confirms right prioritisation.
- Some good progress in reducing incidents with potential for catastrophe - a new target for major hazards.
- The Field Operations Division increased their contact time with dutyholders by 10% and exceeded numbers of contact by 10% in 2002-3.
- High public trust ratings for HSE – for acting in the public interest.
- HSE achieved its best ever business improvement performance in 2002-3.

More to do

Current initiatives showing positive results will continue, including:

- New contacts and dialogue at Boardroom level to promote health and safety
- Company reporting – a challenge to FTSE 100s has contributed to an increase from 57% reporting health and safety to 91%.
- Encouraging health and safety benchmarking – developing an index for investors, employers, and others to use.
- Work to develop the business case for health and safety.
- Encouraging action down the supply chain.
- Scheme to encourage larger businesses with exemplary health and safety practices to open their doors to help small firms and others learn how.
- Help to insurers to incentivise better health and safety performance and rehabilitation.
- More targeted stakeholder engagement, such as efforts to improve relations with the rail industry and support to the chemicals sector in Scotland to promote a safety representatives network.
- Building on the success of a Workers Safety Advisers pilot as the platform for new efforts to promote more employee engagement.
- Key Commission Advisory Groups have been reconstituted for wider representation and more effective working.
- Developing risk education – risk management techniques - for secondary school pupils.
- More work to encourage exemplary Government health and safety performance

Strategic Plan 2004-2010

- HSE is developing a new strategy to take the organisation through to 2010. Consultation is now underway. **In addition to our aims above we want to:**
 - Do more to address the new and emerging work related ill health issues
 - Achieve higher levels of recognition for health and safety and a modern, competitive business and public sector and as a contribution to social justice and inclusion.
 - Exemplify public sector best practice in managing our resources and earn people's trust by what we do and how we do it.

Other strategic issues to address if HSC/E is to meet its mission and aims are:

- managing demands in respect of public protection ;
- redefining the role of local authorities;

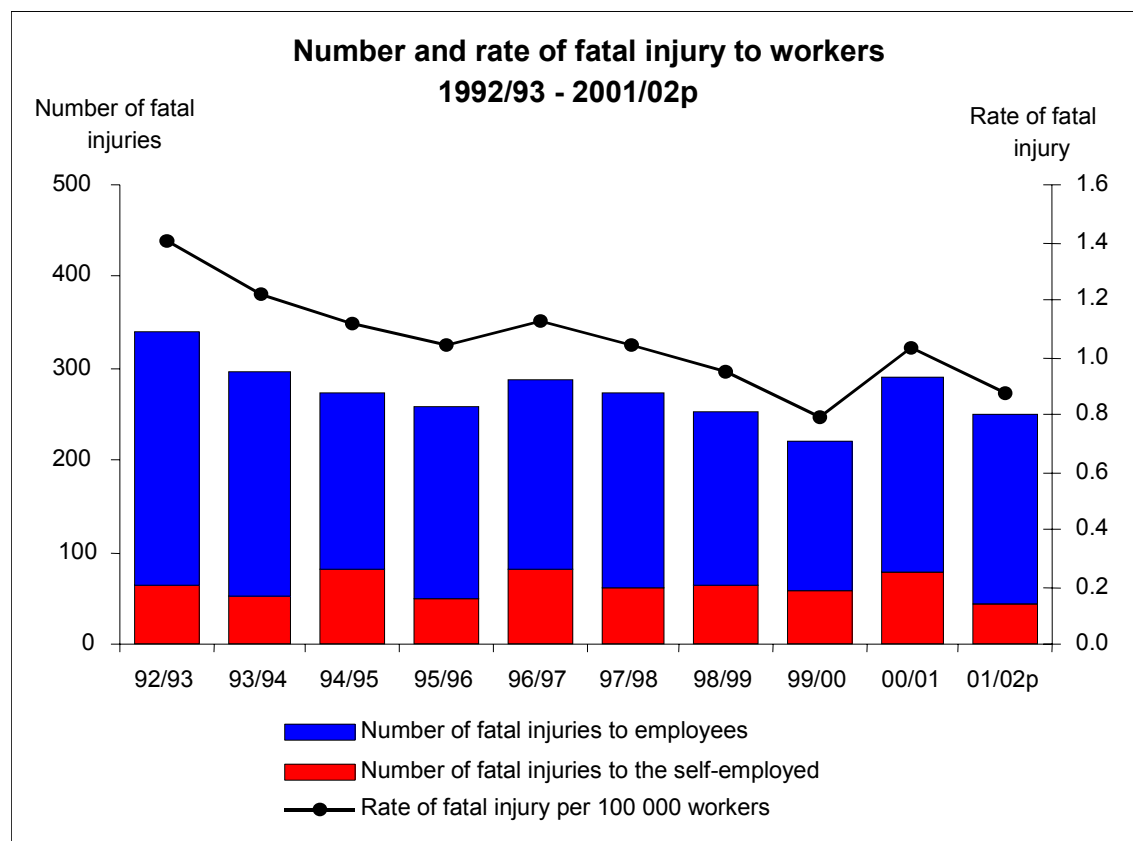
- responding to a changing economy in a changing world;
- managing our business and reputation.

- **HSE change programme**

In line with the 'delivery and reform' agenda HSE is implementing the following changes:

- Creating a small unit to facilitate and coordinate strategic thinking and intelligence gathering;
- Strengthening its policy capability;
- Enabling closer policy and operational working;
- Moving towards a programmes and projects way of working; and
- Developing new ways of working which better reflect HSE's values.

Key Statistics



(Note: breaks in series in the following two charts reflect changed reporting requirements)

