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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Interventions strategy and areas where HSE and LAs will not be proactive

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Issue

1. A joint consultation document for (1) an interventions strategy; and (2) areas where HSE and LAs will not be proactive, both early deliverables under the HSC 2010 strategy, attached at annex 1.

Timing

2. Immediate. Consultation will commence immediately following the Commissions deliberations and approval. The strategy timetable requires the interventions strategy to be completed by the end of 2004.

Recommendation

3. That the Commission discusses the paper at annex 1, propose any amendments and subject to those amendments provide a statement of high level support for the consultation document.

Background

4. The HSC strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond (the 2010 strategy) outlined eight early deliverables. Two of those early deliverables are:
 - a) An interventions strategy (by end 2004) and;
 - b) Proposals for consultation on those well understood and managed areas where HSE and LAs will not be proactive (by end August 2004).
5. The consultation document at annex 1 is a joint document containing both of these early deliverables.

Argument

6. The consultation document at annex 1 has been produced following research with HSE and LAs. As both early deliverables are for HSE working jointly with LAs it is important to allow LAs sufficient opportunity to contribute to both aspects of the 2010 strategy. It is therefore proposed that both early deliverables go out for joint consultation to HSE staff, LA personnel and key stakeholders simultaneously.
7. We accept that at 18 pages the consultation document is longer than would have been desired. However, its current length is considered to be that necessary to allow proper consultation and meet the requirements of the 2010 strategy for the following reasons:
 - a) The interventions strategy is evidence based and we have outlined extracts of this evidence to illustrate the basis of our conclusions;
 - b) It is a joint document which includes proposals for areas where HSE and LAs will not be proactive which will allow further development of this intervention;
 - c) The document includes a summary and a consultation questionnaire; and
 - d) The consultation document includes references to the Work & Pensions Select Committee Report and the Hampton review.
8. The main focus is on the wide range of activities regulated by HSE through FOD, and by LAs. Thus, although many of the interventions are applicable to major hazards, there are other strategies, in particular permissioning, that the document does not consider.

Consultation

9. The consultation document has been produced in conjunction with HSE personnel representing the LA strategic programme, the Strategy and Intelligence Division and the Hampton review.

Presentation

10. The target audience for the consultation document includes both internal and external stakeholders. A high level statement of support from the Commission would demonstrate commitment and add weight to the consultation document.

Costs and Benefits

11. It is the aim of this work to develop a better mix of interventions using (if no more is available) the current level of resources. Savings would accrue from fewer accidents, and from the reduced effort, both for regulators and duty holders, that a workable scheme for earned autonomy would bring.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

12. The discussion document specifically seeks views on changing the mix of approaches within current resources. Implications for HSE would therefore centre on the actions required to apply a different mix (such as training staff, publicising the changes in our approach) rather than on the need for new resource.

Environmental Implications

13. N/A

Other Implications

14. N/A

Action

15. The interventions project director will arrange for the consultation document to be amended in line with any HSC recommendations prior to consultation.