

Health and Safety Commission Paper		HSC/05/88	
Meeting Date:	26 July 2005	Open Gov. Status:	
Type of Paper:	Below the line	Paper File Ref:	
Exemptions:			

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

HSC/E Management Statement

A Paper by Bill Tomkins and Susan Mawer

Advisor(s): Bill Tomkins and Susan Mawer

Cleared by Vivienne Dews on 12 July 2005

Issue

1. Agreement of a Management Statement (MS) to replace the current Framework of Accountabilities (FOA).

Timing

2. Routine. Agreeing the MS completes the revision of formal agreements on our relationship with DWP.

Recommendation

3. HSC is asked to agree the Management Statement and its Annexes. In particular it is asked to agree the revised Code of Practise for Commissioners (Annex 4).

Background

4. The new style MS replaces the current Framework of Accountabilities (FOA). Like the FOA it sets out the broad policy, management and financial framework within which the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) operate. It consists of

The Management Statement

Annex 1 : Financial Memorandum (agreed between HSE and DWP at officials August 2004);

Annex 2 : Commissioners' Code of Practice;

Annex 3 : Direction from HSC to HSE;

Annex 4 : Responsibilities of Secretaries of State; and

Annex 5 : HSC and HSE Accounting Officers' letters of Appointment

It is based on a framework promulgated by Treasury. If this format is followed, as we have, there is no need to seek Treasury agreement to the content of an individual MS.

5. The new MS also reflects the change of sponsorship from DETR to DWP and the change to Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) from cash accounting. It is broadly similar to the current FOA but some sections have been swapped to or from the newly revised Financial Memorandum.
6. The other MS Annexes have been updated to take account of changes occurring since they were included in the old Framework of Accountabilities.
7. The HSC Code of Practice, Annex 4 of the new Management Statement, has been amended to take account of changes since it was agreed on 25.5.99. The main changes are:
 - The coming into force of the Freedom of Information Act in January 2005;
 - The introduction of HSC open meetings in April 2005;
 - The change to the remuneration arrangements for Commissioners in April 2004; and
 - The coming in to force of the House of Commons Disqualification Order 2005.

Argument

8. The new Management Statement updates the basic operating agreement between HSC/E and DWP. It follows central guidance from HMT and is a fit for purpose document. [The DG and Chair have seen the text and are content.]
9. DWP officials at working level have been consulted throughout the process. They are content with the new Management Statement.

Consultation

10. PD, IA, BSD, HSL, CEPS, Legal Advisers on the text of the MS.

Presentation

11. If HSC is content with the new MS then two copies will be supplied for signature internally by HSC Chair and HSE DG. These copies will be forwarded to DWP to arrange for agreement and signing by Perm Sec DWP and Secretary of State Work and Pensions. Once finalized the Management Statement will replace the Framework of Accountabilities on the HSE website.

Costs and Benefits

12. The benefit from developing and agreeing the Management Statement is that we have an up-to-date agreement with our sponsoring Department developed using HMT Guidance on content. The costs have been the staff costs input to its development which we estimate at just under £20k.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

13. The costs of producing the MS have been met from PEFD and CEPS existing funds. They are estimated at just under £20,000

Environmental Implications

14. Nil

Other Implications

15. Nil

Action

16. The Commission is asked to

- agree the Management Statement and its Annexes.