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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Construction Health and Safety Summit: 24 February 2005

A Paper by Simon Pilling

Issue

1. To inform members about a Construction Health and Safety Summit on the afternoon of 24 February 2005 at the QE11 Conference Centre in London.

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. That you:
 - note the background information and
 - consider whether you wish to attend the event.

Background

4. Concern over high levels of injury and ill health occurring in the construction industry led Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, and Bill Callaghan, Chair of the Health and Safety Commission, to hold a Construction Health and Safety Summit in February 2001. The purpose of the Summit was to engage senior executives and the leading organisations across the industry to accept responsibility for the poor health and safety performance of the industry and to commit to action to drive through a change in attitudes and culture. All parts of the industry were encouraged to develop actions. Around 600 industry leaders participated. The industry committed to ambitious targets for reducing injuries and ill health and related lost time. These were around ten times greater than the Revitalising targets for improvements by 2009/10 with which all industries were challenged to deliver under

the Government/HSC's Revitalising Health and Safety agenda in 2000. However, while deaths and injuries have shown a steady decline since 2000/01 70 workers died in 2003/04.

5. As the halfway point for achieving the health and safety targets approaches, HSE believes there is a need for a second Health and Safety Summit to take stock of achievements to date, to celebrate successes, to identify gaps where more action is needed and to stimulate the industry to further challenging actions. The event will be smaller. However, those attending will include the key "movers and shakers" in the industry so as to ensure continuing commitment to bringing about substantial change in a key industry for HSC/E.
6. With high-level support from the construction industry, a programme for the event is being developed. Jane Kennedy and Nigel Griffiths have agreed to speak. Bill Callaghan and senior industry representatives from the social partners will also be on the platform
7. You may wish to attend the event. There will be opportunities to meet with delegates before and after the formal sessions.

Action

8. If you wish to attend the Summit contact Simon Pilling by Friday 28 January (see paragraph 9 below for contact details).