

Health and Safety Commission Paper		HSC/05/36	
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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

HSC's Workplace Strategy: First Year Report to the Minister

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Cleared by Jonathan Rees on 22 February 2005

Issue

1. A report to the Minister summarising HSC's and HSE's performance in embedding the Strategy in the twelve months since launch.

Timing

2. For this meeting. We want to keep approximately within the one year envelope since the Strategy launch on 23 February last year.

Recommendation

3. That the Commission:
 - Consider the draft report annexed, agree any amendments and approve it being sent to the Minister and made publicly available.
 - Agree to the internal and external promotion plan set out in paragraph 10.

Background

4. The Minister's office informally suggested in November 2004 that an honest appraisal of the Strategy's impact would be welcomed one year after its launch. It was also felt that a report would provide an opportunity to move to a new phase of communicating the Strategy - away from introducing it and towards demonstrating its impact.

Argument

5. The target audience for this report is:

- The Minister
 - Key stakeholders
 - HSE staff
6. The main body of the document has been kept relatively brief in view of these target audiences. Detail has been confined to the Annexes, principally Annex A, which provides a flavour of activities undertaken to date to embed the Strategy within the work of HSE. Annex A is broken down into the four Strategy themes.
 7. While the Annexes do provide some detail to support the main text, they are by no means a comprehensive record of all work to date on the early deliverables and Strategic Programmes. They are designed to give an indication of the level to which the Strategy is currently providing direction and setting priorities for HSE work. The report overall provides a useful snapshot of 'where we are now' and demonstrates the key message that the Strategy is here to stay.
 8. The report is intended to be honest and to recognise that implementation of the Strategy has not been without its problems (such as the misplaced concern that the Strategy marks a 'softening' of HSE's approach to enforcement). As such, this will be a useful document both for staff and key stakeholders. Its ultimate message is that we have reorganised, refocused and that we are ready to deliver.

Consultation

9. Board members, DWP HDWD, Strategic Programme Directors, Strategy Division

Presentation

10. Since the report tells a story more of positive change than actual results, and we are only one year down the track, our judgement is not to make excessive publicity efforts this year. So it is proposed to publish only in electronic form and to promote:
 - Externally: a press release, linked with a copy of the report and its Annexes on the Strategy page of the web site.
 - Internally: a summary document, including a link to the full internet version, on the Strategy page of the intranet; a 'tickertape' link to the summary document from the homepage; and a brief summary and link in 'e-express'.

Costs and Benefits

11. N/A

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

12. N/A

Environmental Implications

13. N/A

Other Implications

14. Although the format and timing may change and we are giving no commitment to this effect, it is likely that a review of the Strategy will become an annual event. If so, we may well want to publicise it more actively than we are proposing for this first year.

Action

15. To agree the report to go to the Minister and the plans to promote it.