

Health and Safety Commission Paper		HSC/05/48	
Meeting Date:	8 March 2005	Open Gov. Status:	Fully open
Type of Paper:	Above the line	Paper File Ref:	
Exemptions:	None		

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

HSC Business Plan 2005-06 to 2007-08

A paper by Mike Lacaille

Advisors: Mike Lacaille, Avril Adams

Cleared by: Vivienne Dews

Issue

1. HSC Business Plan 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Timing

2. Urgent. We plan to seek Ministerial approval of the Plan prior to the beginning of the new financial year. We intend to arrange for submission of the Plan to the Minister (Jane Kennedy) immediately after the Commission meeting, once any required revisions have been made.
3. We are aware of the speculation about a forthcoming General Election and it is possible that we will need to seek Ministerial consideration and approval during the purdah period. If so, we would not be able to publish the Plan until after the House returns, which could mean a significant delay.

Recommendation

4. That the Commission considers the draft Business Plan (annexed) and advises on required changes.

Background

5. The Business Plan is the vehicle for fulfilling the HSC's duty, enshrined in the Health and Safety at Work etc Act "to submit to the Secretary of State from time to time particulars of what it proposes to do for the purpose of performing its function". A second key audience is HSE staff, who need to be able to link their own performance agreements to the Plan.
6. Following some restructuring, revision and rationalising of existing Strategic Programmes a new framework has emerged comprising two Strategic Delivery Programmes and four Strategic Enabling Programmes. The HSC Business Plan is an excellent opportunity to promote and publicise the revised structure, and the reason for its adoption.

7. We will however be unable to finalise the Plan and put it to Ministers until DWP have confirmed HSC's financial settlement. We are currently using an indicative allocation, agreed in principle with DWP Finance on 10th December 2004, and reiterated in January 2005 in a note from the Permanent Secretary to the Director-General.

Argument

8. This HSC Business Plan is determinedly forward looking, reflects HSE's delivery focus and covers the next three years, to align with the Public Service Agreement period. The document is also framed at a much higher level of detail than previously, to reflect the desire to produce a sharp and concise 'user-friendly' plan.
9. Some material (eg resource tables) will be updated following confirmation of our financial settlement from DWP.

Action

10. PEFD will amend the HSC Business Plan in line with the wishes of the Commission, to enable the Chair to submit it to Jane Kennedy as soon as possible after the Commission meeting.