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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Follow up to HSC Residential 21-23 June 2005

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Issue

1. To take forward actions identified during the Commission's discussion on ways of working at their residential.

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. That you:
 - Note the 'feed back' documents provided and indicate if they met your needs (paras 5 and 11)
 - Agree the proposal for a seminar in September (paras 7 and 8)
 - Agree the number and timing of meetings (para 12); and
 - Note the proposals on discussing business plans, and improving communications (paras 9,10 and 11)

Background

4. During their discussion at the residential in June 2005 the Commission identified a number of actions they wished to see implemented to assist them in fulfilling their roles as effective and constructive challengers of HSE and as ambassadors for health and safety and the Strategy. This paper sets out how these will be taken forward and invites Commission views on the proposals.

Argument

5. Improved feed back loop

A 'Chief Executive's' report and a decision log have been provided for this meeting. The Commission are asked to say if these meet their needs.

6. Commissioners as sponsors

There was a lack of clarity about arrangements for Commissioners to act as sponsors or ambassadors for specific elements of HSE's work such as strategic programmes, cross-cutting themes, specific directorates and communication topics. Neal Stone will be working with Commissioners and the Board on this and is providing an initial report back at this meeting and a full report in September.

7. Themed seminars

The Commission said they wished to find ways of debating key strategic issues in greater depth than was possible in their normal business meetings. Possible issues identified for debate included: workplace demographics, recognition, the intervention strategy including enforcement, risk issues, public safety, health and well being, and energy policy.

8. We suggest that the sensible risk management debate is the first issue to be examined in this way, and that we have a 1-2 hour seminar on the evening before a Commission meeting, say from 5.30 to 7.00pm on September 5 before the Commission's meeting the next day. If successful, further seminars would be held in 2006.

9. Strategic resource planning

Some Commissioners said they wished to have a high level strategic discussion about the allocation of resources within HSE. Such a discussion would need to be held at the October meeting because of the constraints of the financial planning timetable. The Executive is exploring how this could be taken forward and what information could be provided.

10. Regulatory sub committees

The Commission agreed that:

- The strategy for regulatory proposals should be considered by the Commission at an early stage
- The details could then be discussed with a small group of Commissioners, the composition of which might change depending on the subject
- The final proposals would go back to the Commission but could be dealt with below the line if non controversial.

A monthly report on the state of play on all regulations has been provided to the Commission for this meeting.

11. Communications

a) with the Board

The Commission felt that their relationship with individual Board members should flow from their sponsorship roles. There should, however, be opportunities to engage with the Board as a whole, including events such as the Residential. The Chair would lead a discussion at the next Board away day on how this could be facilitated.

b) Scripts

Commissioners said they had their own network of contacts and it would be helpful to have some scripts to assist them in their ambassadorial role. We will put together scripts for the key themes, but it would be helpful if Commissioners could speak to the Executive about any specific contacts to see if there was anything they needed to know or that would be helpful if they said.

12. Other

- Number of Commission meetings – as requested we have timetabled 12 open HSC business meetings for 2006. Dates are in Annex A, please inform the Secretariat if these are not convenient.
- Timing of meetings: to allow more time for discussion it was suggested that HSC meetings should start earlier (e.g. pre meet at 9.00, full meeting at 9.30) or continue beyond lunch. The Commission's views on which arrangement they prefer are sought.
- Agendas: the Commission felt that not all papers and discussions were sufficiently strategic. Future agendas will show which papers link to the four strategic themes and to delivery of the PSA targets. Commissioners can suggest agenda items at any time. The Commission might also consider, at the end of each meeting, indicating which papers they thought appropriate for the meeting to consider.

Consultation

13. Better regulation team, Communications Directorate and PEFD.

Presentation

14. No immediate presentational implications

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

15. There will be some additional T&S costs arising from an increase in meetings

Environmental and other Implications

16. None