

Health and Safety Executive Board Paper		HSE/03/055	
Meeting Date:	3 September 2003	Open Gov. Status:	Fully open
Type of Paper:	Above the line	Paper File Ref:	
Exemptions:	Post meeting		

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

The HSE Board

Health and Safety in HSE Annual Report 2002/03

A Paper by John Gould, Acting Director of Personnel

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Cleared by Justin McCracken on 18 August 2003

Issue

To seek the Board's agreement on the content of the Health and Safety Annual Report 2002/03 and the proposals for its publication.

Timing

Subject to Board agreement, Personnel will arrange for the report to be published on the intranet later in September.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to discuss the report at Annex 1 and to agree:

- w the tone and balance of the report. Particular attention is drawn to the introduction by the DG (page 3), the review of health and safety (pages 4 to 5) and the section on management of stress (pages 9 to 10).
- w for the report to be published on both the intranet and internet.
- w that it should be discussed at every team meeting during European Week for Safety and Health at Work (which begins 13 October 2003).

Background

The Annual Report is published by the Director General to fulfil the commitment in the Health and Safety Policy Statement to keep staff informed.

The report is intended to be an open, objective account of the progress made in the year by Directorates, Divisions, Personnel and others in delivering to the Corporate Health and Safety Plan. In response to comments on previous reports, this year the report has been streamlined further.

Argument

The report and the Board attention it receives, help to demonstrate senior management commitment to health and safety, raise awareness of health and safety issues amongst staff and promote good practice and consistency between Directorates. The report fulfils the requirements of HSE's Safety Policy and meets HSC's own guidelines on what should be included.

It is difficult to draw firm conclusions on progress in improving health and safety in HSE because of past under reporting and the raised profile of H&S issues. There are some positive indicators e.g. a levelling off in RIDDOR reportable incidents and fewer DSE related referrals this year to BMI. A reduction in the number of DSE assessments outstanding this year is in part due to improved arrangements, the implementation of tighter performance measures, improved training for assessors and clearer procedures. Management of stress continues to be a priority with its raised profile.

Consultation

The report was prepared by Personnel, based on returns from Directorates. The Corporate Health and Safety Committee and TUs have agreed the report.

Presentation

Not applicable

Costs and Benefits

Not applicable

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

None

Environmental implications

Not applicable

Other Implications

There is interest in this Report outside HSE, particularly in relation to DSE and management of stress. Some individual or media attention may therefore be expected, and some additional briefing needed.

Action

If the Board agrees the Annual Report, Personnel will arrange for it to be published on the intranet and HSE's web site.