

FORWARD LOOK: Monday, 2 December 2002

This document provides an advance overview of forthcoming issues and events of concern to Ministers and/or requiring Ministers' attention. It is designed to be a useful tool to keep Ministers informed and to help with the planning of diary commitments.

Section 1 - Forthcoming Ministerial Submissions

This section lists each submission in chronological order. It identifies which Department has lead responsibility and the key player(s) involved.

Section 2 – Hot Topics

This section lists forthcoming or current issues which may attract a high level of public and/ or media interest

Section 3 – Events Diary

Supplied by the HSE Press Office, this is a 3-monthly diary of upcoming events of possible significance including press releases and literary launches

Guidance for contributions to the List of Ministerial Submissions

The Forward Look is updated at regular intervals and distributed monthly

Contributions should contain the following information under each of the headings:

Issue: A brief outline of the main subject(s)

Action: What, if any, actions arising from the submission are being asked of the Minister, e.g. endorsement

Timing: If an exact date is not known, please enter an approximation, e.g. early January

Comments: A fuller description of the issue(s), including brief background information where applicable

Handling: Which body has lead responsibility on the issue – HSSD, HSE or jointly - along with a named person for reference

The final version will be distributed on the first working Monday of each month

NB: There should be a minimum of two weeks' notice for every submission. Submissions not included in the Forward Look will not be submitted to Ministers unless there are robust reasons for doing so, i.e. an unforeseen event - **NO SURPRISES!**

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Section 1

Forthcoming Ministerial Submissions

Ref.no	Issue	Action	Timing	Comments	Handling
1.	Physical Agents Directives	For information and action as appropriate	Ongoing	Updates on developments on Physical Agents (Vibration), (Noise), (Electromagnetic Fields and Waves) and (Optical Radiation) Directives	HSE (HDB) Contact: Mike Shepherd
2.	Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive - implementation	To approve letter and "Options" paper to send to the Ministerial Panel for Regulatory Accountability	Ongoing		HSE (HDB) Contact: Brian Coles
3.	Health, Work and Recovery	Proposals to take forward a cross-government initiative to tackle workplace ill-health, job retention, and rehabilitation issues agreed at a joint DWP, DOH, and DFES, and DTLR ministerial meeting on 18 April	Early December	This area of work offers the greatest opportunity for synergy between H & S and other broader departmental and cross-government objectives	HSSD (with HSE support)
4.	Letter from Bill Callaghan to Nick Brown on benefits of making HSC advice to Ministers public.		Early December	Submission will need to be prepared by HSSD because departmental interests are very different from those of the independent regulator	HSSD
5.	Proposals to amend the management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations and Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations		Week Com 2 December		HSE Contact: Neal Stone
6.	Publication of HSE 's Annual Report of Health and Safety Statistics and HELA Conference	Minister to be aware	Week Com 2 Decmber	Report to be published on 10 th December. There will be a full press launch attended by the Chair (BC)	HSE
7.	Civil Engineering Contractors Association	Request for a meeting with the Minister	Week Com 2 December	Suggested postponing/declining until Minister had met the Construction Confederation	HSE (SPD): Phil Kemball
8.	GM Activities	GM activities that have been withheld from the Public Register for reasons of National Security	Week Com 9 December		HSE (HDB)
9.	Proposals for HSE fees and charges in new Health and Safety (Fees) regs 2003	To ask DWP Ministers to agree to annual increase in fees and charges made by HSE	Week Com 9 December	Should be preceded by letter from Bill Callaghan to Nick Brown following HSC meeting on 3/12	PEFD/HSSD
10.	Bid for additional resources for delivery of railways Cullen agenda	To ask DWP Ministers to write to DfT Ministers seeking transfer funding.	December	HSC discussion on 2003/4 priorities 3/12.	HSSD (tbc)

11.	HSC Chair's Time Commitment	To seek Ministerial agreement to extending the Chair's time commitment at 4 days per week	Autumn	Routine approval to start process	HSSD
12.	Passive Smoking	Joint HSE/DoH strategy proposals	Autumn	White Paper "Smoking Kills" gave commitment to addressing workplace issues. HSE has been asked to do more work on draft AcoP to take account of concerns of small firms and the hospitality industry	HSSD/HSE jointly
13.	Regulations to amend the Railways (Safety Case) Regulations 2000	For Ministerial approval and signature (NB Need to clarify DWP or DfT Minister)*	Autumn	Limited amendments to reflect RISB formation	HSE
14.	Health & Safety in the Civil Service	Proposals for injecting a new impetus in this work, including target setting, will be put to Ministers for endorsement	December	High level group established in January 2001 to provide leadership on health and safety management issues within the Civil Service. Meeting between SoS and HSC Chair agreed important to make public service an exemplar	HSSD/HSE jointly
15.	Consultative document on unloading petrol tankers	To approve the document	mid-December	Routine approval	HSSD with HSE support
16.	Duty to investigate accidents, dangerous occurrences and diseases	Submission to Ministers on the result of the HSC consultation.	Dec/Jan Depending on the outcome of HSC discussions	Report on the outcome of consultation and recommendation for guidance to be made to the HSC on 3 rd December 2002	HSE
17.	Offshore hydrocarbon release statistics	For information	Jan	Release date not yet known	HSE (SPD C4): Ann Darvill
18.	Results of the reviews of the impact of charging in the Offshore, Gas Transportation and Railway industries and the overall conclusions from the evaluation of the impact of charging.	To report to Ministers the outcome of reviews carried out using survey and other information provided by Deloitte & Touche to inform the reviews	January	Should be preceded by letter from Bill Callaghan to Nick Brown following HSC meeting on 3/12	PEFD/HSSD
19.	Physical Agents (Electromagnetic Fields and Waves) Directive - proposal	To approve and send EP letter on UK negotiating position	January	Directive proposal awaited but considered imminent. Submission to follow HSC consideration	HSE (HDB) Contact: Norman Smith
20.	Physical Agents (Noise) Directive - adoption	To approve EM for submission to Scrutiny Committees	December	Submission dependent on date of adoption	HSE (HDB/IB) Contact: Andie Michael
21.	Construction	Chief Inspector of Construction's 2 nd Report on Health & Safety performance in the construction industry to be presented to NB	January 2003	A submission has been sent asking if the Minister is free in a date in Jan to be presented with the report	HSE (SPD): Phil Kemball

22.	Proposals for amendments to Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996	For ministerial approval and comments	Feb 03	Amendments to PSR 96 provide a level of legal underpinning to the accelerated programme of iron mains replacement HSE agreed with Transco in September 2001.	HSE (SPD) Peter Sargent Ext 3264
23.	Revitalising Health and Safety – (RHS) Production of HSC/E Strategy and Forward Plan	Review with HSC/E Approve outcome	April 2003	Joint Government/HSC 10-year strategy launched in June 2000, which now needs to be reviewed following implementation of the majority of the short term actions. Proposals being developed with HSE for the future development of the strategy taking account of linkages to HSE's programme of work and Strategic Plan including convergence with HSE's occupational health strategy, "Securing Health Together" and, the importance of ensuring joined-up agendas across government departments.	HSSD/HSE jointly
24.	Amendment of Seveso II Directive on the control of major accident hazards	European Standing Committee	TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Scrutiny Committee wish to debate aspects of the Seveso II Directive on the Control of Mayor Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances – Minister to appear for the Government - The Directive is negotiated under the aegis of the Environment Council on which DEFRA Ministers represent the UK. However HSE has the administrative lead for negotiations and relevant Ministerial clearance 	HSSD (with strong HSE support)
25.	Crown Immunity	To update the Minister on how matters stand and how the issue should be taken forward. Ongoing consultation involving the Home Office			HSSD

Section 2

Hot Topics

This section lists forthcoming/ pressing/ current (or recent?) issues which may attract a high level of public/ media interest

- **Fire-fighters pay dispute**

The fire-fighters strike action continues as the FBU threatens to strike again on Wed 4 December

- **Debate in the House of Lords on the 5 December in response to a motion to annul the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations**

- **Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) - recent Parliamentary Questions**

The Centre for Corporate Accountability (CCA) periodically uses HSE data to promote their agenda and this has led to recent media interest. A number of related PQs have been tabled in the past few weeks

- **Annual Health and Safety Statistics**

The forthcoming launch of these statistics has been delayed since the summer due to a new reporting system from the new incident call centre.

- HELA conference to Launch annual report , annual stats picture and enforcement stats;.

- **British Energy**

Possible increased media interest in the company's continuing financial troubles, which may have implications for health & safety and security issues

Section 3

Issued: Nov 2002	Next Updated: Nov 2002	Open Government Status: Closed (exemption 2 of ACoP)
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HSE PRESS OFFICE DIARY OF EVENTS From Dec 2002

Summary list of events likely to generate significant media interest

Dec 2002

- Undated - progress in investigation of Sandhurst CSG incident
- Undated - Final Hatfield Investigation Report
- Undated (Dec) Final HSE investigation report on Great Heck (Selby) collision

Additional events awaiting developments elsewhere:

- Decision whether to prosecute over Ladbroke Grove rail accident
(awaiting CPS review of decision not to prosecute)
- Publication of Investigation report of Hatfield rail accident
(awaiting CPS/BTP decision on prosecution)
- Publication of investigation report of Potters Bar rail accident
(awaiting CPS/BTP decision on prosecution)

On the following pages, Major Events are highlighted in Bold.

*** = non HSC/E event.

Press Officer contacts:
PG – Philip Gibson;
PM – Peter Morgan;
MW – Mark Wheeler

PD – Paul Dyett;
KH – Kimberley Huggins;
JN – Jacqueline Noble;

AF – Alasdair Frew;
JK – Jan Kemal;
MJ – Madeleine Jamieson;

DECEMBER		
Mon 2 (tbc)	report – Great Heck road vehicle and train collision	Mike Smith RI & MW
Mon 2	Conference on Work-related violence, Congress House (key note speech by Bill Callaghan) organised by HSE and external parties	Ann Harrington, HD & JK
Wed 4	Prosecution – Hydroactive Outdoor Pursuits, Luton Crown Court –	OSD & PG
Wed 4	Resumption of prosecution of Thurli Madani, owner of Hull warehouse that collapsed killing three – Hull Mags Ct	
Thurs 5 (tbc)	Con Doc on Canary Wharf crane collapse given to families (am) with press briefing in pm – Sharing crane lessons	
Thurs 5	*** House of Lords debate – asbestos	
Mon 9	Press Conf – New and Expectant Mothers at Work – A guide to employers	Angela Wearne, HD & JK
Mon 9	HSE giving evidence at inquest into death of diver at Canary Wharft (Nov 2000)	

Tues 10	Press Conf - launch annual statistics	AF
Wed 11	Bill Callaghan speech at HELA annual conf to launch annual report, annual stats picture and enforcement stats	
Thurs 12	HSE/DRC Workshop (organised by IRS) on “Health Safety & Disability – Are there conflicts at work?”	June Manson/Bal Sahota, HD
Mon 16 (tbc)	Press conf – ACoP, guidance’s and leaflet on Management of Asbestos in the workplace (new duty to manage), plus ACoPs on Work with Asbestos and work with asbestos pro-ducts	Angela Wearne & JK
Tues 17 (tbc)	Press Conf/Briefing – Railways Annual Report	RI & MW
Thurs 19	COSHH Regulations 2002 come into force	Mike Reeves, HD
Thurs 19	Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 come into force –	Ian Gooday HD C
Thurs 19 (tbc)	Website publication only – HSC progress report on achieving PSA targets	Carole Lomax & AF
Thurs 28	Rail Theme Progress Report – dealing with 295 recommendations of 4 public inquiries	RI & MW
Undated – Anticipated Date – December		
Events/Publications		Contacts
Monthly SPADs report due on website at end month will probably appear early in January		
Quarterly report of Nuclear Incidents (Q3) due at end month will probably appear early in January		
Conference on Work-Related Violence		Ann Harrington HD & MJ

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