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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE**THE HSE BOARD****Report on mid-year review of Health and Safety in HSE
April-September 2002
and
Health and Safety Corporate Plan 2003/04****Papers by David Ashton, Director of Personnel****Adviser: John Ives, Personnel****Cleared by Justin McCracken on 19 December 02****Issue**

To seek the Board's agreement on:

- the content of the mid-year review of HSE's health and safety performance Apr - Sept 2002 and
- the Corporate Health and Safety Plan revised for 2003/04

and the proposal for their publication on the intranet.

Both papers take account of discussions at the Corporate Health and Safety Committee (CHSC) in November.

Timing

Subject to Board agreement, Personnel will arrange for the mid-year Report and Corporate Plan to be published on the intranet in February 2003. The Corporate Plan will inform directorates and divisions (D/ds) in preparing their individual health and safety plans for 2003/04.

Recommendations and Decisions

The Board is invited to discuss the Report at annex 1 and Plan at annex 2 and to agree:

- for the Report and Plan to be published on the intranet or to suggest improvements;

- to consider publishing the Report and Plan on the Internet.

Background

The Board agreed the Corporate Health and Safety Plan 2002/03 (Board paper B/02/020) setting out the priorities and aims for HSE. The attached mid-year Report at Annex 1 presents the progress made by Directorates against the plan. The Report also includes data collated by Personnel on incident reports.

The Corporate Health and Safety Plan 2003/04 attached at Annex 2 continues to tackle:

- musculoskeletal disorders - DSE and back injury (Priority A);
- management of stress (Priority B);
- reducing the number of accidents due to slips, trips and falls (Priority C)

but has been revised to incorporate -

- a less prescriptive approach to the Corporate priorities;
- scope for D/ds to use an alternative approach to meeting the priorities;
- scope for D/ds to add their own priorities.

Argument

The Board demonstrates its support for the HSE policy of providing exemplary standards of health and safety performance by its review of that performance and by identifying the need for change as necessary.

The content of the Corporate Plan is based on Revitalising Health and Safety, HSE's Priority programmes, the Ministerial checklist and Good Practice Guide. The Plan gives greater emphasis to the strategic aims but allows D/ds flexibility in developing their own H&S plans.

Consultation

The mid-year Report was prepared by Personnel's Health and Safety Unit based on returns from Directorates. The CHSC have agreed the report.

Proposed revisions to the Corporate Plan were discussed by the CHSC.

Presentation

The Board agreed for the 2001/02 Health and Safety in HSE Annual Report to be available on HSE's Web Site. Does the Board agree that the mid-year Report and Corporate Plan should also go on HSE's Web Site?

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 media attention may therefore be expected, and some additional briefing needed.

Action

If the Board agreed the Report and Plan, Personnel will arrange for publication on the intranet and HSE's web site.