

Health and Safety Executive Board Minutes			HSE/B/08/01
Meeting Date:	9 January 2008	FOI Status:	Fully Open
Type of Paper:	Draft Minutes	Trim Ref:	2008/16198

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

Draft Minutes of the HSE Board meeting held on Wednesday 9th January 2008, Hope Room, Rose Court, London and by video conference link to Redgrave Court, Bootle

Present

Geoffrey Podger	Justin McCracken	Alex Brett-Holt	Sandra Caldwell
Vivienne Carlton	Giles Denham	Vivienne Dews	Patrick McDonald
Eddie Morland	Kevin Myers	Jane Willis	

Apologies

Mike Weightman	Bill Gunneyon
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Also attending

Peter Buckley and Anne Robinson (all items), Mike Lacaille (Items 2 – 4) Gaynor Coldrick, Alison McKenzie-Folan, and Dave Thomas (Item 2), Sarabjit Purewal and Ian Tsang (for item3), Ian Travers (for item 5) and Gerry Kasprzok (for item 6).

Minutes Peter Buckley

Introductory remarks

The Board warmly congratulated Justin McCracken on his appointment as Chief Executive of the Health Protection Agency.

Justin thanked the Board although he would have mixed feelings about leaving HSE. He also thanked colleagues past and present for their help, support and guidance which had helped him succeed with his application.

The Board also warmly congratulated Sandra Caldwell on the award of the Companion of the Order of the Bath in the New Year's Honours list in recognition of her personal achievements during her career in HSE.

Sandra thanked the Board. She was, of course, personally delighted on receiving the honour. In addition, she really appreciated the messages and conversations with colleagues since the honour was announced.

1 Draft Minutes of the HSE Board held on 5 December and action points

- 1.1 The Board agreed the minutes subject to an amendment:
- to para 2.1.e to make clear that the recruitment of 50 additional operational staff and policy advisors was not the only possible recruitment over the CSR 2007 period; and
 - to section 7 to make reference to the ageing infrastructure throughout rather than to any particular part of it.

2 Agenda item 2 – Monthly Finance and Staffing update – November out-turn (Paper B/08/01 Closed)

- 2.1 This part of the minutes is closed.

3 Agenda Item 3 – Planning for 2008\9 to 2010\11 (Paper No B/08/02 - Closed)

- 3.1 This part of the minutes is closed.

4 Agenda Item 4 – Universal work recording (Paper No B/08/03)

- 4.1 This part of the minutes is closed.

- 5 Agenda Item 5 – Up-date on the scoping study to consider remodelling the COMAH Operational Regime (B/08/04)**
- 5.1 This part of the minutes is closed
- 6 Agenda Item 6 – Revised guidance to enforcing authorities under Section 18 Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (Paper B/08/05 – Parially Open)**
- 6.1 Gerry Kasprzok introduced the paper with the following remarks:
- a. The guidance had been produced as one of the outputs from the HSE\LA strategic programme;
 - b. Its main aim was to secure consistency on enforcement both across Local Authorities and between Local Authorities and HSE;
 - c. The guidance had been produced in partnership with the Local Authorities and had been widely consulted upon;
 - d. The Board was asked to agree the guidance so it could be put to the Commission at its February meeting.
- 6.2 The Board thanked Gerry for his introduction and made the following comments:
- a. Further discussions were necessary with the Legal Advisors to:
 - i. take account of the proposed merger of the HSC\E (which was not contemplated when work on the guidance began) and the implications of repealing the direction making power;
 - ii. explore the implications of changes to guidance once agreed and the legal effect of any direction made.
 - b. The reference to encouraging economic progress should be removed from page 13 of the guidance.
- 6.3 Geoffrey thanked Gerry for the work on developing the guidance and asked that discussions with the Legal Advisor are arranged to make changes to the text so it can go, with the support of the Board, to the Commission for agreement.
- Action Point 9 Local Authority Unit to arrange discussions with the Legal Advisor to modify the text in the light of the comments made during the discussion.**
- 7 Draft Agenda for February meeting (B/08/A02)**
- 7.1 The agenda was agreed subject to the following changes:
- a. Amalgamation of the item on communication spend into the monthly finance and staffing paper;
 - b. Deferring the paper on construction safety until the May meeting;
 - c. Addition of an item on planning and on the planned Board visits to HSE Offices.
- 8 Any Other Business**
- 8.1.1 This part of the minutes is closed.