

Health and Safety Executive Board			HSE/11/M04
Meeting Date:	7 April 2011	FoI Status	Open
FoI Exemptions			
Trim Reference:	2011/288100		
Minutes of HSE Board Meeting – April 2011 Mint Hotel, Westminster			

Present:

Judith Hackitt – Chair	Richard Taylor	Robin Dahlberg	John Spanwick
Paul Kenny	Hugh Robertson	Sandy Blair	Frances Outram
Liz Snape			

Also attending:

Geoffrey Podger, Kevin Myers, Steve Dennis, Gaynor Coldrick, Jane Willis, Sue Johns, Laurence Monaghan, Peter McNaught (all items); Stephen Williams (item 7); David Smeatham (item 8).

Apologies:

David Gartside

Minutes: Laurence Monaghan

Open Session	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies were received from David Gartside
5.	Minutes and Matters arising – HSE/10/M02C
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were agreed with no comments. With regard to 9.2, it was confirmed that the Board had now signed the authorisation for the creation of the ONR.
6.	Chief Executive’s Report – HSE/11/20
6.1	<p>Geoffrey Podger introduced his report in discussion of which the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialists and admin in ND were thanked for their running of the incident suite as events affecting nuclear facilities in Japan unfolded. Consultations with other international agencies during events had proved very effective. The Board were concerned by the large number of work-related deaths being reported but recognised more meaningful conclusions could not be drawn from a single month’s data. Data on the number of work-related deaths investigated by Local Authorities would be provided to the Board when available. The Scottish Affairs Committee had on 4 April launched an inquiry into health and safety in Scotland. The presentation of fatal incidents within the report was to be reviewed.

7.	Update on HSE's preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games – HSE/11/21
7.1	<p>Stephen Williams introduced the paper during the discussion of which the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to challenge from HSE, LOCOG had set out a convincing case for how they would maintain the high standards of health and safety protection set by the ODA. An intervention plan to ensure LOCOG delivered on these commitments had now been prepared to which LA sign-up was being sought. • LOCOG were currently advertising for a Board level appointee with health and safety skills to strengthen their capability in this area. • There was a training programme for volunteers which had the support of the British Safety Council and HSE had a workstream looking at volunteering and volunteer training. • The ODA approach to managing common areas had been to manage them as CDM areas in their own right. • Efforts were being made to ensure LAs outside London were provided with the same access to information as London LAs. A single point of contact was also available for LAs whether in England, Scotland and Wales and a mechanism was also being put in place to monitor standards outside London.
8.	Update on leadership in health and safety - HSE/11/22
8.1	<p>In the Board's discussion of this paper they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noted that the findings regarding take up of the IoD guidance were disappointing but that this was no reflection on the quality of the guidance itself. However high the take-up of guidance there would always be a minority not fulfilling their responsibilities. • recognised the very high level of support for positive duties on directors among a wide range of stakeholders. • agreed that it was right that they should remain open to considering any options that might help reduce fatal accidents and serious injuries. • agreed that Government policy on regulation did not preclude the proposing of new regulation where there was a strong case to be made • recognised that further legislation might not encourage dutyholders to take greater ownership and that this needed to be achieved by other means. • noted that promoting the business case for good health and safety and publicising the impact of enforcement were two additional ways in which HSE should push for greater leadership. • recognised that a balance of approaches towards improving leadership was required. • acknowledged that ongoing reviews and discussion around the various prosecution routes available, the time taken to bring cases to prosecution and the impact of corporate manslaughter would necessitate this issue being kept under review. • asked that new ways to push leadership continue to be identified and developed. <p>The Chair would relay both the Board's discussion and the extent of stakeholder interest in this matter to the Minister</p>

9.	Future Agendas – HSE/AG/05/2011
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed there would be no open session at the May meeting. • The Board requested a discussion on the approach towards the EU which was to be held in closed session.
10.	Any other business
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no other business discussed.