

Health and Safety Executive Board			HSE/11/M09
Meeting Date:	28 September 2011	FoI Status	Open
FoI Exemptions			
Trim Reference:	2011/574070		
Minutes of HSE Board Meeting – 28 September 2011 Doubletree Hotel, Aberdeen			

Attending

Judith Hackitt – Chair	Richard Taylor	Hugh Robertson	David Gartside
John Spanswick	Sandy Blair	Frances Outram	Robin Dahlberg
Nick Baldwin			

Apologies

Paul Kenny	Liz Snape
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Also attending

Geoffrey Podger, Sue Johns, Gaynor Coldrick, Steve Dennis, Peter McNaught, Jane Willis, Sally Sykes, Laurence Monaghan, Ian Philips (all items); Clive Fleming (item 2); Michelle Allsop & Vinny Kenny (item 3); Paul Stollard (item 7); Steve Walker (item 8); Graham Walker (item 9).

Minutes Laurence Monaghan

Open Session	
4	Minutes (HSE/11/M08C)
4.1	The minutes were agreed with a request that the criteria for assignation of action points be reviewed.
Action point 2	The criteria for assignation of action points in minutes were to be reviewed.
5	Chief Executive’s Report (HSE/11/58)
5.1	Geoffrey Podger presented his Chief Executive’s report during the discussion of which the following points were made: a) The Chair had robustly defended HSE’s approach to enforcement of the asbestos regulations at a recent Westminster briefing event. b) While the Pesticides Directive would impose some changes in process for HSE’s Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) the scientific assessment involved would remain largely unchanged. c) The Board commended the work of HSE staff engaging with the Fork Lift Truck Association. d) The Board expressed their sympathies to those affected by the recent mining accidents and expressed their appreciation for the considerable input of HSE staff involved.
Action point 3	Details are to be provided as to the reporting arrangements for fatal accidents arising from illegal activities.
6	Chair of the Office for Nuclear Regulation Report to the HSE Board (HSE/11/59)
6.1	Nick Baldwin introduced the report during the discussion of which it was confirmed that staff were being demobilised from Westinghouse GDA work to undertake operational activities (although they could be remobilised for GDA should it later be

	required).
7	Annual review of developments in Scotland (HSE/11/60)
7.1	<p>The Board welcomed the update and noted the specific issues which related to HSE in Scotland. In discussion of the update the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) While there were no confirmed trends in fatal accidents occurring in Scottish agriculture it was clear that people working far beyond normal retirement age was a factor. b) A Board member who had recently visited a Forestry Commission site had been impressed by the leadership and standards on display. c) HSE had a good relationship with Local Authorities in Scotland as demonstrated by the enthusiasm shown at a recent meeting between HSE senior managers and the Association of Chief Environmental Health Officers. d) There had been a high incidence of enforcement arising from the LPG pipework inspection programme visits undertaken in Scotland. The inspection programme was now coming to an end and its findings would be brought to the Board along with a reappraisal of the risks associated with this issue. e) The Board welcomed the support provided by the Scottish CIA to the COMAH remodelling work.
8	An update on offshore matters (HSE/11/61)
8.1	<p>Steve Walker introduced the paper in discussion of which the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prior to the meeting some Board members had visited an onshore drilling rig where they had heard much evidence of the effectiveness of the Step Change programme although there were some areas where it was felt improvements could be made. b) It was confirmed that HSE would be placing more emphasis on challenging industry over process safety. c) Future proofing of rigs currently in use was a component of the KP4 programme and HSE was proactively engaging with new companies purchasing old rigs. d) HSE was using common issues such as ageing plant as themes by which to engage with all oil and gas sectors. e) OSD was securing further resources in anticipation of increased offshore construction and maintenance linked to offshore energy production. The Board reported that the offshore energy industry endorsed the support HSE was providing to this sector. f) There were lessons that could be learnt from other international approaches and an upcoming event in Norway would provide an opportunity for initiating such work. g) HID and OSD were considering leadership issues together and would be making links to ONR work on leadership. OSD were also developing techniques to thoroughly explore poor performance by dutyholders. h) There were issues around competency in the offshore supply chain which current work of OSPRAG might help address. It was noted that Oil & Gas UK covered the whole supply chain and could act as an enabler to this work.
9	Agriculture revisited – an update (HSE/11/62)
9.1	<p>Graeme Walker introduced the paper and also provided a verbal update on wider agricultural issues. In discussion the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It was confirmed that SHADs were also held for the fish farm industry. b) Occupational ill-health was recognised as a significant issue within agriculture but evidence by which to target it effectively was currently unavailable. The networks

	<p>developed for addressing fatal accidents would be used to gather suitable evidence. The Board noted that the incorporation of PSD into HSE should also help target efforts in this area.</p> <p>c) The Board recognised the impact achieved by the Chair's engagement with the agriculture sector, the work of HSE's agricultural inspectors and also the regional activities undertaken by individual FOD Divisions.</p>
10	Future Agendas (HSE/AG/10/2011)
10.1	<p>a) Approval of two aspects of the ONR Framework Document would be brought to the October and December meetings.</p> <p>b) The paper on the health and social care services sector to the October meeting would remain below the line but there would be a follow-up discussion at a future meeting.</p>
11	Any other business
11.1	<p>a) The independent sickness absence review requested by the Government was due to be published in October.</p> <p>b) The Board were reminded that the October meeting would be fully closed and would include a workshop session for Board members.</p>