

Health and Safety Executive Board		HSE/14/101	
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## Release of Health and Safety Statistics for 2013/14

### Purpose of the paper

1 The Board is asked to note the publication of this year's main health and safety statistics, which took place on 29 October 2014.

### Background

2 Statistics on work-related ill health, injuries, enforcement, estimated working days lost and costs of health and safety failures are published by HSE each autumn. Figures for fatal injuries and disease are published in the summer.

### Argument

3 A briefing note on the statistics was provided to Board members at their meeting in Buxton on 29 October. This is attached at Annex A and summarises the headline statistics, by means of bullet points and graphs.

4 The key message from the new figure, as highlighted in the HSE press release, was that while Britain continues to be one of the safest places to work in Europe, too many workers are still being injured or made ill by work.

5 The statistics showed that an estimated 28.2 million working days were lost due to work related ill health or injury in 2013/14. As a result, the cost to society from such injuries and new cases of ill health due to current working conditions was an estimated £14.2 billion (2012/13 figures based on 2012 prices).

6 Statistics on the reported numbers of cases of both work-related ill health and non-fatal injuries have shown a downward trend for several years; the most recent data show some signs of levelling off. For injuries, the evidence suggests that at least part of this is likely to be due to the effect of the economic recovery, as newly hired workers tend to have higher injury rates.

7 In terms of communications handling, this year in addition to publishing the figures on the HSE website and sending to print media, statisticians and press officers produced a number of infographics to be used on social media such as Twitter.

8 These tweets along with the infographics images were shared and 'favourited' many hundreds of times; one of them was retweeted more than any other infographic produced for any other HSE campaign; see Annex B. Also HSE's chief statistician took part in a Twitter chat two days after the stats release, which was well received by users.

9 The press release (or elements of it) appeared in several trade publications and newspapers and prompted some debate from stakeholders in Scotland. HSE responded to criticism, made in press statements by the Scottish Trades Union Congress and a group of academics, that Scottish workers are at more risk. Asked to comment by Glasgow-based The Herald newspaper, HSE said that while it recognised the concerns of STUC, the statistics showed that Scotland is not lagging behind the rest of Britain.

### **Devolved Administrations**

10 Separate figures are published for Scotland and Wales.

### **Action**

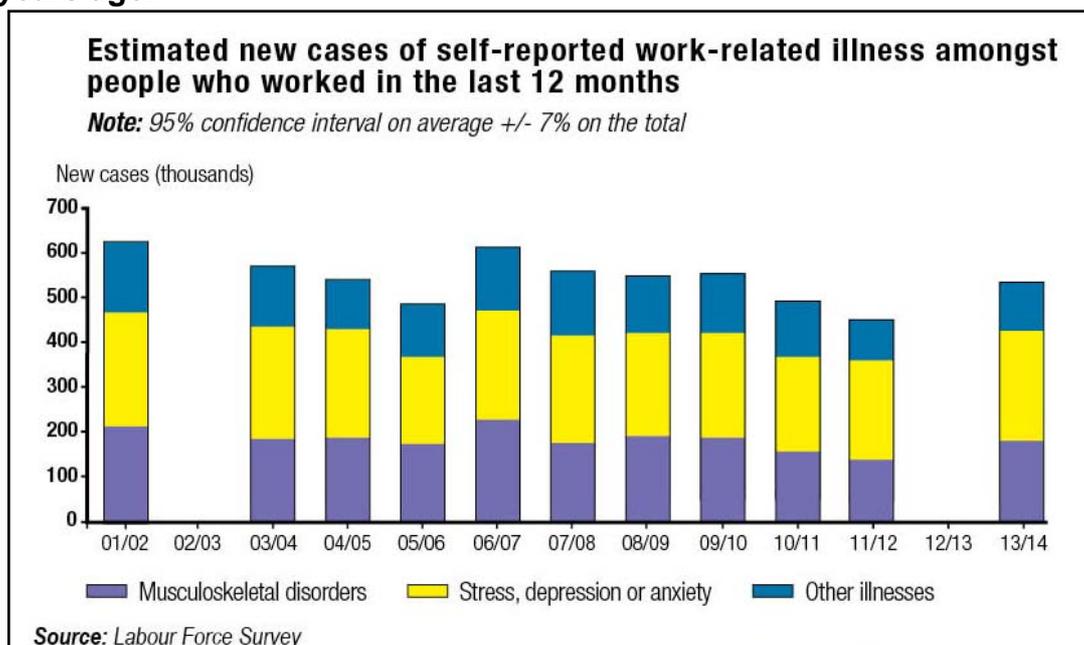
11 The Board is asked to note the new figures, along with the key messages and communications aspects described above.

### **Paper clearance**

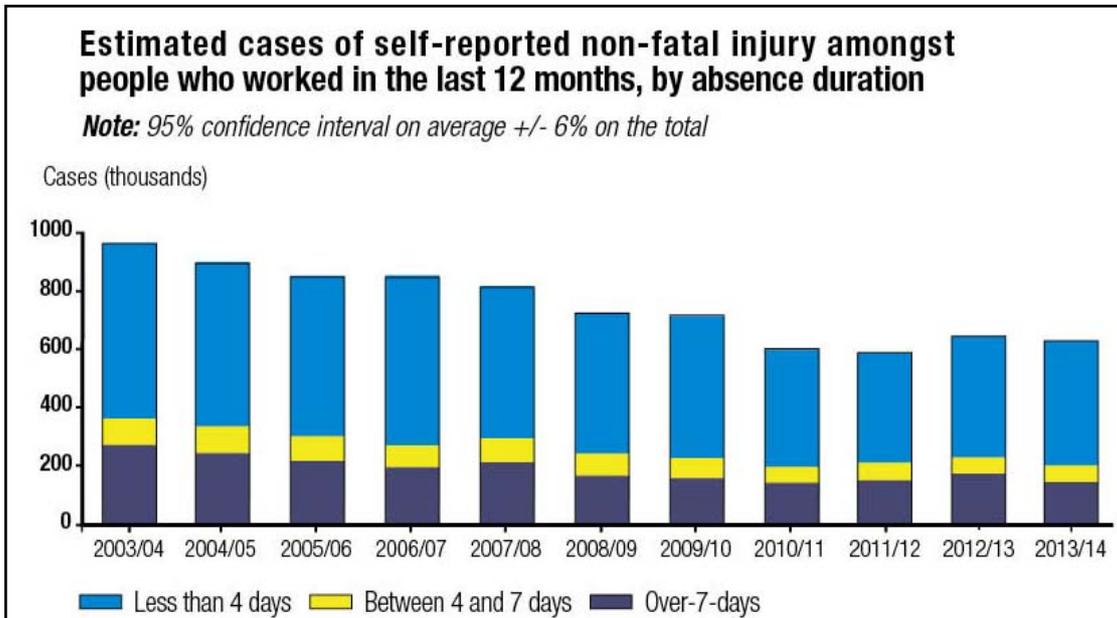
This paper was cleared by the SMT on 11 November 2014.

## Key statistics for 2013/14

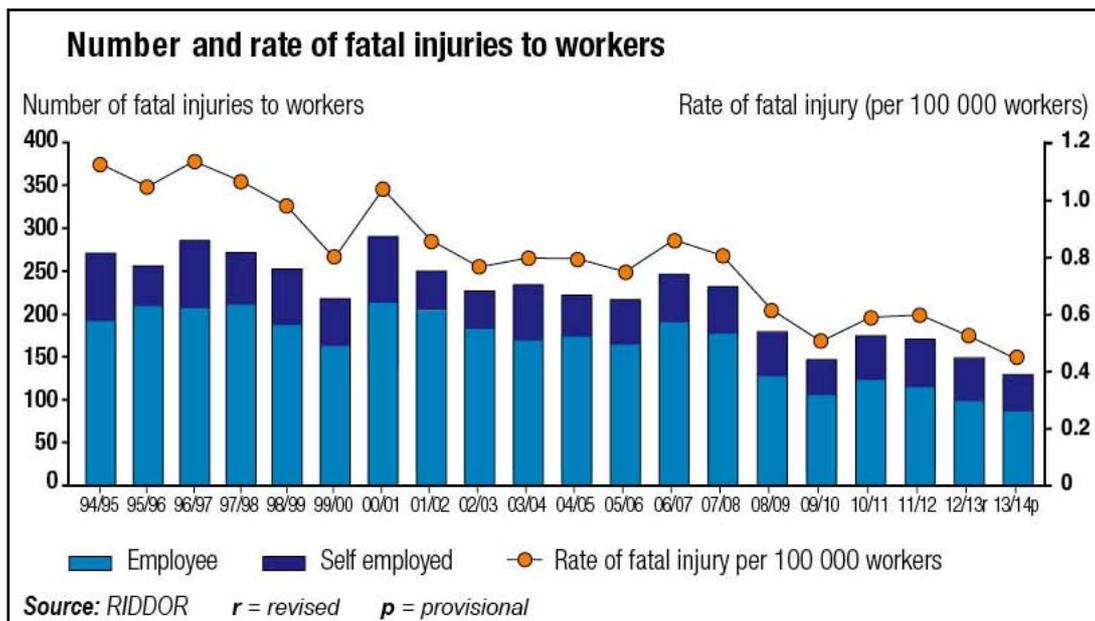
- The **total number** of people working in the last year who suffered from a **work-related illness** was estimated from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) at **1.2 million** in 2013/14.
- **535 000** of these were **new cases**. The number has generally **fallen** since 2001/02, reaching a low of 452 000 in 2011/12. No LFS health data were collected in 2012/13, but in 2013/14 new cases increased to the **level of 4-5 years ago**.



- The estimated number of **self-reported injuries** was **629 000**, similar to last year, of which **148 000** led to over-7-days absence. Self-reported non-fatal injuries at work have generally followed a **downward trend** over the last ten years or so, but in recent years show signs of **levelling off**.



- There were **133 fatal injuries** to workers in 2013/14 compared with 150 in 2012/13 (figures first published in July); fatal injury rates have shown a **long-term downward trend**, though the numbers can fluctuate from year to year.

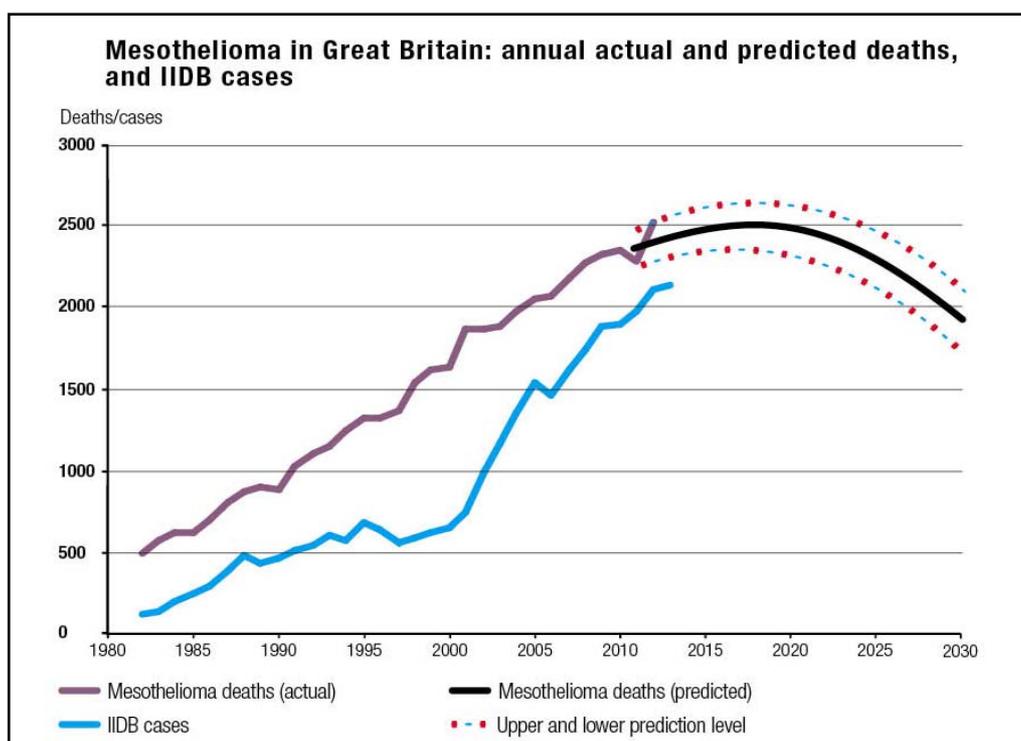


- The number of **over-7-day injuries** to employees reported in 2013/14 was **58 716**, compared to 60 154 in 2012/13. (In April 2012, RIDDOR reporting requirements changed from over-3-days' incapacitation to over-7-days').

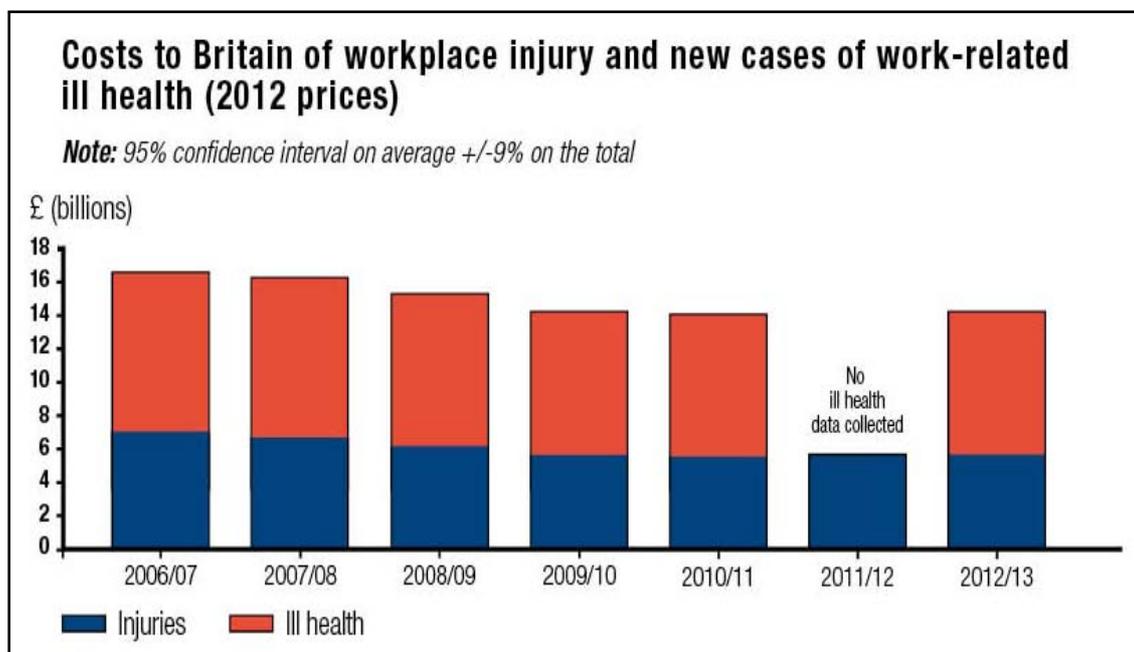
- There were **18 877** reported major/specified injuries in 2013/14. In October 2013, RIDDOR reporting requirements changed from 'major' to 'specified' injuries, so direct comparisons with the previous year should be avoided.



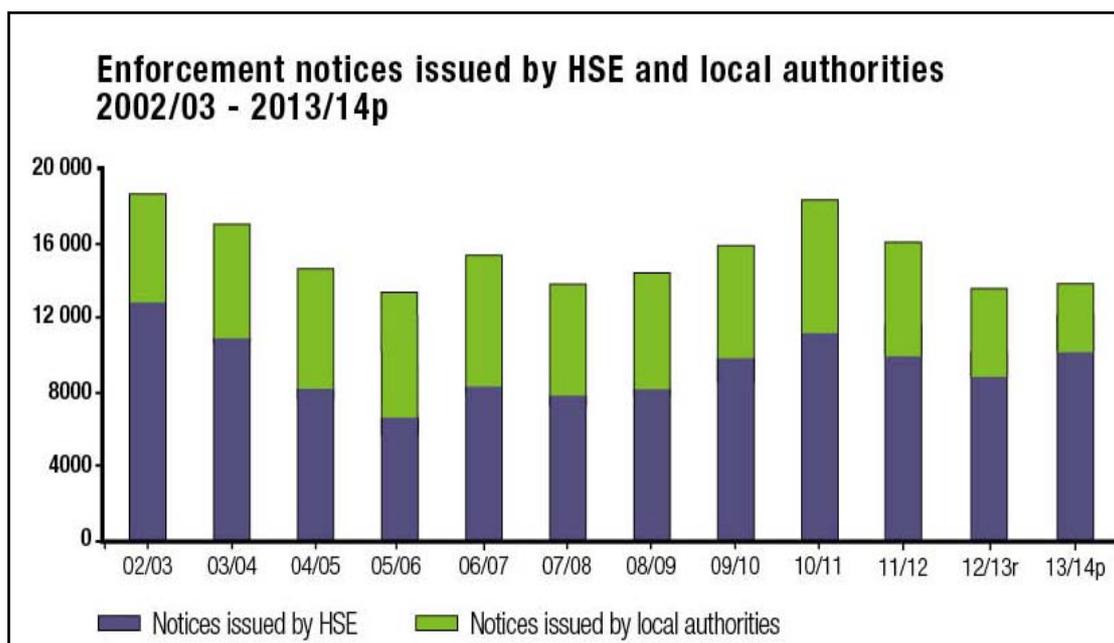
- There are indications that the **economic recovery** may be responsible for at least some of the levelling off in non-fatal injury rates.
- **Deaths from mesothelioma** due to past exposure to asbestos **increased** in the latest year, to 2535 in 2012 compared to 2311 deaths in 2011 (figures first published in July). Cases assessed for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) have also risen over time.



- There were an estimated **28.2 million working days lost** due to work-related ill health or injury in 2013/14, a **similar number to 4-5 years ago**.
- **Estimated costs to Britain** of injuries and ill health from current working conditions were **£14.2 billion** in 2012/13; they have **fallen** from £16.5 billion in 2006/07 (all in 2012 prices), with signs of **levelling off** in recent years.

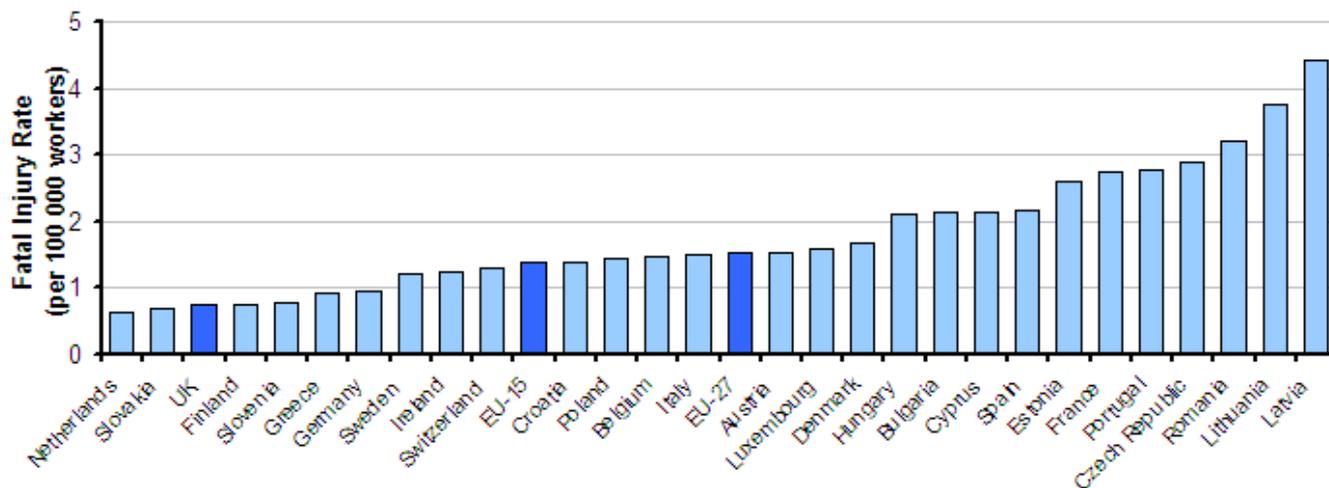


- **582 cases were prosecuted** by HSE (and the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland), down 4% on 2012/13, following a rise in the previous year; the case **conviction rate** was **94%**. **13 790 enforcement notices** were issued by HSE and Local Authorities in 2013/14, a 2% increase following reductions in the previous two years.



- The **health and safety performance in the UK** continues to be **positive in comparison with other EU countries**.

Standardised rates of fatal accidents at work, 2011 (Eurostat)



**'Infographic' used for working days lost**

