



NOTES OF MEETING

Date: 13 November 2013	Location: Askham Bryan College, York	Taken by: Jackie Jones
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Subject: AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC) MEETING

Present:

HSE

Graeme Walker (Chair)
David Coackley
Jackie Jones (Committee Secretary)

AIAC Members

Ben Ellis (NFU)
James Eckley (NFYFC)
James Brown (AFAG)
David Knowles (IOSH RIG)
Madge Moore (Lantra)
Ian Beeby (Unite)
Susan Murray (Unite)
Tim Englefield (Landex)
Jennifer Donn (NAAC)
Charlie Clutterbuck (Unite)
David Leavesley (NFU Mutual)

Item No	Description
1	Welcome and Opening Remarks
	<p>(1.1) Graeme Walker, AIAC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Charlie Clutterbuck following his recent period of illness; and Susan Murray (Unite) who was substituting for Julia Long.</p> <p>(1.2) Apologies had been received from Gillian Littlewood (BRC); Julia Long (Unite) and Andrew Turner (HSE).</p>
2	Matters arising and actions outstanding from previous meeting
	<p>(2.1) Actions from the previous meeting were either discharged, ongoing, covered below or listed as an agenda item.</p> <p>(2.2) Agriculture Sector Strategy – listed as agenda item 3</p> <p>(2.3) Defra/RDPE Skills Framework – Defra remains reluctant to consider the inclusion of health and safety which they perceive as being training required by statute. The Chair suggested that the FSP Board (and individual members) might respond to Defra as part of the current consultation exercise (see also 2.5 below). Madge Moore agreed to raise it at the next FSP Board meeting.</p> <p>(2.4) Madge Moore also confirmed that she had previously raised the issue via the Agriskills Forum and although agreed in principle, nothing had changed. It appears that there are practical problems with the geographic coverage and also confusion between the various strands.</p> <p>(2.5) There is an opportunity to feedback to Defra on topic via their consultation exercise on the CAP which ends on 28 November 2013.</p>

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	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All to take the opportunity to lobby Defra via the CAP consultation exercise. ➤ Madge Moore to ask the FSP Board to raise the subject of RDPE funded health and safety training with Defra. ➤ Madge Moore/Committee Secretary to circulate link to Defra consultation webpage.
3	<p>Agriculture Sector Strategy:</p> <p>(3.1) The Agriculture Sector Strategy had been reviewed by HSE's Strategy Steering Group which has oversight of the sixteen HSE Sector strategies. The reference to Ammonium Nitrate has been removed as a result of changes to the legislation. The Chair had submitted a paper proposing a programme of targeted proactive inspections in agriculture; however the Acting Chief Executive had not been persuaded by the argument and had asked for additional supporting evidence. In discussion, it was agreed it would be difficult to provide relevant additional evidence.</p> <p>(3.2) Marcus Themans asked whether there is any correlation between the number of fatalities and membership of farm assurance schemes i.e. is the fatality rate any lower amongst members? It was agreed that it would be very difficult to cross check this across the various schemes and that there is currently no data available to determine whether this is the case. David Knowles stated that IOSH have funds available to carry out research into the subject, but that they would need access to HSE data.</p> <p>(3.3) The Chair asked that Marcus Themans, David Coackley, David Knowles and David Leavesley explore this idea further and draw up a specification for research. All members were invited to contribute their thoughts on the subject.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Marcus Themans, David Coackley, David Knowles and David Leavesley to develop a specification for research into the level of fatal injuries and farm assurance schemes. ➤ All members to contribute any thoughts on the subject to Marcus Themans et al.
4	<p>Update on key topics</p> <p>(4.1) The latest statistics - the Chair advised members that the provisional fatal injury statistics cannot be finalised until April 2014. The release - expected to be at the end of June 2014 - will be in accordance with the Office of National statistics rules which do not permit pre-publication circulation/release of the figures.</p> <p>(4.2) The provisional data on agriculture fatalities data may include incidents which on further analysis or investigation, may be re-assigned to other sectors.</p> <p>(4.3) The Chair stated that the causes of major harm remain broadly the same from year to year; as does the relative proportion of fatalities involving the self-employed and the employed. Agriculture remains the most dangerous industry.</p> <p>4.4) Continuing gross under reporting of non-fatal injuries and work related ill health means that it is not possible to spot trends. The challenge remains the same i.e. to bring about a fundamental change in behaviours and the culture towards health and safety in the industry.</p>

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	<p>(4.5) Media coverage has improved greatly of late; in particular by Farmers Weekly leading the way. The Chair will write to the editor to thank them for their efforts. He also commended the Farmers Guardian for their continuing support through the Farm Safety Partnership.</p> <p>(4.6) Professor Lofstedt recommendations – The Chair reminded members that amongst other things, the recommendations included a proposal that self-employed individuals engaged in low hazard, low risk activities should be exempt from regulation. Following consultation, it has been agreed that there will be a statement of prescribed activities - a list, of high hazard activities (i.e. activities which could have an impact on others) where the exemption would <u>not</u> apply. Discussions are ongoing but it is not expected that agriculture will be included in the list of exempted industries.</p> <p>(4.7) It had never been Professor Lofstedt's intention that the exemption should apply to those engaged in agricultural work.</p> <p>(4.8) HSE guidance/ACOP - The fundamental review of agriculture sector owned guidance is virtually complete, with only three or four remaining publications awaiting completion. These are largely dependant upon input from other parts of HSE. All guidance (i.e. external publications and internal guidance) is now on a rolling programme for review. Where publications have been withdrawn, visitors to the web will automatically be diverted to other relevant guidance.</p> <p>(4.9) The ACoP 'Preventing accidents to children in agriculture' (L116) was withdrawn in the Summer. The updated guidance in INDG 472 (previously AS10) which contains practical advice and guidance on how to comply with the law had been widely publicised by members of the industry partnerships. The Chair thanked members for their support and efforts over the summer.</p> <p>(4.10) Revised guidance on Zoonoses will shortly be available. Members were advised that the agriculture pages on HSE's website are being reviewed and will be updated in due course.</p> <p>(4.11) Standards - There are currently three areas of work on international (machinery) standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to Log Splitters – a meeting is to be held in February 2014, which will be followed by a nine months consultation period. • The proposed consolidation of tractor regulations – this work will culminate in the production of an EU 'mother' directive and a period of consultation. The planned date for publication is currently January 2015. • DFT consultation on road tractor speeds and weights (one on weight and one on speed) <p>(4.12) Badger cull trials 2013 – HSE has been in discussion with Defra and the police regarding work related health and safety and public safety during the trials. HSE has also provided briefings and guidance on lines of enforcement. No issues had yet been reported to HSE during the period of the trial.</p> <p>(4.13) There will be a Defra led review of the trial and HSE will feed in to that review.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Chair to send letter of thanks to Farmers Weekly ➤ Andrew Turner to circulate a more detailed note on the DFT consultations to members.
5	<p>Reports were received on the following:</p> <p>(5.1) Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) – Ben Ellis reported that membership currently stands at 33 members, with 6 under consideration by the FSP Board. The FSP had recently held elections to establish a Board comprising 7 members whose personal profiles appear on the new FSP website. The Board's role is to provide a strategic steer for the sub-groups, as well as considering new applications for</p>

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	<p>membership.</p> <p>(5.2) The FSP wishes to be inclusive, however the integrity of the FSP brand must be maintained which means that there has to be an approvals process for membership. Having a clear communication strategy and terms of reference will help keep the group members on message.</p> <p>(5.3) The FSP now has a communication strategy and a legal structure in place, including a trade marked logo. It is hoped that the new website will become a hub for farm safety news (including information on SHADs), guidance and other relevant information. It includes a section on 'Your stories' in the hope of building up a stock of case studies.</p> <p>(5.4) The next full meeting of the FSP will be on 22 January 2014 at the LAMMA show.</p> <p>(5.6) The sub-groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle handling – currently working on materials which will be circulated by auctioneers. IOSH are hoping to run a workshop in conjunction with the FSP and are working on a proposal for the FSP Board. They will be seeking HSE support for the event. • Machinery safety – IOSH co-hosted a workshop on 1 October which attracted 80 attendees. IOSH/NFU thanked Andrew Turner and Alastair Mitchell for their input. The current focus is on promoting 'Safe Stop' with the campaign launched at the workshop. The group is now looking for ways to expand the campaign e.g. the use of Safe Stop ambassadors. BAGMA now promote the Safe Stop procedure and issue stickers at the point of sale. It is hoped that Agco will sponsor the next set of stickers. • Safe deliveries on farms – significant progress made with the Site Delivery Guide which will be distributed through/by members of the Agricultural Industries Confederation. The group is currently finalising on a farmer friendly version of the guidance. • Slurry – the group is considering adopting existing HSE NI guidance. • Child safety – FSP are considering setting up a group to look at child safety and have consulted the Access to Farms partnership in an effort to improve communications with children. Ben Ellis had also looked at Cornish Mutual's work and resources on child safety. • Occupational health – it was agreed that the AIAC this task and finish group will move to the FSP where it will continue to be chaired by David Coackley. <p>(5.7) The Chair extended his congratulations to the NFU for setting up the FSP and for its continued leadership and support.</p> <p>(5.8) On Farm Safety Charter – Jackie Jones had hoped to give an update to members; however the OFSC meeting had been postponed until 18 November 2013. It was agreed that the FSP and OFSC would both benefit from improved communications between the two groups.</p> <p>(5.9) FSP Task and finish groups – David Coackley provided a verbal update on progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large employers group - the group met in Plymouth on 25 June 2013 to seek agreement from 'growers' in Cornwall and Devon for their guidance to be used as the basis of new national guidance. The guide is being reviewed and will be revised and promoted as an example of good practice. Ben Ellis will be forwarding the draft guidance to the FSP Board for comment. If supported, it will be posted on the FSP website. David Coackley stated that the lack of case study material had been disappointing. A copy of the draft will be circulated to members before the end of March 2014. • The Occupational Health group – David Coackley will circulate a note to members on the transfer of the Occupational Health group to the FSP. <p>(5.10) Multi-Agency Task Force – David Coackley stated that Government concern about migrant workers has led to the establishment of a multi-agency task force. There is evidence of organised crime and modern day slavery which must be tackled. Various Government departments have initiatives involving migrant workers which will take place across the country. HSE's current interest lies</p>

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	<p>in the fresh produce sub-sector, although other sectors could potentially be involved.</p> <p>(5.11) A new protocol drawn up by the GLA and the supermarkets which should be helpful to farmers who use seasonal workers. A toolkit has also been developed by an organisation called Stronger Together which can be downloaded at: http://stronger2gether.org/ .The toolkit can be found in the resources section.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ David Coackley to circulate a copy of the draft ‘Growers guidance’ to members before the end of March 2014. ➤ David Coackley will circulate a note to members on the transfer of the Occupational Health group to the FSP.
6	<p>(6.1) Research - David Coackley gave a brief update on a piece of research commissioned by HSE and carried out by HSL into potential behavioural change approaches to reduce injuries and fatalities on farms.</p> <p>(6.2) A range of approaches were used in the research to assimilate information from various sources as to why farmers take risks and novel ways of overcoming them that could supplement current HSE initiatives. The findings did not present any surprises, rather they confirmed HSE’s thinking and approach. The suggestions offer a useful starting point for further discussion</p> <p>(6.3) The recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating unobtrusive learning opportunities for farmers i.e. identifying social farming events/venues where farmers meet to provide an environment for farmers to explore and learn about health and safety. • Communicating social norms i.e. reinforcing safe behaviour and reinstating the sense of a farming community through: informal forums where farmers can be prompted to discuss health and safety • Discouraging acting without thinking i.e. incorporating self-monitoring behaviours (e.g. self-talk) and time and stress management skills into farmer training to encourage farmers to become more self-aware of their responses to stressful situations and learn ways to better manage anxiety/stress in critical moments. • Business incentives including linking health and safety to land subsidies and RPA or into the processes through which buyers (including supermarkets) assess the quality of farm products. <p>(6.4) HSE is to consider the report and determine what further action, if any, should be taken. David Coackley will provide a further update (a paper) at the next meeting. David Knowles confirmed that ADAS had carried out relevant research on these issues in the past and had the skills and competences to do further work in these areas if necessary.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ David Coackley to provide a written update on the outcome of further analysis of HSL’s research report.
7	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>(7.1) David Knowles wished to commend Unite for including 60 farmers in their recent survey.</p> <p>(7.2) James Brown informed members that the work in the Czech Republic had resulted in one person</p>

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	<p>qualifying in the use of chainsaws.</p> <p>(7.3) This was the last meeting for Graeme Walker and Jackie Jones who are to retire in January and April 2014. Rick Brunt will replace Graeme Walker as HSE's Head of Agriculture, Waste and Recycling Sector</p> <p>(7.4) Members thanked the Chair for his sterling work and wished him a happy retirement.</p> <p>(7.5) Members were informed that Jill Hewitt's husband had died at Easter. Members agreed that the Chair should write a letter of condolence to Jill on their behalf.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Chair to write a letter of condolence to Jill Hewitt.
9	<p>Time and date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting will be on 18 June 2014, at NAAC in Cambridge (to be confirmed)</p>