

**MINUTES OF CONIAC MEETING - M2/2002
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2002
AT ROSE COURT, LONDON**

Present:

Kevin Myers - Chair	
Tom Mellish	Jonathon Adams
Ivan Moldawczuk	Craig Streak
Bob Blackman	Phillip Russell
Alan Ritchie	Frazer Clement
Malcolm Bonnett	John Francey
John Varcoe	Bill Belshaw
Tony Wheel	Rodger Evans
Alan Muddiman	Paul Overall
Chris McEwen	Mike Dryburgh (Secretariat)
Alan Pemberton	Alex Cattan
Mike Totterdell	

In attendance:

Vic Coleman	HSE SPD
Phil Kemball	HSE SPD
Stephen Wright	HSE SPD
John Gibson	HSE SPD (Item 2)
John Freeman	HSE SPD (Item 2)
Gwyneth Deakins	HSE SPD (Item 3)
Keith Pritchard	HSE SPD (Item 7)
Mike Cosman	HSE Construction Sector

Apologies:

Robin Powell
Willie O'Rourke
Alan Smith
Phil Davies
John Connelly
Peter Kent
Martin Thurgood

Item 1 Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Kevin Myers welcomed:

Members

In particular

- **Frazer Clement** attending as CITB observer pending formal appointment.

- **Jonathon Adams** attending as CCC observer pending formal appointment

HSE Staff

In particular

- **Alex Cattan** taking over the Secretariat role from Mike Dryburgh

1.2 Kevin Myers:

- Mentioned that Suzannah Nichol had left CONIAC following appointment as Chief Executive of the Specialist Contractors Group (NSCC). Members asked that their thanks be passed on to Suzannah for her contributions to CONIAC.

Action: Secretary/Chair

- Mentioned that Nigel Bryson had been awarded an OBE in the 2002 Birthdays Honours list for services to occupational health and safety. (Members asked that their congratulations be passed on to Nigel)

Action: Secretary/Chair

- Confirmed that Bill Belshaw would remain on CONIAC to represent specialist trades following the break up of the CLG.

- Agreed with members' request that a message of support be sent to Ronald Brown (FMB) who was still hospitalised following surgery

Action: Secretary/Chair

- Informed members that the new Construction Division was now operational and that his role as HSE's Chief Inspector of Construction was now full time. Staff in the former TD2 unit (including Donald Lamont) were now integrated into the structure as the Construction Division Technology Unit.

- Informed members that the text from HSG (150) was now on the WWT web site and that a Press Release would be issued shortly. Members should take the opportunity to publicise this. A demonstration of the site would be given at the next meeting.

- Updated members on the WWT bus tour which had completed the Southern part of the UK. 6000 workers had visited the bus. The Northern leg starts at the end of August and 8000 workers are expected to visit the bus. Members should contact Joy Jones for any further details.

- Asked members to encourage entries to the WWT competition (October closing date) which features a No1 worker award and a small business competition (£3000 in vouchers). Further details from Joy Jones.

- Informed members that the WWT Conference would be held at the NEC Hilton, Birmingham back to back with the WWT awards evening at Birmingham motorcycle museum on 28 November 2002.

Item 2 Construction Discussion Document - Paper M2/2002/1

2.1 Stephen Wright introduced this item and invited comment on whether the latest draft addressed the key issues and ideas for stimulating debate during the consultation process.

2.2 Members agreed that the document had vastly improved. It was suggested that 'the role of government as client' needed to be more explicitly covered. However this was a legitimate issue that could be raised as part of the discussion process and

feedback from the published Discussion Document. In discussion members discussed the emphasis to be given to some issues and the range of possible views on others. Members agreed to forward to Stephen Wright by Friday 19 July 2002 specific drafting amendments together with any 'one liner' quotes from TU's, designers etc to supplement those already in the text from other stakeholders. Stephen Wright was also open to constructive suggestions for design & layout of the Document.

Action: Members

2.3 Members noted that the Strategic Forum's 'Accelerating Change' document would focus attention on respect for people, client leadership and integrated teams addressing more thoroughly these points, and consequently little would be gained in repetitive coverage in the ConDD.

2.4 Members agreed that the main drive of the Discussion Document was to stimulate discussion within the industry and that as it was to be released around the same time as 'Accelerating Change' the impact of both documents would be increased.

2.5 Members suggested that the document needed greater clarity about its end use. It would aim to stimulate discussion and involve everyone working in or having an influence on all types of construction work, in particular it should not just focus on new build but also refurbishment and demolition. The chair thanked members for their ideas that he proposed be covered in the Foreword to the document. Members noted that it was also proposed to produce a leaflet to stimulate debate amongst workers and SMEs.

2.6 Stephen Wright asked members to let him have details of any events being organised during the consultation process that could be used as a platform to encourage discussion. Members noted that, as a first for HSE, a chat room was being set up to facilitate discussion and an exchange of ideas on the ConDD.

Action: Members

Item 3 Temporary Work at Height Directive - Paper M2/2002/2

3.1 Gwyneth Deakins introduced this item informing members that HSC had agreed to implement the Directive through a single set of industry wide regulations but that further work was still required on the detail. Members noted that as part of this process detailed consultation both within and outside HSE was taking place. The current plan, after the next meeting of HSE's Safety of Work Equipment Temporary Work at Height Sub Group, was to present a draft CD to HSC and then engage in the formal consultation process early in 2003. Members noted that SPD were currently working on guidance to accompany the regs.

3.2 Members noted that the proposals were still at an early stage of development but expressed continuing reservations about them. In particular they appeared overcomplicated, were confused and contained contradictions, used unfamiliar phrases, the risk hierarchy was not clear. There were concerns that this lack of clarity would produce 'cowboys' charter and were unsure how it would fit in with existing

legislation. One member mentioned that SPD had attended a meeting of ECIA's Health and Safety Committee the previous day that had dealt with some of their concerns and they now looked forward to seeing revised proposals. Members commented that their own representative organisations were also discussing the proposals and would respond in detail.

3.3 Members asked whether a definition of height would be included and TU suggested retention of the 2m benchmark figure. Gwyneth Deakins agreed to take this and other comments into account when redrafting the regulations.

3.4 Members asked whether an ACoP would accompany the regulations. Gwyneth Deakins responded that there would be guidance but that an ACoP was not currently proposed although nothing had been ruled out.

3.5 Members thanked the HSE for promoting open discussion & consultation that should enable a more informed submission.

Item 4. Progress with implementation of Summit Action Plans - Paper M2/2002/7

4.1 Phil Kemball introduced this item setting out the proposed timetable for the industry umbrella groups to provide updates on their action plans. He explained that the process was intended to be iterative and developing rather than a static review of the action plans agreed at the Feb 2001 Summit. Members agreed the proposals

Action: Phil Kemball

4.2 Members asked about baseline statistics particularly on occupational health for comparison purposes. The Chair explained that HSE were doing work on benchmarking for the national targets but that measurement should not be seen as solely the responsibility of HSE. He explained that measurement was important but the deliverables in the Action Plans were not all dependant on such statistics. He invited members, for the purpose of this exercise to concentrate on reporting on deliverables from their action plans

4.3 Members noted the relevance to Agenda item 12 (Paper M2/2002/6) which reported back on the first meeting of CONIAC's Working Party on intelligence and asked that CONIAC have a more substantial discussion on the issues at a future meeting.

Action: Secretary

4.4 Members asked about the setting up of the Working Group to take forward the issues arising from the outcome report of the October 2001 Construction Conference. The Chair explained some ideas had fed into the Con DD and that he proposed to set up the working group after the summer. The full report would also be available shortly on the WWT web site.

Action: Chair

Item 5. Professionals engagement on Health and Safety - Paper M2/2002/4 (corrections suggested from notes of Alan Pemberton)

5.1 Mike Cosman introduced the position paper that highlighted TEWP's concerns at the apparent lack of progress with engaging professional institutions on health and safety.

5.2 Members noted that professional bodies generally have Codes of Practice that feature health and safety and that health & safety was integral to the process leading to Chartered Membership of the Engineering Institutions, however, after that CPD was not mandatory. Generally, training does not happen on undergraduate courses where it was proving difficult to convince academics.

5.3 Members noted that architecture was the only construction profession for which individuals had to be registered, reporting to the Architecture Registration Board who were reviewing processes and hoped to be more proactive on quality and recognition of training. Members thought that there might be value in an approach asking the Board to ensure that Schools of Architecture take health and safety training more seriously.

5.4 Members noted that most professional bodies also relied heavily on Government funding particularly for research grants and thought that another lever might be through the funding arrangements.

5.5 The Chair thanked TEWP for raising their concerns with CONIAC, agreed that the current situation was unsatisfactory and that he would progress members' ideas and report back at a future CONIAC meeting.

Action: Chair

Item 6 Review of CONIAC's 3 year work plan - M2/2002/3

6.1 The Chair indicated that this was now a 'Below the line' paper and invited members to send details of any other significant achievements during the period 2000-2003 that might usefully be added to the paper to the Secretary by 31 July 2002.

Action: Members

Item 7 Reconstitution of CONIAC

7.1 Keith Pritchard introduced this item reminding members that responsibility for the management of IAC's had been transferred to HSE from HSC and that the arrangements were detailed in a letter from Bill Callaghan sent to all IAC members on 15 November 2001.

7.2 Members noted that CONIAC's current term expired at the end of the year and that reconstitution is scheduled before the first meeting in 2003. In discussion, members asked the chair to take into account that CONIAC took a measured and balanced approach to issues with a wide mix of stakeholders from the industry. Its role was different but complementary to the Strategic Forum without duplicating effort. The Chair thanked members for their comments and confirmed that CONIAC's reconstitution

would be handled expeditiously but that, if necessary, CONIAC's current term would be extended.

Action: Chair

Item 8 Minutes of last meeting

8.1 Members agreed the minutes. Three issues were raised:

- The Chair agreed that a member requested that the issue of driver rear visibility (Item 13.2) was not closed and would be an agenda item at a future meeting. **Action: Secretary**
- Members suggested that penetration of the stickers on petrol pumps had not been a great success as only one member could recall seeing it.
- In response to a comment about the tone and detail of CONIAC minutes the Chair explained that the purpose of the minutes was to capture the conclusion and balance, not the detail, of the discussions and the actions agreed. He undertook to get future drafts out to members promptly to enable them to comment at a draft stage. **Action: Secretary**

Item 9 Any other business

9.1 Members noted that John Francey was due to retire shortly from the HSE for Northern Ireland, thanked him for his contributions to CONIAC and wished him well for the future.

9.2 The National Joint Council for Engineering Construction are proposing to pilot an Occupational Health Scheme.

Item 10 Date of next meeting

CONIAC Steering Group - Wednesday 28 August 2002
CONIAC main meeting - Wednesday 6 November 2002