

Open Government status: Fully open

Paper Number: M1/2004/3

Exempt material: None

Meeting Date: 20 April 2004

Type of Paper: Above the line

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

High Level Follow Up Event to the 2001 Construction Summit

Issue

1. To advise members of plans for an event to build on the success of the 2001 Construction Summit and to seek their views on its design.

Background

2. Concern over the continuing high levels of injury and ill health occurring in the construction industry led Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, and Commission Chair, Bill Callaghan, to call a Construction Health and Safety Summit which took place in February 2001.

3. The purpose and focus of the summit was to engage with the 'movers and shakers' at Board level across the industry to acknowledge responsibility for the poor health and safety performance of the industry and to commit to action to drive through a change in attitudes and culture. All parts of the industry were encouraged to develop actions on matters that were within their control – the transparency of the process was designed to assure all players that others were playing their part and the expectation was that the sum of these actions, if delivered, would generate the momentum to deliver significant change.

4. A high level of political involvement from John Prescott and Michael Meacher, Lord Whitty, Beverley Hughes and Nick Raynsford (all then Ministers in DETR) supported this process. Around 500 people participated in the half-day event. Key components were:

- Adoption of ambitious industry specific Revitalising targets proposed by the (now defunct) Construction Industry Board and the Construction Industry Advisory Committee;

- Commitment by nine industry umbrella bodies to their own action plans for improving health and safety performance in the industry.

5. It was agreed that Kevin Myers, as the HSE Chief Inspector of Construction, should report to Ministers periodically on the progress the industry was making with their action plans and performance improvement. The first report was delivered to Nick Raynsford in February 2002 and the second to Nick Brown in January 2003.

6. A follow-up conference in October 2001, the reports and a number of other means have been used successfully to maintain progress. However, as the halfway point for achieving the industry's health and safety targets approaches, Des Browne, as the then Minister for Health and Safety, and HSC/E believe that there is a need to take stock, to celebrate success, to identify blockages and to review the impact to date so as to reinvigorate the process and secure commitment to further challenging actions. This has led to the development of plans for a further high level action-focused event to be held in February 2005.

Action

7. CONIAC members are invited to:

- discuss what might be included in the event programme;
- consider the process for developing the event details;
- suggest the role that those you represent can play in maximising the impact of the event and its outcomes;
- consider who might be in the audience;
- suggest who might speak.