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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NEEDS IN CONSTRUCTION WORKING PARTY

Summary

This paper reports on the 12 February 2003 meeting of TEWP

1. Implications for TEWP of reconstitution of CONIAC

A "Raison d'être" paper outlining the justification for the continued existence of TEWP was discussed. Members were unanimous in their belief that the long-term aspects of training and education issues, as illustrated by the almost intractable problem of integrating health and safety into courses, required a permanent working group to pursue these issues against a long-term workplan. A further paper will be prepared, outlining past achievements of TEWP and providing a future workplan so as to inform considerations arising from the reconstitution of CONIAC.

2. Industry "Champions"

'Industry Champions' is an initiative in which people from industry make links with heads of courses in higher education establishments. The initiative sprang from the 'Symonds Report' - prepared for HSE – which considered how health and safety was addressed in higher education. The initiative is gaining interest and IOSH Construction Section is to be invited to take on the administration.

3. Influence map for HE and FE

Implications of the numerous organisations associated with Higher and Further Education institutions were discussed. In particular, TEWP recognised the opportunities for raising the profile of health and safety issues in a recently established initiative being carried forward under the 'Rethinking Construction' banner following the recommendations made in the report, 'Accelerating Change.' The education initiative under the title of 'Accelerating Change in Built Environment,' is chaired by John Hobson. The initiative extends beyond health and safety and focuses on concerns about the fall-off in applications for HE construction courses.

TEWP Chair will write and express an interest in their initiative with a view to influencing the outcome through the inclusion of health and safety issues.

4. Action

CONIAC members are asked to note the above report.

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