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Minutes of the meeting of the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee held on
25 March 2009 in Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen

ATTENDEES

Present

Ian Whewell, Chairman
Lyndsey Bennett, Secretariat
Jim Neilson, HSE
Tom McLaren, HSE
Julie Voce, HSE
Edmund Brookes, BROA
Andrew Campbell, WSCA
Allan Graveson, Nautilus UK
Allan Grindlay, IADC (on behalf of John Monks)
Phil Ley, OCA
Duncan Macdonald, MCA
Mark Robinson, Unite (Amicus Section)
Richard Nott, Lloyds Register

Observers

None

Apologies

John Arnott, DECC
Jane Bugler, IMCA
Susan Elston, COTA
Jake Molloy, RMT
Brian Negus, GMB
Robert Paterson, O&G UK
Ian Tasker, STUC
John Taylor, Unite (TGWU)

Item		Action
1	Introduction, apologies and minutes from last meeting	
1.1	Ian Whewell welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.2	Ian made apologies to members for the change of date for this meeting and explained this was due to the time lapse from Louisa Cooper collecting availability prior to leaving HSE, and Lyndsey Bennett taking up post.	
1.3	Ian welcomed new members, Richard Nott from Lloyds Register, who was attending on behalf of the verification bodies, and Mark Robinson from Unite (Amicus Section).	
1.4	The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2008 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
1.5	There was an outstanding action from the last meeting for the World Offshore Accident Database (WOAD) briefing note to be circulated to members.	Secretariat to circulate briefing note.
1.6	Jake Molloy had raised an issue about the accuracy of the offshore figures during the last meeting (item 7.2). Ian explained about the Vantage data offshore base their figures on, and went on to say that he	

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	had provided Jake with contact details for those who provide the data, and although Jake feels there are still some anomalies, he accepted that the way Vantage data was collected was correct.	
1.7	Apologies were received from John Arnott, Jane Bugler, Susan Elston, Jake Molloy, John Monks, Brian Negus, Robert Paterson, Ian Tasker and John Taylor.	
2	Presentation by Jim Neilson – Proposed changes to offshore regulatory framework	
2.1	Jim Neilson gave a presentation to members on the proposed changes to offshore legislation. This includes amendments to the Application Outside Great Britain Order (AOGBO) and relevant offshore regulations. Jim explained there is a need to update this framework to enable the offshore health and safety regime to operate effectively; due to changes in the Department for Energy and Climate Change’s licensing regimes; and to provide the legal underpinning in relation to health and safety for the emerging energy technologies (non-nuclear).	Secretariat to circulate presentation to members.
2.2	Duncan MacDonald made a request to see a list of those regulations that will be changed as part of this review, as he will be meeting with the MCA in May and would like to provide them with an update. Jim asked Duncan to contact him prior to the meeting and he would provide the information.	
2.3	Ian clarified that this is not a fundamental review of the regulations. The current offshore regulatory framework is fit for purpose. This work is about updating the framework where there are gaps, lack of clarity, and to take account of operational experience.	
2.4	Allan Graveson suggested the possibility of OIAC holding a meeting dedicated to the changes in legislation. Ian approved this suggestion, providing members believed it to be of benefit. The general consensus from members was that it would be of benefit.	Secretariat to arrange for future meeting.
3	HLG update by Tom McLaren	
3.1	Tom confirmed that he has taken over as Chair of HLG from Steve Walker and sought endorsement from members for HLG to continue. He briefly explained the reasons for continuing with HLG, which had been circulated to members in OIAC/01/2009 prior to the meeting.	
3.2	Ian added that members may wish to raise issues for HLG to consider that are not currently on the agenda. Allan Graveson highlighted the accuracy of weather reports and Tom confirmed this is an issue HLG are considering.	
3.3	Phil Ley questioned if HLG and ASTG are due to merge as they both cover the same issues. Tom confirmed that any overlapping issues will be addressed, but HLG have wider issues, as do ASTG. Ian confirmed that we need to maintain the two groups until representation has been agreed, and went on to say that each have their strengths, but the two compliment one another.	
3.4	Members gave endorsement for HLG to continue with the suggested workplan.	

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4	Operational update by (moved from item 6)	
4.1	<p>Tom McLaren gave a presentation to members that covered the work of OSD for 2008/9 and highlighted the main operational issues including accommodation and human factor issues.</p> <p>There was some discussion between members around human factors during accident investigations and it was suggested that the offshore industry were not as good as dealing with human behaviour as the aviation industry. Tom McLaren confirmed that OSD are looking into this issue for the industry and informed members that Rob Miles, Head of OSD's Human Factors Team, background is in the Aviation industry.</p> <p>Allan Grindlay referred to useful HSE guidance on this subject, HSG48 'Reducing error and influencing behaviour', ISBN 0717624528. This is a priced publication and available from HSE Books, £11.50.</p>	<p>Secretariat to circulate presentation to members</p> <p>Secretariat to circulate link to guidance on HSE Books.</p>
4.2	Tom informed members that there have been no major hydrocarbon releases this year. He alerted members to a HSL report 'Offshore hydrocarbon releases 2001-2008' on the HSE website.	Secretariat to circulate link to report on HSE website.
4.3	Duncan MacDonald queried why accommodation was an issue for OSD. Tom and Ian clarified that it is covered in both the EU Directive and HSE legislation.	
4.4	Phil Ley asked for acronyms to be spelt out in full for future presentations.	Secretariat to produce glossary of acronyms.
4.6	Tom confirmed that the report on underlying causes of accidents, currently being produced by the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) will be fed back to members at the June OIAC.	Secretariat to include on June agenda.
4.7	Tom raised an opportunity for members to visit HSL. Ian suggested this could be combined with an OIAC meeting as there are conference facilities at Buxton. Ian sought agreement from members to change the venue from London to Buxton for the June meeting and agreement was given by members.	Secretariat to to seek availability at HSL for June OIAC.
4.8	Edmund Brookes asked if chargeable hours had increased due to the amount of safety cases being rejected and notices issued. Ian confirmed that they are not, and some of this was mitigated by the loss of inspectors, and the recruitment of specialist inspectors reflects this.	
4.8	Tom confirmed that recruitment in offshore is picking up.	
5	Workforce Involvement Group update	
5.1	<p>Julie Voce gave an update of the work of this group as Chair. Julie reported about the successful event at Murrayfield in May 2008 where 'Play your part' was launched. Following positive feedback from this event, two further events were scheduled for 2009.</p> <p>The first of the events took place in Norwich on 12 March with 40 delegates, and to date the feedback is very good with some delegates expressing a preference for the smaller event as it gave them the opportunity to raise issues and provoke discussions.</p>	

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	The next workforce involvement event will take place on 11 June for offshore workers. Guests will include the Minister with responsibility for Health and Safety, Lord McKenzie, and the Director General of the Offshore Regulator in Norway.	
5.2	The group have been very busy with work on their contribution to the KP3 review and will produce a report, which will be an annex to the KP3 report. Julie highlighted the fact that the members of the Workforce Involvement Group had put a great deal of effort and resource into the work on the KP3 Review report, given that they all had full time jobs and other requests for their time. In addition, the group has been meeting at least once a month. Julie acknowledged their sustained support.	
5.3	<p>The WIG, in conjunction with HID's Communications Manager, has also recently commissioned a survey in the offshore industry about workforce involvement in the industry, the effectiveness of safety representatives and health and safety communications. There have been over 2000 contributions to date and the survey is due to report back in full with statistical analysis and summary overview by May 2009. It will be referred to in the KP3 report, but will also be available as a stand-alone document, which will be available on the WIG pages of OIAC website.</p> <p>http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/oiac/wig.htm</p>	
5.4	Ian endorsed Julie's comments about the amount of work accomplished by WIG members in addition to their own full time jobs. He said that the contributions made by WIG members were appreciated. He also added that the work of this group was complemented by that of the newly formed Step Change worker engagement group.	
6	Health and Safety Statistics Bulletin	
6.1	<p>Ian updated members with the latest information on offshore statistics up to the third quarter of 2008/9 (HSE work year runs April-March) and confirmed there is a steady trend of statistics reducing. Ian highlighted that there had been no fatalities in the offshore environment for two years and confirmed that this is without precedent since HSE took over responsibility for offshore safety.</p> <p>Ian confirmed that the annual statistics are produced in November each year, i.e. the figures for 2007/8 will be available in November 2009.</p>	Secretariat to circulate H&S stats to members within 24 hours of meeting.
6.2	Members discussed poor performers. Ian confirmed that Step Change and Oil & Gas UK have released results of comparisons of performers. Ian explained that he had suggested this in an attempt to improve performance. Richard Nott believed this had been successful.	
6.3	Phil Ley asked about reporting over 3 day injuries and how some companies report on medical grounds. Ian confirmed the requirements for reporting over 3 day injuries under RIDDOR, and also explained how OSD compare accident figures with Norway (this data has previously been shared with OIAC). He went on to say this allows HSE to consider trends which are similar, and it is the only comparison we can make.	

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6.4	Ian confirmed that hydrocarbon releases are the best on record and is delighted that major releases have been driven down to zero.	
7	Permit to Work	
7.1	<p>Ian confirmed the issue, which was raised at the previous meeting, and added that a common permit to work system is some way off. There are currently two areas of work on this subject:</p> <p>1) To obtain more consistency with electronic SSW's (Petrotechnics system). The problem is 80% of industry use electronic systems, however each company use a different system, which raises issues about training and safety. The working group are looking at the differences (Shell & BP) and aiming to reduce variations.</p> <p>HSE has concerns about electronic systems as they require completion of drop-down boxes, which does not allow for people to think through the process. Rob Miles from OSD sits on this working group.</p> <p>2) Step Change and Oil & Gas UK have introduced a training package - Minimum Industry Safety Training (MIST). This is an elements training package that will compliment the BOSIET. The intention is that everyone who goes offshore has a basic understanding of the PtW. It will ensure that training is not duplicated with each employer, which will be particularly useful for contractors. Ian confirmed that work is fairly progressed with this issue.</p> <p>The competency working group at Step Change are looking at the way permits are used and the way forward with a consistent approach.</p>	
7.3	Mark Robinson raised the issue about reduction of super majors and the increase of smaller dutyholders, and how the system may become more fragmented with variations from each installation.	
7.4	Ian sought views from OCA via Phil Ley, who agreed that progress is being made but consistency of terminology and training must be addressed.	
7.5	At the previous meeting, Phil Ley asked if HSE would consider a project on the perceived benefits of a CPTW system, compared with Norway and Holland (item 7.3). Phil raised this point again and Ian has agreed to ascertain if we can obtain resource for this research.	Ian Whewell to ascertain if resources can be provided for this research.
7.6	Allan Graveson went on to say about the Norwegians and Dutch using CPTW system and queried if UK can not follow their lead. It was agreed that although elements are common, there are still some differences. We will continue to achieve consistency and commonality where possible.	
8	OSD's priorities and plans for 2009/10	
8.1	<p>Ian introduced this item and explained that it is included on the agenda each March.</p> <p>He went on to explain that OSD will take on a new structure with effect from 1 April 2009, whereby a fifth Division will be included, headed by Howard Harte. He also confirmed that OSD priorities fit well with the</p>	Secretariat to circulate presentation to members.

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	new HSE strategy.	
8.2	Mark Robinson raised the Marbella incident. Ian confirmed that this presentation is a more high-level look but confirmed that ship collision is a major issue for offshore.	
8.3	<p>Ian explained to members that he sits on the Step Change workforce involvement group and his intention is to establish how they do things well and how the workforce are involved, through culture and leadership.</p> <p>Ian added that Step Change have been carrying out work with Petrofac to develop a training event aimed at senior managers on competence and understanding of major hazard risk control.</p>	
8.4	<p>Ian informed members that Step Change have also set up a health sub-group and an inspector from OSD sits on this group.</p> <p>Ian added that he and his management team look to improve industry by attending groups like those mentioned, and OIAC.</p>	
9	Impact of current economic downturn	
9.1	Ian informed members that at the Step Change members' dinner, a statement was issued by industry that they would not be taking their eye off the ball, they are aware of the risks to industry during this time and will not repeat mistakes made in the past.	
9.2	Ian shared his concerns about the loss of skilled staff. Richard Nott added this was a concern for the IVP's.	
9.3	Allan Graveson commented that performance in the offshore environment is good, but there are concerns about the transportation of workers and the transfer of risk.	
9.4	The group went on to discuss the economic cycle and measures taken in other countries, such as operators being encouraged to reduce costs. Ian explained that HSE will be keeping a watchful eye on this to identify if these cost reductions are compromising safety.	
9.5	Ian added that HSE are encouraged by industry's statement, but proof will be in delivery.	
10	AOB	
10.1	One item was discussed.	
10.2	Ian reported that Step Change have set up an occupational health working group and are keen to update and reissue the OIAC Publication 'Management of Occupational Health Risks in the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry'. Ian explained that Step Change are willing to provide resources to carry out this update, but this would result in the document being branded Step Change. If this is the case, HSE would need more control of authorship if we were to endorse a Step Change document. Ian sought views from members about their thoughts on this publication ceasing to exist as an OIAC publication.	
10.3	There was some discussion around this matter, but the general consensus from members was that they believed the most important factor was that this information is updated, available to industry and	Secretariat to circulate publication to

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	<p>raises the profile of occupational health.</p> <p>It was agreed that OIAC's badge on this publication would be ideal as it would raise awareness of the committee, and it would give weight to the document. However, OIAC's involvement in this would depend on the quantity of work involved to carry out this update, and if Step Change would continue to be involved.</p> <p>Members agreed that sight of this publication would be useful to determine how much work is involved in the update, and feed back their views to the Secretariat.</p>	<p>members for their views.</p>
10.4	<p>Ian agreed that HSE would fund, design and publish this publication, but the key issue lay with how the document would be branded. Ian agreed to speak with Step Change about their intentions and resource implications, and will endeavour to update members as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Ian to speak to Step Change and update members asap.</p>
10.5	<p>Ian thanked members for their contributions to this discussion and closed the meeting.</p>	