

Offshore Industry Advisory Committee		OIAC/MIN/1/2012	
Meeting date:	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	Open Gov. Status:	Fully open
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Exemptions:	None		

**Minutes of the meeting of the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen**

**Present:-**

Chairman Steve Walker HSE, Secretariat Dave Salmon HSE, Jim Neilson HSE, Peter Mills HSE, Fraser Easton HSE, Russell Breen HSE (observer), Nick Woolacott DECC, Adrian Lester BROA, Phil Ley OCA, Jake Molloy RMT, Jane Bugler IMCA, Les Linklater Step Change, John Taylor Unite – TGWU, Brian Negus GMB, Ian Mackie ABS and Neaz Hyder MCA.

Presenters:- Tom McLaren HSE

**1. Introductions**

- 1.1 A warm welcome was extended to everyone, particularly Les Linklater representing Step Change, Russell Breen representating HSE, Nick Woolacott representing DECC and Dave Salmon representing HSE.
- 1.2 The Chairman on behalf of all members recorded OIAC's appreciation and thanks to Dave Nicholls (Step Change) for the work he has done in support of OIAC initiatives.

**Apologies**

- 1.3 These were received from Bob Lauder (Oil and Gas UK), Mike Readitt (HSE), Allan Graveson (Nautilus International), Robert Paterson (Oil & Gas UK), Mark Robinson (Unite), Jim McCormick (ABS) Ian Russell (COTA) and Graham Duff (DNV).

**Actions from previous meetings**

- 1.4 The following Actions were agreed as cleared / still outstanding:-

Action 2 March 2011, ongoing, carried forward to the October 2012 meeting.  
Action 3 March 2011, cleared, this was addressed at Agenda item 4.  
Action 4 March 2011, ongoing, carried forward to the October 2012 meeting.  
Action 5 March 2011, ongoing, carried forward to the October 2012 meeting.  
Action 7 March 2011, cleared, report introduced at Agenda item 7  
Actions 1 - 4 Oct. 2011, cleared  
Action 5 Oct. 2011, cleared, update provided at Agenda item 4  
Action 6 Oct. 2011, cleared  
Action 7 Oct. 2011, cleared, update provided at Agenda item 8  
Action 1 Nov. 2011, cleared, update provided at Agenda item 2  
Action 2, Nov. 2011, cleared

## Minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and 25 November 2011 meetings

- 1.5 These were cleared by correspondence and placed on the OIAC web site.

## 2. Policy Update

- 2.1 Jim Neilson outlined the UK's negotiating line for the proposed EC regulations.

**Action 1 Mar. 2012:- HSE to ask Cabinet Office for advice on whether subsequent drafts of the regulations can be circulated to members as they are produced.**

- In a separate but linked initiative, Directive 92/91 is to be reviewed. Industry and the trade unions will be involved in the review. TU will discuss the question set with HSE before responding. Any amendment of Directive 92/92 is unlikely to be concluded before 2015.

### Application Outside Great Britain Order (AOGBO)

- The impact assessment had been cleared and HSE is seeking an exemption to ensure micro-businesses remain covered by the Order. If the exemption is forthcoming a public consultation should commence in April / May 2012, but if not, a new variation Order will be produced.

### Other legislation

- The Pipelines Safety Regulations are not being updated at this time. The Diving at Work Regulations will not be amended to exclude activities (e.g. aircraft pressure testing) that were never intended to be covered by this legislation. The Chief Inspector of Diving is planning to issue exemption certificates on an industry by industry basis, as and when required.

### Lofstedt Review

- As a result of this review 15 sets of legislation have been identified for repeal but none are offshore related.
- Approved Codes of Practice (ACoP) are to be reviewed. This includes PFEER and the 5 diving ACoPs. HSE will produce consultative documents and seek the views of industry.

### **3. Department of Energy and Climate Change – Maitland Review into Offshore Oil and Gas in the UK**

- 3.1 This independent review of the UK offshore regulatory regime identified six key areas where improvements should be made to the UK regulatory regime, with around  $\frac{3}{4}$  focussed on environmental issues and  $\frac{1}{4}$  on safety. The recommendations are in the main for industry to implement, but some are for the regulators. An industry / regulator working group has been set up and is to report to Ministers by July 2012. The unions raised concerns that the Maitland Review was now superfluous in the light of the proposed EU regulations. Feedback on progress will be reported at the next meeting.

**Action 2 Mar. 2012:- Nick Woolacott to take back union concerns to the steering group.**

### **4. Progress on OIAC work to take forward the Select Committee Deepwater Horizon review findings'**

#### Step Change Verification Guidance Package

- 4.1 Les Linklater reported that the content was now complete on the verification package and the guidance would be reviewed by a technical author. Expected to be completed and published in 6-8 weeks. Best practice guidance could be incorporated in the 'distilled' version.

#### Best Practice Guidance to address Intimidation, Bullying and disciplinary procedures

- 4.2 This was covered under Item 5.

#### Progress with development of the Additional Training for Safety Representatives

- 4.3 This was covered under Item 5.

### **5. Workforce Involvement Group Update**

- 5.1 The Chairman of WIG, Fraser Easton presented an update of WIG's activities. The highlights were:

- WIG will work with OPITO to develop new industry standard.
- WIG held a productive workforce event at Thainstone last year and a further event is planned for 1 May 2012 at the Holliday Inn in Westhill which IADC are sponsoring.
- WIG are collating and disseminating best practice.
- WIG have been liaising with the Step Change Workforce Engagement Group and HSE's Cross Cutting Directorate and learning from their experiences with other industries. HSE's Olympic experience will be shared at the next workforce event.

- User friendly updates have been made to the WIG website and a new podcast has been produced.
- The SI971 report has been published.
- Workforce events are consistently oversubscribed. Sponsorship continues to emerge for future events and an event for workers in the southern North Sea is planned for later in the year.
- ‘Just culture’ guidelines proved to be challenging and will be discussed at the next WIG meeting. Evolving proposals will be brought to the next OIAC meeting.
- WIG are planning a rig tour of a Transocean semi-submersible rig next month.
- Fraser thanked Dave Nicholls for his contribution to WIG and the meeting agreed that Les Linklater of Step Change would replace Dave on WIG.
- The WIG plan of work for 2012/13 was approved.

**Action 3 Mar. 2012 Steve Walker to write to Dave Nicholls thanking him for his contribution to WIG.**

## **6. Operational Update and Health and Safety Statistics Bulletin**

6.1 Peter Mills provided members with an overview of Offshore Division’s enforcement activities:-

- 41 Improvement Notices and 3 Prohibition Notices had been served between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011, while 29 Improvement Notices and 2 Prohibition Notices had been served from 1 April 2011 to 5 March 2012.
- There had been no prosecutions since the last meeting.

6.2 Peter also gave a presentation on the Banff loss of station incident in December 2011.

## **7. Helicopter Liaison Group Annual Report**

7.1 Tom McLaren, chair of HLG, presented his paper. The meeting gave the group a mandate to continue for a further year.

## **8. Permit to Work Update**

- 8.1 Steve Walker updated the meeting. As discussed at OIAC previously, issues with permit to work go much deeper than just introducing a common system. OIAC are to monitor the work being carried out by Step Change. HSL are analysing HSE investigations into incidents involving PTW. The results of HSL's research will be available before the next OIAC meeting and the Step Change work should also be available.

**Action 4 Mar. 2012 Permit to Work to be on the agenda for the October 2012 OIAC meeting.**

## **9. Any other relevant business**

- 9.1 The Chair was asked if HSE had any information on two incidents that had arisen outside the UK.
- Chevron Endeavour rig fire in Nigerian Waters – HSE has requested further information from Chevron which is awaited.
  - Incident in Russia – The available information suggests that this was a jack-up in transit incident similar to rigs lost around 1990.
- 9.2 Clarification on the role of Step Change was requested with respect to the additional safety representatives training. The Chair confirmed that Step Change is a forum for taking forward safety in the industry. It has a similar role to OIAC, which was set up to advise the Health and Safety Commission (HSC). All IACs were disbanded when the HSC was amalgamated with HSE. OIAC was retained and renamed and is now a non statutory committee. Step Change has similar goals and is also a tripartite organisation. HSE does not want to duplicate work being done by industry and will work through Step Change. The additional training recommendation came from OIAC via WIG. It was appropriate to take the recommendation to Step Change as there is a need for industry to implement. OPITO was set up to produce industry standards and the recommendations came via Step Change as the industry representative to develop a recognised industry standard.
- 9.3 Neaz Hyder raised the issue of the different training standards for seafaring crew and offshore workers. It was agreed that the MCA would prepare a presentation on this issue for the next meeting.

**Action 5 Mar. 2012:- MCA to make a presentation on the different training standards at the October 12 meeting.**

## **Date of the next OIAC Meeting**

Members agreed the date of the next meeting will be 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012, to be held at Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen.