



**Health and Safety
Executive**

DWPP

**Department for
Work and Pensions**

Health, Work and Well-being: contribution to national prosperity

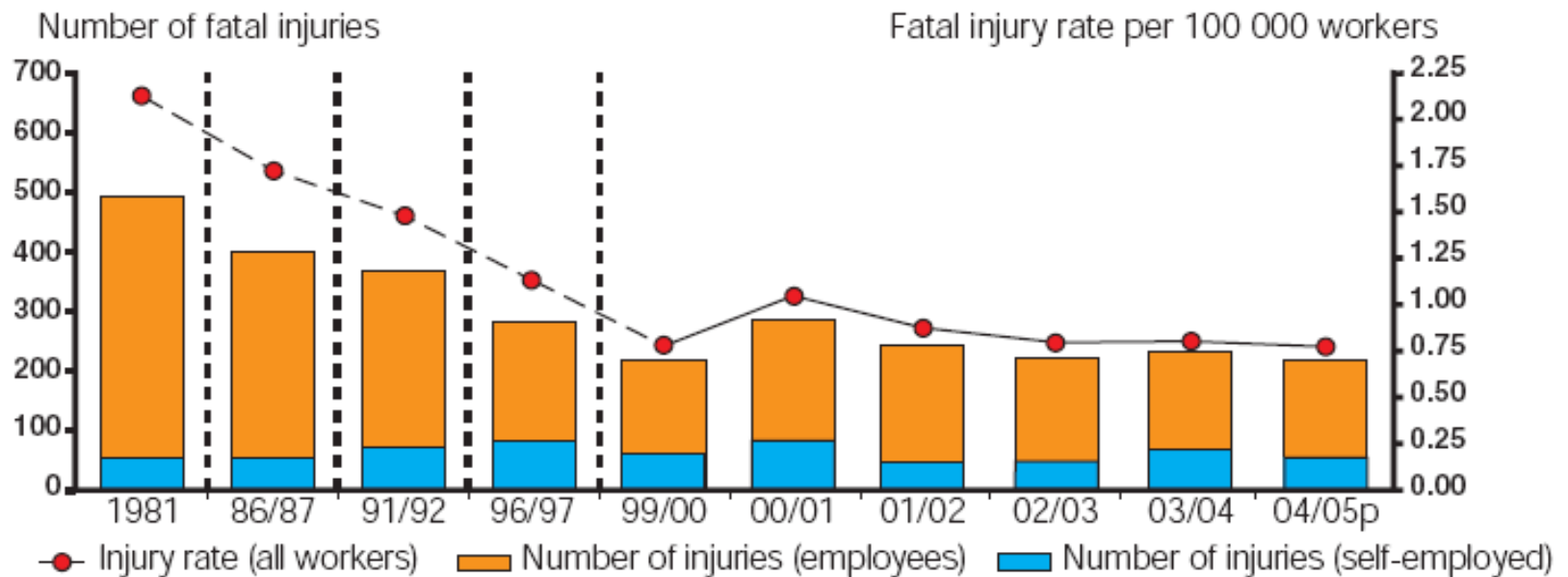
Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
Minister for Work and Pensions

Work is good for us

- Poverty and unemployment increase the duration of episodes of common mental health disorders (Weich and Lewis, BMJ 1998);
- Returning to work from unemployment reduces psychological distress (Bjarnason and Sigurdardottir, Soc Sci Med 2003);
- Those who are unemployed or permanently sick are over twice as likely to commit suicide (Lewis and Sloggett, BMJ 1998)

We have made progress

Figure 1: Number and rate of fatal injuries to workers



Health, Work and Well-being- Caring for our future



Many good employers already invest in the health of their employees

South West Water

Accident prevention measures = bottom line benefit of a saving of over £2m over 6 yrs.

There are also examples of good practice in the Public Sector

Southampton Community Health Service

Part time in house physiotherapist.
Treatment cost £100 per person (less than one fifth the cost of replacing a basic nurse for 1 week.

These examples illustrate good practice

- Leadership- commitment from the top is key;
- Management support is vital;
- Good occupational health services are important;

By investing in these, organisations will see a bottom line improvement.

Worker Involvement is essential

BAE Systems are an example of good practice

“The partnership has evolved into an effective working relationship that allows the business to go beyond mere compliance with health and safety law. It increases individuals’ involvement in decisions about how the risks of their work are managed and improves workplace performance by enhancing the quality of working life for employees.”

The devolved administrations have already made good progress

Scotland

- Occupational Health and safety Initiative: “Health Working Lives”
- Occupational health and safety service: “Safe and Healthy Working”

The devolved administrations have already made good progress

Wales

- Corporate Health Standard: award focused on health promotion activity
- Partnership between Welsh Assembly Government and HSE

But we recognise there is still more to do in the public sector

- Employs about 5 million people
- 1.3 million of these work in the NHS
- Sickness absence rates average 10 days a year
- Cost of sickness absence - £4 billion a year

Ministerial Task Force

- Set up in 2004 to report with Cabinet Office on Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector
- Given the role of driving implementation of the Report's recommendations
- "One Year On" Report published 15 November
- Civil service absence fell from 10 days per person per year in 2003 to 9.1 in 2004

Any questions?