



**Partners for Better Health at Work
Newsletter
October 2008**



Welcome to issue 15 of the Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter.

In this edition, we bring you updates on significant staff changes in HSE, more updates on Health Work and Well Being, as well as various health and safety events across the UK.

Please feel free to extract information for articles or distribute the newsletter to anyone you feel may have an interest in its contents.

New Chief Medical Adviser

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has announced the appointment of Dr John Osman as its Chief Medical Adviser.

Dr Osman joined HSE in 1986 and currently heads HSE's Epidemiology Unit. He is an Honorary Lecturer at the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Manchester and is a longstanding member of the Society of Occupational Medicine.

He will take up the combined post of HSE's Chief Medical Adviser and Head of Epidemiology on 1 October 2008.

New Deputy Chief Executive

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has announced the appointment of Kevin Myers as HSE's Deputy Chief Executive. Kevin will take up post on 13 October 2008.

Kevin Myers joined HSE in 1976 as a factory inspector. He has broad experience of working across the organisation both operational and in roles at HSE headquarters. He is currently Director of HSE's Hazardous Installations Directorate, responsible for regulatory oversight of the offshore oil and gas, onshore chemicals, explosives, mines, gas storage and distribution and biological agents sectors. He was previously Chief Inspector of Construction.

HSE annual H&S statistics 2007/8

HSE's annual statistics on workplace health, safety and enforcement will be released on 29 October.

New HSE Strategy

The new strategy for Health and Safety in Great Britain is expected to be published in December 2008.

Health Work and Well Being.

A business healthcheck tool, to help employers assess the cost of ill-health to their business and the impact of wellness programmes on these costs, was launched on 1st July '08.

The tool '[Business HealthCheck](http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/News-and-updates/News-Summary.aspx?NewsID=38)' was developed by HWWB in partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers and Business in the Community (BITC) in response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population, 'Working for a healthier tomorrow'. For further information on the tool visit: <http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/News-and-updates/News-Summary.aspx?NewsID=38>

Also BITC has in conjunction with other major employers has developed a Healthy Eating Toolkit providing practical guidance in promoting healthy eating in companies as part of an integrated health and wellbeing programme. For further information on the tool visit: http://www.bitc.org.uk/resources/publications/healthy_eating.html

The Government's response to Dame Carol Black's review is expected to be published late autumn 2008.

We expect the response to outline a number of new initiatives including some cross departmental workstreams.

Scotland will be responding separately. For information on Dame Carol Black's review:

<http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/Carol-Blacks-Review/Default.aspx>

Shattered life campaign

More than 1,000 workers a month suffer a serious injury following a slip, trip or fall. HSE'S Shattered Lives campaign is aimed primarily at those most at risk of a slip, trip or fall at work and those best placed to take action - construction workers, electricians, gas fitters other trades people, and site managers, kitchen managers and chefs, food retail staff, area and store managers, food operatives and their shift managers. To find out more visit – <http://www.hse.gov.uk/shatteredlives/index.htm>

Asbestos Campaign

HSE will be launching a national campaign to raise awareness in tradesmen of the risk of asbestos.

While many people believe that asbestos is no longer an issue, asbestos could be present in any building built before 2000, so anybody unaware of its presence, what it looks like or where it could be found could unwittingly be exposed to the hidden killer.

From HSE's research, we know tradesmen such as electricians, plumbers and joiners are a high risk group and difficult to engage. The campaign adopts the approach successfully used in a [North West pilot in February](#) 2008.

For further information visit – <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm>

Managing violence in licensed and retail premises

On 1 October, HSE launched a free online toolkit to help employers in retail and licensed premises tackle the problem of work-related violence.

The toolkit was produced in partnership with Westminster City Council and LACORS, and is primarily aimed at large employers in the sector. An accompanying summary leaflet will be available for smaller organisations.

The toolkit incorporates good practice examples; control measures to reduce the risks; and advice on providing support after a violent incident. For further information - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/violence/toolkit/index.htm>

Local Authority/HSE Partnership Conference

This year's national Local Authority / HSE Partnership Conference will take place at the Hilton Hotel , Manchester Deansgate, on 5 November 2008.

This event is aimed at all those involved in strategic development and partnership working in LAs as well as heads of service, team leaders, practitioners and councilors (who attend free of charge when accompanying an officer). It is anticipated that speakers will include Lord McKenzie, Minister for Health and Safety and HSE Chair, Judith Hackitt. For more details - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/events/index.htm>

Slips in the Kitchen

The Health and Safety Executive is running a free workshop in London on November 4th 2008, designed to help assess the risk of slips and dermatitis in kitchens and to take action to control them.

The workshop is aimed at health and safety managers working for large or multi-site hotels, restaurants or catering companies who can influence change to improve health and safety. For further information. - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/diary.htm>

Myth of the month – Health and Safety Laws ban bonfires

HSE continues its series of amusing myth cartoons to highlight how ridiculous most of the so-called 'elf 'n safety' tabloid tales are. This month's myth - **H&S laws ban bonfires.**

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/index.htm>

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