

Adventure Activities Licensing Authority
Management Board
Minutes of the
16th Meeting - Tuesday 7 October 2014 11.00 to 15.00
HSE Offices
9 Quinton Business Park Birmingham

Those Present:

Alistair McNab – HSE Vice Chair AALA MB
Gavin Howat – HSE Inspector
Rob Vondy – HSE Policy
Jill Worrall – HSE Policy
Anna Bliss – Department for Work & Pensions
Anna Rogerson – Scottish Government
Steve Bateman – Department for Education
Brian Chapman – Independent Member
Ian McMorrin – Independent Member
Sir Brooke Boothby – TQS
John Heron Walsh – TQS
Marcus Bailie – TQS

Apologies:

David Snowball – HSE, Chair AALA MB
Paul Logan – HSE Policy
John Paul Lawrence – Local Authorities
Derek Grieve – Scottish Government

1 Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2 Minutes & Actions from the Previous Meeting

All outstanding actions have been discharged.

Further Action - Two alterations are necessary to the previous minutes. Anna Bliss and Anna Rogerson will supply these via email to Jill Worrall as soon as possible.

3 Progress report on the Cabinet Office review of AALA and the Scottish Government request for the transfer of powers.

The Cabinet Office continues to review and consider the future sponsorship of the AALA. Given the forthcoming General Election, it is likely that any decision on this will be deferred until a new Government is elected. As such, the current arrangements continue and it will be "business as usual".

Following the Scottish Government request to transfer powers from Westminster to establish a Scottish AALA, discussions have commenced to progress this change. Further updates will be provided at the March board meeting. Health & Safety is likely to be mentioned in the green paper under the Government's proposal to devolve further powers to Scotland. This is scheduled to be issued in November.

4 HSE Operations Report.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Statistics on visitors to the HSE Site remained high.

The Adventure Activity Industry Advisory Committee (AAIAC) met in September 2014 – Gavin Howat & Marcus Bailie attended that meeting.

Action – Gavin Howat to investigate whether overseas hits on the site can be separated from UK hits.

Action – Gavin Howat to circulate Marcus Bailie's article for "The Professional Mountaineer" magazine to Management Board Members.

Rob Vondy & Gavin Howat had met with the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) regarding their proposal for undertaking a joint inspection role with TQS in respect of water sports covered by licensing. The meeting was positive and HSE support TQS in exploring this possibility.

Action - Marcus Bailie will report on progress from the piloting of this collaborative approach and will put forward a proposal for board consideration to formalise future arrangements under the provisions of the licensing scheme.

5 TQS Reports:

Annual Report:

The current annual report had been circulated & Sir Brooke gave a comprehensive narrative of the figures.

It was for the members to note that:

- At the end of the TQS contract TQS Ltd would be liable for redundancy payments the cost of which will fall to whoever is designated as the AALA at the time.
- When power passes to Scotland there may be a TUPE issue to consider.

Finance & Staffing:

The situation with staffing remains static.

Head of Inspection Report:

The report was circulated. Marcus Bailie gave a brief narrative and background to the report.

TQS are constantly searching for and reviewing reports of accidents that happen abroad with a view to finding any "lessons to be learned".

6 Reports From

DWP – nothing further to add.

DfE – position remains the same.

Local Authorities – nothing further to add.

Devolved Administrations – nothing further to add.

7 Any other business

None.

8 Date & Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3 March 2015 (to be reviewed if this dates conflicts with the Purdah period in advance of the election).