

Health and Safety Executive Board			HSE/25/A02
Meeting date	25-Mar-25	FOI Status	Open
CM9 Ref	2025/44997		
<b>AGENDA</b> <b>HSE Board Meeting</b> <b>25 March 2025</b> <b>Redgrave Court</b>			
<b>PRIVATE SESSION</b>			
<b>08:30-09:15</b>	Board Forward Look	HSE/25/FL	
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>			
<b>09:45</b>	1 Welcome and apologies Declarations of interest Minutes of meeting 28 January 2025 and 25 February 2025  Matters arising & Action Log  Chair's update -  Committee updates: ARAC meeting 7 February 2025	HSE/25/M01-2  HSE/25/AL  Verbal	<b>Presenter</b> Chair     Martin Esom
<b>ASSURANCE</b>			
<b>10:05</b>	2 Chief Executive's Report - March 2025	HSE/25/10 and verbal update	Sarah Albon and ExCo members
<b>10:50</b>	3 Performance Report - February 2025	HSE/25/11	David Murray
<b>11:10</b>	BREAK		
<b>GOVERNANCE/ASSURANCE</b>			
<b>11:25</b>	4 Science, Engineering and Analysis Assurance	HSE/25/12	Andrew Curran
<b>11:55</b>	5 Science Plan 2025/28	HSE/25/13	Andrew Curran
<b>12:25</b>	Meeting ends		

<b>Health and Safety Executive Board</b>			<b>HSE/25/M03</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	28 May 2025	<b>FoI Status</b>	Open
<b>CM Reference:</b>	2025/72356		
<b>Minutes of HSE Board Meeting – 25 March 2025</b>			
Redgrave Court, Bootle			

**Attending**

	Sarah Newton (chair)	Chyrel Brown	David Coats
Martin Esom	Debbie Gillatt	Christopher Johnson	Cathie Mackay
Ged Nichols (online)	Gina Radford (online)	Ken Rivers	Claire Sullivan

**Also attending**

Sarah Albon Chief Executive	Rick Brunt Director, Engagement and Policy	Andrew Curran Director, Science	Michael Jennings Director, Legal Services
Jane Lassey Director, Regulation	Clare Millington-Hume Director, Human Resources	David Murray Director, Finance and Corporate Services	Angela Storey Director, Operational Services
Philip White Director, Building Safety			

Secretariat and  
Chair's Private  
Secretary - CEPS

SSAs – items 4&5

**Minutes** Secretariat

<b>Closed Session</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies were received. There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p><b>Draft Minutes of meetings 28 January 2025 (HSE/24/M01) and 25 February 2025 (HSE/25/M02), matters arising and action (HSE/25/AL)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The draft minutes were cleared with no amendments.</li> <li>b) The Board noted the updates to the Action Log.</li> <li>c) There were no matters arising.</li> </ul> <p>Chair's update: The Chair informed the Board that she had exercised her delegated authority by clearing the Offshore Installations (Safety Zones order) 2025 which established five new safety zones.</p> <p>Martin Esom updated the Board on proceedings at the last Audit and Risk Assurance Committee meeting and confirming that the minutes would be circulated to the Board in due course. He highlighted the main areas of discussion and assurance, including: Internal Audit performance and assurance levels so far arising from IA reports; Science assurances in particular provided by the Science</p>

	Quality Assurance Group; Risk deep dives; and Fraud, Bribery and Corruption and HSE's involvement in the cross government Fraud Initiative.
Decision	Minutes of previous meetings cleared.
<b>2</b>	<b>Chief Executive's Report (HSE/25/10)</b>
2.1	<p>In addition to her written report, Sarah Albon updated the Board on recent activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succession planning for the Director of Building Safety and Director of Human Resources.</li> <li>• Cross government engagement on reducing the regulatory burden and enabling growth, confirming that HSE had submitted proposals in support of this and giving assurance that there would be no diminution in health and safety standards. Areas of particular interest were HSE's approach to non-prescriptive goal setting regulation and HSE's science and research work.</li> <li>• HSE's planning, including engagement with DWP and internally with colleagues, in relation to recent announcements regarding funding and delivering efficiencies.</li> <li>• Proposals submitted to the Minister in respect of assessing levels of asbestos that remain in the built environment, and how this could be delivered, which would be shared with the Board. Andrew Curran also informed the Board of the success of a recent Asbestos summit which had helped prioritise key issues</li> </ul> <p>Michael Jennings also briefed the Board on a recent prosecution case and potential order for HSE to pay wasted costs. He also informed the Board of a successful exercise to recruit a panel of 231 Counsel who will be available to prosecute for HSE when required. The Attorney General had thanked all involved in delivering the successful recruitment campaign. The Board also learnt that a member of the Legal Services Division had been nominated with colleagues from the EA for the Attorney General's Prosecution Team of the Year Award.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That senior leaders, via intranet communications and virtual town halls, were keeping staff informed of work being done in respect of HSE's contribution to the growth agenda and civil service efficiency.</li> </ol>
Action 1	Proposals for the assessment of levels of asbestos in the built environment to be shared with the Board in due course.
<b>3</b>	<b>Business performance (HSE/25/11)</b>
3.1	<p>David Murray presented the report for February 2025 which showed the majority of targets and milestones were on track. ExCo continued to monitor delivery of inspection activity, Major Hazard safety cases, average working days lost, and BSR activity. Overall the financial forecast outturn for the year was c.£10m underspend which relates to BSR, mainly in payroll due to late approval for policy posts and additional funding for remediation. The BSR underspend is not unexpected given the new activities commencing in-year and the uncertainty around cost recovery income and MHCLG funding. Further work was being undertaken on the expected credit loss particularly in relation to the new debt in relation to BSR.</p> <p>The Board was also informed of on-going work in relation to the Spending Review and DWP's timeline for submission.</p>

	<p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That measures were either in place or were being developed to improve proactive inspection delivery, with change programmes, such as delivery of the new Case Management System (CMS) and reform of the Regulatory Training Programme for new inspectors combined with a significant cohort of trainee inspectors completing their training. Collaboration with colleagues from Engagement and Policy Division was also helping to develop targeted inspection programmes. These were all anticipated to have a positive impact on planning, efficiency and financial performance for 2025/26.</li> <li>2. That all change projects have a post-implementation review to check on realisation of expected benefits. Project 1 benefits would take 2 years to be realised and would be reported to the Board at that time. <i>DN – this is on the Forward Look for March 2027.</i></li> <li>3. That whilst there is some interim duplication of time recording effort, due to two systems running in parallel, and delays in recording additional information on health inspections, this was expected to be addressed during early 2025/26 once the new CMS was fully rolled out.</li> <li>4. Feedback from pilot CMS users was being used to fine-tune the system to ensure it meets the needs of its users and the business.</li> <li>5. The reasoning behind brought forward expenditure on IT upgrades in readiness for implementation of new systems.</li> </ol>
Decision	The Board noted performance delivery and HSE’s financial position and was assured on action being taken to address areas where performance was below target.
<b>4</b>	<b>Science, Engineering and Analysis (SEA) Assurance (HSE/25/12)</b>
4.1	<p>Andrew Curran introduced this item. He described the three lines of assurance approach to research and how the Strategic Science Advisors (SSAs) ensured that it aligned with HSE’s strategic objectives, with sufficient quality and clear impact/outcomes. He also described measures implemented to gain assurance on the consistency of governance of SEA.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How the process had strengthened governance and assurances, with a focus on strategic relevance, consistency, quality and impact. Links with other governance committees, such as SQAG and ORCo also contributed to the overall assurance process. All of these factors would be included in the annual assurance report to the Accounting Officer.</li> <li>2. The work with the Business Assurance Team to ensure the findings from SQAG deep dives were incorporated into the Integrated Assurance Report, considered by the ARAC, and in particular how “systemic” recommendations were being taken on board.</li> </ol>
Decision	The Board welcomed the progress in strengthening assurance processes and systems, and acknowledged the contribution of research in supporting strategic prioritisation and decision-making.
<b>5</b>	<b>Science Plan 2025-2026 (HSE/25/13)</b>
5.1	Andrew Curran introduced this item. He was supported by HSE’s SSAs, who described their respective roles and how their scientific backgrounds and expertise were used to deliver assurances on HSE’s SEA research work. Andrew explained

	<p>how the focus on identifying strategic evidence gaps, with emphasis on “what we <i>need to know</i>” had informed the development of the Plan.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How the contribution of the SSAs had been welcomed by colleagues, in terms of enabling knowledge sharing, exemplifying strategic thinking and prioritising, and strengthening collaboration across HSE and with external organisations such as universities.</li> <li>2. The role of the Divisional and HSE-wide Performance Hubs to oversee progress of deliverables.</li> <li>3. How the evaluation process embedded in research projects provided for a review of the impact of the work against the expected impact, including how the research had informed HSE’s regulatory processes.</li> <li>4. How HSE’s relationship within the Partnership for European Research in Occupational Safety and Health (PEROSH) continued to provide insight into how innovation could contribute to better policy-making.</li> <li>5. How collaboration with industry and other regulators provided real-world insight to identify knowledge gaps, scan the horizon for new technology/ applications, identify external research relevant to HSE (common interest) and inform internal research, policy and regulation.</li> </ol>
Decision	The Board welcomed the Plan and was assured on how science would play an important role in delivering the Strategy “Protecting People and Places”.
<b>6</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
6.1	There was no other business.

<b>Health and Safety Executive Board</b>		<b>HSE/25/10</b>	
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	25 March 2025	<b>FOI Status:</b>	Open
<b>Type of Paper:</b>	For discussion	<b>Exemptions:</b>	None

## Chief Executive's Report March 2025

### Reduce work-related ill health, with a specific focus on mental health and stress

**Using nitrous oxide (gas and air) safely in maternity units:** New guidance has been issued setting out how duty-holders in maternity units should be controlling the risks of exposure to high levels of nitrous oxide (gas and air), an anaesthetic gas widely used in healthcare. It is subject to the [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations \(COSHH\)](#). High levels of exposure can cause serious health effects, such as neurological problems and anaemia.

The guidance covers:

- [levels of exposure](#)
- [control measures](#)
- [monitoring exposure](#)
- [management systems](#)

Implementing the controls in the guidance will help protect those workers who are exposed to nitrous oxide at work.

**Controlling Noise at Work:** HSE supported some key stakeholders with engagement work to clarify and embed the health surveillance changes detailed within the 2021 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) of L108 Code of Practice 'Controlling Noise at Work'. The SOM (Society of Occupational Medicine) have subsequently published new [guidance for Occupational Doctors and Nurses](#) on how to correctly interpret audiograms which is now much more closely aligned to HSE expectations.

**Ionising Radiation consent:** HSE liaised closely with HSE Northern Ireland (HSENI) counterparts to issue the first RADAN Ionising Radiation consent in Northern Ireland, (RADAN is the digital Radiation Authorisation and Notification system). The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust RADAN submission passed its final consent application review by HSE and the dutyholder was issued with their consent certificate by HSENI. As part of this ongoing liaison, work is underway to grant HSENI direct access to the RADAN portal, supporting HSENI to issue their own consents.

**Microbiological Safety Cabinets and Fume Cupboards:** HSE issued an eBulletin to highlight duties in relation to Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) system Thorough Examination and Test (TE<sub>X</sub>T) requirements detailed within the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 (as amended). Findings from inspection and investigation activity showed that many healthcare and education dutyholders typically have their microbiological safety cabinets and fume cupboards tested in accordance with relevant BS EN ISO standards for these particular types of devices. However, testing to the published engineering standards alone, did not necessarily deliver compliance with the COSHH regulatory requirements and could potentially leave a risk gap. This was particularly evident in respect of the need for an LEV TE<sub>X</sub>T to demonstrate adequate control of exposure, which is not referenced in the device standards. The eBulletin was followed up with external stakeholder engagement, including a presentation to 400 delegates at the Institute of Safety and Technology in Research (ISTR) Applied Safety in Pathology Group LEV Symposium.

**Reducing risks of asbestos-related diseases:** HSE's [Asbestos: Your Duty campaign](#), which aims to improve understanding about the legal duty to manage asbestos, highlighted asbestos inspections at local authorities throughout Great Britain. Hundreds of inspections at council buildings are being carried out by HSE to check councils are managing the risk of asbestos properly. Highlighting HSE asbestos guidance and the inspection programme, the [press release](#) was distributed to trade and local media, coverage included Local Government Chronicle, localgov.co.uk and Government Business. In addition to social media posts directing to a [video outlining how to prepare for a duty to manage asbestos inspection](#) which has over 2.5k views, ebulletins, and stakeholder engagement.

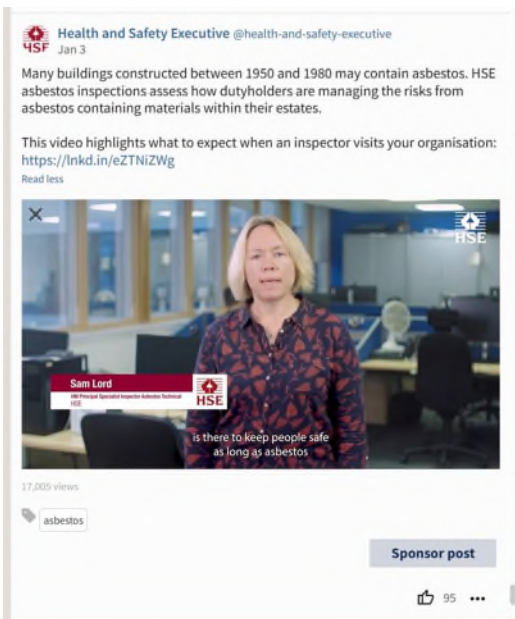


Businesses and organisations responsible for premises built before the turn of the century, and especially those between 1950 and 1980 when the use of asbestos in construction was at its peak, must carry out the necessary checks and understand their legal responsibilities. These asbestos inspections support the wider asbestos inspections programme which has included schools and NHS Trusts.

During the local authority inspections dutyholders are being asked:

- a) If they are aware of HSE's Asbestos – Your Duty campaign
- b) If yes, have they taken any action since seeing campaign material.

Provisional data for these two questions is very encouraging. For LA premises inspected so far, almost half were aware of the campaign and of those dutyholders, over 60% had taken action since seeing the campaign material. The data for the local authority head office inspections is currently at 60% awareness and action demonstrating that our campaign tactics are successfully reaching and influencing the target audience to take action with their asbestos management.



## **Increase and maintain trust to ensure people feel safe where they live, where they work and, in their environment**

**Engaging with residents of high-rise buildings:** The second phase of our [‘Your Home, Your Safety’ residents campaign](#) was launched on 5 February. Building on the first phase which was aimed at raising awareness of the Building Safety Regulator amongst high-rise residents, the second phase is focused on making sure residents know about their rights and responsibilities under the Building Safety Act 2022, how they can play their part, and in particular, how they can raise complaints with the regulator.

We have used research and insights to focus on where and how we could reach residents most effectively and a range of channels including digital audio advertising, YouTube, social media and Out-of-Home (OOH)

advertising will be complemented by low cost and earned activity including regionally targeted press releases and tailored messaging for women's weekly and general interest magazines.



**Supporting Building Safety Regulator Operations:** As part of our ongoing communications strategy to support operations and encourage industry to make high-quality building control applications, we have targeted developers searching for information and help with building control compliance with online adverts, directing them to our real-time FAQ resource. The FAQ resource is constantly updated to facilitate the application process using operational, user and industry insights to address issues and questions being raised. There has been a **346% increase in users of the resource**, compared with data collected before the campaign began.

## **Enable industry to innovate safely to prevent major incidents, supporting the move towards net zero**

**Process Safety Leadership – Inspection Programme:** In 2019, HSE challenged the offshore industry to respond to stagnating safety performance and an increase in major hydrocarbon releases which led to the adoption of the Principles of Process Safety Leadership, like those adopted by the onshore high-hazard industries post-Buncefield.

From January 2022 until October 2024, HSE's Energy Division (ED) conducted a targeted inspection campaign across a range of offshore operators to assess how industry had responded to the challenge and embedded the principles within their organisations. By the end of the programme, 14 organisations had been inspected with over 160 interviews conducted at every level of organisation from Managing Director's to the frontline workforce. In parallel, ED colleagues were engaging with industry, participating in workshops, chairing working groups and delivering feedback at industry conferences.

The [findings of the inspection programme](#) were officially published on 6 February 2025. The programme highlighted several areas of concern with the key challenges around (1) organisational change, resources and competency, (2) audit and assurance and (3) risk management and tolerance to risk particularly around degradation in barriers to a major accident hazard (MAH) event. ED intends to target these areas through proactive interventions at an individual organisation level but also continue to drive improvement at an industry wide level through ongoing engagement and collaboration with industry trade associations/bodies. While identifying areas of concern, the inspection programme has had a significant impact on the culture within industry with evidence of greater collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective working to deliver improvements.

**Hydrogen Storage facility:** On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Bridgend County Borough Council Special Development Control Committee **approved** hazardous substances consent application (P/24/788/HAZ) for the storage (3.60 tonnes) and use of Hydrogen at the proposed HyBont Hydrogen Production Facility (South Wales). HSE was satisfied with the proposal and attended the committee meeting to address Committee Member questions. There was significant local opposition to the proposed facility. HSE had advised against an earlier application which was for 4.99 tonnes storage, because a large residential population would be subject to significant major hazards risk (explosion). That application was withdrawn by the Applicant (Marubeni). The Applicant engaged with HSE in order to obtain a better understanding of HSE Hydrogen Technical Assessment Policy and Advice Criteria. The Applicant subsequently reduced the inventory associated with heavy goods vehicle tube trailers and moved their onsite filling locations further away from residential populations. This meant HSE concerns were addressed and risks reduced. This is

a good example of HSE engaging with stakeholders to arrive at an outcome that enables a NetZero project to proceed with safety risks reduced.

Although the hazardous substances consent application has been approved the associated planning application (P/23/218/FUL) for construction of the Hydrogen Production Facility & Solar Farm, which was also approved by the Committee, is currently subject to a Welsh Minister's holding direction. There is significant local opposition to the proposal.

## **Maintain Great Britain's record as one of the safest countries to work in**

**The Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) Inspection of HSE:** In February the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) undertook its biennial inspection to examine HSE's arrangements to secure compliance with the legislative provisions which govern the use of directed (covert) surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS). Representatives from Director of Regulation's Office, Customer Services and Chemicals Regulation (CRD) and Inspection Divisions met with the inspector in Redgrave Court in a day long inspection, supporting Philip White, HSE's Senior Responsible Officer (SRO).

HSE has procedures and trained Authorising Officers to allow the use of directed surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. HSE might exercise its powers under the Act include observing a home address or filming movements of traffic and pedestrians at a ferry terminal where private information might be obtained. CRD are also moving towards covert purchasing. HSE also receives whistleblowing concerns which, can, if not properly managed, drift into the realm of unauthorised CHIS activity. During the inspection the IPCO inspector constructive offered advice and guidance relating to these areas of our work.

In a letter from Sir Brian Leveson, The Commissioner, to Sarah Albon

*"... your Organisation takes its responsibilities in relation to the management of covert activities seriously and this is reflected in the positive manner in which your staff engaged with the inspection process. Your Organisation continues to perform well, and the staff engaged with, are fully aware of their responsibilities and eager to achieve the highest of standards."*

## **Supporting UK Growth - Guidance on the Safe Deployment of Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing**

**Sectors:** In February HSE responded to an urgent request for information which came from the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). The request for further information related to a lack of guidance on the use of robotics, including collaborative robots (cobots), in the advanced manufacturing sectors. DBT explained that this sector has alerted them to the fact that a lack of guidance, or the way current guidance is issued, makes it unclear what is and is not allowed, which is causing them not to deploy this productivity-boosting technology. HSE was invited to provide comment on whether there is opportunity for growth by changing the way guidance is issued or to review existing guidance for robotics to ensure businesses can see a clear route to deploying this technology. HSE will review the implications of the publication of ISO 10218-2 (Robotics - Safety requirements - Part 2: Industrial robot applications and robot cells) and, through working with key stakeholders, identify the need for guidance to ensure that UK business can leverage the opportunity from deploying robotics safely within workplaces.

## **Securing compliance with the law**

Press releases giving details of recent prosecution cases, along with other HSE press announcements, are published on this [link](#)

**Prosecution for unsafe construction activity:** Greenlife Property Designs Ltd was prosecuted following a visit to construction work in response to a concern raised with HSE. The company was building a single storey extension to occupied residential property which backed onto public children's play area. The work required a reduce dig to remove up to 3m of soil across the full width of the garden up to the boundary with neighbouring properties. A Prohibition Notice (PN) was served due to the immediate risk of serious personal injury associated with the risk of collapse of the sides of the excavated area and the undermined adjacent structures. An Improvement Notice (IN) was served requiring the company to secure competent advice to develop a safe system of work to allow them to stabilise the vertical unsupported excavated faces. Despite

offering assurances, a follow up visit identified that the company had ignored the requirements of the notices, continued to work in an unsafe manner and put workers at significant risk. They ignored repeated attempts to contact them and deliberately mislead HSE by providing false information in respect of compliance with the notices. The company failed to communicate with HSE and respond to the summons. Sentencing in absence, the company was fined £10k in respect of the initial offence in respect of the risks of working in an unsupported excavation, £20k for the breach of the PN and £10k for the IN breach. In sentencing the judge considered these to be very serious offences and flagrant breaches and disregard for the law.

**Debenhams Intervention:** A complex, multi-agency intervention has been undertaken at the former Debenhams building on Princes Street, Edinburgh. Concerns had previously received regarding sleeping on site and fires. An initial visit with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) resulted in no action as colleagues were unable to identify the Dutyholders, but identified areas of concern. Demolition work was being carried out by Safe Demolition Ltd of Romford, contracted to a leaseholder. A further inspection took place and risks and breaches were identified, most significant being work at height due to the removal of escalators, one section having been left dangling on a hoist from the fourth floor, and hot works on-going with no control measures.

Prohibition Notices and related Improvement Notices were served. Fire risk was a potential Matter of Potential Major Concern, due to the size of the building (see photo) and how buildings on Princes Street are connected. With temporary shops set up there was also a risk to the public. Princes Street had major fire in 2023 which led to the loss of life of a fire-fighter, therefore public interest was high. Following the site inspections, multi-agency meetings have been held with SFRS, HSE, Edinburgh City Council (Environmental Health Officers and Building Standards), Immigration and Police Scotland to ensure interventions remain appropriate. Following on from the enforcement action, the owner of the building has decided to bring forward the refurbishment works to convert the building into a hotel; ending the lease agreement and bringing forward the tender process. Work was due to start late 2026, will now be early – mid 2025.

This intervention has allowed a trainee to experience interactions with other government agencies and emergency services and has allowed good cross agency relationships to be developed. Lessons learned from this intervention have been shared with other teams in Scotland who have since had to deal with similar issues.



*Front façade of former Debenhams store from Princes Street*

**HSE Assistance provided to the Coroner following death of a baby:** Colleagues from across HSE worked collaboratively to answer complex questions from HM Coroner following the sad death of a baby in a property adjacent to a garage where a roofing product was being applied.

HSE was not the enforcing authority for this matter as there was insufficient evidence to determine the cause of death but HSE was the only organisation with the available expertise to assist the Coroner. HSE's Leeds Inspection Team Principal Inspector (PI) formed a working group of internal and external stakeholders, including colleagues from Engagement and Policy Division, Chemical Regulation Division (CRD) and Science Division and external contacts from the Office for Product Safety and Standards. This was to determine if a specific roofing product that contains styrene and other chemicals could have a significant impact in the death of a baby.

A Senior Toxicology Specialist and a Senior Occupational Hygiene Specialist in CRD and colleagues with explicit knowledge of the CLP (classification, labelling and packaging) and REACH (registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals) regulations prepared a report for use by the

Inspection Division PI in providing evidence to the Coroner and provided reassurance about the safety of this product. HSE was able to demonstrate expertise in this highly sensitive case with the Coroner taking time to thank the PI and his team for their considerations and going the extra mile.

**Failure to control wood dust:** An inspection of Pendle Woodcraft (Blackburn) Ltd in 2023 identified significant failings relating to the control of wood dust. The Inspector took immediate enforcement action at the inspection to ensure the standards were improved but the gravity of the failings, coupled with the history of similar enforcement from HSE with this dutyholder, meant that a decision was taken to prosecute the company. The company was a micro-company and following a guilty plea at Blackburn Magistrates Court the dutyholder was fined £6000. The action taken as result of the Inspector's intervention held the individual company to account and demonstrates that health risks are serious and HSE will act if there are repeated failures to manage these risks since they put the long-term health of the workers in jeopardy. The action also sends a clear message to the woodworking industry which reinforces HSE's overarching focus on health risks in its inspection workplan as well as the concerted effort by HSE to improve the standards of wood dust control in the woodworking industry across Great Britain over the last few years.

#### **Media update:**

HSE's guidance on [Children and Public Safety on farms](#) was promoted through a press release following the sentencing of Neil Speakman, [after the telehandler he was driving tragically collided with his own son Albie Speakman, killing the three-year-old](#). The Crown Prosecution Service agreed that the guidance should be highlighted after Mr Speakman, having pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and being sentenced to 12 months in prison and ordered to pay costs of £2000, had been found not guilty of gross negligence manslaughter.

In other prosecution news, we highlighted HSE's guidance on [lifting operations](#) when we issued CCTV footage of the moment a welder was crushed at a Sunderland shipyard, as well as guidance on [working from height](#) after a self-employed roofer was given a suspended sentence relating to serious injuries to a father-of-three.

**[Snowdome prosecution:](#)** One of HSE's high-profile prosecution cases reached its conclusion when Snowdome Limited was fined £100,000 at Telford Magistrates Court.

Senior enforcement lawyer, Nathan Cook, and lead investigator Keeley Eves, were at court, supported by HSE's media team. The case revolved around the death of 12-year-old Louis Watkiss, who was killed while attending a friends tobogganing party at the company's indoor skiing centre in Tamworth. The court heard how Louis had collided with one of the company's workers – who was conducting what is known as a 'slope walk' – and died at the scene as a result of head injuries. HSE's investigation found that Snowdome Limited did not have a suitable and sufficient risk assessment for tobogganing activities and had not fully considered all persons likely to be on the slope during tobogganing. As a result, there was no safe system of work, information, instruction, training or supervision to manage the risk of collisions between toboggans and pedestrians.

Nathan carried out a number of media interviews with broadcast journalists from both BBC and ITV and also a radio interview with LBC/Global. This resulted in national and regional coverage on ITV, as well as BBC's flagship show in the Midlands.



## **Published fatalities update<sup>1</sup>**

Since the last update to the Board, **16** fatalities which occurred in 2024/25 have subsequently been published on the HSE website. Please see table below for details.

<b>Date of incident</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Description of incident</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>General Industry Sector</b>	<b>Employment status</b>
13/07/2024	Harry Taylor	65	The deceased fell from height	Tandridge	Construction	Self employed
01/08/2024	Flamus Ejonpalaj	34	The deceased came into contact with electricity	Basildon	Services	Self employed
11/09/2024	Daniel Sowerby	26	The deceased was struck by a moving vehicle	Cumberland	Agriculture	Employee
22/11/2024	Peter Farley	62	The deceased fell from height	Plymouth UA	Services	Employee
03/12/2024	Scott Nutton	35	The deceased was struck by a moving vehicle	Somerset	Services	Employee
06/12/2024	David Knipe	65	The deceased was struck by a moving vehicle	Westmorland and Furness	Agriculture	Self employed
08/12/2024	Rafal Rozlonkowski	41	The deceased came into contact with something fixed or stationary	Bristol UA	Services	Employee
09/12/2024	Andrew Hunt	57	The deceased was struck by an object	East Riding	Services	Self employed
10/12/2024	David Tuckett	69	The deceased died following a fall	Hinckley & Bosworth	Services	Employee
11/12/2024	Mark Nisbet	56	The deceased died following a fall	Lichfield	Construction	Employee
12/12/2024	Zacharias Atkinson	19	The deceased was struck by an object	Sefton	Services	Employee
13/12/2024	Jamie Dunne	38	The deceased fell from height	East Staffordshire	Construction	Self employed

<sup>1</sup> In some cases, the publication of a fatality on the HSE website may be some months after the date of the initial incident. This is due to the verification checks that are carried out to ensure that the fatality is within HSE's enforcement remit and if so, the correct information is subsequently published. The complex nature of some fatality investigations may mean that it can take some time to verify this information.

The full list of the names of the deceased plus additional details may be viewed [here](#).

16/12/2024	Brian Blezard	51	The deceased died following an explosion	Preston	Agriculture	Self employed
18/12/2024	Geoffrey Street	60	The deceased came into contact with electricity	Uttlesford	Water/Waste Management	Self employed
06/01/2025	John Prodger	66	The deceased was struck by a moving vehicle	Powys UA	Manufacturing	Employee
30/01/2025	Barbara Cruickshank	88	The deceased died while under medical nursing care	East Dunbartonshire UA	Services	Member of the public