

Health and Safety Executive Board			HSE/24/A07
Meeting date	26-Nov-24	FOI Status	Open
CM9 Ref	2024/236105		
<b>AGENDA HSE Board Meeting 26 November 2024 Redgrave Court</b>			
<b>PRIVATE SESSION</b>			
<b>08:30-09:15</b>	Board Forward Look	HSE/24/FL	
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>			
<b>09:45</b>	1 Welcome and apologies Declarations of interest Minutes of meeting 24 September 2024  Matters arising & Action Log  Chair's update - Offshore Installations (Safety Zones) (No 2) Order 2024  Committee updates:  ARAC 24th October BSR Advisory Committee 15th October SQAG 10th October FPC meeting 17th October	HSE/24/M05  HSE/24/AL  Verbal  Martin Esom Chair Andrew Curran Debbie Gillatt	<b>Presenter</b> Chair
<b>ASSURANCE</b>			
<b>10:15</b>	2 Chief Executive's Report - November 2024 (subject to Cabinet Office availability - People Survey headlines)	HSE/24/42	Sarah Albon, Clare Millington-Hume and ExCo members
<b>10:45</b>	3 Business Performance	HSE/24/43	David Murray
<b>11:15</b>	BREAK		
<b>GOVERNANCE/ASSURANCE</b>			
<b>11:30</b>	4 Science, Engineering and Analysis Assurance	HSE/24/44	Andrew Curran
<b>11:50</b>	5 Data collection – Analysis of LAE1 2023/24 data from Local Authorities and LA/HSE co-regulatory partnership	HSE/24/45	Rick Brunt/
<b>12:20</b>	LUNCH		
<b>DISCUSSION/DECISION</b>			
<b>13:00</b>	6 2023/24 Annual Report on the delivery of the functions of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) and planned work for 2025/26	HSE/24/46	Rick Brunt
<b>13:30</b>	7 Proposed consultation on Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage and offshore hydrogen regulatory proposals	HSE/24/47	Rick Brunt/
<b>14:00</b>	8 HSE work on legislative reform of chemicals legislative regime	HSE/24/48	/Kate Haire
<b>14:30</b>	9 Amendments to the Control of Lead in the Workplace regulations, ACOP and guidance - early policy proposals	HSE/24/49	Mike Calcutt/
<b>15:00</b>	10 UK Registration Evaluation Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (UK REACH): Lead in Ammunition (LiA) restriction proposals for Great Britain	HSE/24/50	
<b>15:30</b>	11 AOB/Meeting Review		
<b>15:35</b>	Meeting ends		

<b>Health and Safety Executive Board</b>		<b>HSE/24/42</b>	
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	26 November 2024	<b>FOI Status:</b>	Open
<b>Type of Paper:</b>	For discussion	<b>Exemptions:</b>	None

## Chief Executive's Report November 2024

### Health and Safety at Work – Annual Statistics

HSE publishes a range of statistics relating to health and safety in Great Britain. Using a variety of data sources, including surveys and surveillance schemes, we provide statistics on:

- Work-related ill health and disease
- Workplace injury
- Working days lost and costs to Britain as a result of health and safety incidents
- Working conditions and management of health and safety in the workplace

Statistics relating to the year 2023/24 were published on 20 November.

[HSE Business Plan 2024/25](#) was published on 4 November. It details what HSE will deliver during the third year of its overall [10-year strategy](#) building on the progress made so far while continuing to adapt and respond to any challenges.

It references that this year marks 50 years since the Health & Safety at Work etc Act (HSWA) received Royal Assent and how next year marks 50 years since HSE was formed.

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

**Working with metalworking fluid:** HSE supported and enabled the British Occupational Hygiene Society to develop [guidance](#) for occupational hygienists on the assessment of adequate control of metalworking fluid (MWF) mist. MWF mist is a leading cause of occupational asthma and hypersensitivity pneumonitis and traditional methods of assessment of exposure risk are now considered impractical due to the lack of suitable sampling methodologies and exposure limits. This new guidance focuses on how to assess exposure qualitatively and semi-quantitatively, in line with HSE expectations.

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

**Assistance provided to Crown Dependencies (Jersey and Guernsey):** As previously reported, in December 2022, an explosion claimed the lives of ten individuals who were residents of a multi occupancy building in St Helier, Jersey. Support to authorities was provided by HSE's Pipeline Specialists from Energy Division and issues were identified with the wider safety management system utilised by the operator of the Jersey gas network. Further specialist assistance is being provided to Jersey to provide advice on regulatory compliance.

A separate request from Guernsey was subsequently received and technical support was again provided during 2024 providing the Guernsey Health and Safety Executive with advice and guidance in relation to the management of the gas network on the island further enhancing HSE's technical and regulatory reputation. The Chief Officer of the State of Guernsey's Health and Safety Executive and Trading Standards Service, Robin Gonard, has written to place on record his thanks for the guidance and support, in line with his government's Letter of Understanding with HSE.

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

**Proactive Health Inspection:** At a recent Health Focussed Inspection of Memory Lane Cakes Ltd, a large bakery in Cardiff, HSE's Inspector identified that there were failings in the company's management of musculoskeletal risks, exposure to flour dust, asbestos management and noise.

The Inspector further identified that there were underlying management failings in that: the health and safety responsibilities for production managers and supervisors were not clearly defined; policies were generic or unable to be measured due to lack of specific instructions; weekly inspections took place but did not focus on the key risk topics; and monthly inspections did not identify/address any specific work activities to assess implementation of control measures and safe systems of work.

The Inspector served an Improvement Notice on the company to address the underlying management failures. The company have complied with the Improvement Notice and responded positively and thanked the Inspector for their *"pragmatic and supportive approach to managing the Improvement Notice [which] has left everyone energised. Not only at Memory Lane Cakes but across Finsbury Foods, so thank you"*. The Company had ensured that any similar failings across their Finsbury Foods group of 9 companies, covering 3,000 employees were raised and addressed.

This is an example of a health focussed inspection and proportionate enforcement having a significant impact on not just the site visited, but across the group of companies as a whole. Given the company's size and influence it is likely that it will impact across the food industry more widely. A key element in getting compliance was the inspector's ability to relate the health and safety matters to other aspects of the business so that, in particular, first line managers could understand how risk assessment and control needed to align with training and supervision. Leadership, worker involvement and risk profiling provided the framework. A Trainee Inspector shadowed these visits, providing valuable insight in identifying underlying issues as part of the trainee's development.

**Nuclear and Radiological Safety:** UK Government published its official [response](#) to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) follow-up mission report. The IRRS follow-up mission was conducted in January 2024. Of particular note, the official response highlighted HSE's achievement in the development and implementation of the requirement for submission of a safety assessment before issuing consent for operating a facility or commencing work with high-risk radiation sources. This requirement has also been adopted by HSENI.

**Mobile Elevated Working Platforms (MEWP):** In November 2022, HSE received information from an industry contact about a significant dangerous occurrence. Technical enquiries established a root cause related to a product safety issue affecting all that manufacturer's products and potentially other MEWP manufacturers. There was the potential for significant harm to MEWP users and the public. The likelihood of harm from the design flaw was greatly increased when operators followed a practice promoted by UK MEWP training bodies.

A product safety case was taken against the manufacturer of the MEWP whilst HSE continued to liaise with industry to raise early awareness and promote safe working practices.

At the conclusion of a complex product safety case, involving a manufacturer based in China and the Notified Body based in the Netherlands, the manufacturer involved has been directed by HSE to address the product safety concerns. HSE will be contacting all other MEWP suppliers to the UK market and request that they check their machines for similar design issues and address any shortcomings. HSE and the external industry body, IPAF, have also collaborated in the joint publication of e-bulletins to upskill existing users, highlighting the issue and providing updated guidance. The findings from this intervention will be used to influence future MEWP design requirements via the relevant standards work groups.

**Reducing fatalities in the Waste and Recycling Sector:** A fatality occurred in January 2023 when a refuse collection worker became caught on the lifting mechanism of a refuse collection vehicle (RCV) and was crushed in the compaction mechanism. The inquest found that industry benchmarks relied heavily on procedural controls to prevent entry into the danger area during the lifting operation, which additionally would place members of the public at risk. HSE and the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) have recently worked together to prevent future deaths in the waste and recycling sector. This involved placing restrictions on the machine-type standard and manufacturers had to address the shortfalls in safety.

HSE drove the formation of a working group involving the British Standards Institution, UK machine manufacturers and users to produce recommendations through the creation of a new process, adopted by OPSS, to address shortfalls in the existing European Standard. Within 2 years of an unfortunate fatality, HSE has driven technological changes to safeguarding and addressing foreseeable human behaviour. The work demonstrates how HSE can lead the technological development of safeguarding solutions, thus contributing to maintaining GB's record as one of the safest countries to work through preventing future deaths.

### **Securing compliance with the law**

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

**Rathburn Chemicals – explosion:** As a result of a failure to control the risks of explosion of excess flammable gasses generated by the company's distillation process, Rathburn Chemicals pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £40000 plus a victim surcharge of £3000. A laboratory on the site was demolished (see image below) as a result of the explosion.



**Ministry of Defence – Crown Censure:** Staff Sergeant John McKelvie of Drongan in Ayr, was killed during a training exercise after the Jackal vehicle he was driving rolled multiple times down a steep hill at Catterick Training Area on 29 January 2019. An investigation into the incident found failures to appropriately plan and manage the hazardous activities being undertaken by trainees and led to a Crown Censure being issued to the Ministry of Defence in October 2024.

**Sabel Cosmetics Ltd:** An unannounced inspection to these premises uncovered electrical deficiencies that posed serious risks of both electric shock and electrocution to workers. The subsequent investigation found inadequate construction and maintenance of the electrical system which presented an immediate risk of employees coming into direct contact with exposed live parts on equipment and machinery within the company premises. The company allowed the breaches to subsist over a long period of time. In October 2024, Sabel Cosmetics pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 (1) of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 and was fined £56,695 and ordered to pay £5,949 costs.



**Sanctuary Housing Association:** Following an outbreak of legionella, an investigation found that Sanctuary Housing failed to properly manage its hot and cold water systems at Vincent Naughton Court, Birkenhead. Its residents were a particularly vulnerable group due to their age and underlying health issues, putting them at a higher risk of contracting legionnaires' disease. Sanctuary Housing Association pleaded

guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, was fined £900,000 and ordered to pay £11,480.60 in costs.

**ASM Metal Recycling:** A routine inspection at its metal recycling site in Beaconsfield identified failings in the segregation of moving vehicles from pedestrians, exposing workers who had been manually sorting waste at risk of being struck by moving vehicles. The inspector observed and [filmed](#) dangerous working practices. The subsequent investigation further identified that ASM Metal Recycling Ltd had previously identified the risks of pedestrian-vehicle collision but had failed to implement effective control measures to prevent this. Furthermore, HSE had previously served enforcement notices on ASM Metal Recycling Ltd in 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018. HSE also wrote Notification of Contravention letters to the company in 2021 and 2023. ASM Metal Recycling Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. It was fined £650,000 and ordered to pay £5,885 costs.

**Screening Consultancy and Supplies Ltd:** After an employee suffered multiple fractures to the ulna and radius bones in his right arm whilst cleaning debris of the bed of a radial arm drill, Screening Consultancy Services Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.



The company was fined £28,000 (after 1/3 deduction for an early guilty plea) and ordered to pay costs of £3616.50 at Birmingham Magistrates' Court. The District Judge agreed with HSE's position of high culpability and high likelihood of harm arising.

## **Ensure HSE is a great place to work, and we attract and retain exceptional people**

HSE ran an internal practical hearing protection workshop in Buxton for visiting staff who use hearing aids. This workshop was supported by HSE's Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) team in order to explore adequate and suitable hearing protection for hearing aid users in noisy environments. From this workshop, HSE will develop internal HSW guidance and will then promulgate key industry learning, via the UK Hearing Conservation Association.

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

Since the last update to the Board, **3** fatalities which occurred in 2023/24 and **9** 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>
04/12/2023	Amarpreet Bhatti	47	The deceased fell from height	Oxford	Construction	Employee
02/03/2024	Brian Abbs	71	The deceased was trapped by something collapsing or overturning	East Cambridgeshire	Agriculture	Employee
02/03/2024	Lee Abbs	42	The deceased was trapped by something collapsing or overturning	East Cambridgeshire	Agriculture	Member of the public
24/05/2024	Paul Whitehair	51	The deceased was struck by an object	Broxbourne	Construction	Employee
22/06/2024	Rebekah Robinson	51	The deceased was struck by an object	Staffordshire Moorlands	Services	Member of the public
09/07/2024	Carl Shephard	58	The deceased fell from height	Redbridge	Construction	Self employed
21/07/2024	Graham Ross	61	The deceased died while under residential nursing care	Perth & Kinross UA	Services	Member of the public
29/07/2024	Connor Lambert	22	The deceased came into contact with electricity	Cheshire West and Chester UA	Construction	Employee
02/08/2024	Niall Fawcett	21	The deceased was trapped by something collapsing or overturning	Cheshire West and Chester UA	Services	Employee
04/09/2024	Colin Paul Devlin	48	The deceased fell from height	North Tyneside	Construction	Self employed
07/09/2024	Charles Emslie	71	The deceased fell from height	Aberdeenshire UA	Agriculture	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](#).

10/09/2024	Valerie McNab	80	The deceased died following a fall	Inverclyde UA	Services	Member of the public
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Health and Safety Executive Board			HSE/24/M07
Meeting Date:	28 January 2025	FoI Status	Open
CM Reference:	2024/272634		
<b>Minutes of HSE Board Meeting – 26 November 2024</b>			
Redgrave Court, Bootle			

**Attending**

Sarah Newton (chair)	Chyrel Brown	David Coats
Martin Esom	Christopher Johnson	Cathie Mackie
Ged Nichols	Ken Rivers	Claire Sullivan

**Also attending**

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

██████████ – CEPS      ██████████ – item 5      ██████████ – item 6      ██████████ Kate Haire – item 7

██████████ – item 9

**Apologies**      Michael Jennings

**Minutes**      Dawn Hepworth

<b>Closed Meeting</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Apologies were received from Michael Jennings.  There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p><b>Draft Minutes of 24 September 2024 (HSE/24/M06), matters arising and action (HSE/24/AL)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The draft minutes were cleared subject to an amendment to the attendance list.</li> <li>b) The Board noted the updates to the Action Log.</li> <li>c) There were no matters arising.</li> </ul> <p><b>Chair’s update</b></p> <p>The Chair informed the Board that, since the Board’s last meeting in September, she had, on its behalf, approved the Offshore Installations (Safety Zones)(No 2) Order 2024 to be submitted to the Minister for Social Security and Disability.</p> <p><b>Committee updates</b></p> <p><b>BSR Advisory Committee</b></p>

	<p>The Chair updated the Board on proceedings at the October meeting.</p> <p><b>Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC)</b></p> <p>Martin Esom updated the Board on the matters discussed and assurances received at the October ARAC meeting. These included: a review of the risk register; GIAA assurance activity; the assurance process for the Science Quality Assurance Group (SQAG); Audit reports on Fee for Intervention queries and disputes and Cyber Security; progress of NAO's Audit Completion Report and additional activity to bring it to a conclusion.</p> <p>David Murray informed the Board that the Comptroller and Auditor General had signed off the NAO report and the unqualified Annual Report and Accounts would be laid in Parliament by the end of November.</p> <p>The Chair expressed the Board's gratitude to colleagues involved for delivering the Annual Report and Accounts against the background of HSE's complex financial arrangements and new technical accounting standards.</p> <p>The Board was also assured on the improved quality and delivery of the GIAA audit plan, whilst noting the Chief Executive's concerns about the methodology for calculating the fee increase.</p> <p><b>Science Quality Assurance Group</b></p> <p>Andrew Curran updated the Board on proceedings at the October meeting, which included: a positive deep dive into the Workplace Health Expert Committee; planning future deep dives; reviewing the SQAG deep dive recommendations log; and assurance activity around workplace stress. The Board was assured on the strategic focus given to the Group's deep dive activity.</p> <p><b>Finance and Performance Committee</b></p> <p>Debbie Gillatt updated the Board on proceedings at the October meeting, describing the new format for meetings. The Committee received a verbal update on discussions from the Performance Hub and was assured on the actions being taken by ExCo to address the shortfall against target of pro-active inspections. The Committee was also assured on the action taken in response to the mid-year financial review and preparation for the forthcoming spending reviews. A deep dive into Building Safety Division (BSD) operations also gave assurances that risks were being managed, whilst acknowledging that some external factors were impacting delivery and consequently posing reputational risk. Lessons learnt from the embedding BSD into business as usual activity were being considered and applied.</p>
Decision	Minutes of previous meeting cleared.
2	<b>Chief Executive's Report (HSE/24/42)</b>
	<p>In addition to her written report, Sarah Albon updated the Board on several matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headline scores for the annual People Survey. A majority of scores had increased. Clare Millington-Hume confirmed that the outcome would be considered in more detail by the Finance and Performance Committee in January. A comparison would also be undertaken to benchmark HSE's results against other organisations of similar size. Early analysis had identified areas requiring focus for which plans would be developed.</li> <li>• Proposals in relation to Legal Services Division.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent Senior Leaders meeting where use of resources and forthcoming spending reviews had been the main focus of discussion.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">Annual Health and Safety</a> statistics release.</li> <li>• Engagement with Ministers in respect of Building Safety, including action to support delivery of the Government’s response to the Grenfell Inquiry report.</li> <li>• The considerable support provided to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) in relation to the risks posed by a recent hazardous cargo incident.</li> </ul> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That further work was to be undertaken as a result of the hazardous cargo incident both in relation to possible enforcement action and consideration of the development of a specific framework for dealing with future incidents. The Board recognised the exemplary work of all of those colleagues involved in supporting the various duty holders and other regulators to manage the risks posed during the incident.</li> </ol>
<b>3</b>	<b>Business Performance (HSE/24/43)</b>
	<p>David Murray presented the performance report for October 2024, drawing the Board attention to positive areas of performance, including: Planning Gateway One applications; Biocides and Pesticides permissions; gas competency checks; fatal and non-fatal investigation completions; CEMHD major hazard activities; Major Hazard safety case/reports; potential prosecutions reaching a charging decision. Areas of focus included: pro-active inspections; investigation closures; recruitment timelines; average working days lost. Most Business Plan milestones were on track or already delivered.</p> <p>He also updated on the current financial position and engagement with OGD funding stakeholders regarding the forthcoming spending reviews.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The issues causing the pro-active inspection shortfall and short-term action being taken to recover the position, with close oversight from the Operations and Regulation Committee and further assurances being provided to the Finance and Performance Committee.</li> <li>2. The challenges for in-year budget management and how risks are being mitigated.</li> <li>3. The positive impact of HSE’s new Case Management System so far being encountered during the phased rollout. The Board acknowledged the work of the in-house team who had been responsible for delivery of the new system.</li> </ol>
Decision	The Board noted the Performance Report.
<b>4</b>	<b>Science, Engineering and Analysis (SEA) Assurance (HSE/24/44)</b>
	<p>Andrew Curran presented this item, setting out the ExCo agreed process for assurance of HSE’s SEA activities, inviting the Board also to confirm its agreement.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That, as part of this process, SQAG would undertake an effectiveness self assessment exercise, including 360 degree feedback for its Chair.</li> </ol>

Decision	The Board confirmed its agreement that the process would provide appropriate assurances and requested a diagrammatic representation of the process for reference.
<b>5</b>	<b>Data collection – Analysis of LAE1 2023/24 data from Local authorities and LA/HSE co-regulatory partnership (HSE/24/45)</b>
	<p>██████████ presented this item, explaining the process for collecting the raw data from HSE's LA co-regulators, assumptions made on validation, the analysis work undertaken and the conclusions arrived at. It was noted that activity undertaken as part of a primary authority arrangement had not been consistently captured in the data.</p> <p>The Board recognised the financial challenges faced by LAs and how these had influenced decisions around prioritisation of funding and resources on delivery of statutory services. Whilst there had been an increase in warranted environmental health officers, this had not translated to increased health and safety inspection/enforcement activity undertaken by them. The Board however noted that there was no evidence to suggest that the activity had been anything less than effective but the changes to GB's work environment [since the H&amp;S Enforcement Authority Regulations] and focus of government priorities [eg mental health] had pivoted some of the risk profile towards LA-enforced sectors.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How, through the guidance issued to them, LAs were supported in targeting their activity in line with HSE's and the government's strategic priorities.</li> <li>2. That further work was to be undertaken to gather more evidence and develop metrics to measure performance and impact of LA activity to provide a benchmark for delivery of the section 18 HSWA obligations.</li> </ol> <p>Options to raise the Board's concerns on the challenges faced by LAs in fulfilling their section 18 obligations were discussed and agreed.</p>
Decision	The Board was not wholly assured that Local Authorities had been able to fulfil their obligations.
<b>Action 1</b>	The report would be published and shared with the Minister.
<b>6</b>	<b>2023/24 Annual Report on the delivery of the functions of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) and planned work for 2025/26 (HSE/24/46)</b>
	Rick Brunt, supported by ██████████, presented this routine annual report, drawing out headline information around licence holder numbers and participation. He also updated the Board on matters related to the future provision of the inspection activity.
Decision	The Board noted the report.
<b>7</b>	<b>Proposed consultation on Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage and offshore hydrogen regulatory proposals (HSE/24/47)</b>
	██████████ presented this item inviting the Board to agree to the submission of the draft consultation package to the Minister to commence the collective agreement process seeking to permission to go to public consultation. She highlighted a minor addition to the previously agreed approach (November 2023) in relation to cost recovery for travel and subsistence for offshore windfarm

	<p>inspections, confirming that this was to regularise a provision already voluntarily in place amongst dutyholders in the sector.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whilst the priority was to focus on CCUS and hydrogen, that future-proofing the regulatory framework to enable it to flex for other new technologies was already being considered.</li> <li>2. That the emphasis of some of the questions in the consultation document could switch to establish whether there were legitimate reasons for different regimes.</li> </ol>
Decision	Subject to the suggestion regarding the focus of the questions, the Board agreed for the Minister to be asked to give approval to commence the consultation process.
<b>Action 2</b>	Consider the emphasis of some of the consultation questions to reflect the points made by the Board.
<b>8</b>	<b>HSE work on legislative reform of chemicals legislative regime (HSE/24/48)</b>
	<p>██████████ presented this item inviting the Board to agree the proposals to reform the chemicals legislative regime, using powers in the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023, and seek agreement to obtain the Minister's approval to Write Round ahead of a formal consultation. The reforms would transform the approval framework and would support growth in the sector. She gave assurances that, whilst the timetable to deliver the changes was ambitious, it would be achievable. She informed the Board that the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) had given a green rating to the Biocides Options Assessment of the proposed changes.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The changes would lead to minimal divergence from the EU framework, and would either maintain or improve protections.</li> <li>2. The impact of the proposals on the arrangements for Northern Ireland (the Windsor Framework) had been considered and taken into account.</li> <li>3. The engagement that had taken place with stakeholders and overseas counterparts.</li> </ol> <p>The Board congratulated the team on having receiving the green rating from the RPC.</p>
Decision	The Board agreed to the next steps to seek the Minister's approval to commence consultation.
<b>9</b>	<b>Proposed changes to the Control of Lead at Work Regulations exposure values and associated guidance (HSE/24/49)</b>
	<p>Rick Brunt presented this item inviting the Board to agree to HSE's seeking the Minister's approval to informally consult on an option to lower lead exposure values and develop evidence to consider adjusting the occupational exposure level.</p> <p>The Board noted the proposals and asked the team to consider the feasibility of accelerating the transition specifically in relation to the introduction of new levels for individuals of childbearing capability, given that many affected employers were already working at or below the proposed levels.</p>

Decision	The Board agreed that, subject to reconsideration of the proposed transition period mentioned above, the Minister's approval to informally consult could be sought.
Action	Report to the Board the outcome of the further consideration of the transition period.
10	<b>UK Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (UK REACH): Lead in ammunition (LiA) restriction proposals for Great Britain (HSE/24/50)</b>
	<p>██████████ and ██████████ presented this item inviting the Board to note the lead in ammunition (LiA) proposals and planned communications.</p> <p>The Board sought and received assurance on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the supporting documentary evidence to be submitted to the Appropriate Authorities and Secretary of State would clarify the reasoning behind the recommendation to either restrict or take no action.</li> <li>2. That the planned communications activity, including a Q&amp;A document, would clearly articulate, in jargon-free terms, how the risks posed to society, human health and the environment, including birds and wildlife, by lead would be better controlled through these proposals.</li> <li>3. That the approach was consistent with activity being taken by the European Chemicals Agency and for some forms of lead ammunition similar conclusions on restriction had been reached (therefore trade with the EU would not be impacted).</li> </ol>
Decision	Subject to the steer given, the Board agreed that the recommendations should be published and submitted to the policy owners (Defra) to make a decision about bringing a restriction into force.
11	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p>There Board was informed that its 2023/24 effectiveness review would take place during quarter 3.</p> <p>The Board was also informed of Clare Millington-Hume's intention to retire at the end of May 2025. The process for recruitment of her replacement would commence shortly.</p>