## Westminster Legal Policy Forum and Westminster Business Forum Keynote Seminar The future of health and safety law - in search of a 'common sense' approach

*Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 17*<sup>th</sup> *January 2012* 

Venue: Telford Theatre, One Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA

Agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 Chairman's opening remarks

Katy Clark MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Health and Safety Group

9.05 - 9.35 The Löfstedt review - reviewing and consolidating legislation

**Professor Ragnar Löfstedt**, Chair, *Reclaiming health and safety for all: An independent review of health and safety legislation* and Director, King's Centre for Risk Management, King's College London

Questions and comments from the floor

9.35 - 10.05 <u>Implementation and enforcement - the view from the regulator</u>

Judith Hackitt, Chair, Health and Safety Executive

Questions and comments from the floor

10.05 - 11.00 Health and safety regulation - assessing a renewed framework

Perspectives on the current agenda for reform of health and safety regulation since Lord Young's review 'Common Sense, Common Safety'. Has the creation of an official register for Occupational Safety and Health Consultants laid the foundations for adequate regulation of the profession, and to what extent does rogue advice continue to be a problem for the sector? How can Government's plans for light-touch and better targeted regulation produce efficiency gains without reducing health outcomes? What sectors are most likely to flout regulation in search of a competitive advantage, and will proposed financial deterrents for serious breaches be adequate to address this ongoing concern? How have stakeholders reacted to recent initiatives - such as simplified self-assessment forms for small businesses - and will Government's broader aims to shift regulation away from low-risk working environments provide the intended boost to competitiveness and growth?

Susan Murray, National Health and Safety Advisor, Unite the Union

Paul Reeve, Head of Health, Safety and Environment, Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA)

Mary Boughton, Chairman, Health and Safety and Risk Management Committee,

Federation of Small Businesses

Andy Lucas, Operations Manager (Health and Safety), Birmingham City Council

Kevin Bridges, Partner, Pinsent Masons and Member of Council, Institution of Occupational

Safety and Health (IOSH)

Questions and comments from the floor

11.00 - 11.05 Chairman's closing remarks

Katy Clark MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Health and Safety Group

11.05 - 11.35 Coffee

11.35 - 11.40 Chairman's opening remarks

Rt Hon The Lord Hunt of Wirral, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Legal and Constitutional Affairs and

Chair, Financial Services Division, DAC Beachcroft

11.40 - 12.30 Health and safety law - personal injury litigation, referral agencies and civil justice reform

To what extent will the future of health and safety be impacted by corresponding reforms to civil justice? How might Government's aims to shift the cost of litigation away from the defendant and on to the claimant - such as recently announced proposals to abolish the recoverability of success fees - help curb the perceived compensation culture? What impact will corresponding plans to restrict the operations of referral agencies and control personal injury advertising have on

the sector? Does Government's agenda for reform pose a threat to access to justice?

Andrew Dismore, Campaign Co-ordinator, Access to Justice Action Group (AJAG)

Nick Starling, Director of General Insurance and Health, Association of British Insurers (ABI)

Karl Tonks, Vice-President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

Paul Hopkin, Technical Director, Airmic

Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 - 12.55 No win no fee: the Government's reforms

Robert Wright, Head of Civil Litigation and Funding, Ministry of Justice

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks

Rt Hon The Lord Hunt of Wirral, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Legal and Constitutional Affairs and

Chair, Financial Services Division, DAC Beachcroft

Sean Cudmore, Senior Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum and Westminster Business Forum

