

Westminster Legal Policy Forum and Westminster Business Forum Keynote Seminar
Health and Safety after the Löfstedt Review - consolidating regulation and addressing over-compliance

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 6th November 2012

Venue: Johnnie Walker Room, The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR

Draft agenda subject to change



8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
David Rutley MP

9.05 - 9.35 **Health and Safety after the Löfstedt Review - priorities one year on**
Judith Hackitt, Chair, Health and Safety Executive
Questions and comments from the floor

9.35 - 10.25 **Reviewing regulation and enforcement - consolidation, simplification and revocation**
In what ways will Government's agenda for simplifying and reducing health and safety regulation - including statutory instruments owned by the Health and Safety Executive, as well as associated Approved Codes of Practices (ACoPs) - impact on key stakeholders such as businesses, employees, local authorities and the general public? Can Government realistically reduce the number of regulations by more than 50 per cent without reducing health and safety outcomes? How can ACoPs better assist dutyholders understand and meet their health and safety obligations, and to what extent do they need to be written in a less complex and legalistic manner? In what ways can local authorities take a more consistent and proportionate approach to enforcement as proposed by Government, and how might the expanded use of Primary Authority support this - particularly in relation to inspection regimes?
Duncan Spencer, Safety Manager, Waitrose Division, John Lewis Partnership
Robert Baughan, National Officer for Health and Safety, UNISON
Kizzy Augustin, Associate (Solicitor-Advocate), Pinsent Masons
James Armitage, Service Manager, Food, Health & Safety, Westminster City Council
Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 - 10.30 **Chairman's closing remarks**
David Rutley MP

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee

11.00 - 11.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Katy Clark MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Health and Safety Group

11.05 - 11.35 **Implementing the Löfstedt Review - an update from the Department for Work and Pensions**
James Wolfe, Deputy Director, Health and Wellbeing, Department for Work and Pensions
Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 - 12.25 **Reforming the legal framework - strict liability and over-compliance**
To what extent does "fear of civil litigation" drive a culture of over-compliance in relation to health and safety regulation as implied by Government, and how might policymakers tackle this as part of a wider agenda for reform? In what instances should strict liability be removed from this area of regulation, and should more discretion be given to individual cases - as is applied in criminal liability? To what extent would stakeholders benefit from a reformed pre-action protocol for personal injury, and how might this help businesses avoid unnecessary or unfounded claims arising from health and safety regulation? Do Government's proposals to rebalance liability give enough consideration and protection to employees and the general public, and are enough safeguards in place to ensure meritorious claims are made?
Matthew Stockwell, Vice-President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
James Dalton, Assistant Director and Head of Motor and Liability, General Insurance Directorate, Association of British Insurers
Kevin Minton, Senior Manager, Construction Plant-hire Association
Anne Davies, Special Counsel, Withers
Questions and comments from the floor

12.25 - 12.55 **EU strategy for occupational health and safety**
Dr Jesús Álvarez Hidalgo, Principal Administrator, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Katy Clark MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Health and Safety Group
Marc Gammon, Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum