

Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar:

Health and safety reform - regulation, litigation and risk

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 9th December 2014

Venue: The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Viscount Bridgeman, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Occupational Safety and Health Group
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Reforming health and safety - context and remaining challenges**
Professor David Ball, Professor of Risk Management, Middlesex University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.00 **Delivering health and safety reform - next steps for a modernised framework**
Jane Willis, Director of Cross-cutting Interventions, Health and Safety Executive
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 - 10.55 **Regulation in practice - funding, partnerships and engagement**
What impact has Government's ongoing implementation of the Lofstedt recommendations - alongside the HSE's recent triennial review - had on the UK's framework of health and safety regulation, particularly in relation to its simplification, and the cost of its enforcement? What effect has the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Fee For Intervention (FFI) initiative had on efficiency of regulation, business practice and compliance? What further steps can the HSE take to reduce costs, whilst also retaining sufficient regulatory oversight and inspection activity? How successful are cross-regulatory partnerships between HSE and other national regulators proving - such as current work being undertaken in partnership with the Office of Rail Regulation on High Speed 2? How has the revised framework for Approved Codes of Practice been working in practice, and is there an identifiable need for further simplification or consolidation? In light of the forthcoming review of the National Local Authority Enforcement Code, what more can be done to promote consistency and proportionality across the enforcement approaches of local authorities - particularly in terms of identifying the inappropriate targeting of lower risk premises? To what extent are stakeholders satisfied with the accessibility of information regarding regulatory change, and how measurable are HSE initiatives such as the "Health and safety made simple" website in preventing over-compliance?
Neal Stone, Policy & Communications Director, British Safety Council
Duncan Spencer, Safety Manager, Waitrose Division, John Lewis Partnership
Keith Lawson, Commercial Team Leader, Environmental and Community Health Services, Huntingdonshire District Council
Ken Moon, Chairman, Regulatory Reform and Health and Safety Policy Unit, Federation of Small Businesses
Thomas Martin, Joint Managing Director, Arco
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Viscount Bridgeman, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Occupational Safety and Health Group
- 11.00 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord McKenzie of Luton, Shadow Spokesperson, Communities and Local Government and Member, All-Party Parliamentary Occupational Safety and Health Group
- 11.30 - 12.25 **Health and safety law - litigation, legislation and risk**
What has been the effect of changes to employers' liability, as included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act, on health and safety litigation - meaning that strict liability is now defensible in cases where reasonable actions were taken to reduce risk? To what extent has this step affected employee rights, now that the burden of proof has shifted to claimants? How has the reduction of risk for employers impacted on insurance premiums? To what extent are stakeholders concerned by the potential conflict of this change in legislation with European directives - meaning that public bodies can still be sued for breach of health and safety regulations under EU law but not under domestic law? What more can the HSE and Government do to engage with Europe on risk-based health and safety legislation, and what are the emerging priorities for stakeholders at a European level?
Jim Wilkes, Senior Technical Underwriter, Zurich Insurance
Robert Baughan, Assistant National Officer for Health and Safety, UNISON
Steffan Groch, Chair, Health and Safety Lawyers' Association, and Partner, DWF
Paul Harrison, Head of Health & Safety, Croner
Matthew Stockwell, Immediate Past President, APIL
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Emerging priorities for health and safety policy**
Anna Bliss, Steward, Health, Safety and Nuclear Regulation Portfolio, Health and Safety Stewardship Team, Department for Work and Pensions
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Lord McKenzie of Luton, Shadow Spokesperson, Communities and Local Government and Member, All-Party Parliamentary Occupational Safety and Health Group
Marc Gammon, Senior Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum

Seminar supported by Arco