



**‘HSE – Annual Progress Report
Future Plans’.**

**Sam Peace, HSE Divisional
Director, Wales, Midlands and
South West.**

Sam opened her presentation with a reminder that everyone in the room today shares a common goal, and that the work of BHSEA Members is synonymous with the work of the HSE.

Sam said that her presentation will pick up on the issues raised by her predecessor, Rosi Edwards at the BHSEA AGM in January 2013, and explore the progress/outcomes.

Death & Major Injury Rates (W Midlands):

- Deaths 148 (171)
- Major Injuries 20,600 (10.8% drop)

Sam commented that there may be fewer major injuries of late, but that they are actually quite horrific.

Illness:

New health risks are emerging, for example, from the waste and recycling industry where the health record is generally not good. Recycling is a new industry and in such activities we don't always understand or appreciate the risks. The top health risks are unchanged from those that Rosi talked about a year ago and many of the strategies for tackling ill health in the workplace are either being or have recently been reviewed.

Fee For Intervention:

One year on...where are we? Sam made the point that the HSE targets risks, not money. Some figures to consider.....

11,441 Number of invoices issued.
11,282 Duty holder invoices issued.
(Sam told us that the average cost of an invoice is £483).

283 Queries following receipt of invoice.
(This is low and Sam believes it is an indication that Inspectors are being very clear about what they are doing and why). It is a figure that is just over 50% of that projected.

274 Queries resolved.
9 Level One disputes
0 Level 2 (independently investigated dispute).

£5.5 Million Has been recouped.

Neil Boon asked whether a breakdown of the figures is available, and in which industries they were incurred? Sam said that the bulk of the invoices emanated from the construction and manufacturing industries. Dally Masaun was curious to know what happens to the £5.5 million collected. Sam explained that it is the businesses that do not comply who pay and not the general tax payer.

Sam commented that the number of prosecutions have broadly remained stable. Steve Parton suggested that if the HSE targets well, then there should be more prosecutions for failing to manage. It was agreed that the current targeting regime will be more about 'getting in' early and identifying management system failures and addressing those issues before something goes wrong.

Taking us through a series of Power Point presentation slides, Sam showed a particularly desperate looking work situation, and made the point that there doesn't need to be masses of site problems for a material breach to occur. Indeed, a material breach may involve one issue, for example, a confined space.

Safer Construction Sites:

Sam gave us some stats following this HSE campaign in September 2013:

- 2,607 Sites visited.
- 1,105 Not meeting basic standards.
- 644 Notices issued.
- 539 Prohibition Notices.

- 414 Improvement Notices.

Sam suggested that in view of the above, there was still a job to do!

Agriculture:

Of the 148 deaths:

- 29 in agriculture
- 39 in construction

Sam commented that the agriculture industry is 'a difficult nut to crack', in terms of making improvements. The HSE have led a number of campaigns that have been very successful but the 'pressure' needs to be kept up. Some of the most effective campaigns have been targeted at the farmer's family. Sam's view is that the fatalities are not tragedies, but rather needless deaths. There are, of course, those 'little people around on many farms and sometimes there is no concept of risk because the farming families have grown up in that environment. A culture change is needed. Farming is a business not a way of life. Another risk factor relates to age, with the average age on farms being 66 years.

There are also the risks associated with livestock and Sam related a story about cows that can literally jump over barriers and fences!

Manufacturing:

- 20 in manufacturing, including being pulled into machinery. All are accidents that could have been prevented.
- 10 in waste and recycling. This work activity is a huge priority for the HSE.

The Rest:

- Some services, hospitals (e.g. unrestrained windows).

Sam reported that the HSE is keeping a 'close eye' on the energy sector including wind turbines. People have got involved in this without being competent to do so. Wind turbines can, of course, be on-shore as well as off-shore. Standards are different between the two and off-shore turbines are particularly expensive.

Other Issues:

- Around 22 Regulations are disappearing.
- The system for dealing with complaints has been centralised at Liverpool.
- The website giving advice to members of the public has been revamped. The aim has been to give people the
- advice they want at the first hit. The language is simpler and the site has been made easier to navigate.

Triennial Review:

The detail has yet to be examined however, the news is good. The HSE has maintained its independence and it has been encouraging for the HSE to see how positive the impact of recent changes has been for stakeholders.

And the Future?:

The HSE has been asked to look at the skills mix on the HSE Board, and potential commercial opportunities. Board skill levels could be enhanced by bringing in independent candidates/members at Level One Reviews.

Members' Questions:

At the end of Sam's presentation, members were asked to make comments/ask questions. The main points from this debate were:

* **Myth Busting:**

General agreement in the room that 'a corner had been turned' with regard to this.

* **HSE Cuts:**

Following a general question about HSE resources for the future, Sam said that negotiations are continuing with the Treasury

and we won't know until they are completed. Sam reported that there is a

general aim to try to maintain the 'shape' of the HSE. There are a couple more tough years to go. The HSE are 'doing their bit' in terms

of making savings. Premises etc. are being rationalised/down sized.

The 'ceiling' of 22,000 inspections makes it crucial that the inspections are worthwhile.

*** Stress:**

Mark Hoare asked about the stress/wellbeing agenda? Sam said that

wellbeing is, in her view, part of the growth agenda. A well workforce is a

productive workforce. Sam added that HSE would intervene if a particular issue occurred however, stress is not a priority except through

the local authority partnership. Thus, the responsibility is discharged

through partnership working and stress is not a priority across the piste.

*** UK Safety Record:**

Sam said the UK has the third best safety record in Europe. In response

to a comment, Sam confirmed that the HSE does share health and safety

experiences with our European neighbours. We learn from each other.

*** Priorities?:**

Sam confirmed that there is indeed a published list of Priorities. Waste

and recycling is on the list and the topics include those work activities that

will kill and that the HSE can use to assess whether managers are doing

a good job.

*** Opportunities Abroad?:**

Sam confirmed that these opportunities do exist, and that the HSE has

indeed 'dipped its toe in the water' and shared expertise in other parts of

the world.

*** Level 1 / 2 Review:**

Anu Spratley asked about the people involved in the Level 2 Review.

Sam reported that it involved business people who make up an

independent and willing group.

Tim thanked Sam for her presentation and said that BHSEA was very much looking forward to working with her in the future.