

Construction Health Inspection Initiative 2020



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What this presentation will cover:



- Update on the HSE's response to the covid-19 pandemic
- HSE interventions at site level – the 2020 health inspection initiative
- Collaborative work with industry, including CONIAC, working groups and other stakeholders

Covid-19 spot checks in construction:



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- Since start of pandemic CD have carried out 4089 spot checks (3543 as site visits)
 - 53% of visits - no further action required – appropriate measures in place
 - 47% of visits – some form of action required from verbal advice to enforcement notices
 - Overall approach has been to secure control by working collaboratively with duty holders
 - 101 enforcement notices issued – most common defects relate to inadequate cleaning regimes, social distancing, and/or management arrangements

Covid-compliance visits: the use of Spot Check Support Officers



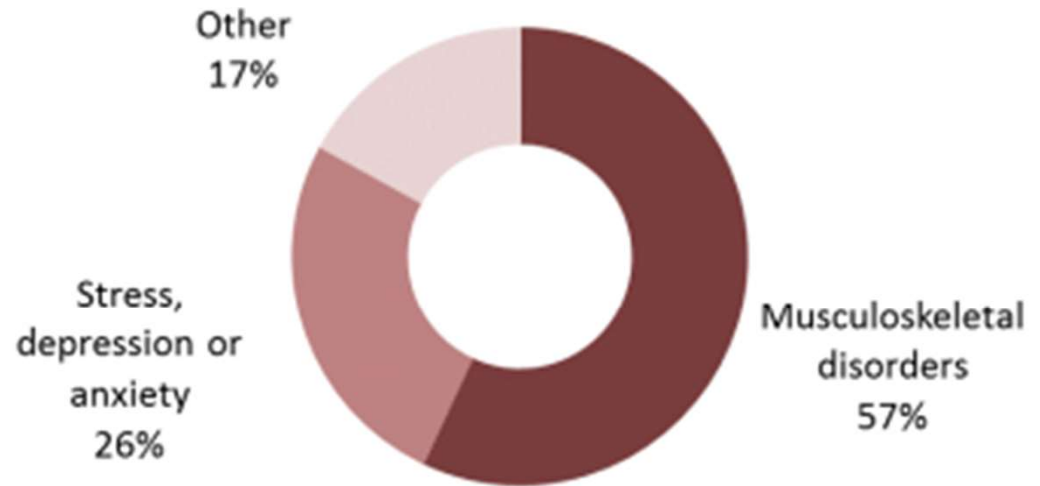
- Carry ID and letter of authorisation
- ID can be confirmed by calling HSE on 0300 790 6896
- SCSOs are not warranted HSE inspectors
- authorised to ask questions about the preparedness of the business and observe the measures taken re: COVID
- provide advice and guidance on how to operate in COVID-secure way
- not tasked with assessing any other aspects for regulatory compliance
- SCSO's conducting site visits may collect evidence of what they have observed in the form of notes & photos if required

Key health statistics in construction



81,000

workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing)



The cost of ill health



In construction around 2.1 million working days (full day equivalent) were lost each year between 2017/18 and 2019/20 due to:

- workplace injury 25% and
- work related illness 75%



The total cost in 2018/19 was estimated to be £1.2 billion. This accounts for 8% of the total cost across all industry.

HSE plan for construction – our priorities



- Supporting small businesses to achieve improved risk management and control
- Reducing incidents of ill health, with a particular focus on occupational lung disease and musculoskeletal disorders
- Embedding the principles of CDM 2015 with all duty holders
- Set out in the Sector plan for Construction

The image shows the cover of a report titled 'Sector plan for health and safety: Construction'. The cover has a dark red header with the HSE logo and 'Health and Safety Executive' text. The main title is in large, bold, black font. Below the title, there are two columns of text providing an overview of the construction sector's contribution to the economy and workforce. The report is divided into sections: 'Current position', 'Outcomes and priorities', and a list of key priorities. A photograph of construction workers in safety gear is visible in the bottom right corner.

HSE Health and Safety Executive

Sector plan for health and safety: **Construction**

The construction sector ranges from large, high-profile projects to small-scale works by the self-employed. Around 2.2 million people work in the sector, representing around 7% of the GB workforce.

The industry contributes around £97 billion to the economy and is dominated by smaller firms with around 84% having no employees and another 14% having 9 or fewer workers.

Current position

Construction remains a hazardous industry, accounting for almost 30% of all fatal injuries to workers. In the five years to March 2016, 210 construction workers died and many more received life-changing injuries at work.

Performance has improved over the past decade, and the number and rate of fatal incidents, work-related injury and ill health show a general, long-term downward trend. However, the levels of incidents and ill health remain high, with some recent signs of the numbers levelling off.

Developments in the management of health risks have not kept pace with safety improvements.

In 2015/16, 3.7% of the workforce suffered from an illness they believe was caused, or made worse, by their work. The sector has a statistically significantly higher rate of occupational lung disease and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) than the average for all industries.

The majority of fatal incidents involve small businesses, and nearly half of all reported injuries occur in refurbishment activities.

Risks on larger projects can be substantial but, generally, large projects are better at controlling risks than most small projects, where there can be a lack of awareness of even basic health and safety standards.

Outcomes and priorities

Construction will continue to be a priority sector for HSE. We want to see a continuation of the downward trends in fatal incidents, work-related injury and ill health, which will be tackled by achieving the following outcomes:

- Embedding the principles of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM)
- Focusing on a reduction in the cases of occupational lung disease, MSDs and work-related stress
- Supporting small businesses to achieve improved risk management and control

A photograph showing two construction workers wearing blue hard hats and high-visibility yellow safety vests, working on a roof with blue tiles.

The health inspection initiative 2020



- Main focus on covid-compliance and respiratory risks:
 - Asbestos (not licensed contractors)
 - Silica
 - Wood dust

Also expected to deal with:

- Welfare
- Other matters of evident concern, including safety issues e.g. unsafe work at height
- National inspection campaign across a range of sites where at least one significant respiratory risk was likely to be present
- No site excluded – wanted to get a broad picture and data range
- Local knowledge, F10 notification of projects used to help target effort and to maximise operational efficiency and impact

October 2020: What we found on site



- 1118 inspections carried out (includes 128 asbestos visits)
- Overall material breach rate 35% from proactive inspections (53% in 2019 campaign).
- 68 enforcement notices served on health issues, including welfare
- Domestic refurbishment sites worse performing (breach rate of 51%)
- Most health related non-compliance related to respirable silica and other respiratory sensitisers

Silica - key non-compliance themes:



- Most related to cut-off saw or angle grinder on bricks, blocks, concrete, roof tiles, flags etc.
- Tool used with water suppression missing / inadequate
- RPE: none provided, the wrong type and / or lack of face fitting
- Others related to breaking, chasing and dry sweeping



Asbestos - key non-compliance themes:



- Refurbishment and demolition survey related (not done or information not available)
- Asbestos containing material on site (waste)
- Lack of asbestos awareness training





HSE's ongoing key themes:

Need to refocus:

- **treat health like safety**
- **ill health can be prevented**
- **everyone as a role to play**
- **control the risk not the symptoms**

Opportunity to go further



- Evidence that CV 19 has shown how things can be better
- HSE coming together with rest of industry to see clear leadership on OHS



COVID-19 and construction:

Early lessons for a new normal?



Wendy Jones, Vivien Chow, Alistair Gibb
Loughborough University
August 2020

Balfour Beatty



MORGAN SINDALL GROUP

mace

SKANSKA

Focus on new ways of working with industry



- CONIAC (Construction Industry Advisory Committee) now working with CLC (Construction Leadership Council) on a pan-industry approach to improving health, safety & welfare.
- Tackling lung disease is one of the objectives of this work – plan to draw up a joint strategy between CONIAC and HCLG
- Making progress on lung disease relies on all parts of industry recognising the part they can play to address risk.

CONIAC – HSE working with the industry



CONIAN - The Construction Industry Advisory Network

CONIAC Steering Group and Working Groups



Acting Together
Steering Group



Keeping Pace with Change
Working Group



Managing Risk Well
Working Group



Sharing Our Success
Working Group



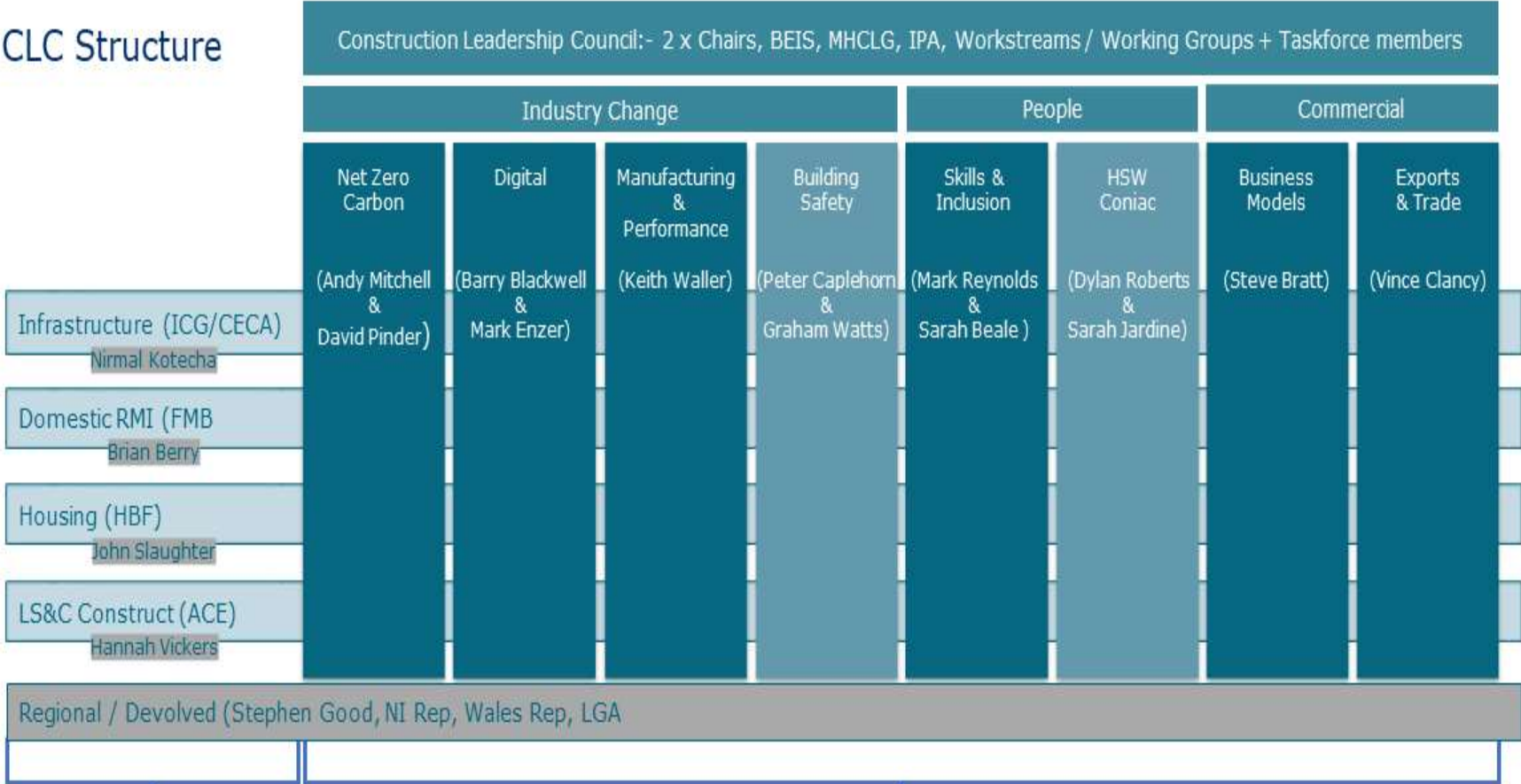
Supporting Small Employers
Working Group



Tackling Ill Health
Working Group

Working Groups & Workstreams

CLC Structure



IRP Working Groups
(industry led to interpret / implement workstreams for each sub-sector)

CLC Workstreams & Liaison with endorsement of Industry initiatives ('specifiers')

Summary



- HSE's response to the covid-19 pandemic – construction industry generally has performed well
- HSE interventions at site level – the 2020 health inspection initiative - some improvement seen in the management of risk but more needs to be done
- Collaborative work with industry, a strategic approach, but also an opportunity to make a difference at site level