



New Health and Safety Regulations in the Workplace: Adopting a Common Sense Approach

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Wednesday 14th March 2012

10:15am – 4:30pm

Central London

Public Policy Exchange, in association with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.

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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

New Health and Safety Regulations in the Workplace: Adopting a Common Sense Approach

Overview

Whilst Britain's general record in health and safety in the workplace remains commendable, stories in the media of cancelled public events, hampered voluntarism and disproportional personal injury claims reflect the increasingly bureaucratic nature of health and safety regulations in the UK, compounded by the unwelcome development of a 'compensation culture'. Seeking to bring some common sense back in to health and safety practice, thus restoring public confidence, freeing businesses from unnecessary red tape and supporting entrepreneurial growth, the Government commissioned Lord Young to undertake a wide-ranging review of the operation of health and safety laws in the UK.

Taking forward Lord Young's recommendations, the Government outlined its package of reforms in '*Good health and safety, good for everyone*' (March 2011), including shifting the focus of enforcement activity to high risk areas, and launching the Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register (OSHCR) in order to clamp down on rogue consultants and provide businesses with accurate, practical and consistent advice. The Government also launched the Lofstedt Review, '*Reclaiming health and safety for all: an independent review of health and safety legislation*' (November 2011), to identify how health and safety regulations could be simplified.

Whilst concluding that the problem of health and safety in the UK lies less with the regulations themselves and more with the way they are interpreted and applied, the Löfstedt Review recommended that employers should not be held responsible for damages in cases where they have done everything possible to manage risks and that self-employed people whose work poses no risk to others ought to be exempt from health and safety rules altogether. The review also argued that the role of the Health and Safety Executive in relation to local authorities should be significantly strengthened with new powers to direct all council inspection and enforcement activities to ensure greater consistency across the UK.

Having accepted the Löfstedt Review's recommendations, the Government has set out its plans to reform health and safety, including reducing the number of regulations by over half over the next three years. This timely symposium offers an invaluable opportunity for health and safety practitioners, HR professionals, local authorities, insurance companies and other key stakeholders in the private, public and third sectors to gain an understanding of the Government's reforms, its timetable for change and the impact such changes will have on workplaces across the UK.

“ Good health and safety is vital to good business. Sensible and proportionate health and safety regulation can support economic growth by maintaining a healthy and productive workforce. However, to be effective ... regulation needs to be easy to understand, administer and enforce. The Government is committed to simplifying health and safety legislation to ease the burden on business and encourage growth ”

“ But changing the health and safety culture for good will take a sustained effort from all of us – central and local government, enforcement agencies, the judiciary, insurers, consultants, employers and employees. This response sets out the path ahead and how Government will work with you to make a real difference. ”

- 'The Government response to the Löfstedt Report', November 2011

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/M5NUZ/

Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call **Daniel Spinner at HotelMap**, on **020 7292 2335** quoting **Special Reference Code M5NUZ**.



“ From the beginning we said getting the regulation of health and safety right is important to everyone. By accepting the recommendations of Professor Löfstedt we are putting common sense back at the heart of health and safety ”

- Employment Minister, November 2011

Why Attend?

- ✓ **Examine the Government's reforms to health and safety regulations in the workplace and understand how they will affect your organisation**
- ✓ **Discuss how to tackle the 'compensation culture' and restore confidence in health and safety**
- ✓ **Explore how to cut red tape and improve the enforcement of regulations to minimise the burden on businesses**
- ✓ **Consider how best to implement the new procedures in your workplace, managing risk, minimising cost and engaging staff**

Who Should Attend?

- Health and Safety Managers and Representatives
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Environmental Health Teams
- HR Professionals
- Occupational Health Professionals
- Organisational Development Professionals
- Welfare Rights Organisations
- Training Managers
- Insurance Companies
- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Disability Practitioners
- Employee Relations Advisers
- Legal Advisers
- Campaigning Organisations
- NHS Employers
- Emergency Services
- Private Sectors Employers
- Public Sector Employers
- Third Sector Employers
- Small Business Owners
- Regulatory Bodies
- Citizen's Advice
- Third Sector Practitioners
- Trade Union Representatives
- Mental Health Practitioners
- DWP and other Central Government Departments/Agencies
- Academics and Researchers

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Programme

09:30	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15	Chair's Welcome and Introduction
10:30	Panel Session One: Redrawing the UK Health and Safety Landscape – The Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where There's a Blame There's a Claim – Tackling the 'Compensation Culture' and Restoring Confidence in Health and Safety• Raising Standards – Professionalising Health and Safety Consulting in the UK• Strengthening Enforcement – Refocusing Inspection Activity, Simplifying Risk Assessment Procedures and Strengthening the Role of the HSE• Cutting Red Tape – Consolidating Health and Safety Regulations and Minimising the Burden on Businesses• Balancing New Health and Safety Procedures with EU Guidelines
11:15	Morning Refreshments
11:30	Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	Panel Session Two: Implementing the New Health and Safety Arrangements in Your Organisation – Adopting a Common Sense Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding the Government's Timetable for Change – Where are We Now and Where Do We Need to Get to?• Ensuring Businesses Understand their Responsibilities – Providing Practical, Accessible and Authoritative Guidance (OSCHR)• Managing Risk and Minimising Costs – Ensuring Your Organisation is Compliant• Championing Health and Safety in Your Organisation – Providing Strong Leadership and Accountability• Engaging Employees to Improve Health and Safety and Build Competence Across Your Workforce
14:15	Afternoon Refreshments
14:30	Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
15:40	Networking Reception
16:30	Close

****Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice****

Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact **Parvin Madahar** on **020 3137 8630** or email **parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk**

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 14th March 2012
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

Forthcoming Events

Universities Challenged: Shaping a Higher Education Sector Fit for the Future
8th February 2012

International Student Recruitment: Understanding and Working with the Points Based Immigration System
21st February 2012

Reforming Offender Management: Working in Partnership to Deliver a Rehabilitation Revolution
22nd February 2012

Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing: Working in Partnership to Tackle the Sexual Exploitation of Children
23rd February 2012



The Future of the NHS: Raising Care Quality Standards for Every Patient
1st March 2012

Recruiting Non-UK Nationals: Understanding and Working with the Points Based Immigration System
6th March 2012

Predict and Prevent: Emergency Preparedness and Civil Contingencies in a New Age of Uncertainty
13th March 2012

International Student Recruitment: Understanding and Working with the Points Based Immigration System
15th March 2012

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls: Reducing Risk through Prevention, Provision and Partnership
20th March 2012

Child and Adolescent Health and Well-being: Revitalising the Child Poverty Strategy
21st March 2012

Delegate Fees

Local Voluntary/Community Organisations	£195 per delegate (1 Place)	£175 per delegate (2+ Places)
Academic/National Charities/Local Authorities/NHS	£295 per delegate (1 Place)	£265 per delegate (2+ Places)
Central Government/Business Sector	£395 per delegate (1 Place)	£345 per delegate (2+ Places)

Conference materials

If you are unable to attend the conference but would like to receive the supporting documentation, then please send back this form with payment details and indicate the number of copies you would like to receive. (PDF = £95 & VAT, Hard Copy = £95 (VAT not applicable)).

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