

Site Safe Scotland Meeting – 21/03/19 – CECA Offices, Stirling. Meeting notes

Present

Sarah Shore, HSE
Graeme McMinn, HSE
Barri Millar, APS
Grahame Barn, CECA
John Bissett, CITB
Neil Wallace, IOSH Scotland, H & I Construction Safety Forum
James Lewsley, Scottish Contractors Group (SCG)
Brian Hume, Major Contractors
Paula Coopland, MPA Scotland
Emma Scoular, Renfrewshire Council
Robert Bradford, Scottish Construction Safety Group (Bathgate)
Stewart Morrison, SHBHSF
Davy Forfar, Specialist Contractors via SEC Group Scotland
Steven Dillon, Unite the Union

Apologies: John Stark, Anne Chesney, Allan Mulholland, Prof. Billy Hare, Ailsa Halcrow, Bill Gibson, Gordon Nelson, Pamela Clark, Pauline McCabe.

1. Welcome and apologies

Sarah Shore, HoOps, HSE opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting and thanking CECA for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting 03/05/18.

Sarah Shore asked if everyone had received copies of the minutes and if there were any amendments or corrections. Neil Wallace and Davy Forfar pointed out that their role descriptors were inaccurate. G McMinn noted the correct descriptors.

Sarah Shore read through the action points from last meeting 3rd May 2018 held at Glasgow Airport

- (a) Allan Mulholland to confirm action point under number 5 for questions regarding Gillies Crichton presentation.
There were no questions received regarding further information on Gillies presentation.
- (b) Allan Mulholland to advise if action points under number 6 relating to website, content, population etc.
Professor Billy Hare still investigating the possibility of using Glasgow Caledonian University, Scottish Construction Centre, website

Other than the above points the minutes were agreed as accurate.

3 Update of Grenfell

Sarah Shore gave a brief update on Grenfell during which she made reference to the recently published guidance on managing fire risk. Sarah also mentioned that HSE has set up a team of Inspectors to proactively visit high rise re-cladding projects. G McMinn advised that one of his team, Graham Mitchell, is on that team and the work involved JV with Scottish Fire & Rescue Service as it is primarily looking at managing the general fire precaution and process fire risks on site. Members asked how many sites identified in Scotland. Robert Bradford asked what proportion of time HSE spends inspecting fire safety on CD sites. G McMinn answered that general fire precaution and process fire safety are a topic to be raised at every inspection, but it was not possible to quantify percentage of time. It was mentioned that IOSH have produced guidance of fire safety.

Sarah Shore advised that Peter Baker CD Chief Inspector currently seconded to group who are looking at the Hackett Review and HSE are currently recruiting for a new temporary Chief Inspector.

Steve Dillon mentioned current issues being considered on fire safety by MSPs.

ACTION – Allan Mulholland to send this guidance to members:

Managing fire risk during cladding and insulation removal and replacement on tall buildings -

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/og/og-00106.pdf> this supplements

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg168.pdf>

ACTION – Allan Mulholland to provide list of identified sites in Scotland.

ACTION – Allan Mulholland to e-mail members with name of new Chief Inspector once announced. Post meeting confirmation that Sarah Jardine will be the new temporary chief inspector for the next 6 – 12 months. Sarah is currently the Head of Operations for HSE's Construction Division Midlands and North West, based in HSE's Nottingham office and will take up post after Easter.

The Grenfell discussion led to a question about the publication dates for the HSE guidance currently under review. Sarah Shore advised HSG 33 is at publish stage and should be available in two months, HSG 168 is at editing stage and HSG144 is at final draft stage.

There was some concern raised by members about lack of consultation with SSS on some of the guidance and about lack of feedback when information submitted to the consultations. Sarah Shore apologised and said there had been some confusion with internal communication links that had led to this situation.

4. Brexit update

Sarah Shore provided the group with a brief update on HSE Brexit preparations but admitted it was still a very flexible situation. She referred to the Construction Leadership Council paper on No Deal Contingency Planning.

Members mentioned the National Home Improvement Council presentation on procurement. Paula Coopland mentioned the issues for transition from CE marking to a UK mark which would involve retesting and re-badging with the knock-on costs.

Sarah Shore covered what HSE has been doing with REACH Regs.

ACTION – Allan Mulholland to send CLC paper to members:

CLC Brexit Contingency Planning <http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/110219-AHM-to-R-Harrington-MP-ltr-UK-Construction.pdf>

5. Update on HGBWW/CONIAN

Robert Bradford explained his involvement on the CONIAN / Tackling Ill Health working group (TIHWG), via being chair of the CECA National H&S Forum.

The TIHWG has published an update of its work to CONIAC on 24th January which provides that the Respiratory hazards item in respect of Exhaust Emissions has been issued but further work may be required in future to include Paraffinic Diesel engines which are increasing in prominence for operated plant.

The MSD sub group has been identified as having significant overlap with a separate work area of the HSE / HSL and has been subsumed into that work stream

The Welfare sub group has been similarly merged with another HSE work group Chaired by Chris Lucas, which has brought together the North West [of England] Safety group welfare standards group and the TIHWG sub group.

~~Robert has~~ attended two meetings in respect of developing guidance on welfare provision.

In respect of mental health, the TIHWG has agreed to signpost and promote the Health costs toolkit developed by HS2 and Mott McDonald. The sub group are also developing an industry toolkit based upon the HSE Talking toolkit.

TIHWG (in common with CECA H&S Forum and others) are seeking examples of approaches to issues which could be case studies, best practice or simply an example of approach taken in order that these can be more widely circulated.

Robert Bradford updated SSS on membership of the (Scottish Construction Safety Group) SCSG, has now over 200 individual members with over 100 companies represented (includes freelance / consultants). This year marks the 50th anniversary of the group in April

The committee are seeking as much support from the HSE in attending the meetings as possible as it makes a significant improvement on attendance at the meetings and provides face to face interaction between the industry and our regulator. Robert was also asked to point out that the group was set up by the HSE and that SCSG has long been active and supportive of the HSE / SSS in delivering WWT events.

Graeme McMinn advised that HSE does still take part in forums but requests for participation need to be raised with the correct contact person, ie the Principal Inspector covering the area who will be best placed to judge local resource and if required pass to another PI for assistance.

The SCSG committee would be supportive of the FMB proposal for licensing of contractors in the domestic sector as long as the license included evidence of the contractors discharging the Client's duties per CDM 2015 and particularly in relation to provision of suitable welfare.

SCSG wish to continue to register their concern about perceived lack of numbers of HSE Inspectors (concerns about experience were responded to by Graeme at the meeting). If there is little chance of being detected if not delivering safe work there was less impetus on some sectors of the industry to seek to protect those likely to be harmed.

Graeme's comment about finding some poor standards which were evident 15 years ago becoming evident again appears to indicate some recidivism in industry. Sarah's comments about a potential Principal Inspector having been interviewed and hopefully joining soon were noted as well as an acknowledgement that Edinburgh were ('a couple down'.)

NOTE: Edinburgh Construction PI post has now been offered and accepted

It was agreed that Russel Adfield and Chris Lucas would attend a future SSS meeting.

The group were to view a film on the Client Buddy Scheme but IT issues prevented this.

Concern that CCLG does not have traction in Scotland and there may be a role for SSS to take forward a Scottish Version of the client buddy scheme.

APS run LAIG in Scotland and could act as conduit between CONIAN and LAIG.

Question about HSE interaction with major clients in Scotland.

Consideration should be given to reviewing and refreshing links with industry groups in Scotland.

ACTION – Allan Mulholland to collate the level of HSE participation on industry forums.

ACTION – Allan Mulholland to send video link to members:

Construction Client Leadership Group CCLG – video link for Client Buddy Scheme -

<https://www.cclg.co.uk/clientbuddy>

ACTION – Sarah Shore to find out if HSE SECTOR engage with Scottish Clients.

6 Break – a most excellent lunch was provided by CECA.

7. HSE Update

Sarah Shore gave a brief update on the CD work plan for 2019/20 and covered the two planned UK wide inspection campaigns in June and October where health will again be a focus. Project work to include high risk demolition and cladding. WWT 60 SHADS with four planned in Scotland. Licensed asbestos inspections and reactive work.

Russell Adfield new CD sector lead, Tim Beaumont new PI for CD policy.

Concern raised about HSE staffing levels and experience in HSE in Scotland. Sarah Shore advised about new appointment of PI in Edinburgh & new recruitment of trainees. G McMinn spoke about experience levels and support provided to teams by current Edinburgh and Glasgow PIs who are longest serving PIs in CD. Discussion about HSE working within UK Gov budgets, more efficiency saving, support being provided for areas where resource levels lower.

Steven Dillon asked that HSE provide details of CD staff on Scotland now compared to 10 years ago. Feeling in industry that resource levels in Scotland are not sufficient.

ACTION – Reply required to question on staff numbers.

8. HSE Board Visit

Sarah Shore advised members that HSE Board are visiting Glasgow on 11th and 12th June and will involve meeting HSE staff and a forum involving all regulators in Scotland.

9. Recent CD deaths

Steven Dillon reaffirmed view about concern with level of HSE resource in Scotland. 14 workers died in Scotland at work last year – 7 in Cd and Ag. Mention of two recent deaths in Edinburgh and Clackmannanshire.

All to note that 28/04 is International Workers Memorial Day – events throughout country – on a Sunday to hopefully all can attend an event.

Steven is to send members details of events in Scotland.

TU discussions with Scottish Gov on industry wide insurance covering worker on CD sites.

Steven also informed members about Fair Work Convention and Fair Work Action plan and moves regarding regulating the CD industry better.

10 SSS members round up

Davy Forfar – Scaffolding Association have joined their group.

Paula Coopland – Machinery Isolation project. Guidance booklets to be sent to all members.

Grahame Barn – Role of PC on windfarms and conflict between the build and commissioning work. Renewables UK working groups set up on this but costs 30K for seat on group or 10K on sub-group – HSE on group. PC conflict role also apparent on sub-station projects.

John Bissett – new CITB training [videos](#) – **ACTION:** John Bissett to send links.

Emma Scoular asked about progress on website.

Professor Billy Hare still investigating the possibility of using Glasgow Caledonian University, Scottish Construction Centre, website

Neil Wallace mentioned IOSH Scotland National Conference at Perth with over 100 attending – to become annual event.

Members discussed drugs and alcohol policies and testing as feeling that results may not be linked to impairment and concerns that widespread testing leads to high numbers being asked to leave site. Members felt this topic was worthy of more discussion and even subject of a separate meeting.

11 AOB - none

12 Date of next meeting September 2019