The Issues and Challenges facing HSE

8th September 2014

Kevin Myers – Acting Chief Executive, HSE
Where are we now?

- 40 years since the introduction of the Health and Safety at Work Act
- UK has seen continuous improvement in health and safety standards
- Goal-setting, risk-based approach of HSWA has stood the test of time
Fatal injuries since introduction of HSWA
Construction fatal injuries since introduction of HSWA

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Employee</th>
<th>Self-employed</th>
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<td>1974</td>
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The policy environment for regulators

- Current Government policy for regulation:
  - Supporting growth
  - Reducing regulation
  - Streamlining and improving enforcement
- Expect themes to continue post-election
- Government funding for regulation likely to continue tightening
The policy environment

• Period of significant review and reform of health and safety landscape:
  – Simplify regulation and legislation
  – Provision of simplified suite of guidance
  – Greater focus on higher risk activities
  – LAs – National Enforcement Code
  – Reduction in number of inspections
  – Maintenance of enforcement profile

• Focused on making it easier to comply with the law not reducing levels of protection
A Regulatory Model

ENFORCE

Aware

SELF REGULATE

Committed

EDUCATE

Not Committed

Unaware

ENGAGE COMMIT
Hanging baskets were banned
“Elf ‘n safety”

- Victim of success
- Charter for poor service and/or jobsworths
- Section 3 HSW
- Insurance companies/health and safety profession
- Lawyers
- Lazy journalism
- Striving for continuous improvement or Zero harm
  - Back door prescription
  - Hazard, not risk, focussed
- British culture/Political correctness
  - cf Human Rights Act
- HSE response slow
Risk

- The Chinese attitude towards risk
Risk

- The Chinese for risk
Occupational Health

- Greater focus on ill health and occupational diseases
- Demonstrated by new Asbestos campaign
- Approach incorporates understanding of:
  - The barriers that stop people protecting themselves
  - The things that will stimulate behaviour change
  - The most effective targeting of messages
Commercialisation

• Unlocking the commercial potential of our intellectual property and our national and international standing
• Recover the full costs of what we do as a regulator where we can
• Most of all, protect and strengthen our regulatory capability
Key messages for Public Sector Services

- Fully understand risk profile and prioritise accordingly
- Focus on the real risks and taking proportionate action
- Health and safety should be integrated into mainstream thinking and ‘on the ground’ realities.
Health and Safety Executive

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