Welcome to this issue of IOSHinfo, our quarterly review. IOSHinfo is designed as a five-minute round-up for busy people, giving you a quick overview of IOSH’s headline news and information from the last three months. If you want to know more, just click on the links or drop us a line at info@iosh.co.uk

No Time to Lose on cancer caused by work

Industry leaders, politicians, academics and occupational safety and health specialists met at the House of Commons to kick-start a major new IOSH campaign to beat occupational cancer.

Around 100 people attended the launch of No Time to Lose, which aims to raise awareness of work-related cancer and help businesses take action. Companies are being asked to take up a six-point action plan. Jaguar Land Rover, Thames Water, Skanska, Laing O’Rourke and Royal Mail Group are among the first signatories.

Find out more and get involved at: www.notimetolose.org.uk

At the campaign launch Dr Lesley Rushton of Imperial College London presented the latest research findings on workplace cancer

Working safely training receives recognition in construction industry

IOSH’s one-day Working safely training course has now been recognised by the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) as equivalent to a Level 1 Award in health and safety in a construction environment. Now, by completing the course successfully and gaining a pass in the Construction Industry Training Board’s Health, Safety and Environment Operatives Test, workers can apply for a CSCS green labourer card and gain access to construction sites for work.

More details at: www.iOSH.co.uk/News/IOSH-Working-Safely-course-gets-construction-industry-recognition.aspx

Taking IOSH’s one-day Working safely course can help open the door to working on-site
Shaping a safer future

IOSH organised and hosted the WOS.net (Workingonsafety) European research conference, which took place in Glasgow in October. Safety professionals and researchers from 27 countries met to distil the implications for policy and practice from some 100 academic papers. In a keynote speech Dr Graeme Collinson, Chair of IOSH’s Research Committee, called for research in occupational safety and health to receive greater recognition and project funding. Chairing the conference, IOSH Executive Director of Policy, Dr Luise Vassie, said: “To make the world of work a safer place, we have to translate our findings and bridge the gap between academic results and practical solutions”

Developing managers for employee wellbeing

A new set of online and digital checklists will help to improve managers’ skills in managing sustainable employee engagement, health and wellbeing. The guidelines were developed by Affinity Health at Work, and supported by IOSH, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, the Health and Safety Executive and the Affinity Health at Work research consortium.

The guidelines are available at:
www.cipd.co.uk/hr-resources/research/developing-managers.aspx

Company transparency measures commended

IOSH has welcomed the European Council adoption of a directive which requires certain large companies and groups to report on a range of non-financial measures. Starting from financial year 2017, companies will have to provide information in their management reports on environmental, social and employee-related issues, as well as on respect for human rights, anti-corruption and bribery matters, and diversity on the boards of directors.

More information at:
www.iosh.co.uk/News/New-company-transparency-measures-welcomed-by-IOSH.aspx

In the news

• An article by IOSH Chief Executive Jan Chmiel was published in a Sunday Telegraph supplement in October, focusing on safety standards in construction – just as IOSH’s one-day Working safely training course gained recognition by the Construction Skills Certification Scheme
• IOSH’s No Time to Lose campaign launched in November. BBC Radio Leicester and ITV Central News interviewed IOSH Research and Information Services Manager, Jane White, and people with cancer caused by work. Rail, construction and health and safety publications covered the launch, as did parliament.uk, medicalnewstoday.com and finance.yahoo.com
• The IOSH Rural Industries Group workshop on managing cattle safely was reported in trade magazines and online press, including farminguk.com, southwestfarmer, smallholder, the cattle site and the beef site
• Regional newspapers Braintree and Witham Times, Essex County Standard, Maldon Standard, Brentwood Weekly and Chelmsford Weekly covered a mock trial hosted by IOSH’s Essex Branch, highlighting the consequences of health and safety failings in the workplace

Read the latest coverage at www.iosh.co.uk/news
Deregulation – a clear Clause for concern

IOSH voiced its disappointment after Peers voted 253 to 175 in favour of Government plans to deregulate some areas of health and safety. In particular, Clause 1 of the Government’s Deregulation Bill aims to make certain self-employed workers exempt from health and safety law – a change which IOSH and other bodies feel could lead to confusion, lower standards and increased risk of injury and illness at work.

More details:
www.iosh.co.uk/News/Lords-vote-to-keep-Clause-1-part-of-Deregulation-Bill.aspx

Some self-employed workers may face more risks at work if exempted from regulations

Plaudits for safer pizza production plant

Green Isle Foods won first prize at the National Food and Drink Health and Safety Awards 2014, organised by IOSH, with a simple idea to remove the need for manual handling at height of a heavy piece of equipment on a pizza production line.

Full story at:

Notable networks

At the IOSH Networks Conference in November, Singapore Branch received the Rob Strange Award for its efforts in working collaboratively with local businesses. Singapore’s Ministry of Manpower had invited the Branch to respond to a consultation on a new proposed design for safety regulation. At the same event, the Excellence in Communications Award was won jointly by the Rural Industries Group and East Anglia Branch, for organising an event on hazards and precautions in tree work.

Efforts must go on for garment workers

At an international summit in Brussels, IOSH called for continued effort to improve labour rights, working conditions and factory safety in Bangladesh’s ready-made garment industry. The summit received a progress report on the Sustainability Compact, which was launched by the International Labour Organization, the European Union and the Bangladesh Government following the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in Dhaka in April 2013, which led to over 1,100 deaths and more than 2,500 workers injured.

Further details from:
www.iosh.co.uk/News/IOSH-attends-international-summit-on-Bangladesh-factory-safety-after-Rana-Plaza-disaster.aspx

Conditions in Bangladesh’s clothing industry have come under international scrutiny

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Sentencing guidelines out for consultation

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on sentencing for health and safety offences, corporate manslaughter and food safety and hygiene offences. The consultation highlights the fact that fines imposed on organisations for health and safety offences have not reflected the harm caused, the culpability and, occasionally, the means of offenders. IOSH is asking members to contribute to the process. Send comments by 14 January 2015 to: consultation@iosh.co.uk

Working for workplace standards strategy

IOSH has joined a new BSI multi-stakeholder workplace standards strategy group, which includes the Confederation of British Industry, the EEF, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, the Trades Union Congress and the Health and Safety Executive. The initiative aims to discuss and agree potential areas for new workplace standards.

40 years’ dedication

The President’s Gold Award has been presented to Nick Shankster for more than 40 years of voluntary service to IOSH. He has held the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary of the IOSH Midland Branch, and has served in the capacity of its Honorary President. Now, after 21 years as Treasurer, he is relinquishing his role.

New presidential team

At November’s Annual General Meeting, Ian Harper succeeded Tim Briggs as IOSH President. Dr Karen McDonnell is President-Elect until late 2015. More details at: www.iosh.co.uk/news/IOSH-chooses-next-president-elect

Nick Shankster – a long association of dedicated work with IOSH Midland Branch

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