



The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

National Occupational Safety and health Committee Core theme for the coming period

Background

At the last meeting of NOSHC the Committee discussed possible core themes for their work over the next 12 to 18 months. These included:

- a policy and practice 'stock take' with key stakeholders on strengths and weaknesses across the whole H&S system;
- tackling barriers to a more positive public perception of health and safety; and
- ideas for fresh action on long term work related health damage.

The first project while useful, was considered too broad. It was suggested that the second, while being tackled in part by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), might not lead to any specific new initiative. The third theme had been raised in the Temple review and was likely to become the focus of new work by HSE.

Reference was also made to the need to encourage employers to prevent off-the-job accidents and to increase community safety outreach.

It was agreed that the chair and secretariat would discuss a way forward.

Suggested approach

The chair and secretariat would like the Committee to consider the following idea.

Organisations which are premier winners of RoSPA Occupational Safety and Health Awards (particularly sector award winners and past Sir George Earle Trophy winners) represent a major reservoir of energy, commitment and expertise which needs to be mobilised more effectively to help raise OS&H management performance standards across the UK economy, if not globally. The suggestion is that, at their next meeting in June, the Committee should discuss options for '**enhancing the influence of excellence**', discussing ways in which RoSPA can engage higher performing organisations (HPOs) in OS&H to increase the contribution which they make to improving health and safety performance outside their own organisations. Examples of such influence include:

- raising health safety standards via the supply chain, including via contractor selection and management;
- project work via trade associations and sector bodies;
- focus on managing occupational road risk (MORR) and 24/7 safety;
- creation of legacy websites (Olympics Big Build, Finning etc); and

- community safety initiatives and sponsorship of LASER centres, local safety groups etc.

There are very many other examples, including the work of the Scottish Higher Performers Forum convened by RoSPA (<http://www.rospa.com/occupationsafety/affiliatedgroups/scottishhigherperformers/meetings.aspx>). Many organisations engaged in OS&H outreach report on this in the context of their wider CSR strategies.

Many of these initiatives are undertaken by companies acting on their own or within a sector context as opposed to as part of nationwide movement or institute (For example the Campbell Institute in the US - <http://www.thecampbellinstitute.org>).

The suggestion is that the Committee should discuss the feasibility of establishing new forms of cooperation between HPOs within the RoSPA diaspora to work on priority challenges. These might include:

- comparing and sharing good practice around core OS&H management challenges such as setting targets and assessing performance, board level leadership, worker engagement, learning from H&S failures, communication etc.
- exercising leadership on major priorities such as MORR, long latency health damage etc;
- extending outreach to the community through groups, LASER etc and even taking a lead in establishing RoSPA 'Safe Communities'.

Challenges

The as yet untapped potential of HP organisations to engage people and raise H&S standards is enormous. The key question for RoSPA and NOSHC is working out where to start.

- Which projects are most likely to be attractive to these organisations, particularly busy OS&H professionals who will be tasked to contribute?
- Which senior leaders in which HPOs 'get it'?
- What resources are necessary to begin to coordinate greater HPO cooperation in OS&H?
- How attractive membership of a wider forum might be for HPOs, particularly their directors and senior OS&H professionals?

Conclusion

The chair and the secretariat take the view that the best approach would be to invite HPOs to come together to focus on a specific nationwide priority. They also feel that the challenge in the coming period should be to re-ignite enthusiasm for OS&H performance improvement, in contrast to the Government's more limited focus on compliance and the removal of health and safety 'burdens'.

Members are asked to consider how this approach might be taken forward.

Roger Bibbings
Partnership Consultant

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