

Commercial and Independent Special Interest Group

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Signal Times – December 2009

Dear member

Welcome to the last edition of the monthly e-mail journal for 2009

Firstly, a very warm welcome to the 75 new members who have joined our ranks in the past month. This brings total C&I SIG membership to over 700, with 600 people contactable via e-mail.

Note that we had a membership of 508 just two years ago so this increase is most pleasing – and generates useful additional funding from the CIEH via the capitation element

It is appropriate that as I write this seasonal edition of the journal in rural North Wales the view from my office window is a snow covered landscape. Fortunately we have escaped the travel chaos that occurred elsewhere in the UK over the last week but I am sure that we all sympathise with any members who were in traffic queues for hours, stranded in their cars overnight, involved in road accidents or trapped in a broken down trains in the tunnel under the English Channel for a lengthy period (to say nothing of enduring cancelled air flights, holiday or business travel restrictions, disrupted everyday domestic arrangements and so on).

I appreciate that none of this will apply to our 50 overseas members who are located in countries around the world and who will doubtless experience equally arduous conditions from time to time – I just thought you all might like to know what you are missing in the UK!

To business -

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Christmas Seminar & Lunch

Twenty three members enjoyed presentations from three excellent speakers and a very good lunch at the Central Park Hotel, London on Friday 11th December

Although this attendance was somewhat disappointing it was largely due to the absence of a number of usual stalwarts due to conflicting business commitments (as confirmed from apologies received in advance) – with everyone present attendance would have been around the usual 30-35 members.

The first two speakers – Wendy Burt (Connaught Compliance) and Laura Cowlshaw (Charnwood DC) – gave fascinating and extremely well illustrated presentations on their experiences in obtaining qualification as an EHP.

Wendy managed without any local authority support, working in a commercial post, obtaining all of the required practical experiences via the assistance of a wide range of officers including many C&I SIG members

Laura had a similar hard road to tread, travelling great distances to gain LA experience (unpaid) and again, using the help of many friends and colleagues to achieve her objective. During her period of training she was financing herself via the usual student route of part time and weekend work and juggling all of these activities alongside her training commitments.

The third speaker: Natalie Barrow (Cannock Chase DC) covered her experiences working within a team carrying out EH-linked activity, support and help to villagers in rural Peru. Again, this was a well illustrated and informative (often highly amusing!) presentation that was greatly enjoyed by the audience. Natalie concluded her session with an appeal to any members present who were interested to support this activity and gave contact details for further information

Chris Purslow (Chairman) presided over a lively Q&A session where the speakers very competently provided more information as required, answered questions, and ensured that the seminar ended on a high point (NB. It is worth noting that post-event a number of highly complimentary e-mails have been received from those present about the speakers and their sessions. Overall, the best comment is: “With such keen, committed and enthusiastic new members like these the future of the profession should be in safe hands!”)

The meeting ended at 12.30 PM, allowing members plenty of time for networking and drinks before lunch at 1.15PM

C&I SIG News

The new Management Board (for 2010-12) is confirmed as follows:-

Mike Bailey/Tessa Blewchamp/Andrew Colthust/Penny Dawson-Malone/Jim Fawcett/Jonathan Hayes/David Natolie/Roger Pearce/Chris Purslow/Richard Sprenger/Andrew Walsh/Stuart Wiggans

At the first MB meeting on Thursday 7th January 2010 the posts of Chairman, Hon. Treasurer & Hon. Secretary will be confirmed by election (as required) and the contracted post of Executive Officer decided for the period 2010.

An important task for this initial meeting is to agree the programme of events for the forthcoming year in accordance with the Annual Report for 2009/Planned Activity for 2010 that was submitted to the CIEH last September and on which funding for the year has been decided. Details of this (albeit in outline) will be included in the next Signal Times

CIEH Information

1) HSE HSG65 Advisory Documents

Further to the request from Andrew Griffiths, Principal Policy Officer – CIEH, for C&I SIG members to provide feedback on these documents. Response has been excellent (thanks to all) and Andrew now says he has more feedback than expected! Some very good material – note that MB Member: Jonathan Hayes is co-ordinating the C&I SIG response and a summary will be included in Signal Times in due course

2) SIGs Newsletter

Year Ahead for Regulatory Services

11 and 12 February 2010

Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, Leicestershire

The Year Ahead for Regulatory Services conference is an innovative partnership, between CIEH, LACORS, LBRO and TSI. This is a key event for all council regulatory services and will play an important role in shaping the regulatory services agenda.

Delegates will have the opportunity to hear from speakers on how local authorities can deliver a fundamental service which provides real benefits for local communities and support to local businesses.

This important conference offers an excellent opportunity for delegates to learn best practice from high profile industry and council professionals to discuss and

debate the key issues facing environmental health and trading standards in, what promises to be, a challenging year ahead.

Who should attend?

- Directors and senior managers of regulatory services
- Local authority cabinet members and portfolio holders
- Environmental health practitioners
- Trading standards officers

Conference Programme

- Keynote presentation
- Meeting the challenges
- Political plenary
- Globalism to localism
- How do we deliver?

Interactive workshops

- The new unitaries – mapping the journey
- Risk based regulation – making it work
- Shared services – partnership or takeover?
- Total place
- Making communities safer
- Making communities healthier
- Making communities wealthier
- Making communities sustainable

To register your interest, please visit www.cieh.org/events or contact Priti Patel on 020 7827 5875 or p.patel@cieh.org.

Earned Autonomy or Business as Usual?

A conference for anyone engaged in Regulation or Business
18 January 2010 – London

A one day conference to examine working models for businesses earning lighter regulation. Areas of debate will include:

- Responsible national businesses deserve a lighter regulatory touch
- It is the duty of regulators to enforce the law without fear or favour
- The needs of small businesses
- Enabling enterprise; encouraging responsibility
- A national overview

The event provides a unique opportunity to hear from leaders in the field of regulation and business, together with leading opinion formers; there is also an opportunity to influence the debate and take part in shaping the response to calls from business, for regulators to recognise responsible compliance by multi-site businesses and adapt risk assessments accordingly. Further subjects for debate will include:

- Earned autonomy – anathema or object of affection?
- How light is light touch?
- National businesses and SMEs – should they be treated the same?
- Primary authorities – are they fit for purpose?
- Regulators and business – are they competent?

Confirmed speakers:

Key note - John Penrose MP
 Derek Allen, Executive Director, LACORS
 Philip Cullum, Acting CEO, Consumer Focus
 Abby Miller, Chair of the British Retail Consortium Risk and Safety Policy Action Group
 Geoffrey Podger, Chief Executive, Health & Safety Executive
 Graham Russell, Chief Executive, LBRO
 Dawn Welham, Technical Director, ASDA Stores Ltd

For more information and to book online please visit www.cieh.org/events or contact Priti Patel on 020 7827 5875 or p.patel@cieh.org.

HMOs Practical Inspection and Enforcement
Understanding the practicalities of Inspecting Houses in Multiple Occupation

London – 29 January 2010
 Manchester – 22 February 2010
 Leeds – 12 April 2010
 London – 25 June 2010
 London – 20 September 2010
 Bristol – 11 November 2010
 London – 10 December 2010

A one day workshop to examine the legislation that relates to houses in multiple occupation, how to inspect the property, gather evidence, produce schedules of works and serve the appropriate notice. Topics covered include:

- An overview of the legislation
- Methods of inspecting and recording evidence
- Carrying out a fire risk assessment
- Producing a schedule of works appropriate to the risks
- Determining the most appropriate course of action

This one day workshop is accredited with 5 hours and 30 minutes of CIEH CPD.

For more information and to book online please visit www.cieh.org/events or contact Priti Patel on 020 7827 5875 or p.patel@cieh.org.

Housing – fire safety

Understanding the dual enforcement, risk based approach

London – 8 March 2010

Leicester – 7 April 2010

London – 21 June 2010

Liverpool – 8 September 2010

London – 3 December 2010

A one day workshop to tackle the risk-based approach to fire safety regulation in housing and the dual enforcement regime.

Tutorial sessions and hands-on case studies will demonstrate how to:

- Cut through the complex legal framework and dual enforcement regime
- Understand fire risk assessments through simple methodology
- Adopt practical fire safety solutions, appropriate to risk
- Comprehend the contemporary approach to shared houses, single family dwellings and escape windows

This course is accredited with 5 hours CIEH CPD.

For more information and to book online please visit www.cieh.org/events or contact Priti Patel on 020 7827 5875 or p.patel@cieh.org.

Understanding and Applying the HHSRS

One day courses

London – 11 January

London – 1 March

Birmingham – 22 March

London – 10 May

Leeds – 14 June

London – 6 September

Bristol – 11 October

London – 8 November

Two day courses

London – 11 January and 8 February

London – 1 March and 29 March

Birmingham – 22 March and 26 April

London – 10 May and 21 June

Leeds – 14 June and 12 July

London – 6 September and 4 October

Bristol – 11 October and 15 November

London – 8 November and 6 December

The Housing Act 2004 has changed the way authorities assess housing conditions. It is essential that all private sector housing staff have a comprehensive understanding of the system. Delegates can choose to attend day one only or both days, if they wish to be certified as competent in using HHSRS. Delegates who complete both days of the seminar successfully will receive a certificate from EHRB.

This course is accredited with CIEH CPD: One day 6 hours. Two day combined 11 hours

For more information and to book online please visit www.cieh.org/events or contact Priti Patel on 020 7827 5875 or p.patel@cieh.org.

The RDNA route to Competence

London - 5 March 2010

NEW EVENT. The health and safety RDNA tool was first introduced in 2009. With the 'season' for the 2010 RDNA appraisals fast approaching, this one-day event is designed to support managers and enforcement officers to achieve the best from the process for themselves and their teams. Delegates will have the opportunity to learn more about competence and discuss issues associated with RDNA.

Conference aims:

- Explore competence and its importance in improving health and safety regulation
- Promote the health and safety competence framework and RDNA toolkit
- Explore the use of the RDNA tool for auditing the competencies of health and safety enforcement officers – and how to check the validity of the outcomes of that audit
- Explore the management of identified development needs and the consequences of not addressing those needs
- To introduce the GRIP tool for supporting officers in interventions and for helping to address development needs
- To feedback statistics emerging from the early use of the RDNA

Confirmed speakers:

- Sheila Brass, Area Manager, Safety and Licensing, London Borough of Wandsworth
- Tim Everett, Director of Policy, CIEH
- Andy Gay, Head of Business Improvement and Delivery Unit (BID), HSE
- Gerry Kasprzok, HSE
- Tony Lewis, Principal Education Officer, CIEH
- Charles Loft, LACORS
- Wendy McVey, Director of Corporate Strategy and Board Support, LBRO
- Phil Preece, Policy Manager, LBRO

For more information and to book online please visit www.cieh.org/events or contact Priti Patel on 020 7827 5875 or p.patel@cieh.org.

Troubles with sewers – developing an understanding of the range of problems arising from sewer abuse

London – 25 January 2010

NEW EVENT. Dealing with sewer problem is a key issue for Environmental Health Practitioners. It involves a wide range of factors, often complicated and time consuming that can impact both on the environment and public health. Partnership working is therefore essential in finding the solutions.

This new low cost event, which brings together a range of potential partners to examine the different problems with sewers, will provide a view from experts in the field and cover issues in both domestic and commercial premises including:

- Misconnections and the potential impacts on local watercourses
- Fats, oils and greases and ways to reduce the problems
- Minimising food waste to sewers
- Flushables and disposable products

Confirmed speakers:

Julian Arikans, Environment Agency

Dr Stephen Battersby, CIEH President

Andy Drinkwater, Water Research Council

Malcolm Dunk, Senior Consultant (Wastewater Quality), Thames Water

Sarah Gray, WRAP

Richard T Martin, Environment Agency

Deena McKinney, Thames Water

Peter Lea, Slough Borough Council

For more information and to book online please visit www.cieh.org/events or contact Priti Patel on 020 7827 5875 or p.patel@cieh.org.

Private Water Supply Regulations

Information supplied by Jonathan Lewis of the CIEH –

Dear Colleagues

The CIEH have approved a course offered by RHE Environmental Ltd (RHE) on the new Private Water Supply Regulations.

The new Private Water Supplies Regulations will introduce radical changes in the way local authorities deal with these supplies. RH Environmental (RHE), suppliers of Environmental Health Management Systems (EHMS), in conjunction with ALcontrol Laboratories, UK market leader in

portable waters analysis, have organised a series of regional, low-cost workshops to enable local authorities to resolve many of the difficult issues contained in the new regulations.

Events are scheduled for the new year in Cambridgeshire, Shropshire, Surrey, North Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, Devon, Gloucestershire and Derbyshire.

Details of the course, together with dates and venues, learning outcomes and course structure can be found in the attached leaflet.

Cost of the course is £65 per delegate, which includes lunch and a training pack.

A booking form is also included in the attached leaflet.

Please disseminate this information and the attachment to your respective portions of the membership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Jonathan

And on another topic –

Dear Colleagues

New to our current Low-Cost Training program is a one-day course on the Principles of Regulatory Enforcement offered by Michael Bowery.

As is always the case for these events, we are offering this course to the regions and SIGs at a cost of £50 per delegate.

The trainer's fee is £450 plus VAT and travel expenses with each event generating between 5 and 6 hours of core CPD.

Please be aware that we are still offering courses in the following areas:

- Communication and Miscommunication*
- Research Skills*
- Project Management*
- Presentation Skills*
- Dealing with Conflict*

If you are interested in holding the course on the Principles of Regulatory Enforcement or, indeed, any of the other programs within your region or SIG, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Jonathan

Jonathan Lewis
Membership Support Officer

Tel. 020 7827 6311 / e-mail: j.lewis@cieh.org

News of Members

Members (and past Chairmen): Graham Sheppard & Mike Simpson write to advise of a new initiative they are undertaking linked to their army years –

News item !

As you might know, because we dreamed up the idea at last years lunch, Mike Simpson and I are planning to do a re-walk of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition we did together 50 years ago, as RAMC apprentices. The DofE Trust tell us that the "fifty years later" aspect has not been done before.

Its an eighty mile, four day bash over Exmoor, way off road and threatens to test our ageing bodies, just as it did in May 1961 (We wont have the luxury of President Battersby's bike) Mike kept his log so we will be following the original route pretty closely, in May 2011.

We did a practice "first day" from Minehead to Porlock Weir (about 15 miles) only a couple of weeks ago, thoroughly enjoyed it and were not too bruised for the experience.

Its our way of saying thankyou for the fulfilling careers that the Army set us on to, our fortuitous period of military service, (the lads are getting a rotten time of it now), our good health and perpetual youth (well thats what we think) so we are doing it to raise money for Help the Heroes, the RAMC Benevolent Fund and and maybe one of the royal youth schemes such as Prince William's Trust.

So over the next year we will be seeking pledges of financial support to these charities. Please help us, we have an ambitious target in mind.

Our next away-day is in March, to practise day two, which we remember as being particularly murderous. Watch this space, we will report back (we hope) !!

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2010 to all in C&I

Mike Simpson and Graham Sheppard

Help/Feedback Wanted

Member and past- Chairman: Michael Hewitt (Middlesex University) would like to know your thoughts on the following proposal:-

Hi Peter,

I was hoping to go to the dinner this year but unfortunately have teaching in the afternoon.

I asked a colleague, Angela, if she wanted to go – not sure if she was a member of C&I but should be (ex Hilton, Consultancy, Middlesex)!

Shame as I am now involved in writing new EH Masters and I would have likes to suss out peoples reaction to using LinkedIn as a forum for helping students find “experiences” especially as the CIEH see this as a “formalised” alternative to experiential learning (placements). I am not so sure.

I could make it for the seminar but could not do lunch as would need to be back in the Uni to teach a noise seminar in the afternoon. Alternatively if I send you a note could you raise it as a question?

Either way – hope you have a good Christmas – my nose will be in the books as have started my PHD/dProf with some trepidation (brain cells aren’t what they used to be – too many beers at C&I Christmas dinners!)

Best regards,
Michael.

Would members who are involved in this area and who have an interest in student education please contact Michael direct on e-mail: m.hewitt@mdx.ac.uk

And Finally

Best wishes for a happy & healthy New Year (NB. I would add “Prosperous” but I am not sure how appropriate that is in these financially straightened times!) to all our readers

That’s It

Kindest regards

Peter