

Commercial and Independent Special Interest Group

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Signal Times – February 2011

Dear member

Welcome to this month's edition of the journal

2011 promises to be an interesting year for the C&I SIG – on the one hand we are faced with a very tight financial position (and therefore the need to keep a tight rein on costs), on the other we have an interesting and innovative programme of events in prospect.

A key objective, as shown in the business plan, is to seek opportunities for collaboration with CIEH Regions and other professional bodies in running seminars and other events for the benefit of members. Within the last few days two expressions of interest have been received – from the CIEH Scotland Region and the IFST (Institute of Food Science & Technology) SE Branch. Discussions will now commence.

I have given an outline of dates & venues for events (where known) in the notes below – watch this space for news in future editions of Signal Times of exactly what is planned

With regard to the Spring Seminar planned for May please note my request for suggested topics and, particularly, likely speakers for the event. Exact date and venue to be confirmed

To business:-

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2011 Business Plan – Proposed Events

The programme of events for this year has now been agreed as below. Note however that ideas/suggestions/proposals for speakers are required where indicated. Please give this some thought and get back to me if you can help

1) Spring Seminar

This is broadly scheduled for May and will have a very “Modern” theme reflecting the changes that are happening within the profession

The proposal is that, in parallel with the various formal discussions that are taking place regarding the future it would be good to have a “Commercial” perspective, with speakers covering such topics as experience with the H&S Consultants Register (OSHCR), a view regarding the changes to LACORS/LGR/?, a view from both the LG and Consultant’s perspective of contracted out EH services, and so on

I think that you get the idea – suggestions as above please (together with a suitable title for the event)

2) Evening Professional Interchange/Networking Event

A very successful event on these lines was held at a London venue in July 2009 and it seems timely to repeat the exercise later this year, particularly as we have a potential collaboration in prospect with IFST SE Branch

A date for your diary is the evening of Thursday October 20th and the venue will probably be Chadwick Court

3) Annual Members Meeting – Provisionally June 21-23rd to tie in with the Institute of Trading Standards Conference and a 1-day CIEH event. Venue: Bournemouth (Note. There is no “Best of the Best” conference this year)

4) Autumn Seminar

Under consideration - possibly a joint venture with a CIEH Region

5) Christmas Seminar & Lunch

Venue, date and seminar programme to be advised

6) Student Support – Workshops

Being considered – further news to be provided when available

CIEH News

SIGs Newsletter – February 2011

Please see the information for the next SIGs newsletter.

Upcoming CIEH Events

Visit www.cieh.org/events for full information and details of offers running on some events or contact Events on 020 7827 5856 or email events@cieh.org.

Public Health White Paper: the localisation of public health?

Thursday 17 February – Newcastle

Tuesday 22 February – Manchester

Following the publication of the Public Health White Paper, '*Healthy Lives, Healthy People*', the CIEH has teamed up with the Department of Health to bring you a series of nationwide forums designed to seek the views and opinions of EHPs in regards to the Public Health White Paper as part of the consultation process taking place until 13 March 2011.

For more information and to book online click [here](#)

Putting Sense back into Health and Safety

Thursday 10 March – London

This conference is an unmissable opportunity to hear Lord Young detail the findings of his health and safety review.

You will gain valuable insight in the future of Health and Safety within businesses and local authorities.

This event is also a unique chance to discuss the role Health and Safety with senior regulatory managers and industry and training professionals brought together by the CIEH.

This conference is accredited with 5 hours and 10 minutes of CIEH CPD.

For more information and to book online please click [here](#)

Understanding and applying HHSRS:

Monday 14 Feb & Monday 14 March – London

Friday 6 May & Friday 10 June – Birmingham

Monday 26 Sept & Tuesday 18 Oct – Bristol

Thursday 3 Nov & Tuesday 12 Dec - Manchester

This event will train you in the HHSRS system, enabling you to benchmark your rating against others and ensure that your scores are in line with the national approach. You can choose to attend day one only to receive valuable training in the scoring of HHSRS.

If you attend both days and successfully take the written assessment, you will receive a certificate of competence in using HHSRS from EHRB.

Please note, day one only is not certified.

**Day one is accredited with five hours and 30 mins of CIEH CPD.
The two-day event is accredited with 10 hours and 30 mins of CIEH CPD.**

For more information and to book online click [here](#)

HMOs Practical Inspection:

Understanding the practicalities of inspecting houses in multiple occupation

Wednesday 30 March - Birmingham
Wednesday 15 June - Leeds
Monday 19 September - London
Wednesday 2 November - Manchester

This one day workshop will present an overview of the legislation that relates to houses in multiple occupation. The event will address how to inspect a property, gather evidence and produce schedules of works.

This course is accredited with five hours and 30 minutes of CIEH CPD. Enhanced CPD available.

For more information and to book online please click [here](#)

The New Public Health Service:

“Environmental Health - People and Solutions”

The CIEH consultation response to the Minister – LIVE!

Thursday 31 March – London

The extended closing date for submission of responses to the Governments proposals for the new Public Health Service (PHS) in England will be on Thursday 31 March 2011.

On that day Anne Milton, Minister for Public Health, will be visiting the CIEH head office. This is a unique opportunity on the closing day of the consultation period to hear the CIEH present its response and key recommendations, and to hear from the Minister in person.

This event will be accredited with CIEH CPD. Enhanced CPD available.

For more information and to book online please click [here](#)

Housing - Fire Safety 2011:

Understanding the dual enforcement, risk based approach

Monday 04 April - London

Wednesday 22 June - Manchester

Aimed at practitioners and their managers who deal with fire safety enforcement, this one-day workshop tackles the risk based approach to fire safety regulation in housing and the dual enforcement regime.

**This course is accredited with five hours and 30 minutes of CIEH CPD.
Enhanced CPD available.**

For more information and to book online please click [here](#)

Health & Safety News

As I am not involved in H&S work nowadays (but have been) I found the following information from Greenwoods Solicitors LLB of Peterborough of great interest, particularly as the town where the fatality occurred was where I was a student – Stroud in Gloucestershire. Whilst I appreciate that many members will already have seen this I am reproducing for the benefit of those who have not -

The first corporate manslaughter prosecution under the Corporate Manslaughter Act ended yesterday with Cotswold Geotechnical Holdings Ltd being fined £385K which represents 116% of their annual turnover.

I am attaching a short note with further details of the case.

Should you have any queries about the Corporate Manslaughter Act or safety compliance in general then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kathryn Gilbertson

Director

Business Defence

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Gloucestershire firm fined £385,000 for Corporate Manslaughter

Gloucestershire based Cotswold Geotechnical Holdings Ltd has become the first company to be convicted of corporate manslaughter under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007. The company, which denied the offence, was found guilty on Tuesday following a three week jury trial at Winchester Crown Court.

The prosecution followed the death of their 27 year old employee Alexander Wright in September 2008. Mr. Wright, a geologist, had been taking soil samples in a 3.8m trench at a development site in Stroud. He was killed when the unsupported walls of the trial pit collapsed around him.

The court found that the company had failed to take all reasonably practical steps to protect Mr. Wright. In particular, they found that the company's systems were unnecessarily dangerous: it ignored long standing guidance about the maximum depth for unsupported trial pits and left the employee unsupervised. A former employee had raised concerns over the company's approach to trial pitting back in 2005, but the company failed to follow advice provided at the time by the HSE.

The company's director Peter Eaton was also charged with manslaughter but was too ill to stand trial. Mr. Justice Field who presided over the case described Mr. Eaton as being, in substance, the company and the jury was allowed to assess his conduct in reaching a verdict.

Yesterday the company was fined £385,000 for the offence. During the sentencing hearing Mr Justice Field described the company's approach to trial pitting as extremely irresponsible leading to a grave offence. He ordered that the company could discharge the fine by paying £38,500 a year for ten years but accepted that the fine may well put the company into liquidation.

The fine was a departure from the £500,000 starting point recommended by the Sentencing Council but this reflected the company's limited financial means.

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

Despite coming into force on 6 April 2008, this is the first case to be considered by the courts.

An organisation is guilty of an offence under the Act if the way in which its activities are managed or organised cause a person's death and amounts to a gross breach of a duty of care to that person. It is essential for a conviction under the Act to prove that a substantial element of the breach lies with senior management. On conviction, companies face an unlimited fine, as well as publicity and remedial orders.

Help Wanted

Student Support

Lisa Brooks, Honorary Branch Secretary, CIEH Derbyshire Branch has contacted me with a request for help with one of their student members. Practical experience is required (NB Lisa can give more details) in C&I areas.

If any member in the Derbyshire area can help please contact Lisa as below:-

Direct line 01283 595948
Email lisa.brooks@south-derbys.gov.uk

Job Vacancies/Work Opportunity

From: Dan Fone [mailto:Dan.Fone@nsf-cmi.com]
Sent: 15 February 2011 12:39
To: p.bird@cieh.org
Subject: Russian Resource

Hi Peter, trust all is well with you.

Wonder if you could the following out to C&I SIG for me please:

We are currently experiencing a growth in demand for restaurant and manufacturing audits in Russia and would be interested in hearing from any members who have relevant experience and either live in or regularly visit Russia; Russian speakers would be ideal!

The majority of our work is currently centred around Moscow but travel to other cities is becoming a need too.

Any interested members (or leads!) are asked to contact me via email to discuss further dan.fone@nsf-cmi.com

Thanks Peter

Dan Fone

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And Finally

Don't forget to give my request for input into planning the Spring Seminar some thought – all suggestions will be gratefully received!

That's It!

Regards

Peter