

**HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1 APRIL 2005 TO 31 MARCH 2006

Annual Report and Statement of Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2006

Laid before the Houses of Parliament by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in accordance with paragraph 12(2) and paragraph 12(4) of the Schedule to the Northern Ireland Act 2000 and paragraph 14 of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 (Prescribed Documents) Order 2004.

20 July 2006

Laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly under paragraphs 17A(4) and 18(5) of Schedule 2 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

20 July 2006

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HSENI – Our Values

- We value people as our most important resource.
- We are committed to ensuring exemplary standards of health and safety for everyone.
- We are committed to equal opportunity, openness, respect for individual differences and a workplace free from harassment.
- We foster an environment that encourages personal development allowing everyone to reach his or her full potential.
- We believe in a team approach to work with everyone feeling involved, valued and supported.
- We value commitment, motivation, enthusiasm, innovation and creativity.
- We strive for professionalism, quality and excellence in all that we do.

Vision

“To see that the risks to peoples’ health and safety arising from work activities are effectively controlled, thereby contributing to the overall economic and social well-being of our community.”

Key Objectives:

- To provide the highest standards of service delivery at the regional level.
- To promote key workplace health and safety messages and themes to targeted sectors and groups.
- To communicate appropriate, timely and practical workplace health and safety information and advice.

- To improve compliance with health and safety standards through inspection and investigation activities.
- To ensure that an effective and up-to-date health and safety at work regulatory framework is maintained.

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Foreword

We are pleased to record in this, our seventh Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, how HSENI, in its role as the regional authority for health and safety, has continued to contribute to improving the standard of workplace health and safety in Northern Ireland.

This role as the regional authority was strengthened by the vote of confidence HSENI received by emerging unaffected by the major Review of Public Administration (RPA) in Northern Ireland.

HSENI welcomes this outcome and looks forward to the opportunity to work with the new “super councils” in a co-enforcement partnership that will allow for new and more efficient ways of working together.

Surviving RPA, whilst a significant achievement in itself, takes nothing away from the broad range of successes enjoyed by HSENI during 2005/06.

These successes build on the foundations laid down in previous years and owe much to the step change in the approach to our service delivery which we laid out last year viz:

- Proactively recognising good performance;
- Channelling the right sort of help and support to start ups and small businesses; and
- Getting tough with those who persistently fail to get health and safety sensibly right.

This three-strand approach has underpinned the hard work put into meeting our objectives and reaching our targets. Amongst those targets have been:

- Sponsorship of the Excellence in the Management of Health and Safety Award as part of the Annual Belfast Telegraph Business Awards Competition.
- Through Health and Safety Works NI, our small business advisory service, in its first year reaching over 11,000 start ups and small businesses with key health and safety messages.
- Launching an innovative Asbestos Advisory Service geared to help the general public, small businesses and the community and voluntary sectors come to terms with living with the asbestos present in the buildings in which we live, work and play.
- In partnership with the Quarry Products Association NI, launching a “hard targets” programme aimed at reducing the injuries in the sector by 50% over 5 years.
- Actively engaging with a range of stakeholders both from the private and public sectors in embedding key messages about managing work-related stress.
- Publishing a universal safety booklet aimed at migrant workers and based around the exclusive use of pictograms.
- Full deployment of Compliance Officers with a special remit to deal with the house building sector.
- As part of our child farm safety campaign, Be Aware Kids, the launch at the Balmoral Show of a novel board game aimed at teaching primary school children about farm safety.

These are only some examples of what HSENI’s staff has delivered; many more are contained in this report.

The productivity gains achieved last year have been sustained despite the imposition of efficiency savings which will see HSENI having to shed seven posts by 2008.

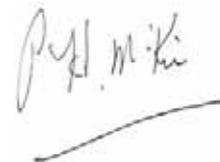
HSENI also benefited from the completion of major refurbishment of its Belfast headquarters, which not only brought the building up to Disability

Discrimination Act standards, but provided us with a state of the art Training and Resource Centre. This was officially opened by the then Permanent Secretary of HSENI's sponsor Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment – Bruce Robinson. This new centre will be used not only to develop and train HSENI staff but it will also be available, at no charge, to not-for-profit health and safety related organisations such as the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and the British Safety Council for meetings and seminars.

In short, a very busy, a very positive and a very productive year for HSENI. A year in which our belief in our service was re-affirmed. A year in which, despite disruption and uncertainty, HSENI's staff demonstrated their true professionalism and dedication by always putting service delivery first.



Jim Keyes
Chief Executive



Peter McKie
Chairman

The Board and The Organisation

The Board

To oversee its operation and provide strategic direction, the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland has ten appointed members (the Board) including the Chairman and Deputy Chairman. The Board under the leadership of the Chairman, is responsible for ensuring that the statutory functions for which it has responsibility are implemented in an economic and efficient way. As well as agreeing and formulating policy, the Board has an executive role to play; both in monitoring the delivery of HSENI's programme of work and in measuring HSENI's performance against targets.



Peter McKie,
Chairman



Des Lowry, Deputy
Chairman



Derrick Nixon



Ashley Haslett



Gerri Rice



Geraldine Alexander



David Mills



Barbara Martin



Roger Gillespie



Patrick Archer

Members' Interests

A register of HSENI Board Members' interests is available for inspection at 83 Ladas Drive, Belfast, BT6 9FR.

The Organisation

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment established on 1 April 1999 under Article 12 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended by the Health and Safety at Work (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.

It is answerable to the Minister for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), which is HSENI's sponsoring body. HSENI is the regional health and safety authority for Northern Ireland and in this capacity plays a leading role for overseeing all aspects of health and safety legislation, enforcement of legislation and health and safety advice relating to work.

The structure of the organisation is set out in Appendix 1.

Performance

This section summarises HSENI's performance against operating plan targets during 2005/06.

Service Delivery

To provide the highest standards of service delivery at the regional level.

Key Areas	Targets	Performance
Quality of Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a Customer Satisfaction Survey by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED Plans are now in place to conduct a Customer Satisfaction Survey by the Autumn of 2007.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor service delivery targets by 31 December 2005 to ensure that the standards set out in HSENI's Customer Care Charter are being met. 	TARGET ACHIEVED BUT WITH SOME DELAY Monitoring of service delivery targets completed in February 2006.
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree Memoranda of Understanding with other regulatory bodies such as the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority to establish primacy of responsibility in specified cases to avoid overlap and duplication. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Memoranda of Understanding with both the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority completed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through HELANI, a committee of the HSENI Board, maintain effective working arrangements with District Councils in their role as co-enforcers of health and safety at work legislation. 	TARGET ACHIEVED The HELANI Committee met four times. HELANI Strategic Plan for Health and Safety in the District Council Enforced Sectors in NI 2005-2008 launched on 22 June 2005.
Small businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a business-friendly and non-threatening health and safety information and advisory service specially tailored to the needs of start-up and existing small businesses. 	TARGET ACHIEVED HSWNI through a range of interventions reached over 11,000 small businesses during the year.
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a regional body, hold at least half of HSENI's Board meetings during 2005/06 at venues outside Belfast. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Two of five Board meetings held outside Belfast during the year, i.e. Enniskillen in May and Newcastle in September.
Access to information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place minutes of HSENI Board meetings on HSENI's website. 	TARGET ACHIEVED System now in place for minutes to be put on HSENI's website.

Promotion

To promote key occupational health and safety messages and themes to targeted sectors and groups.

Key Areas	Targets	Performance
Priority issues (Priority issues are musculoskeletal disorders; stress; asbestos; falls from height; transport at work; and slips and trips.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a series of high profile events including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three workshops on work-related stress by 31 March 2006. A seminar on MSD in construction by 31 December 2005; and A seminar on proposed new Work at Height Regulations by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Four workshops on work-related stress held over the course of the year to a range of targeted audiences.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange three Health and Safety Awareness Days for farmers, embracing all of the priority issues, by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Three Health and Safety Awareness Days for farmers delivered during November 2005 in Garvagh and Downpatrick.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 31 March 2006, in partnership with the Insurance Industry, run 3 "Managing Risk – A Key Investment" workshops to promote cost reduction through effective management of health and safety at work. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Three workshops held in Belfast on 24 June 2005, 9 September 2005 and 11 January 2006.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with the Belfast Telegraph, sponsor an award for excellence in the management of health and safety at work by 30 June 2005. 	TARGET ACHIEVED An award for Excellence in the Management of Health and Safety was presented at the 2005 Belfast Telegraph Business Awards at the Culloden Hotel on 14 April 2005.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete audits of health and safety management within two companies participating in the pilot of the Voluntary Protection Program by 31 March 2006 	TARGET PARTIALLY ACHIEVED One company audited during the year. Second company withdrew from the pilot.
Working in partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a premier health and safety conference for safety practitioners in partnership with the Northern Ireland Safety Group, Institution of Occupational Safety and Health and other key partners by 30 June 2005. 	TARGET ACHIEVED "Excellence in Workplace Health and Safety Conference" was held on 25 May 2005 at the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen.
Workplace Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an Asbestos Advisory Service by 30 September 2005. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Asbestos Advisory Service established and officially launched.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with key stakeholders, deliver the second annual <i>Working for Health</i> conference by 30 November 2005 NB. Conference target date put back to avoid clash with Investing for Health Conference. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Conference held on 28th March 2006.
Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with NIC/ICTU's Women's Committee, organise a workplace health and safety seminar on gender issues by 30 April 2005. 	TARGET ACHIEVED A Gender Sensitive Health and Safety Seminar was held on the 29 March 2006 at the Grosvenor Conference Centre in Belfast.
Small businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in 3 major events to be organised by Invest NI as part of its Go for It campaign. 	TARGET ACHIEVED HSWNI Advisers took part in "Go for It" events in Omagh on 22/23 April 2005 and in the Belfast on the 19/20 November 2005. HSWNI also took part in "New Start NI", an event for existing/established businesses, also held in Belfast on 19/20 November 2005.

Information

To communicate appropriate, timely and practical occupational health and safety information and advice.

Key Areas	Targets	Performance
Priority issues (Priority issues are musculoskeletal disorders; stress; asbestos; falls from height; transport at work; and slips and trips.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a comprehensive awareness campaign aimed at reducing incidences of MSD in partnership with relevant Government Departments and the Health Promotion Agency by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET ACHIEVED A strategy manager has been appointed and an awareness campaign has been developed, the delivery of which will begin with the first phase of a Backs NI inspection initiative in June 2006.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with DHSSPS, the Environment and Heritage Service and District Councils, publish clear guidance for the public about asbestos by 30 September 2005. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Leaflet produced and issued in conjunction with the launch of the Asbestos Advisory Service.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with the Quarry Products Association for Northern Ireland, publish advice on visibility aids to ensure the safe movement of vehicles in quarries by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Relevant guidance on visibility aids included in a joint HSENI/QPA multi-media health and safety information pack.
Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a picture booklet to highlight the hazards on construction sites for migrant workers and those with literacy difficulties by 30 September 2005. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Picture booklet entitled "Universal Safety Booklet" published in September 2005 and launched on 24 October 2005 to coincide with European Week for Safety and Health at Work.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Working Group to ensure that proper account is taken of gender issues when developing health and safety information and advisory material. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Working group established and first meeting held on 9 January 2006.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a range of products to highlight the dangers to children on farms as part of the Be Aware Kids campaign by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Educational board game designed and distributed to rural primary schools. Calendar based on winning entries to the child safety poster competition produced and copies sent to rural primary schools during December 2005.
Information and advisory service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-develop HSENI's website to exploit advances in technology to enhance communications via this medium 	TARGET ACHIEVED Website redevelopment achieved.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot a community based information portal providing comprehensive and up-to-date information and advice on workplace health and safety in partnership with Citizen's Advice by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Pilot scheme established with the provision of an information kiosk at Bangor Citizen's Advice Bureaux. Joint News Release with Citizen's Advice issued on 28 September 2005.
Small businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop information sheets covering general and specific workplace health and safety issues specially designed for start-up and existing small businesses. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Information sheets on a Fork Lift Truck Safety checklist, Training Providers, Portable Appliance Testing and a Site Safety Checklist published along with the booklet "An Introduction to Health and Safety for Small Business".

Inspection

To improve compliance with health and safety standards through inspection and investigation activities.

Key Areas	Targets	Performance
Priority issues (Priority issues are musculoskeletal disorders; stress; asbestos; falls from height; transport at work; and slips and trips.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To seek compliance with relevant standards relating to controlling the risks associated with the priority issues during all inspection and investigation activities where appropriate 	TARGET ACHIEVED Compliance with priority issues sought during inspection and investigation activities where appropriate.
Inspection (including Investigation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5,000 inspections will be conducted across all work sectors. 	TARGET ACHIEVED 6120 inspections conducted across all work sectors.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RIDDOR incidents will be selected for investigation using HSENI's Incident Selection Procedure. 	TARGET ACHIEVED 116 incidents were selected from RIDDOR reports received during the year for investigation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints about workplace health and safety standards will be investigated. 	TARGET ACHIEVED All 765 complaints received during the year were investigated.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fatal accidents will be investigated. 	TARGET ACHIEVED 20 fatal accidents reported and investigated.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of employers inspected and found to have an unsatisfactory level of compliance will have demonstrated a satisfactory improvement when re-inspected. 	TARGET ACHIEVED 79% of employers inspected and found to have an unsatisfactory level of compliance demonstrated a satisfactory improvement when re-visited.
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All employers found to have an unsatisfactory level of compliance when re-inspected will be considered for enforcement action in accordance with HSENI's Enforcement Guidelines. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Consideration given to enforcement action in accordance with HSENI's Enforcement Guidelines in all cases when re-inspection indicated an unsatisfactory level of compliance. Enforcement activities resulted in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 prosecutions completed; 55 Improvement Notices served; and 199 Prohibition Notices served.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE: The target date for all of the above targets is 31 March 2006. 	

Regulation

To ensure that an effective and up-to-date health and safety at work regulatory framework is maintained.

Key Areas	Targets	Performance
Consultative and Discussion Documents	To publish Consultative Documents in relation to proposals for health and safety regulations and Approved Codes of Practice in areas, including:	
	• Construction;	TARGET ACHIEVED CD published on 19 August 2005.
	• Asbestos; and	TARGET ACHIEVED CD published on 1 February 2006.
	• Chemicals.	TARGET ACHIEVED CD published on 3 March 2005.
Health and safety regulations	Develop health and safety regulations to cover a variety of topics, including:	
	• Control of major accident hazards;	TARGET ACHIEVED The Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (SR 2005 No. 305) were made on 20 June 2005.
	• Work at height; and	TARGET ACHIEVED The Work at Height Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (SR 2005 No. 279) were made on 27 May 2005.
	• Control of noise and vibration at work	TARGET ACHIEVED The Control of Noise at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (SR 2006 No. 1) were made on 10 January 2006. The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (SR 2005 No. 397) were made on 18 August 2005.
Approved Codes of Practice and Guidance	Develop Approved Codes of Practice to provide guidance and advice on subjects, including:	
	• Diving at work;	TARGET ACHIEVED Six Codes of Practice relating to Diving at Work were approved on 22 March 2005.
	• Safety of children and young persons in agriculture; and	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED ACOP not completed due to delays in making associated regulations.
	• Health and safety in quarries.	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED ACOP not completed due to delays in making associated regulations.
	• NOTE: The target date for all of the above targets is 31 March 2006.	

OTHER CORPORATE TARGETS

Key Areas	Targets	Performance
Policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an equality impact assessment of HSENI's policy on the communication of appropriate, timely and practical workplace health and safety information and advice by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET ACHIEVED EQIA issued for consultation on 27 June 2005 and consultation closed on 19 September 2005. The EQIA will be reviewed in light of comments received.
Human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve re-accreditation of HSENI as an Investor in People organisation by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED HSENI was assessed in March 2006 against the new IIP Standard. Re-accreditation on hold pending completion of a retaining recognition process.
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue joint research opportunities, which underpin HSENI's policy, objectives and operational needs, with key partners by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Joint research opportunities have been pursued in a number of areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the provision of occupational health support; and MSD in construction.
Efficiency and value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through HSENI's Audit Committee, review HSENI's Risk Register on a quarterly basis to ensure that it is up-to-date and that proper controls are in place to manage the key risks. 	TARGET ACHIEVED Risk Register reviewed by HSENI's Audit and Risk Management Committee at each of its meetings.
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit accruals based certified Accounts to DETI and the Comptroller and Auditor General by 30 June 2005. 	TARGET ACHIEVED BUT WITH SOME DELAY Accounts sent to DETI and C&AG during w/c 8 August 2005.
Information technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and commission a new Knowledge Management System for HSENI by 31 March 2006. 	TARGET PARTIALLY ACHIEVED Portal deployment completed during 2005/06. Case management system and workflow went live on 24 April 2006.

Management Commentary

Communications

Promoting key occupational health and safety messages and themes to targeted groups and sectors, through conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions, continues to be a key feature of HSENI's work programme within the current year.

Through effective partnership working, HSENI has been able to provide increased ease of access to health and safety information for its customers. An example of this is the introduction of its Info4U pack. This comprehensive pack, which was rolled out to all libraries, mobile libraries and Citizen's Advice Bureaux across Northern Ireland, provides:

- a file containing a wide range of health and safety guidance booklets;
- a poster for display purposes to promote the file; and
- flyers and a freepost return envelope, inviting customers to return their comments and order guidance booklets as required.

In November 2005 the capacity for effective communication of health and safety messages further increased with the opening of HSENI's new Training and Resource Centre (TRC). This new state of the art training centre provides HSENI with an excellent facility to train its own staff but also provides a platform to promote, through seminars and workshops, key health and safety messages to a wide range of work sectors. The centre is designed to be self-contained with its own mini-kitchen and toilet facilities and is available, at no charge, to not-for-profit organisations engaged in promoting health and safety to run their own events.

Since its opening in November 2005, the TRC has been used by a number of outside organisations who have rated the facility as “excellent” and have said that they would recommend it to others.

In order to improve standards and promote best practice in workplace health and safety, HSENI has sought to educate, stimulate and engage all stakeholders involved in the health and safety arena. This involved a wide range of players, from organisations attending the Annual Health and Safety Conference to hear all about Excellence in Workplace Health and Safety to farmers and the wider community looking at child safety as part of the second year of the “Be aware kids” Child Safety on Farms Campaign.

Throughout the year HSENI held a total of 12 events covering:

- Child Safety in April 2005;
- Good Design in Construction in May 2005;
- Excellence in Workplace Health and Safety in May 2005;
- Managing Stress and Promoting Well-being in Education in September 2005;
- Ionising Radiation in Veterinary Practices in September 2005;
- Quarry Conference in October 2005;
- Managing Stress and Promoting Well-being in Business in November 2005;
- Three Farm Safety Awareness Days in November 2005;
- Motor Vehicle Repair Workshop in March 2006; and
- Gender Sensitive Health and Safety Seminar in March 2006.

The purpose of these events was threefold: to ensure that health and safety is on every organisation’s business agenda; to raise awareness of key issues in order to prevent and reduce future occurrences of injuries and ill-health; and to demonstrate that managing health and safety effectively reduces operating costs, improves profits and thereby enhances business competitiveness.

HSENI also promoted the European Week for Safety and Health in October 2005, which had as its theme “Noise at Work”. As a consequence 2500 Noise at Work Information Packs were issued.

HSENI and Child Safety

During its second year the “Be Aware Kids” Campaign continued its drive to eliminate child deaths from farm accidents by involving a wide network of key partners to deliver a comprehensive package of awareness raising initiatives. These partners include The Ulster Farmers’ Union, PSNI, ROSPA and the N.I. Agricultural Contractors Association. The Balmoral Show in May 2005 was the venue for the launch for one of those awareness raising initiatives, an innovative board game called ‘Avoid Harm on the Farm’. To date over 2000 of these board games have been distributed to farming families throughout Northern Ireland. The game reinforces key farm safety messages to both children and adults as they play it.

Due to its popularity in 2004, the campaign ran a second poster competition among primary school children in 2005. Children were asked to design a poster based on the dangers associated with farming. The winning entries were used to produce a calendar for the 2006 year and a total of 16,000 calendars were distributed in December 2005 via rural primary schools.

Information and Advisory Services

HSENI’s Information and Advisory Services, which includes the Information and Advice Centre and the free-phone helpline service, have continued to be of use to employers, employees, trade union representatives, safety representatives, safety professionals and practitioners.

Last year saw over 200 visitors to the Information and Advice Centre facilities at 83, Ladas Drive, Belfast which provides an ever-increasing range of health and safety information for customers.

During the year, callers have continued to avail of the One-2-One Advisory Service, which allows them to speak to a duty inspector during opening hours, through the Helpline number, 0800 0320 121. The duty inspector can give advice on all aspects of health and safety, regardless of customer location. If necessary, this advice can be dealt with on a confidential basis.

Throughout the year HSENI:

- distributed over 74,000 free leaflets giving advice on health and safety;
- responded to nearly 900 telephone requests for information via the duty inspector system;
- dealt with 3500 calls for information via the Information and Advice Helpline;
- registered over 4.5million hits on its website; and
- distributed over 3000 copies of its Info4U disc.

HSENI's Info4U disc is a CD-rom that offers an extensive range of health and safety materials in a convenient and compact form. The disc is viewed as a cost effective means of distributing key health and safety information to a wide cross section of people in Northern Ireland and contributes to the development of e-government.

Small Business Advisory Service

Health and Safety Works NI (HSWNI), HSENI's small business advisory service, organised workshops, participated in exhibitions, spoken at seminars and completed advisory visits to premises. In doing so it has reached over 11,000 small businesses, providing them with the skills to tackle workplace health and safety issues themselves and make their workplace safer.

Promotion

HSWNI participated in 17 exhibitions this year. These have included Invest NI's "Go for it" campaigns in Omagh in April 2005 and in Belfast in November 2005; the "Moyle Jobs Fair" in Ballycastle in June 2005; and the "Sharpen Your Skills" event organised by the Institute of Business Advisers in Armagh in September 2005. Also included were industry specific events such as HSENI's "Quarry conference" in Armagh in October 2005; a "Motor vehicle repair" seminar and the "Construct and Plan Expo", both in Belfast in March 2006.

"Get to Know Us" events

HSWNI organised four "Get to Know Us" events in partnership with the Federation of Small Businesses. They were aimed at small businesses and organisations working with the small business sector in the local area. During each event owners were informed of the free and confidential service delivering workplace health and safety information and advice with the option of a premises visit to discuss specific business needs. Events were held in Bangor and Ballymena in June 2005; Craigavon in September 2005 and Omagh in October 2005.

Advice and Guidance

HSWNI advisers continued to give practical impartial advice to audiences across Northern Ireland. Presentations have been industry specific such as talks on health and safety in engineering, quarrying, woodworking and photography or on specific topics such as how to complete risk assessments. Talks are offered to employers and employees and are organised at times to suit the businesses.

“Start a Business” programme

HSWNI signed a formal agreement with Invest NI to ensure that workplace health and safety is an integral part of the “Start a Business” programme. HSWNI advisers personally delivered 97 presentations in 14 of the 32 Enterprise Agencies reaching over 4,000 businesses across Northern Ireland.

Working in Partnership

HSWNI continued to work with the education colleges, speaking at Causeway Institute, Upper Bann Institute, Newry and North Down colleges. In addition it has introduced its services to over 30 new intermediary organisations that work with the small business sector. This included speaking at seminars for Londonderry and Newry Chambers of Commerce; the “Smile” network (Small and Medium Innovative Learning); a cross border workshop in Cavan in February 2006, organised by Omagh Enterprise Agency; and exhibiting at Belfast City Council’s “Health Fair” at Belfast Castle during the European Week of Safety and Health in October 2005.

Social Economy

HSWNI continued to provide its services to charity, voluntary groups and businesses within the social economy sector including a “child farm safety” talk to Clogher brownies and 4 information evenings for Nippa on “Safety in

pre-school playgroups” in Armagh, Belfast, Enniskillen and Coleraine during October 2006.

Voluntary Protection Programme (VPP)

The Voluntary Protection Programme (VPP) is designed to promote excellence in workplace health and safety by recognising and rewarding those workplaces and companies that are fully committed to providing and continually improving their workplace health and safety management systems.

It was initially adopted by the US Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in July 1982. A pilot scheme was launched in Ireland on 18 June 2004, involving both the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in the South and HSENI in the North.

Two companies in Northern Ireland were invited to take part in the pilot, 3M Industrial Tapes, Bangor and Tyco Healthcare, Ballymoney. In November 2005, 3M Industrial Tapes Bangor took part in an initial pre-screen audit, lasting four days, in preparation for their final audit in 2006. Unfortunately, due to restructuring, Tyco Healthcare had to withdraw from the initial phase of the pilot during the year. However, another leading Northern Ireland company has been invited to join the pilot.

During the year colleagues from OSHA continued to provide valuable support and advice as the pilot scheme developed. In June 05, OSHA, HSA and HSENI provided VPP Auditor training for inspectors from both HSA and HSENI to enable them to be part of a pool of VPP auditors. Inspectors from HSENI have already taken part in several VPP audits of participating companies in the South.

In March 2006, representatives from the companies involved in the VPP pilot scheme, both North and South, also participated in OSHA lead Auditor training to enable them to act as "voluntary auditors" in future VPP audits.

Partnership with District Councils

HSENI's Local Authority Unit (LAU) aims to improve the links between HSENI and District Councils and, through partnership, promote joint working and training on a range of projects and ensure consistency of approach in relation to regulating health and safety at work issues.

During the year, District Council colleagues were invited to attend HSENI training for Inspectors on subjects such as stress awareness, legionella and health and safety in motor vehicle repair workshops. In addition HSENI provided input and speakers for District Council training on work at heights and gas safety.

The LAU also supports the work of the Health and Safety Executive/Local Authority Enforcement Liaison Committee for Northern Ireland (HELANI). HELANI exists to develop and maintain effective liaison and partnership arrangements between the health and safety regulatory bodies in Northern Ireland.

The HELANI Strategic Plan 2005-2008 was launched at the Burnavon Centre in Cookstown in June 2005. Elected representatives were specifically invited to the launch in order to raise the profile and increase the awareness of the health and safety role played by District Councils.

Mandatory Guidance on Health and Safety Enforcement for Northern Ireland and on The Requirement to Produce a Service Plan, forming the third and fourth parts respectively of a suite of Mandatory Guidance, were issued by HSENI to the District Councils in October 2005.

The LAU continues to provide advice and guidance on "Enforcing Authority" issues to colleagues within HSENI and District Councils. The LAU also represents HSENI on the District Councils' Health and Safety Liaison Group (HSLG).

During the year the Environmental Health Officer seconded to the LAU by the District Councils resigned and despite the efforts of HSENI and HELANI it has not been possible to appoint a replacement.

Workplace Health

The Workplace Health Support Group provides general expert advice on health related topics to external customers and other internal groups within HSENI. The Group provides HSENI's scientific services function and incorporates HSENI's Employment Medical Advisory Service and its Asbestos Advisory Service. It manages HSENI's asbestos licensing function and oversees the implementation of the workplace health strategy for Northern Ireland, *Working for Health*. In addition, the Group is responsible for the development of promotion and inspection strategies for major work-related health problems such as work-related stress and musculoskeletal problems.

Scientific Services

During the year HSENI proudly unveiled its new laboratory suite at Ladas Drive. The laboratory was custom designed to house the scientific services unit which transferred from Invest Northern Ireland. The unit specialises in Occupational Hygiene and has gained recognition through UKAS accreditation for a range of work. The Scientific Services Unit provides support for field inspectors by assessing the control of chemical and other hazards in the workplace and by advising on the adequacy of COSHH assessments.

Employment Medical Advisory Service

Giving all workplaces advice on health aspects related to work is the primary function of HSENI's Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS). The Service, established in 1979 and recently expanded with the recruitment of an Occupational Health Nurse, is particularly important in light of the evidence of the scale of work-related ill health, currently estimated to affect some 30,000 people each year in Northern Ireland, and the growing recognition of the importance of workplace rehabilitation and occupational health support.

EMAS responds to in excess of 40 requests for advice each week. These requests may relate to health risks from work, fitness for work, sickness absence management, work-related symptoms, stress at work, first aid or to occupational health and medical services. EMAS also provides support for HSENI's other advisory bodies, the Asbestos Advisory Service and Health & Safety Works NI – HSENI's advisory service for small to medium enterprises.

Thirty eight investigative workplace visits were made during the year. These were at the request of employers or following a report of specific occupational disease; the latter dominated by occupational dermatitis in sectors such as catering and engineering. In addition, EMAS contributed to HSENI's promotional activities including its series of seminars and workshops, specifically those targeting the educational and financial sectors on work-related stress, the quarrying industry on work-related health issues and the construction sector on musculoskeletal disorders and noise and vibration.

A programme of work with primary care professionals which focuses on the detection and management of work-related ill health commenced whilst specific training on both asbestos and lead has been given to HSENI appointed doctors. In the past year EMAS also vetted 17 First Aid at Work Training organisations and carried out monitoring visits to 29 courses.

Asbestos

Public concern and perception of risk continues and enquiries about the management, removal and handling of asbestos form a large proportion of queries to the Workplace Health Support Group. These concerns led to the formation and launch during the year of HSENI's Asbestos Advisory Service which provides free advice to the public. The Asbestos Advisory Service published two leaflets aimed at community groups, small businesses, homeowners and individuals. These leaflets set out basic facts about asbestos and contain guidance on how to manage it safely. The Service also offers a telephone and e-mail helpline to enquirers.

Inspectors within the Workplace Health Support Group investigated a considerable number of complaints relating to work with asbestos in addition to carrying out a programme of proactive inspections at notifiable asbestos removal operations.

Asbestos-related diseases

Asbestos-related diseases continue to be the single largest cause of work-related deaths in Northern Ireland and were the primary cause of death in 43 people in 2005. In 2005 EMAS worked with Department of Employment and Learning officials on a specific initiative to ensure that people who suffer from these diseases are aware of the Social Security benefits for which they may be eligible. As a consequence relevant information is now available in all respiratory outpatient departments.

Ionising Radiations

Ionising Radiation in the form of X-rays and Radioisotopes are used in many sectors of employment ranging from the health service for medical diagnostic and therapeutic purposes to industrial applications such as non-destructive testing of components. During the year HSENI continued its inspection programme of hospitals, dental practices, veterinary surgeries and industrial users. The gas pipeline network currently being installed in Northern Ireland involves on-site radiography testing of welds and components using both X-rays and gamma sources and this work is monitored by HSENI on an ongoing basis. The Workplace Health Support Group in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Medical Physics Agency organised a seminar for veterinary surgeons and nurses to discuss the safe use of ionising radiations in veterinary practices and the design of suitable facilities.

Occupational Hygiene

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2003 (COSHH) were amended in 2005 and introduced a new

approach to the use of occupational exposure limits. The former system, which had been in use since 1989, used a two-tier system of MELs (maximum exposure limits) and OESs (occupational exposure standards). These were replaced in April 2005 by a single exposure limit known as a WEL (workplace exposure limit) and under the new regulations exposure to a hazardous substance should not exceed its WEL.

Working for Health

The Northern Ireland Workplace Health Network was launched in November 2005 to support the Working for Health strategy with the inaugural meeting considering healthy workplace initiatives in Northern Ireland. It aims to provide a forum for participants to share knowledge and best practice on workplace health issues, raise awareness of current and forthcoming issues and provide a networking opportunity for those who have an interest in or are working in the field of workplace health.

In March 2006 the second Working for Health Conference was held in Ballymena. The half-day conference concentrated on a number of recent key issues in relation to workplace health, particularly the recently announced Green Paper on Welfare Reform: A New Deal for Welfare –Empowering people to work. The Green Paper recognises that an effective package of measures is necessary to prevent illness and disablement among the workforce and that there is a need to provide support and rehabilitation when it does occur. The aspirations within the Green Paper sit well with the aims and objectives of Working for Health which offers an existing platform on which to take forward many of the welfare reform proposals relating to prevention, support and rehabilitation.

Work Well Project

Work Well was a pilot initiative that was launched by the Health Promotion Agency (HPA) in 2004 and has been funded for three years by HSENI under the Working for Health strategy and by DHSSPS under the Investing for

Health strategy. The aim of the project was to develop the workplace as a health promoting setting. An organisational health assessment tool was developed and used by twenty organisations to identify their individual health needs and to subsequently put in place an action plan to improve workplace health. A formal evaluation of the project has been completed and has confirmed that both employers and employees have benefited significantly from the programme and would encourage other companies to take part. One of the Work Well businesses that participated in the pilot entered the BBC's Big Challenge Healthworks Awards for the national Healthy Small Employer category and was awarded the title of 'National Winner'.

Work-related Stress

HSENI continued to promote the management standards for work-related stress and have advised and collaborated with a number of organisations wishing to implement the standards. Two 'Mindful Management' conferences for the Education and business sectors were organised in conjunction with Action Mental Health, Carecall, the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development and Business in the Community. HSENI also participated in conferences on work-related stress within the health sector and delivered presentations to a number of District Councils.

HSENI worked closely with the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland to select a group of councils interested in applying the management standards on work-related stress and HSENI has agreed to 'buddy' a number of councils from April 2006. The buddying initiative involves an inspector closely supporting an organisation in the implementation of the management standards.

Since stress is a particular problem within the public sector, HSENI opened dialogue with number of organisations in this sector. Contact has been made with a number of Health Trusts to discuss their approach to managing work-related stress and a number of trusts have also agreed to participate in the buddying initiative which is to commence in April 2006.

HSENI and the Health and Safety Authority in ROI have commenced a joint cross-border project to assess the implementation of Work Positive - a stress audit tool designed for smaller organisations. Under this project organisations in Northern Ireland and the Republic are “matched” and use the Work Positive tool to work through the management standards process in a systematic way in order to create a more positive work environment.

The stress learning circle, which allows participants to share experiences relating to work-related stress through regular meetings, has been expanded to include representatives from the private sector.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) are the main cause of work-related illness and as such were designated a priority issue in HSENI’s Corporate Plan 2005-2008, where HSENI stated its intention to undertake a dedicated campaign to address the problem in conjunction with other committed stakeholders. A campaign manager was appointed in Autumn 2005 and planning for a high profile campaign began.

The first stage is to improve compliance with existing legislation and recognised good practice. A joint enforcement initiative- Backs NI - organised in conjunction with the District Councils has been developed and will be carried out early in 2006/07. This will explore the use of the new Manual Handling Assessment Chart (MAC Tool), which has been developed by HSE(GB), to help identify and assess hazardous manual handling activities in the workplace. Professional expert ergonomic support is also being made available to assist inspectors during the initiative

Musculoskeletal problems are particularly prevalent in the construction industry. HSENI in partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) commissioned research to assess the levels of MSD in the construction industry. This research indicated that 50% of all respondents had

had some pain, ache or discomfort in their bones or muscles in the past twelve months and the major cause was lower back pain. HSENI organised a seminar for the industry to address these problems and to seek commitment from the industry to introduce change.

Occupational Asthma

Occupational Asthma (OA) is thought to be the cause of 1 in 10 cases of asthma in people of working age. Many substances have been reported to cause OA and the major determinant of risk for the development of OA is the level of exposure to its causes.

Isocyanate exposure is the biggest known cause of occupational asthma in the UK; with vehicle paint sprayers the work group most at risk. The most recent OA estimates given in "Occupational Health Statistics Bulletin 2003/4" show that the overall risk to "vehicle spray painters" is roughly 80 times the average OA rate for the UK population.

A Health and Safety Awareness Day was organised for workers in the Motor vehicle repair trade as a way of highlighting the hazards of isocyanate paints and how the associated risks can be controlled. The day saw over 55 firms attend a mixture of presentations, which included working models of spray booths and rooms. The models of the spray booth and room allowed delegates to visualise their potential exposure to a normally invisible hazard of Isocyanate spray. Along with speakers from HSE(GB) and EMAS, industry representatives gave advice on the selection and correct use of suitable respiratory protective equipment. Each participant was given an action plan to fill in as to how each session was relevant to their business and what changes they would make to their work practises in order to more fully control the hazards from isocyanates.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Within Northern Ireland there are currently 8 registered centres carrying out a wide range of work using Genetically Modified Organisms. These GM centres are represented across private industry, Academic Institutions and Government research bodies. The GM work within these centres is regulated under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001.

In order to aid compliance within the GM community a series of inspections were organised by HSENI. This involved a HSENI inspector and a GM specialist inspector from the Biotechnology Section of HSE(GB). During these inspections no outstanding compliance issues were found.

Hand Arm Vibration

Hand Arm Vibration (HAV) is a major cause of occupational ill health and in Great Britain an estimated two million workers are exposed to levels of vibration which risk the development of disease. In Great Britain some 3,000 new claims for Industrial Injury Disability Benefit are made each year for vibration white finger and vibration-related carpal tunnel syndrome. During the year EMAS audited four large employers in Northern Ireland to assess their systems for the prevention and management of HAV including those for health surveillance.

Avian Influenza

The risks to the poultry industry from avian influenza H5N1 continue. The infection has spread to birds and poultry in Europe and cases continue in the Far East. In terms of human disease reported laboratory confirmed cases and deaths due to avian influenza continue to rise. On 21 April 2006 the

World Health Organisation (WHO) reported a total to date of 204 cases and 113 deaths. Whilst risk to human health is extremely low HSENI recognises the need to keep poultry workers informed and thus information and guidance has been developed and issued. This emphasises the importance of bio security in preventing infection in poultry and the need for systems to protect workers where exposure to live birds, their feathers, faeces or products could occur. Work with relevant stakeholders continues.

Field Operations

AGRICULTURE

The June 2005 Agriculture Census in Northern Ireland recorded that 51,073 people work on 27,064 farms. Most are run as family businesses and often involve people who have other jobs. It is common for people past normal retiring age to remain actively involved.

Livestock farming predominates and the fact that families tend to live adjacent to work activities raises concerns, especially in respect of the safety of children. Twelve people died as the result of incidents on farms during the period including 5 people working with machinery, 3 hit by animals, 2 trapped by a collapsing slurry bag, 1 hit by a barn door during a gale and 1 falling through a roof.

Within HSENI, the Compliance Teams have enforcement responsibility for the health and safety of people working in farming, horticulture, arboriculture, fish farming, livestock markets and abattoirs. HSENI also enforces the requirements of the Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 in respect of work associated with the storage and use of pesticides in agriculture. During the year, just under 600 inspection visits were carried out to farm premises with emphasis on the known workplace risks.

Safety of children

Because of the high fatal accident rate for children on farms in past years, HSENI continued with its "Be Aware Kids" campaign. A stakeholders' seminar was held at Greenmount Campus on 27 April 2005, a novel Board Game was launched during the Balmoral Show in May 2005 and a calendar based on a poster competition was distributed to rural primary schools in December 2005.

Health and Safety Awareness Days

In response to the evolving work patterns within the industry, HSENI continued its programme of health and safety awareness days for farmers as a substitute for individual statutory inspection visits. Events were staged at Garvagh on 8 and 9 November 2005 and Downpatrick on 11 November 2005 with a total attendance of 811 farmers. Instructors presented practical sessions on the health and safety aspects of tractor maintenance, use of agricultural machinery, handling of livestock, quad operation, safe access for work at heights, manual handling techniques, workplace health and the safety of children on farms.

Other Activities

Exhibitions about the safe use of machinery were staged at open nights run by agricultural machinery dealerships at Carryduff on 24 to 26 January 2006 and Banbridge on 22 and 23 February 2006.

The release of poisonous gas during the mixing of slurry tank contents is a risk to farmers and HSENI, in partnership with the Health and Safety Authority in Dublin, sponsored a study of on-farm gas concentrations. Part of this considered the effect of low-volume aeration systems and this was the subject of an exhibition at the Winter Fair, a specialist event for dairy farmers at the King's Hall, Balmoral, on 15 December 2005.

HSENI continued to provide industry-specific accident prevention material for the local agricultural press. Several interviews were also given for radio and television.

CONSTRUCTION

The construction industry continues to grow in size, currently employing up to 70,000 workers. The volume of construction work is set to escalate over the next ten years with many large infrastructure projects coming on-stream, such as a major investment in upgrading the roads network. The challenge for the construction industry is very clear - will it have the necessary skilled labour force to deliver this increase in work activity? Unfortunately, the number of fatal accidents and major injury accidents in construction has been increasing. Therefore, it is vitally important that health and safety is put on the top of the industry's agenda.

Buildsafe-NI Initiative

The Buildsafe-NI Steering Committee (a sub-committee of the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland) has been working hard to encourage all involved in the construction sector to be proactive in addressing safety with the objective of reducing accidents on construction sites. An information seminar, "Buildsafe-NI Initiative: its impact on the Construction Industry", was held at Cookstown in September 2005. This seminar was organised by the Northern Ireland Construction Health and Safety Group (NICON) in conjunction with the Buildsafe-NI Steering Committee to give an update on progress. The various Buildsafe-NI action plans can be viewed on the HSENI website. Health and safety has been given a high profile by the Government Construction Client's Group and this momentum must be maintained in order to deliver on the key targets for the Buildsafe-NI initiative.

House Building Sector

HSENI has recruited three Compliance Officers who are solely employed in carrying out inspections in the Housing Building sector. This sector has been identified during Focused Inspection Campaigns as a sector of the industry where more work is required to raise health and safety standards. The

Compliance Officers have been effective over the last year in raising the awareness of house builders and bringing about some improvements.

Work at Height

The introduction of the Work at Height Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 has given clear direction on the need to select the appropriate work equipment and give collective protection measures priority over personal protection measures. HSENI, working in partnership with other organisations, held several successful seminars to promote and educate in relation to these new Regulations. During the year proactive steps have been taken to introduce the use of air bags as a passive collective protection system. The concrete products industry gave good support to the introduction of the air bags when placing hollow-core floor slabs in buildings.

Online Teaching Package

Work is still on-going, in partnership with the University of Ulster and other organisations, on the development of an online teaching package for undergraduates and professionals. It is hoped that the final product will be beneficial not only to educationalists but also to members of the wider construction industry.

DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS WORK SECTORS

Police

Following a request made by the Police Federation for Northern Ireland, HSENI commenced an investigation into the PSNI's health and safety management of the serious violence which erupted when three parades and their supporters passed the Ardoyne shop fronts shortly before 8pm on 12 July 2005. The violence continued for approximately two and a half hours during which police lines came under attack from stones, bricks and other missiles. In addition, petrol bombs and at least nine blast bombs were thrown, of which six exploded. Some 105 police officers and eight members of the public were injured. The matter remains under investigation.

Various issues were raised by individual officers throughout the year and these were addressed by HSENI. These resulted in investigations into workplace environmental conditions in certain locations, advice on the application of the Noise at Work Regulations (NI) 2006, advice on the safety of chemicals, and an ongoing investigation into the reliability of air bags in certain vehicles used by the police. These matters are being kept under review.

In March 2006 an Improvement Notice was served on the Chief Constable for failing to provide a safe system of work for the operation of the Enquiry Desk at a prominent PSNI location. HSENI has received assurances that the improvements identified in this notice will be rolled out throughout the entire PSNI estate.

HSENI continues to build on the good working relationship which has been established in recent years with the Police Federation for Northern Ireland.

Ministry of Defence

HSENI continues to work in close partnership with the local Health, Safety and Environment Team of the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Such collaborative arrangements serve to raise the profile of health and safety within the MoD and assist in dealing with incidents which occur in that sphere.

As a result of an investigation following a complaint from a group of civilians working for the MoD, a Crown Improvement Notice was served on the General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland) for failing to provide adequate facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work. The MoD acted promptly to rectify the issues raised in the notice.

Prisons

The issue of physical attacks against prison office staff still accounts for a large number of the reportable accidents in this sector. This is a particularly difficult problem and HSENI has commenced efforts in building a collaborative approach with the parties involved aimed at exploring ways of minimising the risks faced by officers.

HSENI carried out an investigation into an incident in which an officer was overcome by fumes during maintenance work. As a result of this, HSENI has asked the Prison Service to review its procedures for the control of contractors.

Fire & Rescue Service

In September 2005, a HSENI representative attended the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service's (NIF&RS) "Operation Sea Eagle" training exercise at Ebrington Barracks. The exercise demonstrated a high level of planning for health and safety in a difficult and testing environment.

HSENI held discussions with the NIF&RS about the application of the Work at Height Regulations (NI) 2005. HSENI assisted the NIF&RS in adopting a pragmatic approach to complying with these regulations.

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

A number of complaints were received and investigated by HSENI concerning various health and safety issues. These included the dangers of blood borne viruses, manual handling, environmental working conditions etc. These complaints were resolved with the cooperation of all parties.

HSENI served an Improvement Notice on the Service requesting it to conduct a risk assessment into workplace transport, and in particular traffic and pedestrian segregation.

Fairgrounds

The public continue to flock to travelling funfairs which visit various locations in Northern Ireland. The nature of funfair rides, whilst providing great fun and enjoyment, can subject members of the public to dynamic forces not normally encountered in everyday life and these forces may lead to discomfort and a perception of feeling unsafe.

HSENI visited a number of funfairs throughout the year and carried out checks to ensure that safety inspections of the rides had been carried out in accordance with the industry's Code of Practice, and to review event management procedures.

HSENI is currently working with the PSNI in work concerning the safety of firearms used at shooting galleries.

HSENI maintains a close liaison with HSE's Fairgrounds Industry Group.

EDUCATION AND DISTRICT COUNCILS

There are presently over 1,600 education establishments in Northern Ireland catering for pre-school children through to adult education. A large workforce is employed comprising in excess of 28,000 individuals carrying out teaching, lecturing and academic duties. In addition there are many support staff. The sheer numbers of workers and public coming onto the premises day and night is in itself a challenge. This coupled with the diverse range of work activities undertaken requires an effective risk management approach to be adopted towards the health and safety of those at work and also of people who may be affected by the work activities within this sector.

Slips, trips or falls on the same level were the most common kind of 'major injury' accident and they were one of the main causes of over-3-day injuries to staff within the education sector. The top three types of over-3-day injuries to employees involved:

- Slip, trip or fall on the same level
- Handling, lifting or carrying
- Hit by a moving, flying or falling object

Work-related Stress

Stress amongst the teaching profession has been recognised as an important issue which the education sector particularly needs to address, and HSENI has been encouraging the use of the Management Standards developed by HSE(GB). The Standards provide a framework to help simplify risk assessment for stress, encourage employers, employees and their representatives to work in partnership and allow organisations to measure their performance in tackling the key causes of stress. As part of HSENI's approach to encourage uptake of the Management Standards for tackling work-related stress, a half day conference was provided for the sector entitled "Mindful Management - Managing Stress and Promoting Well-being in

Education". This was held on 20 September 2005 at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown.

The conference was organised in partnership with AMH Consultancy & Training, the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD), International Stress Management Association (ISMA), Carecall, Action Mental Health and the Chief Executive's Forum, and sought to tackle the key issues relating to stress in the education sector and provided a forum for discussion on best practice and the way forward.

Work Positive Pilot Project

HSENI and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in the Republic of Ireland carried out a cross-border initiative designed to pilot the use of the 'Work Positive' stress audit tool. Fermanagh College of Further Education participated in the initiative and it is anticipated that an action plan will be implemented during 2006.

District Councils

In the region of 8,500 full time equivalent employees work in the District Council sector which provides a range of services to the public ranging from waste collection to the provision of leisure facilities. Much of HSENI's work in this sector was of a reactive nature, investigating complaints and accidents and responding to requests for advice on occupational health and safety.

The Local Authority Safety Advisers Network (LASAN) is a very active group of health and safety advisers from within this sector. HSENI attends the meetings and was present at a joint meeting between LASAN and LASAG (their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland). It was evident that a strong and effective partnership is continuing and there are plans to develop further joint initiatives towards improving health and safety within the sector.

Newry and Mourne District Council participated in the Work Positive Pilot Project. This was a cross-border initiative by HSENI and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in the Republic of Ireland designed to pilot the use of the 'Work Positive' stress audit tool. It is anticipated that the Council will implement the action plan which flows from this work during 2006/07.

GENERAL MANUFACTURING AND QUARRIES

General Manufacturing

The general manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland employs approximately 98,000 people. The members of HSENI's three Compliance Teams are responsible for inspecting and investigating incidents and complaints at a wide range of manufacturing premises including heavy and light engineering, food processing, chemical and plastics manufacturing and woodworking premises.

During the year there have been two fatal incidents and a number of serious incidents in the General Manufacturing sector. Training of operators, the maintenance of machinery, machinery guarding and the organisation of work and maintenance programs were factors in these incidents.

In 2005/06 the members from the three Regional Compliance Teams have worked diligently to improve the standard of health and safety management in the manufacturing premises through pro-active inspections and the investigation of serious incidents and complaints.

During the year specific guidance for the woodworking industry was prepared covering all aspects of health and safety in the sector. The guidance explains in detail how the woodworking industry can reduce the level of incidents through effective management of health and safety and by complying with relevant health and safety legislation.

Quarries

The quarries and quarry products sector covers a wide range of activities including the extractive industries, cement and concrete products industries, waste disposal and recycling sector. The industry employs approximately 5,600 people.

During 2005/06 there was one fatal incident in this sector which resulted in an employee being run over by an earth moving machine. Factors involved in this incident included operator training and competence and a lack of all-round visibility for the operator of the machine.

2005/06 saw the introduction of the “Hard Targets” programme as a joint initiative between the Quarry Products Association for Northern Ireland (QPANI) and HSENI. The aim of the initiative is to reduce the number of incidents in the quarry and quarry products industry by 50% over a 5 year period. One of the main elements of the initiative is the formation of six County Hard Targets Clubs in Northern Ireland. Each Club is comprised of representatives from companies within the county and a member from HSENI’s Regional Compliance Teams. The aim of each Hard Targets Club is to share health and safety information and best practice between companies and for companies with strong health and safety management systems to assist others in improving their level of management. The Hard Targets Clubs have met three times during the year and very favourable reports have been received of the positive benefits resulting.

In October 2005 the first joint QPANI/HSENI/Institute of Quarrying conference for the quarry and quarry products sector was organised and delivered in Co. Armagh. This conference majored on the importance of training and competence, progress with the Hard Targets initiative, all round vehicle visibility and the health of the workers in the industry. The conference was well supported with over 100 delegates from industry attending on the day.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Over 100,000 people in Northern Ireland are employed within the Health and Social Services sector. The scope of HSENI's Health and Social Services Group extends to the very large public sector employers, such as the Health and Social Services Trusts, and private sector employers, such as private nursing homes. Its remit also includes a range of smaller employers such as general practitioner services and many self-employed people.

Many thousands of people every year also come into contact with these services and frequent their premises, be they patients, clients, relatives, visitors or other workers. Hence the sector has to make provision not only for the health and safety of their own employees but also for that of others in the way that work activities and associated risks are managed.

For non-employees (patients, visitors etc) the single main cause of accidents reported to HSENI was due to a 'slip, trip or fall'. For reportable injuries to employees the three top causes were;

- Handling activities
- Slips, trips or low falls and
- Assault/violence.

The issue of assault and violence to staff in this sector represents a major challenge to employers to do all that they can to protect their staff through risk assessment, and effective control measures. It is also incumbent on other stakeholders, representative bodies and individuals to play their part in seeking to eliminate assaults on health care workers.

Work-related Stress

Work-related stress is an important issue for this sector and HSENI has been encouraging the uptake of the Management Standards within the Trusts. The standards were developed by HSE in GB and are intended as an approach which organisations can use to introduce a process of continuous

improvement and thereby reduce the levels of work-related stress. During the year, HSENI contacted all the Trusts and a number have agreed to collaborate with HSENI in working through the Management Standards approach within their respective organisations and this work will commence during 2006/07.

Patient or Client Safety Incidents

HSENI was part of an initiative which brought together relevant agencies to improve the co-ordination of investigations into serious patient incidents. As a result of the partnership work between DHSSPS, PSNI, the Northern Ireland Court Service and HSENI, a Memorandum of Understanding was launched on 15 February 2006. This should see improvements in the arrangements for communications, liaison and co-ordination of investigations where there are a number of separate investigating bodies involved in one incident.

MAJOR HAZARDS AND FIRE SAFETY

The Major Hazards Group is involved in regulatory activities across a range of areas including major hazard sites, gas transmission, distribution and use, mining and explosives safety, as well as providing advice to a range of other government departments in relation to these areas.

Major Hazards Sites

The Control of Major Accidents Hazards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (COMAH) were amended this year by the Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, resulting in the notification of an additional 3 top tier and 2 lower tier sites.

HSENI and EHS continued the on-going programme of inspection and assessment of COMAH sites, with all 7 top-tier and 10 of the 17 lower-tier sites being visited during the year. Reports were completed and, where necessary, improvement plans were communicated and agreed with the operators.

HSENI also has responsibility for ensuring that emergency plans covering off-site risks are prepared, tested and reviewed for all top-tier sites. During the year, 5 off-site emergency plan test exercises were tested and are under review.

Planning

The Group has also provided advice in relation to over 100 consultations by the Planning Service, other relevant government bodies and developers in relation to a wide range of issues including COMAH sites, gas transmission and extractive industries development.

Gas

Along with continued expansion of the natural gas network in the Greater Belfast area by Phoenix Natural Gas during the year, firmus energy has now started to connect commercial and residential customers in 5 towns along the route of the North West Pipeline. This required the analysis and approval of the Safety Case under the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997. In excess of 93,000 properties, homes and businesses, are now connected to natural gas. In addition, the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) industry accounts for 15,000 connections. HSENI continues to have a good working relationship with CORGI, the Gas Industry registration body, helping to ensure that appropriate standards of installation and maintenance are maintained.

Other Areas

The group carried out a range of activities in relation to active, proposed and abandoned mines in Northern Ireland and the commercial use of explosives. This was along with specialist advice and assistance in Geotechnical Engineering including ongoing work associated with two significant land stability issues.

The group also represents HSENI on two Belfast Resilience working groups and is assisting in the development of a Community Risk Register for the Belfast area.

FIRE SAFETY

There are approximately 27,000 people employed in the Northern Ireland Civil Service and 2000 employed in the Home Civil Service (Revenue and Customs, Immigration and United Kingdom Passport Agency), occupying between them approximately 3,500 premises. The responsibilities of the HSENI's fire section fall broadly into 4 main areas outlined below.

The Fire Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1984

Under the provisions of the Fire Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 HSENI has responsibility for the enforcement of fire safety requirements in premises which are owned or occupied by the Crown. There are now over 300 Crown premises which have been issued with "Fire Services Order" certificates.

Such premises include office premises employing one or two people to multi-storey complexes having in excess of 1,000 employees. As well as the offices, there are a number of premises (mainly CAFRE agricultural colleges) where residential accommodation is provided.

During the period of this report inspections were carried out on newly-occupied premises and as a consequence thirteen notices indicating works required were issued and seven new fire certificates were issued.

As well as the issue of new certificates, there is a programme of "re-inspections" in place to ensure that those premises which currently hold a fire certificate are complying with the requirements imposed by the certificate. During the period of this report 64 "certificate compliance inspections" were carried out.

Due to the welfare reform programme many of the premises occupied by the Social Security Agency are currently undergoing major alterations / extensions to accommodate additional staff who previously occupied T&EA premises. Sixteen inspections were carried out on these premises and follow-up reports issued. Upon completion, the fire certificates will be amended to take account of the changes.

Special Premises

There are currently seven premises that fall within the Fire Certificates (Special Premises) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991.

Construction Sites

Advice is given to HSENI's construction inspectors on aspects of fire safety on construction sites as and when required and, when requested, site inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with the fire safety requirements of the Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996.

Workplace Regulations

It is the responsibility of occupying Departments to carry out fire risk assessments for premises covered by the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001 and which are occupied by Departmental staff, including those premises which also require a fire certificate.

Progress of risk assessments is monitored through regular meetings of the Crown Fire Safety Committee and Crown Fire Safety Sub-Committee.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Transport and Public Utilities Group remit extends across all transport modes and public utilities with the exception of gas. Additionally a wide range of peripatetic activity is included involving service industries and delivery operations for mail and general goods. It is estimated that some 25,000 are employed in the sector. The Group also provides a specialist service on electrical and fire/explosion risks across all work sectors.

During the year, HSENI has drawn up separate memoranda of understanding with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority. This will improve efficiency and ensure close co-operation with these agencies when overlapping areas of activity arise.

Railways

The process of updating and aligning Northern Ireland railway specific legislation with the changing arrangements in GB continues and the Department for Regional Development has issued a major new set of regulations, the Railway Safety Management Regulations, for consultation. For the future there is a considerable amount of legislation lined up to implement further EC Directives designed to enhance interoperability and safety across the European rail network. During the period of this report the Rail Accident Investigation Body (RAIB), which has a UK wide remit, has come into being and work is currently underway to develop a joint memorandum of understanding which will define new HSENI/RAIB working arrangements for accident investigations.

Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road

A new set of Regulations, namely, the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) has been prepared for implementation in 2006/07. These regulations will align NI internal carriage requirements with ADR (the European agreement concerning

the international carriage of dangerous goods by road). This has involved close co-operation with both the Department for Transport's Dangerous Goods Branch and the Northern Ireland Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency (DVTA). HSENI will become the Competent Authority for these matters within Northern Ireland. In addition HSENI will take on a new area of work involving transport operators' responsibilities for security arrangements for dangerous goods in transport. Relevant training has been obtained for this in preparation for the new regulatory requirements.

Docks Harbours and Public Utilities

In these sectors, inspection activity has tended to focus on mainly reactive issues. During the period of this report, there were fatal accidents in the Water Industry, where an explosion killed one man and seriously injured another, and at Belfast Docks, where a port employee drowned when his vehicle fell off the quayside.

Health and Safety at Work Legislation

One of the key objectives for HSENI is:

“To ensure that an up to date health and safety at work regulatory regime is maintained.”

HSENI continues to develop proposals for new legislation to control risks to the health and safety of people at work and submits these proposals to DETI or the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

HSENI’s aim is to ensure parity with national legislation, by identifying EU directives or GB proposals and making Northern Ireland legislation within 6 months of GB regulations. In addition, HSENI uses intelligence led policy making to develop Northern Ireland regulations which address local hazards.

In practice HSENI prepares consultation documents and advises consultees that these documents are available from the HSENI website. Hard copies or versions in more accessible formats are available on request. Following evaluation of the responses from consultees, draft regulations are submitted to DETI or the SoS to be formally made. HSENI also prepares and approves guidance or Approved Codes of Practice to support the regulations.

Activity during the year

During the year, HSENI prepared 9 sets of regulations, initiated 3 consultations and approved 8 sets of ACOPs/guidance as set out below.

Regulations prepared	Consultations initiated	ACOPs/Guidance adopted.
The Work at Height Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005. SR 2005 No 279	The Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 SR 2005 No 523	The Work at Height Regulations 2005. A brief guide.*

The Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Regulations 2005. SR 2005 No 305	The Asbestos at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.	A guide to the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended).*
The Employer's Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment No 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 SP 2005 No 392	Proposals for Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	Controlling Noise at Work. The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005. Guidance on Regulations.*
The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 SR 2005 No 397		Hand-arm vibration – The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 – Guidance on Regulations.*
The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2005 SR 2005 No 463		Whole-body vibration – The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 – Guidance on Regulations.*
The Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 SR 2005 No 523		Control of Substances Hazardous to Health ACoP 5 th Edition.*
The Control of Noise at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. SR 2006 No 1		Working with ADR: An introduction to the carriage of dangerous goods by road.*
The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 SR 2006 No 173		Transport of Infectious Substances.*
The Carriage of Explosives Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 SR 2006 No 182		

* GB guidance adopted for use in NI.

Finance

The financial results of HSENI are set out in the Annual Accounts. The deficit transferred from reserves for the year was £93,498. This includes a repayment of £84,000 Grant in Aid to the Department of Trade and Industry in relation to funds received in prior years.

Important Events Occurring After the Year End

There have been no significant events since the year end which would affect these accounts.

Charitable Donations

HSENI made no charitable donations during the year.

Pension Liabilities

Details of pension schemes are set out in the Remuneration report on page 83

Payments to Suppliers

HSENI is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the Government's Better Payment Practice Code. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of the receipt of the goods or services, or presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later.

During the year 97% (2004/5 -94%) of bills were paid within this standard.

Research and Development

HSENI does not engage in research and development activities.

Auditors

The financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland (C&AG) in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended by the Health and Safety at

Work (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. The C&AG is head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office and he and his staff are wholly independent of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland. He reports his findings to Parliament.

The audit of the financial statements for 2005-06 resulted in an audit fee of £4,500 and is included in the other operating charges in the Income and Expenditure account. The C&AG did not provide any non-audit services during the year.

Disabled employees

HSENI follows the NI Civil Service Code of Practice on the Employment of Disabled People and aims to ensure that disablement is not a bar to recruitment or advancement.

Employee Involvement

HSENI implements its business strategy through its staff. In achieving business objectives HSENI recognizes that the involvement of staff in planning and the decision making process is key. As an Investors in People accredited body, HSENI encourages team working within an open and participative management culture. Staff involvement is maximised through the combined use of, for example, working groups, staff briefings and regular joint staff / union consultative meetings. NIPSA is HSENI's recognised trade union.

Future Developments in Health and Safety

In working towards its five key objectives over the three-year period of the Corporate Plan, HSENI will focus on the following issues, which are responsible for a disproportionately high number of cases of ill health and injury:

- continued implementation of the workplace health strategy, Working for Health, which will play a key part in taking forward the proposals contained in the recently published Green Paper on Welfare Reform, A new deal for welfare: empowering people to work;
- further Health and Safety Awareness Days for the agriculture sector and the piloting of this highly successful concept in the construction and quarry sectors;
- a series of high profile events, including “Masterclass” events on the effective management of health and safety and promoting the concept of “visible felt leadership”;
- sponsorship, for the second year, of a Belfast Telegraph business award for excellence in the management of health and safety at work;
- providing advice and support within the public sector on the implementation of the management standards for work-related stress;
- responding to all requests from community groups on the safe management of asbestos in the premises they occupy;
- producing guidance aimed at the poultry industry on the risks posed to human health from avian influenza and how they can be controlled;
- delivering the third year of the ‘Be Aware Kids’ child safety on farms campaign and developing an awareness campaign, in partnership with the UFU, to reduce the level of fatal injuries to older farmers;
- further build capacity to manage health and safety by small businesses by developing a website specifically aimed at addressing the health and safety needs of small businesses;
- undertaking a total of 5,500 inspections of workplaces including an inspection initiative focussing on the prevention of back injury as part of a campaign aimed at reducing the prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders;
- developing health and safety regulations, ACOP’s and guidance to cover a variety of topics, including the safety of children and young persons in agriculture; and

- completing the implementation of a new Knowledge Management System to HSENI by 30 June 2006.

Health and Safety within HSENI

HSENI's Corporate Plan for 2005/2008 sets out its commitment to create an inclusive, safe and healthy working environment for all staff. To underscore this commitment Health, Safety and Welfare at work is a standing item on the agenda at the formal Senior Management Team and Board meetings.

Equality

HSENI considers equality implications in developing its policies, legislation and guidance and, where appropriate, reflecting these in Regulatory Impact Assessments.

Administration

Policy Development

HSENI is aware that strategies must continuously evolve and develop with changing circumstances and, therefore, HSENI will ensure that its strategies continue to be effective and consistent with the broader Government policy framework and to meet the needs of the local economy.

Equality

HSENI's Equality Scheme was approved by the Equality Commission on 14 June 2001. During the period under review, HSENI:

- produced 3 sets of regulations which were subject to in-year equality screening exercises. None of these exercises identified any adverse differential impacts for section 75 groups and none of the responses to the subsequent consultation exercises disagreed with these conclusions;
- issued EQIAs on four of HSENI's policies for public consultation; and
- launched a booklet aimed specifically at providing health and safety instruction for migrant workers in high risk sectors such as construction, agriculture and quarrying, who do not have English as their first language. HSENI has also provided leaflets on basic health and safety rights in a variety of different languages and has launched a telephone interpretation service for ease of access to health and safety information by migrant workers.

New Targeting Social Need (New TSN)

New TSN aims to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources within existing programmes towards people, groups and areas in greatest social need.

In supporting New TSN during 2005/06 HSENI:

- carried out 593 inspections in agriculture; 100 inspections in quarrying; and 3730 inspections in construction;
- delivered the second phase of its “Be Aware Kids” child safety on farms campaign in partnership with the Ulster Farmers’ Union and other key stakeholders;
- organised a Quarry Conference in October 2005 to highlight health and safety issues relevant to that sector; and
- held three Health and Safety Awareness Days for the agriculture sector in November 2005, reaching over 800 farmers.

Human Rights

The Human Rights Act 1998 came fully into force on 2 October 2000 and provides additional focus and emphasis on the rights and freedoms of individuals guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights.

HSENI has provided Human Rights awareness training for all staff as well as more specialist training for certain groups of staff and will continue to do so based on need.

Human Resources

HSENI is fully committed to the principles of business excellence. Achieving this will be by fully realising the skills and experience of its entire staff.

Consequently, HSENI will:

- create an inclusive, safe and healthy working environment for all staff;
- actively pursue fairness and equality;
- continue its commitment to Investors in People;

- encourage team working within an open and participative management culture; and
- maintain good industrial relations and liaise regularly with Trade Union representatives.

HSENI is directly responsible for the employment of its staff. As HSENI enjoys Crown Status, its employees are Civil Servants and enjoy Northern Ireland Civil Service terms and conditions of service.

Quality of Service

In order to support its key objectives and targets, HSENI will:

- operate in a consistent and co-ordinated manner in the appliance of Service First principles;
- treat all its customers in an open, fair and impartial way;
- put things right if they go wrong and explain how to complain if dissatisfied;
- ensure that suppliers are paid promptly in line with Better Payment Practice; and
- maintain good industrial relations and liaise regularly with Trade Union representatives.

Service First - Key Customer Standards

HSENI endeavours to operate at all times to its Service First standards as set out in HSENI's Customer Care Charter and which are reproduced below:

- identify ourselves by name on the telephone and in letters;
- field staff will carry identification cards;
- interview personal callers with or without an appointment within 5 minutes of arrival;
- provide a response to an enquiry within 10 working days; and

- treat in confidence information that HSENI receives unless it is required to disclose that information for legal reasons.

Service Complaints

The Head of HSENI's Services Division is responsible for ensuring that complaints are dealt with quickly and effectively. During the year no formal complaints were received about HSENI's service.

Efficiency and Value for Money

In order to ensure that the public resources allocated to it are used to best effect, HSENI is committed to:

- regularly monitoring performance;
- conducting Internal Audits of its operating systems;
- adopting a strategic approach to risk management;
- keeping its performance measurement mechanisms under review;
- keeping administrative costs to a minimum; and
- recovering costs where appropriate.

Enforcement Guidelines

HSENI's Enforcement Guidelines enshrine the principles contained in the concordat produced by the Better Regulation Unit of the Cabinet Office in March 1998.

HSENI believes in firm but fair enforcement of health and safety law. This should be informed by the principles of **proportionality** in applying the law and securing compliance; **targeting** of enforcement action; **consistency** of approach; **transparency** about how the regulator operates and what those regulated may expect; and **accountability** for the regulator's actions. These

principles should apply both to enforcement in particular cases and to the health and safety enforcing authorities' management of enforcement activities as a whole.

Organisational development

During the year HSENI undertook a comprehensive range of training and development activities for staff in accordance with its Investor in People commitments.

This year, 20 HSENI Inspectors attended a total of 12 training courses and seminars organised by HSE(GB). This arrangement allows HSENI Inspectors to benefit from the same professional development opportunities which are available to their HSE(GB) counterparts. The courses offer technical training in a wide range of disciplines including Asbestos Refresher Training, Construction Foundation Training and Agricultural Appreciation.

Staff also took place in a wide range of locally provided courses which included:

- a Personal Safety at Work course;
- an Institute of Advanced Motorists Defensive Driving course;
- the Language of Leaders training course for all staff at Inspector, Deputy Principal and Staff Officer level; and
- training on telephone interpreting and face to face interviewing techniques; and
- disability awareness training including use of the Textphone.

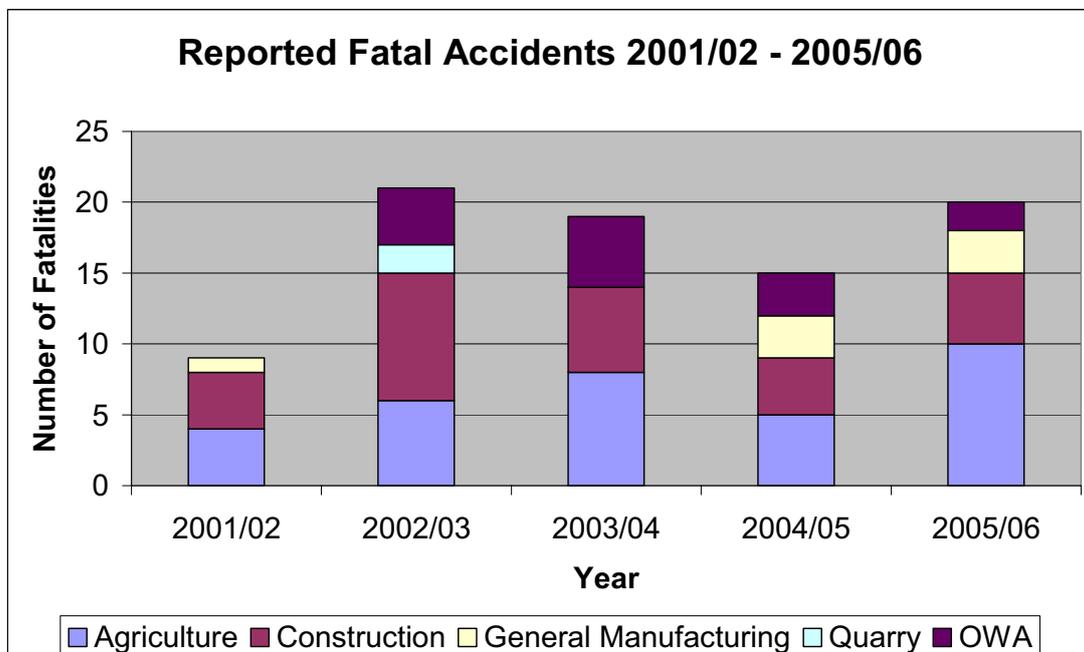
Statistics

HSENI STATISTICS

The following information has been compiled for the work sectors that HSENI is responsible for under the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999.

Figure 1 shows that there were 20 fatal accidents during the reporting period. This figure indicates a marked increase in the total number of fatal accidents from the previous year. In the period covered by this annual report, the agriculture, construction and general manufacturing sectors accounted for 90% of all fatal accidents.

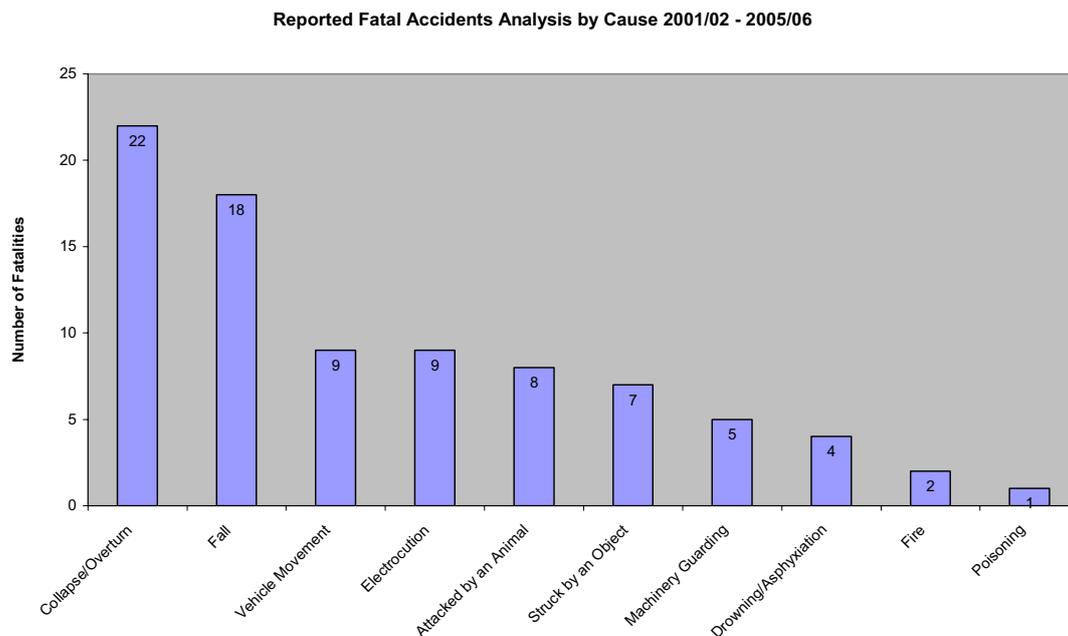
Figure 1: Reported Fatal Accidents
Agriculture, Construction, General Manufacturing, Quarry and Other Work Activities (OWA) 2001/02 – 2005/06



Because of the small statistical base, HSENI publishes analyses of fatal accident causations on the basis of five-year records. The most recent

analysis is shown in Figure 2. The most frequent causations continued to be the collapse or overturning of equipment and falls from heights.

Figure 2: Reported Fatal Accidents
Analysis by cause 2001/02 – 2005/06



Whilst HSENI has confidence in the number of fatal accidents recorded, it is generally recognised that there is a significant degree of under-reporting of accidents in other categories. Nevertheless trends relating to these categories can provide a useful indicator as to general health and safety performance in Northern Ireland. During the year there was a decrease in the number of non-fatal major injury accidents reported to HSENI when compared to the number in the previous year as illustrated in Figure 3. Unfortunately there was a marginal increase in the number of reported “over 3 day accidents” over the same period. This marks a slight reversal in the downward trend in the number of reported “over 3 day accidents” experienced over the previous three years as illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 3: Reported Major Injury Accidents 2001/02 – 2005/06

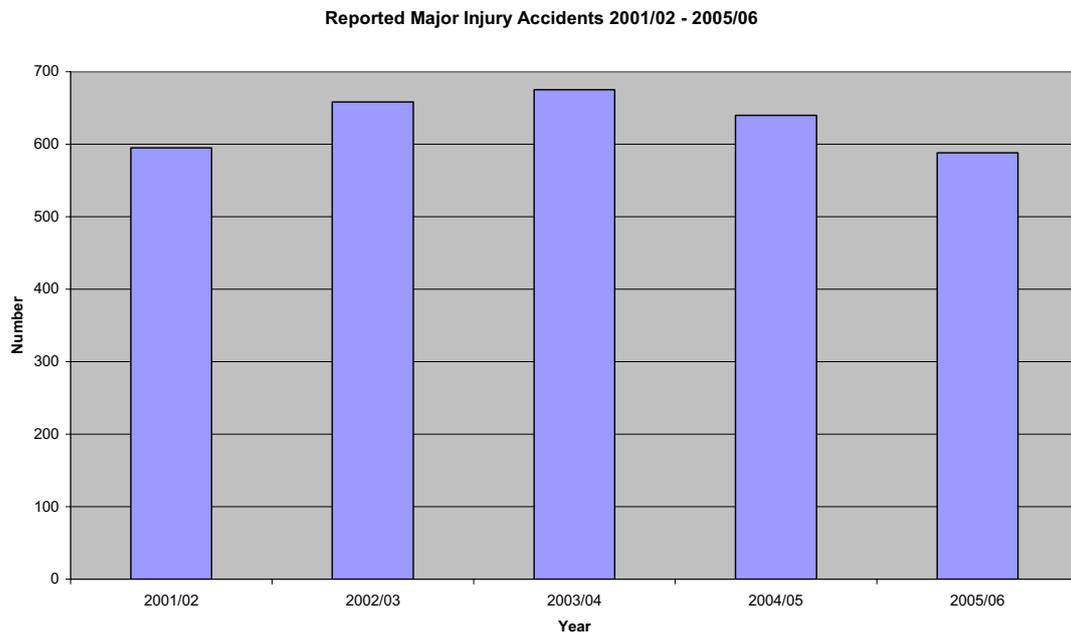
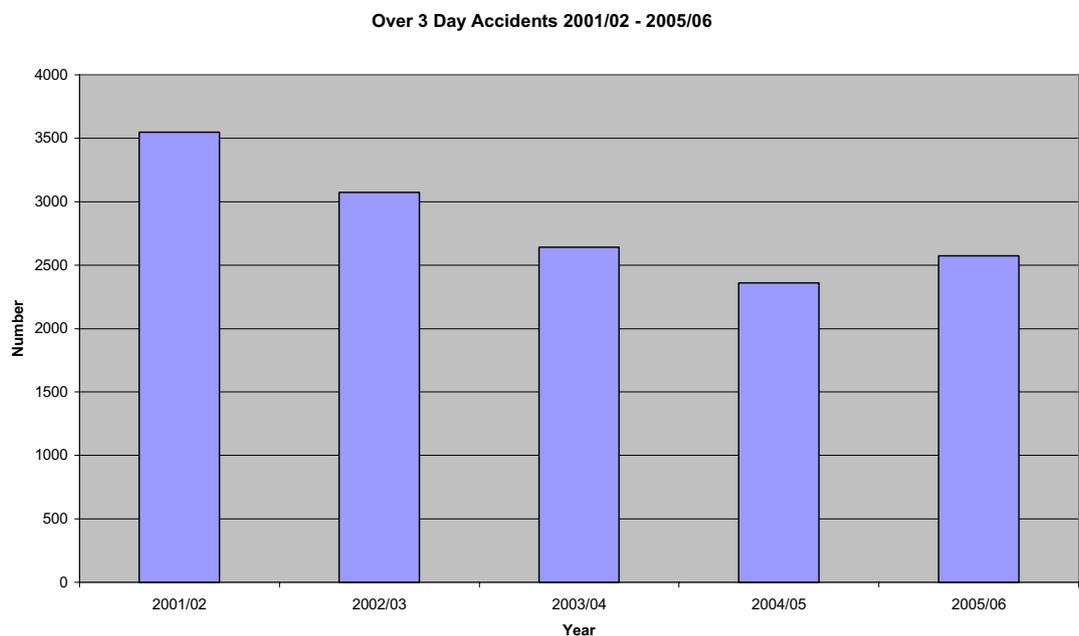


Figure 4: Reported “Over 3 Day” Accidents 2001/02 – 2005/06



Figures 5 and 6 represent the analyses of all accidents by work sector and by causation respectively. However due to variances in levels of under-reporting

between sectors, caution should be applied when attempting to draw any firm inferences from these figures.

Figure 5: 2005/06 Accidents Analysis by Industrial Sector

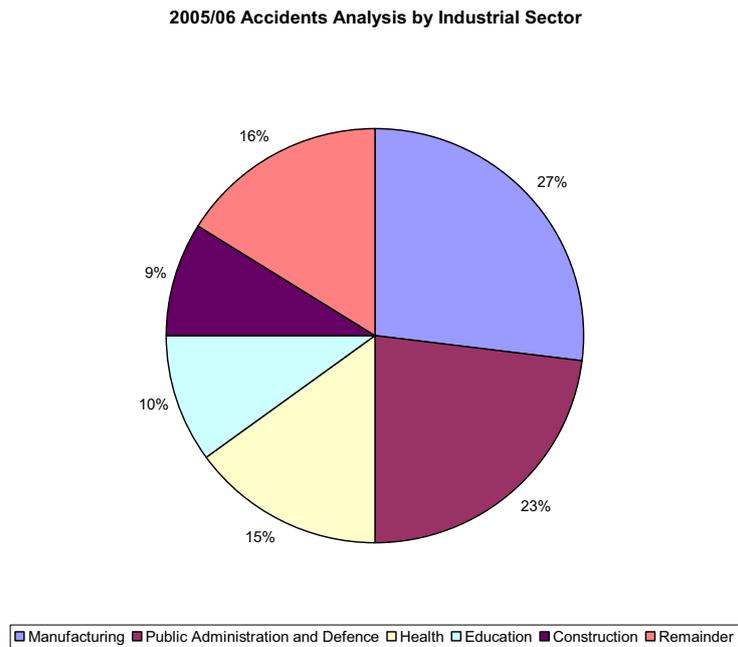


Figure 6: All Accidents 2005/06 Analysis by Cause

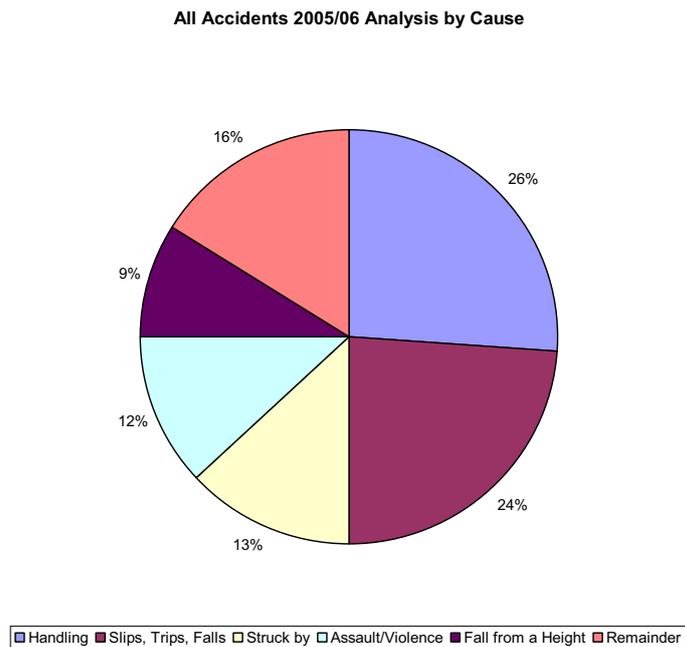
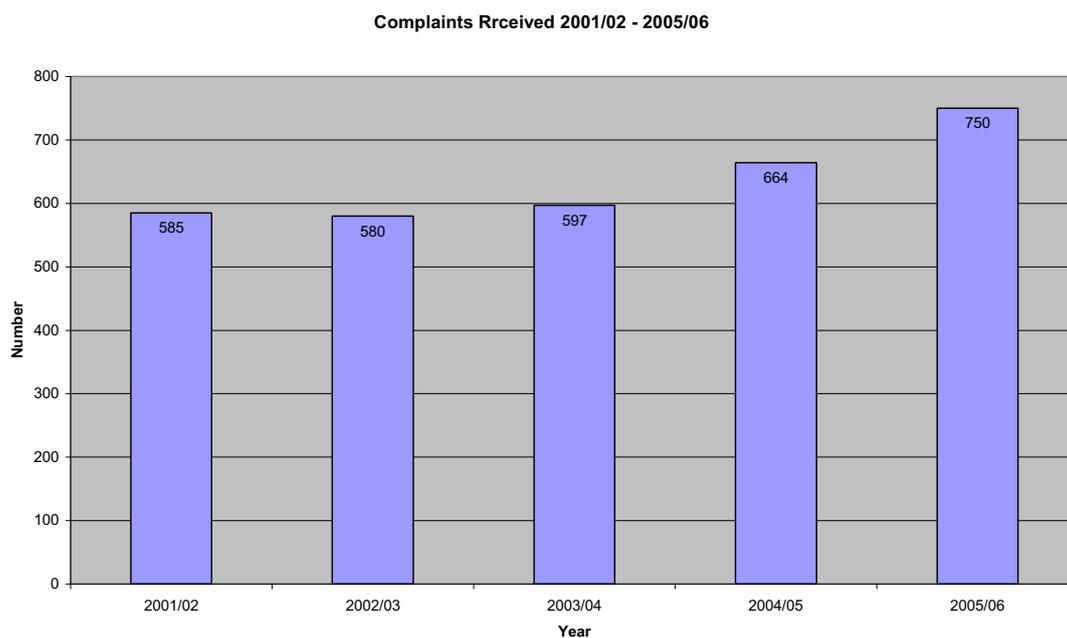


Figure 7 illustrates the number of complaints received by HSENI relating to unsatisfactory working conditions and work-related activities. This year saw another significant increase in the number of complaints being made.

Figure 7: Complaints Received 2001/02 – 2005/06



The information below reflects the Northern Ireland position relating to all regulatory bodies (HSENI and District Councils). Previous year's final figures are shown in brackets. (P) indicates that the figure is provisional.

1. Health and Safety at Work Statistics 2005/06

Fatal Injuries	21	(16)
Major Injuries	773(P)	(806)
Over 3 Day Injuries	3059(P)	(2874)

2. Statistics by Enforcing Authority

	Fatal Injuries		Major Injuries		Over 3 Day Injuries	
HSENI	20	(15)	588(P)	(640)	2572(P)	(2359)
District Councils	1	(1)	185(P)	(166)	487(P)	(515)
TOTALS	21	(16)	773(P)	(806)	3059(P)	(2874)

3. Five year Trends

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Fatal Injuries	12	22	19	16	21
Major Injuries	763	843	878	806	773
Over 3 day Injuries	4116	3602	3270	2874	3059

7. All Reportable Fatal Injuries

Five year trend by Enforcing Authority

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
HSENI	9	21	19	15	20
District Councils	3	1	0	1	1

5. Employee Fatal Accident Incident Rate – Comparison with Great Britain

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Employees in employment within NI mid year (June) rounded to nearest thousand	646	662	668	678	689
NI Fatal Injuries (Employees only)	6	9	6	7	9
NI Fatal Injuries incidence rate per 100,000 employees	0.93	1.36	0.90	1.03	1.31
GB Fatal Injuries incidence rate per 100,000 employees	0.80	0.70	0.67	0.67	NA

6. Deaths caused, or contributed to, by Asbestos-Related Diseases

<i>Primary/secondary cause</i>				
<i>Registration Year</i>	<i>Mesothelioma only</i>	<i>Asbestosis only</i>	<i>Mesothelioma and asbestosis</i>	<i>All primary or secondary cause</i>
2001	55	18	3	76
2002	41	32	1	74
2003	47	23	2	72
2004	53	38	1	92
2005*	38	19	2	59

Table 1: Asbestos-related deaths in Northern Ireland 2001-2005

<i>Registration Year</i>	<i>Primary cause</i>		
	<i>Mesothelioma</i>	<i>Asbestosis</i>	<i>All primary cause</i>
2001	54	9	63
2002	42	12	54
2003	46	9	55
2004	51	14	65
2005*	34	10	44

* provisional figures supplied by the Government Records Office

Table 2: Asbestos-related deaths in Northern Ireland: 2001-2005 where asbestosis or mesothelioma are coded as the primary cause of death

Note:

The number of asbestos-related lung cancer deaths cannot be directly enumerated, since asbestos-related lung cancers are clinically indistinguishable from lung cancers due to other causes. A range of evidence, including research by the Health and Safety Executive, suggests that the number of asbestos-related lung cancer deaths is similar to the number of deaths due to mesothelioma. However this estimation has not been included in the figures presented here.

7. Reported Diseases 2005/06

Eighteen validated cases of disease were reported to HSENI in 2005/06. Of these there were seven cases of dermatitis, five cases of hand-arm vibration/carpal tunnel syndrome, three cases of work-related infection, two cases of traumatic inflammation of the tendons and one case of asbestosis.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006
HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

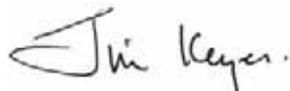
Statement of NDPB's and Chief Executive's Responsibilities

Under the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended by the Health and Safety at Work (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 HSENI is required to prepare a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis determined by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of HSENI's state of affairs at the year end and of its income and expenditure, total recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts HSENI is required to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that HSENI will continue in operation.

The Accounting Officer of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has designated the Chief Executive of HSENI as the Accounting Officer for HSENI. The Chief Executive's relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the non-departmental public bodies Accounting Officer's Memorandum, issued by DFP.



J Keyes
Chief Executive
Date: 28/6/06

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Statement on the System on Internal Control

1. Scope of Responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system on internal control that supports the achievement of HSENI's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting Northern Ireland (GANI).

The Permanent Secretary, as the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's Principal Accounting Officer, has appointed me as the designated Accounting Officer for HSENI. In this role I am personally responsible for propriety and regularity in the management of the public funds for which I have charge and for the day-to-day operations and management of HSENI. In performing this function, I act in accordance with HSENI's Management Statement and Financial Memorandum as agreed with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, and with the instructions and guidance in GANI and other instructions and guidance issued from time to time by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and DFP - in particular, the NDBP Accounting Officers' Memorandum issued by DFP and the Treasury document "Regularity and Propriety".

In relation to risk management, HSENI has adopted the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's risk management process manual and risk management policy. A business risk register is in place to define the system for managing risk. The register includes for each identified risk, the risk rating, indicators, owner, causes and business implications, and details any further action required to fully manage the risk. I report on risk management to the HSENI Audit and Risk Management Committee and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment on a quarterly basis.

2. The purpose of the system on internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of HSENI's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in HSENI for year ending 31 March 2006 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with DFP guidance.

3. Capacity to handle risk

I have overall responsibility for risk management within HSENI. I meet with my Senior Management Team each quarter to review the risk management processes and the business risk register.

Key staff have been trained in risk management and have helped to identify and assess risks which might impact on corporate or operational objectives. Board Members have also received training in risk management. This training looked at guidance on corporate governance, the core principles and benefits of risk management, the HSENI approach to risk management and reporting procedures. HSENI is part of the overall Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment risk management system and the Chair of the Audit and Risk Management

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Statement on the System on Internal Control

Committee is a member of the Departmental Audit Committee and this enables us to identify and share examples of good practice.

4. The risk and control framework

As already noted, the business risk register defines the system to be used for managing risk and its main elements have been described above.

The business risk register identifies the following key business risks:

- the retention and availability of specialised/skilled staff;
- the failure to deliver the HSENI legislative programme;
- the failure to secure additional funding to grow services;
- damage to HSENI's reputation;
- third party loss resulting from HSENI's negligence;
- the failure to prevent and detect all frauds and the failure to report suspected fraud in compliance with HSENI's Fraud Policy;
- the failure of management information systems;
- the major disruption to business; and
- the dependence/reliance on the Health and Safety Executive (GB).

While monitoring of risks is performed on a continual basis, a formal review of risks is undertaken on a quarterly and annual basis. I meet with the Senior Management Team to consider whether any new risks need to be added to the register, have there been any changes to existing risks and are these risks all still relevant, have any of the risks crystallised during the reporting period and whether there has been any escalation of any of the existing risks. Action points relating to existing risks are also reviewed and the risk register is amended as appropriate. Following this review of the risk management process and internal control framework within HSENI, I sign a Stewardship Statement to confirm that I am satisfied with the internal control systems in place to manage significant risks and with the adequacy of the control strategies.

Copies of the risk management report for the quarter and/or year, together with the Stewardship Statement and updated risk register are then forwarded to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's Accountability and Casework Branch for consideration by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's Corporate Governance Committee which in turn reports to the Departmental Board through the Departmental Audit Committee.

Quarterly and annual risk management reports are also discussed and agreed by the HSENI Audit and Risk Management Committee before consideration by the Departmental Audit Committee.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Statement on the System on Internal Control

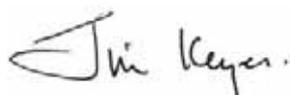
A key target under HSENI's Operating Plan is to review HSENI's risk register on a quarterly basis to ensure that it is up to date and that proper controls are in place to manage the key risks. Risk management has also been identified as a subject which merits regular review by Internal Audit.

5. Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers within HSENI who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. I have been advised on the implications of the result of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the HSENI Board and the Audit and Risk Management Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

As a general rule, the Audit and Risk Management Committee meets at least four times per annum to consider the business risk register, quarterly risk management reports and Stewardship Statements. These meetings take place prior to the Departmental Audit Committee meetings at which risk management is an agenda item. The Chairman of the HSENI Audit and Risk Management Committee is a member of the Departmental Audit Committee.

The HSENI Board receives regular reports on internal control and also receives copies of the minutes of the HSENI Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings. Risk Management systems were reviewed with the Internal Auditors in March 2006 and the plan of work amended. Risks within HSENI are assessed as low and the Internal Audit report for 2005/06 shows that a reasonable level of assurance is maintained by HSENI's systems of control.



J Keyes
Accounting Officer

Date: 28/6/06

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Remuneration Report

The remuneration of senior civil servants is set by the Prime Minister following independent advice from the Review Body on Senior Salaries.

The Review Body also advises the Prime Minister from time to time on the pay and pensions of Members of Parliament and their allowances; on Peers' allowances; and on the pay, pensions and allowances of Ministers and others whose pay is determined by the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975.

In reaching its recommendations, the Review Body has regard to the following considerations:

- the need to recruit, retain and motivate suitably able and qualified people to exercise their different responsibilities;
- regional/local variations in labour markets and their effects on the recruitment and retention of staff;
- Government policies for improving the public services including the requirement on departments to meet the output targets for the delivery of departmental services;
- the funds available to departments as set out in the Government's departmental expenditure limits;
- the Government's inflation target.

The Review Body takes account of the evidence it receives about wider economic considerations and the affordability of its recommendations.

The remuneration of all senior civil servants is entirely performance based. Permanent Secretaries pay awards are determined by the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Permanent Secretary Remuneration Committee.

Further information about the work of the Review Body can be found at www.ome.uk.com.

Service Contracts

Civil Service appointments are made in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland's Recruitment Code, which requires appointment to be on merit on the basis of fair and open competition but also includes the circumstances when appointments may otherwise be made.

Unless otherwise stated the officials covered by this report hold appointments, which are open-ended until they reach retiring age of 60. Policy relating to notice periods and termination payments is contained in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Staff Handbook.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Remuneration Report

Salary and pension entitlements

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the senior members of HSENI.

	2005-06	2004-05
Senior Management	Salary £'000	Salary £'000
Jim Keyes Chief Executive	70-75	65-70
Terry Chambers Deputy Chief Executive (Note 1)	50-55	-
Dermot Breen Deputy Chief Executive	45-50	45-50
Kevin Toner Deputy Chief Executive	40-45	40-45

Note1. Temporary promoted from Principal Inspector to Deputy Chief Executive from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

Salary

"Salary" includes gross salary; performance pay or bonuses any allowance, such as London Weighting Allowances, to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. This report is based on payments made by the Department and thus recorded in these accounts.

Benefits in kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by the Inland Revenue as a taxable emolument. No such benefits were received by HSENI staff.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Remuneration Report

Civil Service Pensions

	Accrued pension at age 60 as at 31/3/06 and related lump sum	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at age 60	CETV at 31/3/06	CETV at 31/3/05	Real increase in CETV
Senior Management	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Jim Keyes Chief Executive	25-27.5 plus lump sum of 77.5-80	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 2.5 - 5	463	414	31
Terry Chambers Deputy Chief Executive	22.5-25 plus lump sum of 72.5-75	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0-2.5	N/A	432	N/A
Dermot Breen Deputy Chief Executive	12.5-15 plus lump sum of 40-42.5	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0-2.5	181	162	10
Kevin Toner Deputy Chief Executive	10-12.5 plus lump sum of 35-37.5	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 2.5-5	149	129	13

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1 October 2002, civil servants may be in one of three statutory based "final salary" defined benefit schemes (classic, premium and classic plus). The Schemes are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under classic, premium, and classic plus are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index. New entrants after 1 October 2002 may choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality "money purchase" stakeholder arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are set at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable earnings for classic and 3.5% for premium and classic plus. Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum (but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum). Classic plus is essentially a variation of premium, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly in the same way as classic.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Remuneration Report

stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee from a selection of approved products. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

Further details about the Civil Service pension arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservicepensions-ni.gov.uk

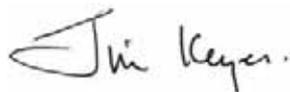
Cash Equivalent Transfer Values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures, and from 2003-04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the Civil Service pension arrangements and for which the CS Vote has received a transfer payment commensurate with the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETV's are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Please note that the factors used to calculate the CETV were revised on 1 April 2005 on the advice of the Scheme Actuary. The CETV figure for 31 March 2005 has been restated using the new factors so that it is calculated on the same basis as the CETV figure for 31 March 2006.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.



J Keyes
Accounting Officer

Date 28/6/06

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

AUDITORS REPORT

To the members of the board of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons and the Northern Ireland Assembly

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland for the year ended 31 March 2006 under the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended by the Health and Safety at Work (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. These comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

Respective responsibilities of the NDPB, Chief Executive and auditor

The HSENI and Chief Executive are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended by the Health and Safety at Work (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 and Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment directions made thereunder and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. These responsibilities are set out in the Statement of NDPBs and Chief Executive's Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report to you my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and whether the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended by the Health and Safety at Work (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 and Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment directions made thereunder. I also report whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. I also report to you if, in my opinion, the Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland has not kept proper accounting records, if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit, or if information specified by relevant authorities regarding remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

I review whether the statement on pages 78 to 80 reflects Health and Safety Executive's compliance with the Department of Finance and Personnel's guidance on the Statement on Internal Control, and I report if it does not. I am not required to consider whether the Accounting Officer's statements on internal control cover all risks and controls, or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Health and Safety Executive's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

AUDITORS REPORT

To the members of the board of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland

I read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the Foreword, the Board and the Organisation, Performance, Management Commentary, Administration, Statistics, the Appendices to the Financial Statements, and, the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. My responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the NDPB and Chief Executive in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are most appropriate to Health and Safety Executive's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error and that in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited.

Opinion

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended by the Health and Safety at Work (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 and Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment directions made thereunder of the state of Health and Safety Executive's affairs as at 31 March 2006 and of its deficit for the year then ended;
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended by the Health and Safety at Work (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 and Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment directions made thereunder; and

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

AUDITORS REPORT

To the members of the board of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland

in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JM Dowdall', written in a cursive style.

JM Dowdall CB
Comptroller and Auditor General
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast BT7 1EU

11 July 2006

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 March 2006

Income	Notes	2006 £	2005 As restated £
Funding of administration expenditure from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	2	3,330,603	3,093,081
Request for Resource B			
Grant to fund programme expenditure from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	2	491,675	500,977
Request for Resource B			
Other operating income	3	88,564	49,015
Total Income		3,910,842	3,643,073
Expenditure			
Staff costs	13	3,169,564	2,862,518
Depreciation		40,284	28,368
Other operating costs	5	793,042	724,568
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets		1,450	-
Notional Costs	6	483,704	695,921
Notional Cost of Capital	6	5,650	5,736
Total expenditure		4,493,694	4,317,111
(Deficit) for the year prior to credit in respect of notional costs		(582,852)	(674,038)
Credit in respect of notional costs		489,354	701,657
(Deficit)/Surplus transferred (from)/to reserves	11	(93,498)	27,619

All amounts above relate to continuing activities

The notes on pages 92 to 101 form part of the financial statements

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the year ended 31 March 2006

	2006	2005 As restated
	£	£
Deficit for the financial year (prior to credit in respect of notional costs)	(582,852)	(674,038)
Unrealised surplus on revaluation of fixtures and fittings	-	38,041
Total recognised deficit relating to the current year	(582,852)	(635,997)
Prior year adjustment (as explained in note 7)	(656,866)	
Total deficit recognised since last financial statements	<u>(1,239,718)</u>	

Note of Historical Cost Profit and Losses For the year ended 31 March 2006

	2006	2005 As restated
	£	£
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year (after credit in respect of notional costs)	(93,498)	27,619
Difference between a historical cost depreciation charge and the actual depreciation charge of the year calculated on the revalued amount	9,510	-
Historical cost (deficit)/surplus for the year.	<u>(83,988)</u>	<u>27,619</u>

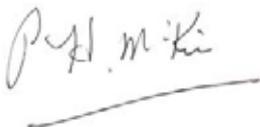
HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Balance Sheet

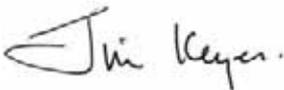
As at 31 March 2006

	Notes	2006		2005	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	8		75,681		105,090
Current Assets					
Debtors	9	66,241		23,613	
Cash at bank and in hand		65,075		169,701	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
		131,316		193,314	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(88,530)		(94,019)	
Net Current Assets			42,786		99,295
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			<hr/>		<hr/>
			118,467		204,385
Financed by:					
Capital and Reserves					
Revaluation Reserve	11		28,531		38,041
Capital Grant Reserve	11		22,600		15,020
General Fund	11		67,336		151,324
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			118,467		204,385

The financial statements were signed on behalf of the board by:



P McKie
Chairman



J Keyes
Chief Executive
Date: 28/6/06

The notes on pages 92 -101 form part of the financial statements

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
 CASH FLOW STATEMENT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2006

	2006	2005
	£	£
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities (note 14.1)	(104,626)	76,031
Capital expenditure and financial investments (note 14.2)	(12,325)	(16,023)
Financing (note 14.2)	12,325	16,023
	<hr/>	<hr/>
(Decrease)/Increase in cash in the year	(104,626)	76,031
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on page 100 form part of this cashflow statement.

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and with the accounts direction.

Without limiting the information given, the financial statements comply with the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, the accounting standards Issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board and accounting and disclosure requirements issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel, insofar as those requirements are appropriate.

1.2 Income

Income includes an adjustment for funding of administration expenditure. Administration expenditure is recognised in the Income and Expenditure account although paid by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

Grant in aid represents funding from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to fund HSENI's programme expenditure.

Other operating income represents fees charged to businesses for licences and attendance at conferences.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure reflects the direct costs of running HSENI. Programme expenditure incurred by HSENI is funded by grant in aid which is credited to the income and expenditure account. Administration expenditure is incurred by DETI (Vote B) but is recognised in the Income and Expenditure account to reflect the total cost of HSENI's activities.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets introduced from the Health and Safety Agency and Division are capitalised at their original cost as revalued to 1 April 1999 by reference to appropriate indices compiled by the Central Statistical Office.

All other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment 25% straight line

1.5 Pensions

HSENI's staff is covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) which is a non-contributory scheme. The rate for the employer's contribution is set by the Government Actuary and for 2005/2006 was dependent on salary range. All contributions are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account as incurred.

1.6 Capital grant in aid

Government grant in aid received as a contribution towards expenditure on fixed assets has been credited to a capital grant reserve and is released to the Income & Expenditure account over the assets useful economic life.

1.7 Value Added Tax

HSENI is ineligible to reclaim input VAT on programme expenditure. Therefore all programme expenditure is inclusive of VAT. All other expenditure is exclusive of VAT.

2 Grant and funding from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	2006	2005
	£	£
Funding of administration expenditure from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment - Request for Resource B	3,330,603	3,093,081
Grant to fund programme expenditure from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment - Request for Resource B	491,675	500,977
	<u>3,822,278</u>	<u>3,594,058</u>
3 Other operating income	2006	2005
	£	£
Other operating income comprises:		
Licence, subscription and conference fees	26,632	29,977
Capital Grant Release	4,745	1,003
Other income	57,187	18,035
	<u>88,564</u>	<u>49,015</u>

4 Performance against key financial targets

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment does not consider it appropriate to set key financial targets for the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland.

5 Other operating costs	2006	2005
	£	£
Motor and travel expenses	151,460	134,083
Advertising and publicity	258,426	284,178
Telephone	39,852	29,815
Printing, postage and stationery	38,804	54,644
Catering and hospitality	8,551	7,476
Light and heat	18,050	10,335
Film / training aids	-	594
Legal expenses	31	(1,040)
Office maintenance	33,948	34,532
Contract cleaning	23,568	12,160
Auditor's remuneration	3,321	7,147
Research and Consultancy	62,493	112,376
Staff development	3,255	1,592
Scientific Services	24,204	-
Inspection and Enforcement	83,499	-
Other expenses	43,580	36,676
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	793,042	724,568
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

6 Notional costs

Notional cost of capital

The income and expenditure account bears a non-cash charge for interest relating to the use of capital by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland. The basis of the charge is 3.5% (3.5% 2004) of the average capital employed by HSENI during the year defined as total assets less current liabilities.

6 Other Notional Costs (Continued)

	2006	2005
		As restated
	£	£
Other notional costs incurred during the year relate to		
Staff training	4,610	4,610
Personnel Development	6,012	11,232
Recruitment Services	2,115	1,557
Departmental Solicitors Office	8,506	21,233
IT Support	-	423
Accommodation Costs	462,461	346,031
Refurbishment Costs	-	310,835
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	483,704	695,921
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7 Prior Year Adjustment

Accommodation and Refurbishment costs totaling £462,461 (2005 £656,866) have been included in Other Notional Costs as part of the Income and Expenditure Account for the current year.

These costs had not been notified to HSENI for inclusion in the accounts in prior years and their omission led to a fundamental error in showing the full cost of HSENI activity for the year.

The effect of the prior year adjustment did not impact the previously reported surplus for the year ended 2004/5, since HSENI receive a credit in respect of all notional costs. In addition there was no Balance Sheet impact.

8 Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2005	248,928
Additions	12,325
Disposals	(15,210)
At 31 March 2006	<u>246,043</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2005	143,838
Charge for year	40,284
Disposals	(13,760)
	<u>170,362</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2006	<u>75,681</u>
At 31 March 2005	<u>105,090</u>

Fixed assets were not revalued during the year as there were no material differences between the depreciated historical cost and the net current replacement cost.

9 Debtors	2006	2005
	£	£
Trade debtors	27,776	5,122
Prepayments and accrued income	38,465	18,491
	<u>66,241</u>	<u>23,613</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2006	2005
	£	£
Trade debtors	17,032	33,372
Accruals	68,230	60,647
Deferred Income	3,268	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88,530	94,019
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

11 Statement of movements in Reserves and General Fund	Revaluation Reserve	Capital Grant Reserve	General Fund
	£	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2005	38,041	15,020	151,324
Capital Grant Received	-	12,325	-
Released to Income and Expenditure account in the period	-	(4,745)	-
Transfer of realised gains	(9,510)	-	9,510
Deficit arising in year	-	-	(93,498)
At 31 March 2006	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	28,531	22,600	67,336
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The deficit arising in year of £93,498 includes a repayment of Grant in Aid to the Department of Trade and Industry of £84,000 in relation to funds received in prior years.

12 Financial Commitment

There is a financial commitment at 31 March 2006 amounting to £150,000 which will be paid over the next 3 years as a contribution to a feasibility study on the provision of Occupational Health Support for Small and Medium Enterprises. £50,000 is to be paid in 2006/7 (2005/6 : £Nil).

13 Employees

	2006	2005
Staff costs	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,499,875	2,324,281
Social Security costs	182,407	177,709
Other pension costs	452,018	310,897
Staff training	35,264	49,631
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,169,564	2,862,518
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The PCSPS(NI) is an unfunded defined benefit scheme which produces its own resource accounts, but HSENI is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2003 and details of this valuation are available in the PCSPS(NI) resource accounts.

For 2005/06, employers' contributions of £452,018 were payable to the PCSPS(NI) (2004/05 £310,897) at one of four rates in the range 16.5 to 23.5 percent of pensionable pay, based on salary bands (the rates in 2004-05 were between 12% to 18%). These rates have increased from 1 April 2005 as a result of the latest actuarial valuation. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

Number of employees

The average number of employees during the year was, made up of	2006 number	2005 Number
Legislation/Finance	12	12
Administration	31	31
Inspectorate	44	44
Chief Executive's department	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	90	90
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Board members

The following shows the remuneration paid to members of HSENI's Board.

	Remuneration (£'s)
Peter McKie (Chairperson)	17,425
Desmond Lowry (Deputy Chairperson)	4,100
Geraldine Alexander	3,485
Patrick Archer	3,485
Roger Gillespie	3,485
Ashley Haslett	3,485
Barbara Martin	3,485
David Mills	3,485
Derrick Nixon	3,485
Gerri Rice	3,485

14 Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

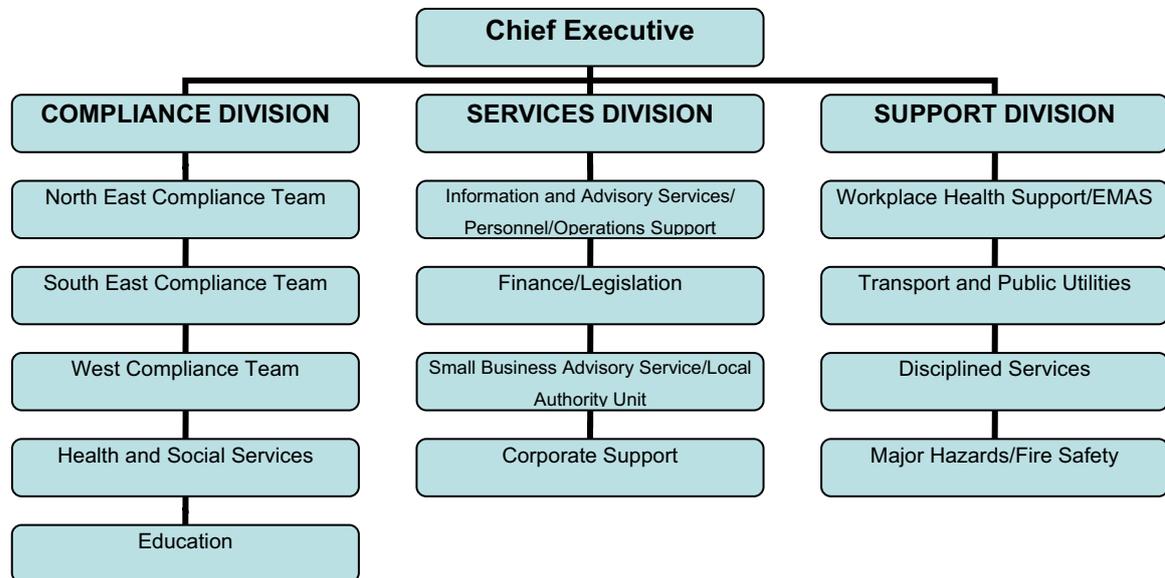
14.1 Reconciliation of result for the year to net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	2006	2005
	£	As restated £
Result for the year	(582,852)	(674,038)
Depreciation of tangible assets	40,284	28,368
Loss on disposal of tangible assets	1,450	-
Notional costs	489,354	701,657
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	(42,628)	4,113
(Decrease)/ increase in creditors within one year	(5,489)	16,934
Capital grant in aid released	(4,745)	(1,003)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	(104,626)	76,031
14.2 Gross Cash Flows	2006	2005
	£	£
Capital expenditure and financial investments		
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(12,325)	(16,023)
Financing		
Capital grant in aid financing	12,325	16,023
14.3 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt	2006	2005
	£	£
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the year	(104,626)	76,031
Cash inflow from increase in debt	-	-
Movement in net (debt)/funds in the year	(104,626)	76,031
Opening net funds	169,701	93,670
Closing net funds	65,075	169,701

15 Related party transactions

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland is a Non-Departmental Public Body [NDPB] sponsored by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment ("the Department"). The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is regarded as a related party. During the year HSENI had various transactions with the Department and with other entities for which the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is regarded as the parent Department. None of the board members, members of the key management staff or other related parties has undertaken any material transactions with the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland during the year.

Appendix 1

HSENI Organisation Structure 2005/06



Appendix 2

Fatal Accidents 2005-2006 (Total = 20; HSENI enforcement responsibility only)

Agriculture

Occupation	Employment Category	Description	Date
Farmer's Wife	Self-employed	Knocked down and killed by animals released from a farm building.	25.04.05
Farmer	Self-employed	Crushed while carrying out maintenance work to a jeep when straps holding vehicle off the ground failed.	26.05.05
Two Waste Disposal Contractors	Employees	Both men were buried and asphyxiated when slurry bag collapsed.	07.06.05
Farmer	Self-employed	Crushed when pulled into a potato harvester.	06.08.05
Farmer	Self-employed	Attacked by a bull.	09.08.05 (died 10.08.05)
Farmer	Self-employed	Run over by Ford 550 rubber wheeled digger	22.09.05
Farmer	Self-employed	Struck by a barn door during strong winds.	07.11.05 (died 09.11.05)
Farmer	Self-employed	Caught around a PTO shaft on a tractor - slurry tanker.	28.02.06
Farmer	Self-employed	Injuries inflicted by animal while assisting cow to calve.	06.03.06

Quarries

Occupation	Employment Category	Description	Date
Worker	employee	Run over by earth moving machine.	20.09.05

General Manufacturing

Occupation	Employment Category	Description	Date
Forklift driver	employee	Trapped against the side of a lorry when a parked forklift moved forward.	01.02.06
Process operative	employee	Fell into a hopper in a cheese factory.	04.02.06

Transport and Public Utilities

Occupation	Employment Category	Description	Date
Agriculture supply merchant	Self-Employed	Died when forklift truck overturned while delivering fertiliser to a farm.	20.07.05
Plant Driver	Employee	Vehicle went over edge of quay.	28.07.05

Construction

Occupation	Employment Category	Description	Date
Roofer	Employee	Fell approximately 5m through a roof light onto a concrete floor	30.05.05
Fitter	Employee	Died in explosion at water treatment works whilst carrying out construction maintenance work.	02.06.05
Farmer	Self-employed	Fell from roof (5m) through Perspex skylight on corrugated farm shed.	13.10.05 (died 14.10.05)
Painter/decorator	Employee	Fell from ladder whilst painting fascia at eaves of house.	06.12.05
Road Worker	Self-employed	Electrocuted when an articulated lorry made contact with an overhead powerline.	28.02.06

Appendix 3

Prosecutions 2005-2006

1. Larkfield Developments Ltd was prosecuted under Article 5 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and was fined £30,000; under Regulation 3(1)(b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and was fined £10,000; and under Regulation 8 (1) of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) and was fined £10,000.

The case arose following an investigation into a fatal accident on a building site in Airfield Heights, Belfast on 3 September 2002 when a landing slab rotated and a staircase slipped off its mounting crushing a 30 year old labourer.

2. McLaughlin and Harvey Ltd was prosecuted under Regulation 16(1)(b) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and Regulation 5 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000, and was fined £10,000.
3. Foylespan Floors Limited was prosecuted under Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and Article 7(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, and was fined £10,000.
4. Mr Patrick Murphy was prosecuted under Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and was fined £2,500.

The three cases immediately above arose following the investigation into a fatal accident which occurred at Foyleside Shopping Centre, Londonderry on 3 September 2002 during the construction of floor slabs and a stairwell. A construction worker fell to his death when one of the floor slabs failed, resulting in the collapse of eight staircases.

5. Mr M E Crowe was prosecuted under Article 4(2)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and was fined £20,000 and under Regulation 8(1) of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 and was fined £20,000.

The case arose following an investigation into a fatal accident at Gowan Heights, Drumbo, on 3 December 2002 when a charge hand fell from a metal cage which had been positioned on, but not secured to, the forks of a telescopic handler. The metal cage also fell, striking the man on the head.