

The Löfstedt review

An independent review of health and safety legislation –
terms of reference

May 2011

Background

As part of the Government's plans to reform Britain's health and safety system, the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) Minister for Employment, the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, commissioned an independent review of health and safety legislation.

Purpose

The review will consider the opportunities for reducing the burden of health and safety legislation on UK businesses whilst maintaining the progress made in improving health and safety outcomes.

In particular, the review will consider the scope for combining, simplifying or reducing the – approximately 200 – statutory instruments owned by HSE and primarily enforced by HSE and Local Authorities, and the associated Approved Codes of Practice (ACoP) which provide advice, with special legal status, on compliance with health and safety law.

In doing so, it will seek to take into account:

- the extent to which these regulations have led to positive health and safety outcomes and the extent to which they have created significant economic costs for businesses of all sizes;
- whether the requirements of EU Directives are being unnecessarily enhanced ('gold-plated') when transposed into UK regulation; and
- any evidence or examples of where health and safety regulations have led to unreasonable outcomes, or inappropriate litigation and compensation.

The review will gather evidence from a range of key stakeholders, including:

- Government bodies;
- employers' organisations;
- employee organisations;
- professional health and safety bodies; and
- academics.

It will also see if lessons can be learned from comparison with health and safety regimes in other countries and consider whether health and safety law suitably places responsibility on those that create risk.

Governance

The review will be chaired by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt, Director of the King's Centre for Risk Management at King's College, London. He will be

supported by an Advisory Panel whose role is to work with the Chair and provide constructive challenge to the review.

Review membership

Chair:	Professor Ragnar Löfstedt
Advisory Panel:	
Legislature representative (Con)	Andrew Bridgen MP
Legislature representative (Lab)	Andrew Miller MP
Legislature representative (Lib Dem)	To be confirmed
Employer representative	John Armit (Olympic Delivery Authority)
Employee representative	Sarah Veale (Trades Union Congress)
Small business representative	Dr Adam Marshall (British Chambers of Commerce)

Timescale

The review was launched on 21 March 2011, and is expected to report to the Minister for Employment by the end of October 2011. The report will be published on the DWP website.

Secretariat

The review will be supported by a small team of civil servants, based in DWP. The Review team will:

- arrange meetings and agree attendees and the agenda with the Chair;
- commission and circulate papers before each meeting;
- produce a record of decisions and actions from each meeting;
- coordinate the call for evidence to the review;
- deal with enquiries arising from the review; and
- provide regular updates to the Minister for Employment.

Contact

Email: Review.healthandsafety@dwp.gsi.gov.uk