



317th Meeting of the IOSH Thames Valley  
Branch held on 2nd March 2022 via Zoom

Members present:

Simon Ayee, Paul Barnes, Paul Barnwell, Cassandra Barrow, Phil Bear, Paul Bensley, Matthew Bissell, Paul Blundell, Martin Botha, Helki Bouraqui, Mark Chenery, Ka Fu Cheung, Andrew Clarke, Thomas Cohen, Des Conway, Rebecca Cousins, Morag Dalrymple, Paul Daly, Emma Dengate, Steph Dennis, Miriam Ellise, Tom Fallon, Gary Foggo, Joe Fullbrook, Mariusz Giergowski, Adrian Gledhill, Amo Gorji-Dinka Samuel Grainger, Jamar Gregory, Alan Haresnape, David Heath, Tracy Heath, Shirley Hoskins, Ryan Hulme, Grahame Jamieson, David Jenkins, Rebecca Jones, Helen Keep, Ian Iveson, Myra Kelly, Russell Kennerley, Margaret Kirby, Andrew Kirkpatrick, Steve Larvin, Paul Lynch, Susanne Lynch, Vijayakumar Madanagopal, Christine Mapp, Alastair Mason, Laurence McCammick, Greg McGinn, Chloe Mckone, John McNab, Andrew Miller, Paul Miller, Steve Miller, Kerry Monger, Clare Mothersole, Nathan Orr, Florence Pillay, Carl Plowden, Brian Prout, Jim Prowse, Steve Pulling, Michael Robinson, Dave Rogers, Nick Polden, Paul Rossiter, Angelica Rutherford-Hacon, Divya Salian, Melvin Sandell, Raza Sardar, Nicola Scobie, Sue Seddon, Lynn Slater, Jayne Slocombe, Martin Sole, Drew Stephens, Khaja Syed, Fayyaz Tai, Jen Toner, Victor TeodoricolozanesPastolero, Bosco Tsz Yan Chan, Steve Van Rhyn, Antony Varghese, Kwok Wah Lau, Sally Wearing.

Branch presentation

Melvin Sandell of Finch Consulting gave a talk on 'Managing the immediate and ongoing fallout from an incident'

His slides are available on the Thames Valley Branch website under 'recent events'.

Questions to Melvin

Q - What are examples of effective investigating tools used to identify the root cause of an accident?

A - A good method is to ask what / if / why? And keep repeating until there are no more whys to ask

Q - Define the best effective mechanism for capturing lessons learnt (RLI) following an incident?

A - Gather as much information as you can as quickly as possible. Get the affected people around the table and get their views and opinions of what went wrong and how to prevent it happening again.

Q - When can legal privilege be used as part of an investigation?

A - Legal privilege can only be established by a lawyer ( not H&S professionals) and has to part of a 'legal product'. Defence lawyers have legal privilege, the regulator hasn't.

Q - On the issue of blame, how can organisations be encouraged to focus on learning and avoid the blame game, given that the incentives are heavily weighted on blaming to avoid repercussions unfortunately?

A - a huge question. There are times when you need to get the information and times when people do have to accept the blame for their actions and the consequences.

Q - Can you clarify a point - you said defence lawyers have legal privilege and that regulators can be refused access to evidence, then you said regulators can access all evidence. Which one is more realistic? Regulators do have access to all the information but only that which the lawyer has made 'legally privileged' by making it part of a legal product.

Previous Branch presentations are available at the Thames Valley branch website under 'recent events'

<https://iosh.com/membership/our-membership-network/our-branches/thames-valley-branch/>

Reply to: David Heath,

Branch Secretary [Heath410@btinternet.com](mailto:Heath410@btinternet.com) Tel: 01628 634523