

## Environmental and Waste Management Group



### November 2018 Newsletter

#### **LEGISLATION, REGULATORS, GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS**

##### **HSE releases Great Britain's annual injury and ill health statistics**

Annual statistics from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show 1.4 million workers were suffering from work-related ill health and around 555,000 from non-fatal injuries in 2017/18.

The annual statistics, compiled by HSE from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and other sources, cover work-related ill health, workplace injuries, working days lost, costs to Britain and enforcement action taken. Despite Britain continuing to be one of the safest places to work, key figures for Great Britain show that in 2017/18 there were;

- 144 fatal injuries at work
- 1.4 million working people suffering from a work-related illness
- 30.7 million working days lost due to work-related illness and workplace injury
- 493 cases were prosecuted and resulted in a conviction. Fines from convictions totalled £72.6 million (see below)

Workplace injury and new cases of ill health cost Britain £15.0 billion a year with 30.7 million working days lost. (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

##### **Twenty years of PUWER and LOLER**

HSE has highlighted that it's been twenty years since the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) came into force back in 1998... Dedicated supporting resources and information are available on [HSE website](https://www.hse.gov.uk).

##### **Updated advice on mental health in the workplace**

HSE has published updated guidance on mental health in the workplace. It explains how line managers can support employees and provides sources of further help and advice. Its website also has a section entitled work-related stress and how to tackle it. This looks at six main areas of work design which can effect stress levels, as well as offering advice on how employers can protect employees from stress in the workplace. (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

## **Sir Vince Cable warns mental health is costing the UK more than Brexit**

"Mental health costs the UK economy as a whole between £74 billion and £99 billion per year." The leader of the Liberal Democrats told the Mad World conference in London. (Read more: [shponline.co.uk](http://shponline.co.uk))

## **One in four admits leaving a job due to mental ill-health, survey finds**

One-in-four employees has left a job because of mental health issues, according to an online survey by charity St John Ambulance. The survey of 1,000 employees who mainly work in human resources and administration revealed also that a further 43% had considered leaving a job due to stress or mental health issues. (Read more: [ioshmagazine.com](http://ioshmagazine.com))

## **Environmental compliance of Scottish business exceeds 90% for third year in a row**

Environmental performance amongst Scottish regulated businesses and other organisations in 2017 remained high, with 90.97% of sites recorded as 'Excellent', 'Good' or 'Broadly Compliant', according to results published by SEPA on 5 October 2018. (Read more: [sepa.org.uk](http://sepa.org.uk))

## **Official Statistics' Publication for Scotland - Household waste summary, Waste landfilled, Waste incinerated - January to December 2017**

SEPA recently published Official Statistics which provide detail of Household Waste collected across all of Scotland's 32 local authorities during 2017, and for the first time as an official statistic, the carbon impact metric. This is a measure developed by Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) of the whole-life carbon impacts of waste, from resource extraction and manufacturing emissions, right through to waste management emissions.

The statistics show that for the 2017 calendar year, the household waste recycling rate was 45.6%, a slight increase from the 45.0% rate achieved in 2016. The total amount of household waste generated in Scotland was 2.46 million tonnes in 2017, a decrease of 1.5% from 2016, while there was a decrease of 2.2% in household waste disposed to landfill; this is the sixth consecutive decrease in household waste landfilled since 2011. For the first time, in 2017 there was more Scottish waste recycled (1.12 million tonnes) than landfilled (1.11 million tonnes). (Read more: [sepa.org.uk](http://sepa.org.uk))

## **How must NHS suppliers dispose of clinical waste in the UK?**

Waste is split into four categories – infectious, sharp, anatomical and medical – and transportation rules are stringent

The Environment Agency has launched a [criminal investigation](#) into how a major NHS supplier failed to dispose of body parts, including amputated limbs and waste from cancer treatment. (Read more: [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com))

## **BREXIT: Industry calls for UK to stay in European health & safety regime**

Britain's manufacturers are calling for the current health & safety landscape to be maintained when the UK leaves the European Union in a report by the manufacturers' organisation, EEF, 'Making health and safety work for UK business'.

The report argues that UK manufacturers need regulatory stability to plan for future investment and never more so than in this time of uncertainty with Brexit so close. This requires certainty and advance knowledge of any changes they will face to enable them to prepare. It argues that the only credible way forward at this time is for the UK to continue to adopt the worker protection and product safety laws of the European Union, until such time as the UK has a new trade agreement with the EU. (Read more: [eef.org.uk](http://eef.org.uk))

### **Ladder safety**

The Ladder Association is urging ladder users - and those responsible for managing the safe use of ladders - to take a fresh approach to ladder training and has developed a free safety pack available for download. (Read more: [ladderassociation.org.uk](http://ladderassociation.org.uk))

## **INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS**

### **Rise in H&S Fines**

Annual statistics from the Health and Safety Executive show total penalties have almost doubled to £72.6m during 2017/18 since new sentencing guidelines were introduced three years ago. (Read more: [constructionenquirer.com](http://constructionenquirer.com))

### **Director jailed and Liverpool company fined after worker killed**

A Liverpool-based waste and recycling company, Gaskell's (North West) Limited, has been fined £700,000 and ordered to pay costs of almost £100,000, and its director, Jonathan Gaskell, has been sentenced to eight months in prison, after the death of a 39-year-old worker in a baling machine in 2010. A serious aggravating factor in sentencing was the company's subsequent continuation of operation of the same baling machine in a dangerous manner after the accident.

The baling machine in question, used to compress recyclable and waste materials into small bales, had a defeated interlock system enabling a worker to enter the machine while it was still in operation. The worker was killed when the machine automatically activated after he had entered it to clear a blockage of waste materials.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Phil Redman noted: "This incident was completely avoidable and it is inconceivable that Gaskells continued to operate the same dangerous machine in the way it did for as long as five years after this incident. Companies should be aware that HSE will not accept the defeating of safety systems in order to maintain production and will not hesitate to take action against those that fall below the required standards." (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))

### **Stirling landowner ordered to pay £26,000 for waste offences**

A Stirling landowner was fined £6,000 and served with a Confiscation Order, under the Proceeds of Crime Act, for £20,388 at Stirling Sheriff Court on 26 September 2018. The landowner pleaded guilty to illegally managing and keeping asbestos, plastics and other wastes, at the former Cowie Road Landfill, Bannockburn, without the necessary authorisations from SEPA. (Read more: [sepa.org.uk](http://sepa.org.uk))

### **Waste management company fined £650,000 after worker killed**

Aylesbury Crown Court heard how, on 8 August 2016, a Viridor Waste Management Limited (Viridor) employee climbed into the top level of a ballistic separator, a machine that sifts through and separates recyclable materials, to clean it before it was suitably isolated from the power supply. Whilst the employee was inside the machine, the electrical power supply to the ballistic separator was turned on from the control room and the machine subsequently restarted, resulting in the employee being fatally injured.

Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Emma Page said: "Every year, a significant number of serious or fatal injuries in the waste and recycling industry occur because machines are inadequately guarded and because activities such as clearing blockages and maintenance are being undertaken when machinery is running. To prevent and reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury adequate machine guards, isolation procedures and systems of work must be in place." (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))

### **Company fined after agency worker injured on waste conveyor**

Loosemores Transport Ltd, Shrewsbury, a haulage and waste processing business, has been fined £18,000 after an 18-year-old agency worker's hand was drawn into an in running nip on a waste sorting conveyor. Telford Magistrates Court heard how, on 27 September 2016, the worker was trying to clear a blockage beneath a waste conveyor belt. He reached in with his hand to remove the material causing the blockage when his hand was drawn in by the in-running nip on the conveyor system. He suffered partial amputation of his finger and a fractured elbow.

HSE inspector Wendy Campbell said after the hearing: "A young man's life has been changed because the company failed to ensure there was correct guarding on the conveyor belt. This should serve as a reminder to all companies to check their machinery guarding is adequate and prevents access to dangerous parts of machinery". (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))

### **North Lincolnshire recycling company fined after worker suffers life-changing injuries**

Plasterboard recycling company, Northern Waste Group Ltd, has been fined £45,000 after a worker became entangled in the unguarded tail drum of a conveyor. Sheffield Magistrates court heard how, on 16 January 2017, the worker was engaged in cleaning duties around a conveyor when he put his arm into the moving machinery without turning it off resulting in his left arm becoming entangled.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Carol Downes commented: "This case highlights the importance of ensuring that dangerous moving parts of machinery are guarded. The incident could so easily have been avoided by having suitable guarding on the machine and appropriate safe working practices for cleaning." (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))

## **Siemens Gamesa worker struck by 50 kg steel coil during wind farm pre-assembly**

Siemens Gamesa has been fined more than £66,000 after a contractor was injured by a falling steel wire coil at the Galloper Offshore Wind Farm pre-assembly site in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, in 2017. (Read more: [joshmagazine.com](http://joshmagazine.com))

## **OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST**

### **Solar Chernobyl**

A solar power installation has come online at the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Site in Ukraine. Officially opened on 5<sup>th</sup> October, the 1-MW solar power plant has been built 100m from ground zero of what was the world's worst nuclear mishap when an explosion in April 1986 turned the surrounding area into a dangerous and uninhabitable region of radiation contamination; the concrete structure behind the panels covers the damaged fourth nuclear power block of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. The consortium that developed the project says it is the first and only real private investment in the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Zone and that using contaminated land for solar parks will work for 'the benefit of humanity.' (Read more: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk))

### **Engineers need a 'strong voice' to tackle climate change**

Leading industry experts have called for engineers to have a “strong voice” in the battle against climate change. Reacting to the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) report](#) on controlling climate change, industry experts have stressed the integral role that engineers should play.

The damning report claimed that the 2.0°C limit on climate change set by The Paris Agreement may not be enough to stop dramatic damage to the planet. According to the report, if the temperature increases by more than 1.5°C, sea levels will rise more than 10cm than previously thought, Arctic sea ice will disappear completely at least once a decade and 99% of coral reefs will be destroyed. The report calls for “rapid and far-reaching” changes to land use, transport modes and energy production. (Read more: [newcivilengineer.com](http://newcivilengineer.com))

### **Government seeks advice on net-zero emissions as fracking restarts in England**

Climate minister Claire Perry has written to the government's climate change advisers seeking advice on reducing the UK's greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero on the same day fracking resumed in England.

The letter, dated 15 October, was co-signed by Scotland energy minister Paul Wheelhouse and Welsh energy secretary Lesley Griffiths. It follows the IPCC's report (above) which gave stark warnings over the need to act urgently to curb emissions if warming is to be kept below 1.5°C compared with pre-industrial levels.

Perry had signalled in April that she would contact the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) in response to the CCC's January assessment of the government's Clean Growth Strategy. The assessment concluded that the Paris Agreement would require "emissions to reach net-zero a some point in the second half of the century" and that it is "essential that actions are taken now to enable these deeper reductions to be achieved". Current legal targets require the UK to reduce emissions by 80% compared with 1990 levels. Perry has not asked the CCC for advice on revising the existing carbon budgets covering 2018-2032, which are already set in legislation. (Read more: [gov.uk](http://gov.uk))

### **IOSH Rail Industry Conference – 20 November 2018**

Rail Industry Conference: Reflections - influencing our future; a leading event aimed at safety and health professionals and those with an interest or involvement in the railway industry. (Read more: [iosh.co.uk](http://iosh.co.uk))

### **IOSH Scotland one-day conference – 22 November 2018**

The IOSH Scotland Branch is pleased to confirm details of its inaugural one-day conference. With the aim of making it an annual occasion, this high-quality event offers the opportunity for delegates to engage with a top keynote speaker in Martin Coyd OBE, as well as experts in the fields of LEV, RPE management and fit-face testing, practical HAVS risk management and the HSE's new MAC and RAPP tools. (Read more: [iosh.co.uk](http://iosh.co.uk))

### **IOSH Yorkshire Branch Environmental Law Update – 22 November 2018**

EWMG Executive Committee will be in attendance at the Yorkshire Branch Environmental Legal Update event at Rogerthorpe Manor, Pontefract, on 22nd November, should any member wish to attend the event and / or meet up with them. (Read more: [iosh.co.uk](http://iosh.co.uk))