



West of Scotland
Branch

Branch Meeting

Minutes

Thursday 26th November 2020, 13:00 hours, Online meeting via Zoom

1. Chair of Meeting: Fred Cullum

The Chair welcomed members and visitors to the meeting and suggested that new members and visitors introduce themselves through chat and advised that Branch business would follow the speaker's presentation.

2. Speakers

A warm welcome was extended to Claudia Trotter from Mates in Mind who provided a comprehensive presentation on Mental Health. Reflecting on symptoms, statistics including taking account of the challenges Covid 19 brought to workforces and assistance available. The presentation and recording are available on the Branch Website.

Following the presentations there was a Q&A session led by Susannah McIntosh before the Chair thanked the speakers on behalf of the Branch.

3. Sederunt

There were 63 attendees during the presentation with 48 remaining for branch business.

4. Apologies

The Chair asked that any apologies be communicated through the branch email westofscotland@ioshnetworks.com

5. Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 29th October 2020 branch meeting was reviewed and deemed accurate record proposed by (Alex Petrie) seconded by (William Lyon). Copies of the minutes will be provided on request from the Branch Secretary (westofscotland@ioshnetworks.com)

6. Current Vacancies

The Chair reported a number of vacancies. NHS Inverness, SSE and Network Rail are all recruiting. (Closing dates for Network Rail vacancies)

Any vacancies should be emailed to the westofscotland@ioshnetworks.com

7. Group reports

Construction: George Mills

Driving for Work

HSE and Department for Transport produced joint guidance in 2014, INDG382: Driving at Work, to help duty holders manage work-related road risk.

However, in recent years there have been significant developments in driving technologies and practices that have brought into question the currency of this guidance.

The HSE are interested to hear from people who drive for work or employ those who do, across all industries including construction, to help identify how INDG382 can be improved in terms of relevance, currency and accessibility.

HSE Releases annual injury and ill health stats for GB

Statistics released by HSE show that Great Britain is still one of the safest places in the world to work with the lowest number of deaths on record

Coronavirus updates and advice

HSE has published a range of coronavirus related guidance and information, which you may find useful.

It includes:

- making your workplace COVID-secure.
- social distancing
- risk assessment
- using power tools: avoiding the need for RPE

Construction workers may be exposed to a type of Leptospirosis called Weil's Disease

The Weil's disease form of leptospirosis is contracted from the urine of infected rats and is most likely to be during refurbishment or demolition work.

HSE's website tells you how to control this risk and why.

You can also purchase packs of HSE's pocket cards which explain what leptospirosis is; how you might catch it and ways to prevent it; and also what you should do if you contract the disease.

Public Services: Susannah McIntosh

There is a lot happening with regard to mental health from information on the Branch website to the additional resources listed as follows.

Qualsafe Academy provide Mental Health First Aid in the Workplace internationally. Email.

info@qualsafeawards.org for further information.

Free Disability Confident webinars

The webinars, facilitated by Professor Amanda Kirby (CEO of Do-IT) and sponsored by Microsoft, provide practical help and support on a range of key disability employment topics. Find out more and register through the links below:

- **10 Dec – 11.30-12.00:** [Mental Health in the workplace and support for shielding employees](#)
- **17 Dec – 11.30-12.00:** [Access to Work – information about the scheme](#)
- **21 Jan – 11.30-12.00:** [Practical strategies for retaining disabled employees through Covid-](#)
- **28 Jan – 11.30-12.00:** [Changing the conversations to implement inclusive economic plann](#)
- **11 Feb – 11.30-12.00:** [Practical strategies for effective and inclusive remote team working](#)
- **18 Feb – 11.30-12.00:** [Supporting employees to return safely back to work](#)

All of the events have been recorded and you can access them on the [Do-IT website](#).

Environment and Waste Management: Brian Beck

Nothing to report other than vacancies.

8. AOCB

- **IPD/CPD** – the CMIOSH/CFIOSH groups are continuing to meet. Please email the branch if interested in joining these groups westofscotland@ioshnetworks.com
- **IOSH Level 3 Course** – A mailer will be sent to Branch members providing further information on how individuals can apply for a free place on a course.
- **Podcasts** - Blair Boyd continues to produce the Safer than your average podcasts – they will continue until Christmas and then recommence at the end of January 2021. The Branch Executive Committee fully support Blair and wish to record thanks for the commitment in producing these. If you have not viewed these please take the opportunity.
- **Certificate of Merit** - The Certificate of Merit award ceremony will take place in 2021 but it will be a virtual awards evening. Watch for information via email and the Branch website. If you know anyone who should be nominated for this award please make sure your nomination is submitted when applications become available.

9. Next Meeting

Next branch meeting on 28th January 2021 at 1300hrs. Instead of the usual Question Panel members will be able to opt to join a discussion group to exchange views and information. Watch out for Branch Mailer relating to the January 2021 meeting

10. Branch Meeting closure

The chair thanked the attendees and extend the branch thoughts to the audience and their families during these challenging times. Extending Seasons Greetings to everyone before closing the meeting at 1411hrs