



**PWYLLGOR IECHYD A DIOGELWCH  
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

<b>DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:</b>	11 September 2023
<b>TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	Health and Safety Update
<b>CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:</b>	Mandy Rayani, Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience
<b>SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Tim Harrison, Head of Health, Safety and Security Adam Springthorpe, Health and Safety Manager

**Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)**

**Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)**

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

**ADRODDIAD SCAA**

**SBAR REPORT**

**Sefyllfa / Situation**

This report is presented to the Health and Safety Committee (HSC) to provide an update on topical Health and Safety subjects, including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) statistics on fatalities for 2022/23, a points of ligature update, and an update on oxygen cylinder handling.

**Cefndir / Background**

The report focuses on the following topical Health and Safety subjects:

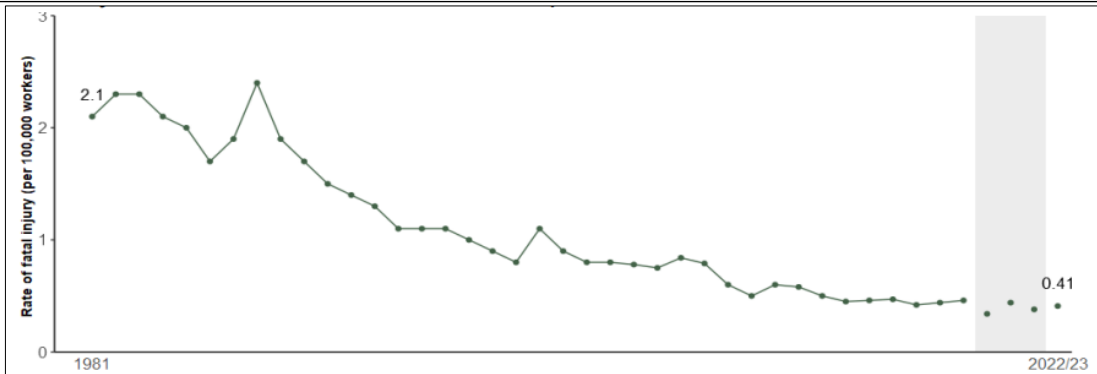
- Interesting statistics on workplace fatalities following the publication of the HSE's provisional figures for 2022/23 including breakdowns and trends.
- A points of ligature update highlighting the advances made since the Internal Audit report of March 2023.
- An update on oxygen cylinder handling, including signposting to risk assessment templates and guidance documentation available.

**Asesiad / Assessment**

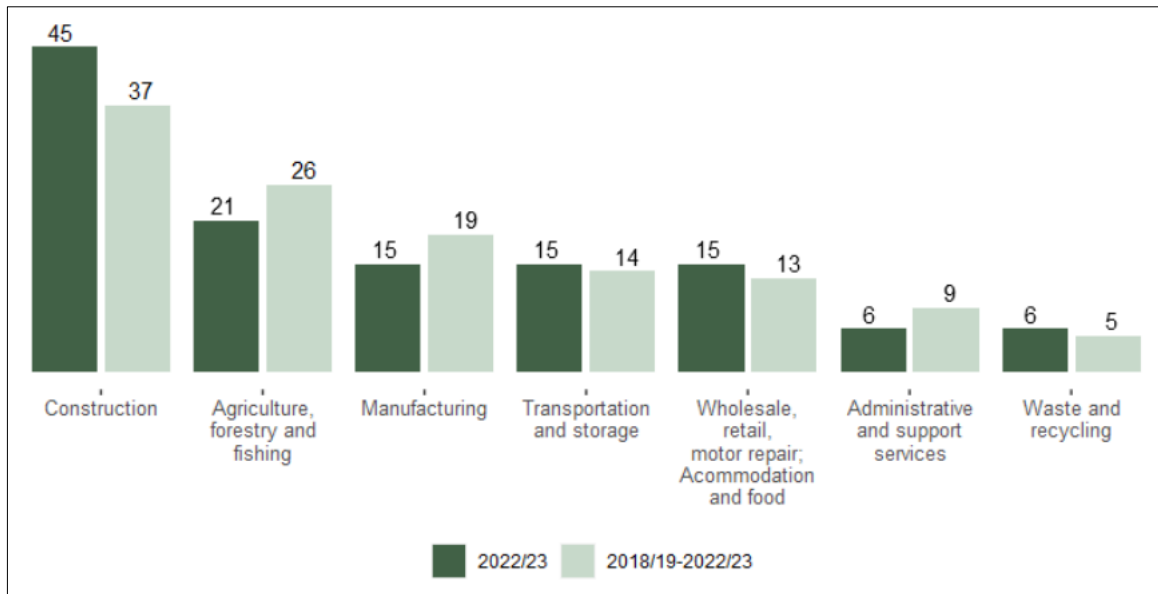
**Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Statistics on Fatalities for 2022/23**

The HSE have published their preliminary RIDDOR statistics on fatalities in the workplace for the year 2022/23. According to the figures, 135 workers were killed in Great Britain in work-related accidents in 2022/23. Over the long-term, the rate of fatal injuries to workers has shown a downward trend, though in the recent years the rate had been broadly flat. This can be seen on the first chart on the next page.

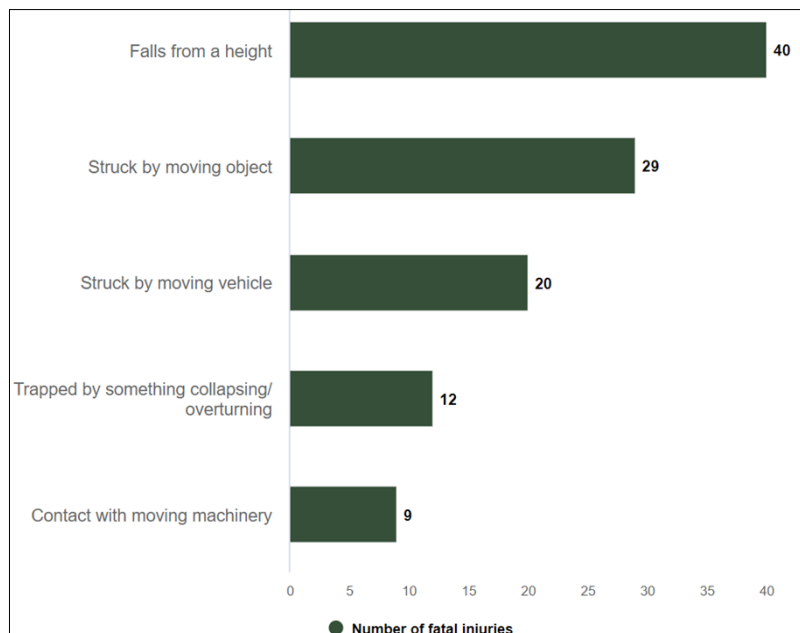
The second chart shows the breakdown of these incidents by industry group for 2023 along with the annual average for 2018/19-2022/23. The construction and agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors continue to account for the greatest number of workers killed in fatal accidents each year. Figures for the Human Health industry are too low to figure individually, though it should be noted that some of the industry groups are comparable to certain areas of work within the Health Board, such as Estates (construction sector), and Facilities (transportation and storage sector and the waste and recycling sector).



**Note:** The data for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded area.



The chart below shows the main causes of fatal accidents for workers for the period. The most common causes of fatal accidents are falls from height, followed by struck by a moving object and struck by a moving vehicle. Between them, these three categories account for around two-thirds of fatal accidents in 2022/23.



It should be noted that there have been no recorded staff fatal accidents recorded under RIDDOR within HDdUHB.

Fall from height accidents (the lead category above) are rare within the Health Board, however a recent RIDDOR reportable 'over-7-day injury' has highlighted improvements that need to be made to existing work at height arrangements. The Health, Safety and Security Department have developed and distributed an Estates-specific Local Safety Notice following this fall in which it highlights the risk of working near fragile surfaces.

The Health, Safety and Security Department are currently leading on the development of a new Safe Work at Height Policy along with key stakeholders including the Operations Compliance and Estates Maintenance teams. The aim is for the policy to be brought to the Health and Safety Committee for approval before the end of 2023. Sub-workstreams are also currently looking at other important areas including training and ladder inspection arrangements.

### **Points of Ligature Update**

In March 2023, the Internal Audit review findings of the points of ligature (POL) audit concluded considerable progress has been made by management to address the previous report findings and issued a 'reasonable assurance' rating. At the time, 15 of the 32 inpatient and community mental health and learning disabilities (MHLD) sites had completed ligature assessments.

Since then, 4 additional properties have been added to the list for inspection. All 36 required assessments have now been undertaken within Mental Health and Learning Disability Directorate. Of these, 11 sites are inpatient sites (2 of which are residential), and 25 community sites. This work has been supported by the Health and Safety Officer. During this process, the Assessment and Management of Environmental Ligature Risks Procedure has been promoted.

A total of 15 managers from MHLD have been trained in the application of this procedure, and an equal number attended awareness sessions. The Health and Safety Officer has visited every site to review the assessments in person. General Health and Safety provisions were also examined and remedial actions advised when needed. A register of audits is now maintained by MHLD along with detailed action plans where remedial actions have been identified. There is currently a Points of Ligature Scheme Project Group working through the action plan remedial actions.

### **Oxygen Cylinder Handling**

During periods of extreme pressure, often exacerbated by a surge in respiratory conditions, demand on supplies of oxygen cylinders, especially the smaller sizes, increases in the NHS due to the need to provide essential oxygen treatment in areas without access to medical gas pipeline systems. This surge in demand increases the known risks associated with the use of oxygen gas cylinders, and introduces new risks, across three main areas: patient safety; fire safety; and physical safety.

In collaboration with the Estates Compliance Team, risk assessment templates have been created to assist clinical staff in assessing the risk of using oxygen cylinders. These have been completed in areas where patients are being cared for (either temporarily or permanently) without routine access to medical gas pipeline systems.

A dedicated '7 Minute Briefing' focussing on oxygen cylinder safety was developed in April 2023, along with a whole web page section created on the Health, Safety and Security intranet site.

A recent incident however has identified a need to highlight the potential risks associated with the use of medical gas cylinders and the staff training required to ensure awareness of safe systems of work. As a result, the Health and Safety staff have instigated a further promotion of the above advice and will work with Clinical Skills and Clinical Engineering colleagues to reduce the likelihood of recurrence through awareness raising of the above-mentioned risk assessment templates and guidance documents at relevant meetings and groups across the Health Board.

**Argymhelliad / Recommendation**

For the Health and Safety Committee to gain assurance that work has progressed, and improvements have been made in relation to the health and safety themes as detailed within the report.

<b>Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau) Objectives: (must be completed)</b>	
Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	2.1 Provide assurance around the UHB arrangements for ensuring the health, safety, welfare and security of all employees and of those who may be affected by work-related activities, such as patients, members of the public, volunteers contractors and so forth.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	N/A
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: <a href="#">Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)</a>	6. All Apply
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality <a href="#">Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)</a>	2.1 Managing Risk and Promoting Health and Safety 2.9 Medical Devices, Equipment and Diagnostic Systems 3.1 Safe and Clinically Effective Care
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	1. Putting people at the heart of everything we do 4. The best health and wellbeing for our individuals, families and communities 5. Safe sustainable, accessible and kind care
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	2a Staff health and wellbeing
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: <a href="#">Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022</a>	2. Develop a skilled and flexible workforce to meet the changing needs of the modern NHS

<b>Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:</b>	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Contained within the body of the report.
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Contained within the body of the report.
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Ansawdd lechyd a Diogelwch: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Health and Safety Committee:	Health and Safety Advisory Group Trade Union Health and Safety Meeting Partnership Forum meetings

<b>Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)</b>	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Not applicable.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	There is a positive impact on staff and patient safety, health and wellbeing through compliance with health and safety regulations.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Potential for adverse future staffing impacts if this legislation is not complied with as it relates to employee safety.
Risg: Risk:	Risk to health and safety management.
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Potential for enforcement action including Improvement Notices/Prosecutions and claims due to breaches in legislation.
Enw Da: Reputational:	Potential for enforcement action including Improvement Notices/Prosecutions and claims due to breaches in legislation.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not Applicable
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	No evidence gathered to indicate a negative impact on any protected group/s.