

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

<b>DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD:</b> <b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	14 January 2025
<b>TEITL YR ADRODDIAD:</b> <b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	Health and Safety Update
<b>CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL:</b> <b>LEAD DIRECTOR:</b>	Executive Director of Allied Health Professions and Health Science
<b>SWYDDOG ADRODD:</b> <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Tim Harrison, Head of Health, Safety and Security

**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 to the Health and Safety Committee (HSC) provides information from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on emerging themes, recent prosecutions and learning from events. It has been prepared to compliment the paper titled Health and Safety Regulations Overview.

**Cefndir / Background**

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA) is the primary piece of legislation covering occupational health and safety in Great Britain. This sets out duties which employers have towards their employees and members of the public, for healthcare providers this includes patients. Employees also have duties and responsibilities for themselves, the employer and to each other. The HSWA is an enabling act beneath which there are many statutory instruments (Regulations).

**Costs of poor health and safety at work**

HSE statistics reveal the human and financial cost of failing to address health and safety. The 2023/24 statistical report shows:



**1.7 million**

Workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) in 2023/24

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey for people who worked in the last 12 months



**0.8 million**

Workers suffering from work-related stress, depression or anxiety (new or long-standing) in 2023/24

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey for people who worked in the last 12 months



**0.5 million**

Workers suffering from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing) in 2023/24

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey for people who worked in the last 12 months



**£ 14.5 billion**

Annual costs of new cases of work-related ill health in 2022/23, excluding long latency illness such as cancer

Source: Estimates based on HSE Cost Model



**0.6 million**

Workers sustaining a workplace non-fatal injury in 2023/24

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey



**61,663**

Employee work-related non-fatal injuries reported by employers under RIDDOR in 2023/24

Source: RIDDOR



**138**

Workers killed in work-related accidents in 2023/24

Source: RIDDOR



**£ 7.1 billion**

Annual costs of workplace injury in 2022/23

Source: Estimates based on HSE Cost Model



**33.7 million**

Working days lost due to work-related ill health and workplace non-fatal injury in 2023/24

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey



**12,000**

Lung disease deaths each year estimated to be linked to past exposures at work

Source: Counts from death certificates and estimates from epidemiological information



**2,257**

Mesothelioma deaths in 2022, with a similar number of lung cancer deaths linked to past exposures to asbestos

Source: Counts from death certificates and estimates from epidemiological information



**£ 21.6 billion**

Annual costs of workplace injury and new cases of work-related ill health in 2022/23, excluding long latency illness such as cancer

Source: Estimates based on HSE Cost Model

Link to full report <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/hssh2324.pdf>

## Latest HSE news: Prosecutions

**27 November 2024**

**A company has been fined £1.6m after a 24-year-old man was crushed to death.**

Jack Phillips lost his life on 8 August 2019 while working for Brand Energy and Infrastructure Services UK Ltd at South Cliff Tower in Eastbourne. Jack had been assisting while temporary Mast Climber Work Platform sections were being lifted by a lorry mounted crane. The load fell on top of Jack when the lifting sling which was attached to the crane snapped.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Sussex Police found Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services UK Ltd, failed to properly plan the lifting operation of the work platform. The company, a provider of temporary access equipment, had failed to identify a requirement for safe exclusion zones. The company also failed to have a suitable robust system in place to ensure all accessories had been thoroughly examined or disposed when expired. This resulted in out-of-date slings being used.

**3 December 2024**

**Company failed to manage legionella risk as prisoner dies**

A company has been fined after it failed to manage the risk of legionella bacteria in the hot and cold water systems at HMP Lincoln.

The HSE investigation followed the death of an inmate.

Amey Community Limited has now been fined £600,000 after pleading guilty to a health and safety offence.

Graham Butterworth died on 5 December 2017 after contracting Legionnaires' disease while serving a prison sentence at HMP Lincoln. Water samples from Mr Butterworth's cell and nearby shower blocks tested positive for legionella days after the 71-year-old died.

HSE guidance states any risks of exposure to legionella needs to be identified and managed. HMP Lincoln, failed to act on a risk assessment carried out in 2016, failed to put in place a

written scheme for preventing and controlling legionella risks, failed to ensure that appropriate water temperatures were maintained and failed to monitor water temperatures in the water system in October and November 2017. This allowed legionella bacteria to multiply rapidly.

#### **4 December 2024**

##### **Councils' asbestos management to be assessed during inspection campaign**

Hundreds of inspections at council buildings will be carried out by the HSE to check councils are managing the risk of asbestos properly.

HSE inspectors will visit the head offices of dozens of councils across the country to ensure asbestos risks are being managed effectively to keep people safe. Each council visit will see inspections take place at several different sites within each local authority's property portfolio. This work continues previous inspection campaigns that targeted hospitals and schools.

#### **6 December 2024**

##### **Company and director sentenced for putting workers at risk**

A roofing firm has been fined while its director has been handed a suspended prison sentence after putting the lives of workers at risk during a roof renovation in Surrey.

The HSE investigation found workers were seen operating without any scaffolding or edge protection on the roof of a house on Flint Hill, Dorking, on 21 February 2023. This put the workers at risk of falling from height, while there were also no measures to mitigate a fall, with the likes of harnesses not being used. Workers were also observed using the lights from their phones and torches while working on the property at night.

### **Asesiad / Assessment**

The above incidents including the two tragic cases highlight the importance of ensuring good health and safety management. These examples and yearly statistical data shows the importance for the Health Board to continue to strive towards higher standards of health and safety compliance across all disciplines.

For reassurance in relation to HDUHB compliance:

#### **Legionella Control**

The Health Board has a Water Safety Policy in place that acknowledges the organisations reasonability to take precautions to prevent or control the harmful effects of contaminated water to residents, patients, visitors, staff, and other persons working at or using its premises.

The policy provides a structured procedure and reporting process via the Water Safety Group, for the management and control of Legionella in compliance with Health and Safety Guidance (HSG) 274 and Approved Code of Practice L8 – The Control of Legionella Bacteria in Water Systems.

The Infection, Prevention Strategic Steering Group has been requested to provide an assurance report against the requirements of the Water Safety Policy to the HSC in 2025.

#### **Asbestos Management**

Asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) were widely used in the construction industry throughout the UK up until 1999. When ACMs are disturbed or damaged, asbestos fibres are released into the air which when inhaled, can cause serious and fatal diseases.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) recognises its statutory duty to effectively manage the presence of ACMs within its premises, and to protect its employees, patients and others who may be affected by its operations from unnecessary exposure to asbestos.

For each site, an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) document has been compiled which includes the site-relevant data extracted from the Asbestos Register. This provides information on the location, condition and risks associated with exposure to the material to anyone liable to work on or disturb ACMs. The AMP also includes details of the person(s) responsible for managing the asbestos risk, instructions that any work on the fabric of the building cannot start without the relevant parts of the register being checked.

Each asbestos management plan is regularly reviewed and monitored by the Estates Site Operations monthly meetings.

During 2024 the HSE inspected HDdUHB over a two day period and were satisfied with the arrangements in place for managing this particular risk. They were assured of the asbestos management plans and procedures in place including arrangements for notifying contractors of potential risks as well as emergency response arrangements.

### **Safe Working at Height**

The Safe Working at Height Policy was approved at the HSC in November 2023. The Policy formalises the Health Board's arrangements for the management of working at height.

HDdUHB will avoid work at height where it is reasonably practicable to do so. However, where work at height cannot be avoided, all activities will be properly planned and organised, forming part of a risk assessment and safe system of work.

The policy demonstrates HDdUHB's commitment in reducing the risks associated with work at height and the continued improvement of employee health, safety. Working at height can include the following scenarios:

- working from a ladder / stepladder / mobile ladder / fixed ladder / stool / platform step;
- working on roofs;
- working on or around fragile surfaces;
- working from scaffolding;
- working from a motorised platform (including vehicle tail lifts);
- working on top of a vehicle, such as a tanker or flatbed lorry;
- working at ground level adjacent to an excavation;
- working below ground level (this may involve vertical access to below ground spaces and therefore still be classified as work at height. This also would cover descending into pits, tanks or other confined spaces)

As reported at the September HSC meeting a work at height working group was established to formalise the Health Board's work at height arrangements. This has since merged to be a working group covering work at height, vibration and noise and continues to meet quarterly with compliance being monitored by the Health and Safety Sub-Committee.

### **Argymhelliad / Recommendation**

The Health & Safety Committee is asked to:

#### **Note**

- The information contained from HSE Summary statistics for Great Britain 2024.

Be **assured** that:

- all topics raised by the prosecutions are being managed and monitored.

**Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)**

**Objectives: (must be completed)**

Committee ToR Reference:

2.1 Provide assurance around the UHB arrangements for ensuring the health, safety, welfare and security of all

Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	employees and of those who may be affected by work-related activities, such as patients, members of the public, volunteers contractors etc.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	N/A
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality <a href="#">Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)</a>	1. Safe
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: <a href="#">Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)</a>	6. All Apply
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	Not Applicable
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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;</li> <li>• All subordinate Health and Safety legislation;</li> <li>• Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR);</li> <li>• HSE Approved Codes of Practice;</li> <li>• HSE Guidance;</li> <li>• EU Directives.</li> </ul>
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Contained within the body of the report.
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Ansawdd Iechyd a Diogelwch: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Health and Safety Committee:	The Health and Safety Advisory Group whose membership includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health, Safety &amp; Security Department;</li> <li>• Moving &amp; Handling Department;</li> <li>• Occupational Health;</li> <li>• Health Board Legal Team.</li> </ul>

**Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau)**  
**Impact: (must be completed)**

<b>Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:</b>	There is a positive impact on staff and patient safety, health and wellbeing through compliance with health and safety regulations.
<b>Gweithlu: Workforce:</b>	Not directly.
<b>Risg: Risk:</b>	Risk to health and safety management.
<b>Cyfreithiol: Legal:</b>	Potential for enforcement action including Improvement Notices/Prosecutions and claims due to breaches in legislation.
<b>Enw Da: Reputational:</b>	Potential for political or media interest if compliance or enforcement action is served.
<b>Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Cydraddoldeb: Equality:</b>	No evidence gathered to indicate a negative impact on any protected group/s.

