

Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2020

GMB London

Present

Chris Jones	Cory	<i>Chair</i>
Toni Gladding	OU	<i>Secretary</i>
Paul Kloss	Health and Safety Executive	
Geoff Smallwood	CIWM	
Lynsey Mann	GMB	
Paul Stokes	ESA/FCC	
Denise McGlynn	EU Skills	
Toni Robinson	REA	
Ashley Wild	LARAC	

Apologies

Adrian Bond	SWITCH	
Jo Carter	Health and Safety Executive	
Beth Gordon	LAWS	
Dick Perry	WRAP	
Antonia Grey	BMRA/Temp VC	

Visitors

1. Matters Arising

As some of the latest guidance submitted was discussed, a review process for older WISH documents was discussed, to prevent the site displaying out-dated guidance. CJ and TG to take this further and propose a review process.

PK commented that a Lithium batteries research day is being attended by Jo Carter at the same time as this WISH meeting. There are various issues with batteries, for instance when they turn up as rogue items in waste streams in recycling plants or compaction trucks etc. Batteries are also being transported to CA Sites etc. A separate but no less important issue are damaged electric cars with scrap batteries and scrap yards. All are different problems requiring more thought. BMRA are

looking at guidance on electric vehicles and WISH have published on batteries, but it is likely this subject will continue to develop.

2. Working Groups

Leadership & Worker engagement:

LM reported the group are planning a conference in the South of England around the same format as the previous one. The group have secured a free donated venue, food etc. LM also reported she has been invited to attend a LAWS meeting to present about the conference and worker leadership tool. Similarly, a request has come from a food manufacturing forum which she will attend. The tool is currently being rolled out in FCC, so this constitutes a possible future case study.

Safer work group:

PK reported there had been no meeting since the last WISH meeting. Various pieces of guidance are progressing, for instance maintenance and operation of forklift guidance.

Healthier work group:

A meeting held in November of the group, unfortunately TG was unable to attend. In that meeting progress on health surveillance (finished just undergoing editing by the steering group) and bioaerosols (with HSE for comment) were discussed.

The group also discussed catalytic converter removal and health implications, (HSE visited 7 sites and 4 had material breaches). Future topics were also discussed, including MSDs, hygiene and well-being.

TG also reported that the long-planned Particulates group would be put into action during 2020, since there are now new issues coming to the industry including nanoparticles and microplastics. CJ commented that the Mayor of London is funding research project as part of a London air campaign, which will include sweep cleaners and waste industry with KCL. TG agreed to contact the researchers involved to see if WISH could assist.

Building competence:

DM reported that now the group had looked at training and assessment they were now working on a supervisory tool. A mobile plant information sheet will also be sent to steering group for approval. DM to circulate.

The group are now investigating where the next needs are in the competence area, which may be partly informed by the conference in March. CJ commented that some 'specifications' on competence are an area of need. Very often companies think that training equals competence which of course are different. DM agreed to discuss this with the group.

SMEs:

SR reported there was a meeting 17th Jan to review progress. The group as part of the WISHAD wrote to 208 SMEs but only 3 replied. At the recent event, 23 individuals came from 50 on the list, 12 of those were SMEs. It was decided that the amount of effort and planning going into open days was not achieving as much engagement as was hoped. Future plans are to engage with other organisations and associations to engage with smaller companies. Safety alerts and information newsletters were also discussed. This group will report back once the new engagement strategy is finalised.

SWITCH: No representative present. No updates provided.

Fires: GS reported that there was a meeting last week, looking at the final revisions of WASTE28. The document is due to be finalised within the next 2-3 weeks, and the steering group will be sent a copy of the draft for swift comment.

Aerosols: GS reported that the first meeting had taken place, which included various industry representatives and the British Aerosol Manufacturers Association (BAMA). It is planned to formulate joint badged guidance/information sheets between WISH and BAMA. Some older work from 2009 does exist from BAMA with some older research on full/partially full aerosols in the waste stream which is intended to be updated (funded by WRAP).

People in bins: TG reported that the research is done, and the report is written. It is currently with Biffa undergoing review and stylising. Once this process is complete the report will be launched. It is expected to achieve significant press coverage, as the Guardian are writing an article on the issue and have initial access, with possible television coverage subsequently.

3. WISH Business

WISH website – TG has held up this process due to other work commitments, but the site is ready to go, and it is hoped it will soft launch in the next couple of weeks.

GS and CJ with TG, PK and HSE involvement have been amending a strategy document ready for the conference and to place on the website.

WISH EVENT

The planning for the event is well advanced. Venue, date, catering and invitations are organised. CJ, GS and PK reported that the breakfast meeting has been challenging due to availability of CEOs of the larger companies.

Currently there are 135 applicants for the main event (not including the steering group). The cut off for applications for the general meeting is February 12th.

GS is drawing up a draft programme which will be circulated. This will largely be in the same format as previous WISH events with speeches in the morning and working group activities in the afternoon.

No exhibitors are planned although some have made enquiries. It was agreed this would be too problematic due to space and admin issues.

5. Any Other Business

HSE Update – further discussions are still ongoing with RCV vehicle manufacturers re: glass collection.

Q3 and Q4 updates are being finalised with the statistics team in time for the conference. A review of RIDDORs also underway.

PK reported on a project with Kate Jones as lead on biological monitoring (HPM4EU) on human biomonitoring in E-waste. The project is interested in getting two companies involved with 25 workers or over each. They are interested in small equipment dismantling in particular. If any steering group members could suggest companies or let their contacts know it would be appreciated.

PK announced there is a replacement on the HSE team for the waste industry. Hence Lee Shilling will shortly become a new team member at HSE Cardiff. He comes with experience of inspection and enforcement in the waste industry.

The steering group also discussed the progress of a Street cleansing group working group – work here seemed to have stalled. However, it is possible that they have sent information to WISH that has got lost in the system. TG and CJ to investigate.

6. Date of next meetings

Thanks to GMB for the venue today.

Thursday 2nd April 2020 – Huntingdon BMRA. [now up for review due to TG having issues making this date]

Thursday 2nd June location tbc