

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE – 13 AUGUST 2002

HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Abstract

This report highlights for the Committee, the work done during 2001-02 on Health, Safety and Welfare issues within the Department.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee note the content of this report for its interest.

2. INTRODUCTION

Our Departmental Core Safety Group has been in existence for 5 years and is used as a means of keeping all Health, Safety and Welfare issues under review.

The Group consists of seven members of staff drawn from a cross-section of activities and is led by the Head of Consumer Protection. The Group is to be expanded to bring in an extra member who will represent those areas where there is joint-working with staff of Contract Services. The Group meet regularly to take forward relevant issues.

3. PROGRESS DURING 2001/02

- Guidance has been issued on the risks of sampling animal feed and fertilisers on farm premises etc following risk assessment of this activity.
- Internal staff safety concerns, brought to the notice of the Group have, in the main, been acted upon.
- A monitoring checklist/audit form, covering a range of Health and Safety topics, has been created and issued to Section leaders and the Group will regularly call for these forms to be submitted for checking.
- The new stress risk assessment checklist has been piloted in the Department, and new corporate risk assessment guidance issued.
- Safety signs have been erected at Cairnie Loan Transfer Section to address potential safety concerns – employees falling from a height.
- Accident statistics – there were only two minor accidents to employees recorded during the period.

4. CURRENT ISSUES

Issues currently being taken forward following discussions at the Core Safety Group:-

- An internal Safety Seminar for staff is being planned.
- Discussions are ongoing in regard to the increased use of computers by field staff, and therefore increased eye sight strain, which has implications for those members of staff defined as “users” under the Display Screen Equipment Regulations. Staff classed as “users” are entitled to free eye-sight checks and assistance towards purchasing spectacles.

5. FUTURE PLANS

The Core Safety Group will continue to meet on a regular basis and has plans to more closely monitor stress situations, to consider the use of a trailer or adapted van to carry fume-filled containers, and to investigate the risks of carrying lap-top computers in employee's cars which might expose the equipment to attempted theft and the employee's car to damage in any incident.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications issues in respect of this report.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no Human Rights issues raised by this report.

8. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration and the Head of Personnel have been consulted on the contents of this report.

S R Heggie
Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

JM/FMCI
16.7.02