

To Deans, HoFAs, HOSs, Directors

From Dr Melanie Taylor, Head of Safety Services

Date 30 March 2012

cc Mr W Spinks, Prof N Thakker, Dr D Barker, School Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives

Reference Safety Circular 2/2012

Legal update

Action: This circular is to ensure that senior managers are informed about forthcoming changes to key legislative requirements and changes within the safety team.

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (RIDDOR)

The Safety Office will continue to be responsible for all RIDDOR reports to the enforcing authorities, but the definitions of accidents that require reports will change with effect from 6 April 2012. The statutory duty to report "over 3 day accidents" will become a duty to report "over 7 day accidents", although the duty to keep records of over 3 day accident will remain. This should align the RIDDOR data for employee absences due to occupational injury with the requirement for fit notes. It will also mean that annual statistical information about our accidents will need adjustment and/or explanation.

Fee for intervention (FFI)

The HSE's proposals to introduce a FFI scheme have been put back until October 2012. When they are enacted, HSE will be able to recover their costs of taking formal action to deal with contraventions. Although definitions are still under discussion, it is expected that action short of prosecution but not including verbal advice (ie prohibition notices, improvement notices, letters and emails) will be sent with a bill for the time and resource HSE have spent at the premises and preparing the intervention.

Deputy Head of Safety Services

Following a recruitment and selection process, Dr Patrick Seechurn has been appointed as Deputy Head of Safety Service with effect from 2 April 2012. In addition to his role as University Biological Safety Advisor, Patrick will lead the University Safety Co-ordinators in their work with faculties and directorates.

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