

Memo

To Safety Co-ordinators (for onward transmission to school safety advisors)

From Dr Melanie Taylor, University Safety Advisor

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Distribution Dr S A Robson

Reference Safety Circular 9/2005

Monitoring of health & safety performance

Many parts of the new university are familiar with the VUM guidance note M10, and are now gearing up to preparing their usual annual return. Others are not and have different ways of monitoring performance. Our HSE inspector recently drew our attention to the need to strengthen monitoring processes, and the merger represents an opportunity to review and improve our systems.

Discussions have already taken place, and various ideas are being developed. It is likely that in future, routine monitoring (such as the existing "M10" return) will focus much more on management systems than physical inspections, and will be specifically related to the duties and responsibilities delegated to senior managers in the University's health and safety policy statement. It is also likely that the question set will evolve over the years, as the University moves from compliance with basic legal requirements, towards good and best practice in health & safety management.

In the short term, however, schools should continue using whatever monitoring systems they are used to, and Faculty Safety Co-ordinators will make available the usual forms and advice.

Although monitoring exercises of the future may concentrate on managerial processes, the importance of physical inspections should not be underestimated, as these will often (but not always) provide evidence about the effectiveness of management performance.

I hope this does not introduce too much uncertainty or confusion, and would welcome any feedback from schools about any aspect of monitoring health and safety performance.

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