



SUBJECT: Work to die for.....

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)

ISSUE DATE: 14/08/19

REF: HSB 147

THE HEALTH and Safety Executive (HSE) has released its annual figures for work-related fatal injuries, which shows an increase on the previous year.

The provisional annual data for work-related fatal injuries revealed that **147** workers were fatally injured between April 2018 and March 2019 (a rate of 0.45 per 100,000 workers). While there has been a long-term reduction in the number of fatalities since 1981, 2018/19 saw an increase of 6 workplace fatalities from 2017/18.

A HSE spokesperson stated that "despite the UK's world leading position in health and safety, we cannot become complacent as we seek to fulfil our mission in preventing injury, ill health and death at work."

The new figures show:-

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing, and Construction sectors continue to account for the largest share of fatal injuries to workers (32 and 30 deaths respectively in 2018/19).
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing and Waste and recycling are the worst affected sectors, with a rate of fatal injury some 18 times and 17 times as high as the average across all industries respectively (annual average rates for 2014/15-2018/19).
- 60% of all fatal injuries in 2018/19 came from workers falling at height, being struck by a moving vehicle, and being struck by a moving object.
- 25% of fatal injuries in 2018/19 were to workers aged 60 or over, even though such workers made up only around 10 per cent of the workforce.
- In addition, 92 members of the public were fatally injured in incidents connected to work.

Mesothelioma, the disease contracted through past exposure to asbestos, killed 2,523 in Great Britain in 2017. The current figures are largely a consequence of occupational asbestos exposure that occurred before 1980. Annual deaths are expected to remain broadly at current levels for the rest of the decade before beginning to reduce in number.

All of Lincolnshire County Council's Health and Safety policies, Bulletins, and Alerts, which include advice and guidance on how to stay safe at work, can be found at:-

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/jobs/manuals/health-and-safety-manual/>

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:

Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for